



# THE MIGRANT



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# THE MIGRANT

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## STATUS OF GLOSSY AND WHITE-FACED IBISES IN TENNESSEE

**Richard L. Knight**  
**804 North Hills Drive**  
**Johnson City, TN 37604**

Two species of dark ibises occur in North America, the predominantly eastern Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) and its western counterpart the White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*). The Glossy Ibis breeds coastally from southern New England southward to Florida and the West Indies, in inland Florida, and locally westward along the Gulf Coast to Texas. The White-faced Ibis breeds locally in the western interior from Oregon to Alberta to the Dakotas, south to Oklahoma, and west to California. A largely resident population of White-faced Ibis also breeds along the Gulf Coast from Louisiana to Texas and Mexico. There is some range overlap of the two species in coastal portions of Texas and Louisiana. Northern populations of both species are migratory, withdrawing southward for winter. Furthermore, both species are prone to wander, with widespread vagrancy in the U.S. reported outside their known breeding ranges (all distribution data from Sibley 2000, Dunn and Alderfer 2011). Identification difficulties in this species pair, especially in non-breeding plumages, have forced some records to be left to the genus level, particularly away from their normal ranges. Both species have shown long-term and recent short-term increasing population trends according to the Breeding Bird Survey (Ziolkowski et al. 2010).

Robinson (1990) considered Glossy Ibis to be extremely rare in Tennessee with about 15 records and White-faced Ibis to be hypothetical with no confirmed records. The status of both species has changed considerably in the subsequent two decades with a significant increase in sightings, although both still should be regarded as rare visitors in the state. There are at least 79 records of the two dark ibises in Tennessee through 2011 reported in *The Migrant*, including several individuals identified only to the genus (Table 1).

The first *Plegadis* ibis reported in Tennessee was at Mud Lake in Shelby County on 24 August 1941 (Burdick 1941), and another was seen there on 23 September 1945 (Mount

1945). Both were thought to be of the White-faced form, at that time considered to be conspecific with Glossy. No other dark ibises were reported in Tennessee until two Glossy Ibises appeared 8-10 May 1967 at Amnicola Marsh in Hamilton County (Dubke 1968). Also in that decade, two birds were reported without details on 4-7 May 1969 in Stewart County (Robinson 1990). During the 1970s and 1980s there were an additional 14 reports of dark ibises, all reported as Glossy Ibis (Table 1). The first documented record of White-faced Ibis in Tennessee occurred on 19 April 1990 with a flock of 28 birds in southwestern Shelby County (Waldron 1990). This is also the largest flock of either species ever reported in the state. The largest number of Glossy Ibises in Tennessee was 14 seen on 8 May 1971 on the spring count at Kingsport in Sullivan County (Herndon 1971). The vast majority (84%) of all sightings of either form have been of one or two birds.

From 1990 through 2011 an additional 61 reports of these two species were published in these pages, more than three times the number of all previous reports (Table 1). Reasons for the sharp increase in sightings may include more and better equipped observers, improved identification guides, better coverage of suitable wetlands, and increasing populations of both ibis species. Other patterns in Tennessee sightings of these birds are evident from Table 1. Half of all reports have been of Glossy Ibis, with nearly a third reported only as *Plegadis* sp., and 18% as White-faced Ibis. Geographically, about half of all Glossy Ibis reports have come from East Tennessee, while nearly three-quarters of all White-faced Ibis reports were from West Tennessee. These aspects would seem logical, as these regions are closer to the respective core breeding ranges of these species. Additionally, West Tennessee has the most reports of *Plegadis* sp., giving that region the greatest total number of dark ibis reports. Seasonally, most reports have come in spring (53%) or fall (37%). This, too, seems logical, with more birds on the move in migrational periods and more birders afield in those seasons. Within these two migration seasons, the greatest proportion of reports in which these ibises are identified to species came in spring (76%), with most birds in breeding plumage, compared to fall (52%) when immature and non-breeding adult plumages predominate (Figure 1). White-faced Ibises have been documented by photographs in Tennessee as far east as Hawkins and Johnson counties, while Glossy Ibises have occurred in counties bordering the Mississippi River. Therefore, birders should not assume an identification based on range. Consult an updated field guide for identification criteria.

My thanks to Michele von Bergen for use of the photo

Table 1. Geographic, seasonal, and decadal distribution of dark ibises in Tennessee.

	<u>Glossy</u>	<u>White-faced</u>	<u><i>Plegadis</i> sp.</u>	<u>Total</u>
West Tennessee	12	10	15	37
Middle Tennessee	7	1	4	12
East Tennessee	21	3	6	30
Total	40	14	25	79
-----				
Spring	24	8	10	42
Summer	4	2	1	7
Fall	11	4	14	29
Winter	1	(1)*	0	1
-----				
1940s to 1960s	1	0	3	4
1970s	8	0	0	8
1980s	6	0	0	6
1990s	14	5	6	25
2000 to 2011	11	9	16	36

\* This bird lingered from November into December.



Figure 1. White-faced Ibis: 26-27 November 2011 at Neva, Johnson County, TN. The red eye is diagnostic for an adult in non-breeding plumage. Photo by Michele von Bergen.

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## 2011 TENNESSEE FALL BIRD COUNTS

**Ron Hoff**  
**282 Hackworth Lane**  
**Clinton, Tn. 37716**

This report combines the traditional Fall Count and the Fall North American Migration Count (NAMC). One hundred fifty-two observers participated in eleven counts across the state. The weather was moderate with only one count experiencing some light rain, while several counts had moderate wind. Temperatures ranged from a brisk 40° in Greeneville to a very warm 86° in Shelby Co.

The highlight is the state's first record of White-winged Dove, found in Shelby County. In addition, a "Lawrences's Warbler" (*Vermivora pinus x chrysoptera*) a hybrid of the Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers was observed on the Blount County count.

### COUNTY SUMMERIES (F/Y = feeder/yard watcher)

**Anderson County** – 17 September: 0815-1400. Weather: overcast to mostly clear by the afternoon; 57-72° F. Observers: Frank Bills, Sharon Bostick, Betty Reid Campbell (F/Y), James Campbell (F/Y), Carole Gobert, Ron Hoff (compiler: 282 Hackworth Lane, Clinton, TN 37716; aves7000@bellsouth.net) and Dollyann Myers.

**Bledsoe County** – 24 September: 0515-1800. Weather: patchy fog and partly cloudy to clear in the afternoon; wind ESE 0-8 mph; 43-73° F. New species for this count are Philadelphia Vireo, Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Northern Waterthrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Observers: Douglas A. Downs, Andrew Lambert, Edmund K. LeGrand (compiler: 1631 Leffle Webb Rd., Crossville, TN 38572; elegrand@frontiernet.net), Barbara H. Stedman and Stephen J. Stedman.

**Blount County** – 17 September; 0515-1945. Weather: overcast and chilly in the morning, sunny and pleasant in the afternoon; 60-77° F. Observers: Jean J. Alexander (compiler: 3908 Riverview Dr., Maryville, TN 37804; jjadmj@infionline.net), Chuck Estes, Lola Estes, Jessica A. Evans, Troy D. Evans, Jim Fitzgerald, Marian D. Fitzgerald, Tom E. Fitzgerald, Sandy B. Graves, Kim J. Henry, Stephen P. Henry, Thomas D. Howe, David M. Johnson and Bill Smith.

**Elizabethton** – 24 September; 0445-1915. Weather: cloudy with fog and mist in the mountains to partly cloudy in the afternoon; wind 0 - 10 mph; 56-75° F. The count area includes Carter County and parts of adjacent Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington counties. A Great White Heron is most unusual. Observers: Fred Alsop, Darla Anderson, James Anderson, Jim D. Anderson, Mark Bergetti, Rob Biller, Gil Derouen, Glen Eller, Harry Lee Farthing, Paul Haynes, Mark Hopey, David Kirschke, Rick Knight (compiler: 804 N. Hills Dr., Johnson City, TN 37604; rknight8@earthlink.net), Roy Knispel, Chad

Leedy, Roger Lemaster, Joe McGuinness, Tom McNeil, Charles Moore, Kathy Noblet, Colter Patterson, Brookie Potter, Jean Potter, Michele Sparks, Bryan Stevens, Peggy Stevens, Kim Stroud, David Thometz.

**Greeneville** – 1 October; 0700-2000. Weather: partly cloudy; wind north with gusts to 20 mph; 40-60° F. Observers: Jim Holt (compiler- 311 Colonial Circle, Greeneville, TN 37745; jimboh@comcast.net), Nata Jackson, Don Miller, Jean Obrist, Jo Anne Routledge and Larry Routledge.

**Knoxville** – 25 September; 0600-1930. Weather: partly cloudy with some fog in the morning, clear in the afternoon; wind S 0-10mph; 53-84° F. Observers: Frank Bills, Sharon Bostick, Than Boves, Howard Chitwood, Gail Clendenen, Steve Clendenen, K. Dean Edwards (compiler: 1615 Meadow Chase Ln., Knoxville, TN 37931; kde@utk.edu), Carole Gobert, Paul Hartigan, Ron Hoff, Tom Howe, Susan Hoyle, Jim Human, Kristine Johnson, Tony King, Dollyann Myers, Charles P. Nicholson, Truett Patterson, Chris Welsh and Gary Woody.

**Loudon County** – 17 September; 0800-2000. Weather: overcast to then sunny; 67-75° F. Observers: Tony King (compiler: 110 Lee Dr., Lenoir City, TN 37771), Janet McKnight and Denise Nauman.

**Montgomery County** – 17 September; no times given. Weather: sunny with mild temperatures and light wind Observers: Kathy Dewein, Elaine Foust, Debbie Hamilton, Steve Hamilton, Daniel Moss (compiler: 1028 Ironworker's Rd., Clarksville, TN 37043; dmoss5@earthlink.net), Cyndi Routledge, Steve Routledge and Rick Shipkowski.

**Nashville** – 1 October; 0545-1845. Weather: clear; wind: NNW 15mph; 43-64° F. Observers: Kristy Baker, Scott Block (co-compiler), Tyler Blystone, Ed Byrne, Phillip Casteel, Clay Collins, Richard Connors, Francis Fekel, Bill Franks, Heather Gallagher, Nancy Garden, Ed Gleaves, Mark Hackney, Barbara Harris, Paula Hoffman, Susan Hollyday, Tony Lance, Judith Luna, Amy Potter, Polly Rooker, Sarah Scott, Jan Shaw (compiler-5019 Timberhill Dr., Nashville, TN. 37211; JanKShaw@aol.com), Kathy Shaw, Shelia Shay, Danny Shelton, Chris Sloan, Chad Smith, Mike Smith, Scott Somershoe, Joe Stone, Sabin Thompson, Mavis Turner, Lynn Ann Welch, Melinda Welton, Boyd Williams, Terry Witt and Mary Zimmerman.

**Shelby County** – 17 September; 0700-1630. Weather: partly cloudy; 62-86° F. White-winged Dove was tallied for the first time. Observers: Lillian Durand, Van Harris, Susan Ingram, Margaret Jefferson, Diana Johnson, Rusty Johnson, Lisa Jorgenson, Elin Pierce, Dick Preston (compiler: 261 Sassafras Circle, Munford, TN 38058; dickpreston@bigriver.net), Bill Siler, Ed Thomas, Mike Todd, Martha Waldron and Jay Walko.

**White County** – 17 September; 0445-1800. Weather: overcast with light rain in the morning to partly cloudy in the afternoon; wind 0-10 mph; 56-77° F. Common Tern, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Baltimore Oriole are all new species. Observers: Brenda K. Curtis, Douglas A. Downs (compiler: 403 Gillen Dr., Sparta, TN 38583; douglas\_downs@hotmail.com), Janie C. Finch, Judy C. Fuson, Michael J. Hawkins, Edmund K. LeGrand, Michael P. O'Rourke, Thomas M. Saya, Barbara H. Stedman, Winston A. Walden and Carole D. Williams.

## 2011 Fall Counts

Species	Anderson Co		Bledsoe Co		Blount Co		Elizabethton		Greeneville		Knox Co		Loudon Co		Montgomery Co		Nashville		Shelby Co		White Co		Totals
	17-Sep	24-Sep	17-Sep	24-Sep	17-Sep	24-Sep	17-Sep	24-Sep	1-Oct	25-Sep	17-Sep	1-Oct	17-Sep	1-Oct	17-Sep	1-Oct	17-Sep	1-Oct	17-Sep	17-Sep	17-Sep	17-Sep	
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	-	-	32
Canada Goose	97	42	92	822	16	106	32	822	16	106	32	479	105	479	19	262	105	479	262	105	262	2072	
Wood Duck	1	3	36	51	4	7	-	51	4	7	-	82	47	82	32	52	47	82	52	47	52	315	
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
American Black Duck	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Mallard	35	-	71	252	37	49	4	252	37	49	4	47	197	47	23	27	197	47	27	197	27	742	
Blue-winged Teal	34	-	9	118	23	-	-	118	23	-	-	9	2	9	-	33	2	9	33	2	33	228	
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	1	6	-	-	2	19	2	-	-	19	2	-	19	-	-	28
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Northern Bobwhite	-	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	13
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Wild Turkey	-	3	83	104	11	13	15	104	11	13	15	192	5	41	41	43	5	192	43	5	43	510	
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	5	34	-	5	-	34	-	5	-	45	-	-	-	6	-	45	6	-	6	-	95
Double-crested Cormorant	3	-	4	6	-	6	32	6	-	6	6	57	6	1	1	8	6	57	8	6	8	123	
American White Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
American Bittern	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Least Bittern	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Great Blue Heron	4	8	10	28	7	29	12	28	7	29	12	53	16	11	11	21	16	53	21	16	21	199	
Great Egret	1	-	1	3	6	5	-	3	6	5	-	6	15	1	1	1	15	6	1	15	1	39	
Snowy Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	-	-	-	37	-	-	37	-	-	37
Little Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	9





Species	Anderson		Bledsoe		Blount		Elizabethton		Greeneville		Knox		Loudon		Montgomery		Nashville		Shelby		White		Totals
	17-Sep	Co	24-Sep	Co	17-Sep	Co	24-Sep	Co	1-Oct	Co	25-Sep	Co	17-Sep	Co	17-Sep	Co	1-Oct	Co	17-Sep	Co	17-Sep	Co	
Chimney Swift	-	7	51	581	1	197	55	27	131	3	34	1087											
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	7	6	44	34	1	18	30	23	14	96	29	302											
Belted Kingfisher	4	5	13	34	2	15	1	6	9	3	7	99											
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	5	2	3	5	-	1	3	2	5	23	49											
Red-bellied Woodpecker	7	59	24	47	30	70	6	29	81	56	60	469											
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	9	-	-	12											
Downy Woodpecker	10	37	19	50	10	42	6	9	67	34	35	319											
Hairy Woodpecker	1	10	7	10	-	6	1	5	11	2	10	63											
Northern Flicker	4	16	5	25	2	22	1	1	59	6	22	163											
Pileated Woodpecker	1	32	20	30	3	12	1	5	17	18	34	173											
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1											
Eastern Wood-Pewee	3	21	20	22	-	36	6	25	39	25	51	248											
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1											
Acadian Flycatcher	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	26	-	29											
Alder Flycatcher	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1											
Willow Flycatcher	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1											
Least Flycatcher	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3											
Empidonax sp.	1	5	-	4	-	2	-	2	-	-	10	24											
Eastern Phoebe	5	32	24	57	4	26	2	12	46	2	45	255											
Great Crested Flycatcher	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	1	10											
Eastern Kingbird	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	9	7	21											
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1											
Flycatcher sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2											
Loggerhead Shrike	-	1	2	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	3	11											
White-eyed Vireo	8	17	22	-	-	6	-	6	5	89	29	182											
Yellow-throated Vireo	10	9	2	7	-	4	-	3	-	9	11	55											







Species	Anderson		Bledsoe		Blount		Elizabethton		Greeneville		Knox		Loudon		Montgomery		Nashville		Shelby		White		Totals
	17-Sep	Co	24-Sep	Co	17-Sep	Co	24-Sep	Co	1-Oct	Co	25-Sep	Co	17-Sep	Co	17-Sep	Co	1-Oct	Co	17-Sep	Co	17-Sep	Co	
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	4	4	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	9
Song Sparrow	4	34	19	88	16	65	4	11	11	38	279	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	7
Swamp Sparrow	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	10
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	1
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69
Dark-eyed Junco	-	-	-	66	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	99
Summer Tanager	1	11	2	-	-	1	3	14	16	6	1	14	27	24	72	-	6	1	14	14	14	14	72
Scarlet Tanager	8	28	1	12	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	14	14	14	14	72
Northern Cardinal	19	143	87	176	93	190	-	-	108	206	64	101	1187	-	-	-	206	64	101	101	101	101	1187
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	18	2	22	1	7	-	-	6	67	3	8	136	-	-	-	6	67	3	3	3	3	136
Blue Grosbeak	-	14	16	-	4	2	-	-	3	4	4	30	73	-	-	-	4	4	4	4	4	4	73
Indigo Bunting	3	49	88	76	41	57	-	-	40	77	58	68	557	-	-	-	77	58	58	58	58	58	557
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bobolink	-	-	-	-	2	7	-	-	-	7	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	637	61	410	4	-	-	-	25	2	10	1149	-	-	-	25	2	10	10	10	10	1149
Eastern Meadowlark	3	74	4	9	9	8	-	-	4	18	-	41	170	-	-	-	18	-	41	41	41	41	170
Common Grackle	1	1	51	400	407	38	8	255	183	52	2	1398	-	-	-	-	183	52	52	52	52	52	1398
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	1	-	26	5	20	-	-	38	44	132	-	-	-	-	-	44	132	132	132	132	132	266
Orchard Oriole	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2
House Finch	4	32	58	39	10	30	6	5	33	10	9	236	-	-	-	-	33	10	10	10	10	10	236
American Goldfinch	6	25	58	166	43	72	4	30	83	71	81	639	-	-	-	-	83	71	71	71	71	71	639
House Sparrow	-	31	11	110	2	52	25	24	34	35	77	401	-	-	-	-	34	35	35	35	35	35	401



## MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011 FALL MEETING

**8 October 2011  
Chattanooga, Tennessee**

The Fall Meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) was held 7 – 9 October 2011 in Chattanooga, Tennessee hosted by the Chattanooga Chapter. Field trips were offered to Standifer Gap Marsh, Chester Frost State Park, The Nature Center, Brainerd Levee, Nickajack Lake, The Honors Course, Cravens House and Greenway Farms.

The Directors meeting was called to order by President Dick Preston at 4:26 p.m. 8 October 2011. The secretary reported that a quorum was present. Mac McWhirter made a motion that the minutes of the Spring 2011 meeting be approved with the following change for the Treasurer's report... "Treasurer Mac McWhirter reported there are 639 members as of last year and that this number remains stable." The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### OFFICERS' REPORTS

**VICE PRESIDENTS:** Tony King, East Tennessee, reported on Operation Migration and urged each chapter to support the re-introduction of Whooping Cranes by funding one mile at \$186. Tony will provide full information in the December issue of *The Warbler*. Martha Waldron, West Tennessee, and Melinda Welton, Middle Tennessee, were not in attendance, and there were no reports.

**DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE:** Donna Ward, West Tennessee; Steve Routledge, Middle Tennessee; and Larry Routledge, East Tennessee, were in attendance but had no reports.

**TREASURER:** Mac McWhirter reported that the finances of the TOS are in good order. The investments are \$223,560, down from \$230,127 at the start of 2011. This represents a 2.85% year-to-date loss in value during this declining market, but it compares very favorably with major indices like the S&P 500 (down 9.03% YTD) and a balanced fund approach like Target Date Funds 2011-2015 (down 5.3% YTD). TOS currently use 12 separate investment funds to decrease the chances of loss from any given disaster in a single fund. Allocations remaining are 50% equities and 50% bonds or fixed income. Membership held steady for the second straight year, appears to have stabilized and possibly will increase by a small amount by end of the year.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**FINANCE:** Ron Hoff, Chair, performed an audit of the balance sheet and related statements of revenues and expenses for the year ending 31 December 2010 as requested by the President. The committee reported that all is in order.

**CURATOR:** Chuck Nicholson sent a report that the TOS website is receiving many visitors. The feedback indicates the website is viable and user friendly.

**THE MIGRANT:** Editor David Aborn reported that the next issue has been sent to the printer and should be mailed in mid-November.

**THE TENNESSEE WARBLER:** Theresa Graham stated the deadline for the December issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* is 31 October 2011. Dick Preston presented a proposal for the purchase of an Adobe software package for the Warbler's production. Susan McWhirter made the motion to purchase the software. JoAnne Routledge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**BIRD RECORDS:** Kevin Calhoon recognized and thanked his predecessor, Dean Edwards, for his service. The Committee is working on five bird records and updating taxonomic changes to the state bird list.

**CONSERVATION AND POLICY COMMITTEE:** Melinda Welton and Gregg Elliott, co-Chairs, reported the following committee actions:

- May 2011- commented on the Tennessee Valley Authority Draft Natural Resources Plan and noted deficiencies in the document and recommended TVA embrace the highest level of resource management considered
- Joined with the American Bird Conservancy in a letter to the USDA Forest Service, asking that forest plans under the proposed new National Forest System Land Management Planning Rule conform to best available science in all management plans particularly with respect to habitat and endangered species management
- June 2011- supported fully funding National Resource Conservation legislation
- July 2011 - drafted a letter thanking the TWRC for their reasoned and conservative approach to the Sandhill Crane hunting proposal. It was co-signed by the Sierra Club, Tennessee Conservation Voters, Cumberland-Harpeth and Warito Audubon Chapters
- August 2011 - submitted comments to the US Fish and Wildlife Service opposing a Sandhill Crane Hunt in Kentucky
- Submitted comments to US Fish and Wildlife Services on the draft proposal for Wind Energy Guidelines; TOS supports mandatory, rather than voluntary guidelines
- Joined with Tennessee Wildlife Foundation (TWF) and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) in a Watchable Wildlife Workshop in Nashville
- September 2011 - submitted comments to US Fish and Wildlife Services regarding wind energy and green energy resources
- Sent a letter of support for a 168 acre tract on Moss Ridge land acquisition for Edgar Evans State Park to TDEC

**CONSERVATION AND RESEACH FUNDING:** Michael Collins, assistant professor of biology at Rhodes College and a member of the Memphis Chapter, has agreed to be chair of this committee.

**PUBLICATIONS:** no report

**TN BIRD:** Wallace Coffey sent a report of a spam attack that was quickly resolved. Users are requested to beware of forwarding attachments and large picture files.

### OLD BUSINESS

Ron Hoff agreed to accept the nomination of President, with his term to begin in 2013. The Board voted unanimously to confirm.

### NEW BUSINESS

TOS and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency are co-hosting the Sandhill Crane Festival 14 – 15 January 2012 at Hiwassee and Birchwood School in Dayton. Melinda Welton and Cyndi Routledge will coordinate TOS's part as an effort to establish goodwill and further credibility with TWRA. A website has been established ([www.tncranefestival.org](http://www.tncranefestival.org)) with information, schedule of events and general information. A Crane Fund (501c3) has been established with the TWRA Foundation, with Scott Somershoe as administrator. Fundraising for the Festival is ongoing and includes corporate sponsorships. The first fundraiser is the Sandhill Crane Soiree at Hunter Museum, Chattanooga on 26 October 2011. The membership is invited.

Danny Gaddy complimented Cyndi Routledge and Melinda Welton on all the organizational work as well as ongoing Festival activities and asked for "in-kind" hours to be recognized and reported by all who volunteer for the Festival. President Dick Preston is compiling this information. There was a general call for volunteers for the Festival. A request and information email has been sent to all Chapters, and a follow up article requesting volunteers will be in the next issue of *The Tennessee Warbler*.

**2012 SPRING MEETING:** Will be held in Johnson City, 18 – 29 May. Full details will appear in the December issue of *The Tennessee Warbler*. This will be a joint meeting with the Virginia Society of Ornithology. Fred Alsop Jr. will be the featured speaker.

Meeting locations for 2012 – 2015 are: 2012 Fall Meeting – Nashville; 2013 Spring Meeting – Knoxville; 2013 Fall Meeting – Pending; 2014 Spring Meeting – Chattanooga; 2014 Fall Meeting – Pending; 2015 Spring Meeting - Nashville

**SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL:** A request was presented by Cyndi Routledge, Educational Coordinator, for TOS to fund the printing of an activity book that is being developed by Vicki Henderson of Knoxville as an educational and conservation tool. These books will be sold at the Festival with any remaining unsold copies to be distributed

among the Chapters at their request or held over for future Festivals. Steve Routledge made a motion, after consultation with Treasurer Mac McWhirter on the issue of items “for sale” by TOS. TOS would allocate \$750 for the printing of the educational activity books to be sold at the Sandhill Crane Festival, with the “sale” price of said activity books not to exceed the cost. The motion was seconded by Danny Gaddy and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cyndi Routledge, Secretary

## **TOS FALL SYMPOSIUM 2011**

### **Abstracts**

The 45<sup>th</sup> TOS Fall Symposium was organized by state president Dick Preston and held in conjunction with the Fall State Meeting 7- 9 October 2011 in Chattanooga, TN.

### **ASSESSMENT OF BREEDING BIRD POPULATIONS BRIDGESTONE-FIRESTONE CENTENNIAL WILDERNESS AND FALL CREEK FALLS STATE PARK**

**Scott Somershoe**  
**Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency**

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) is developing an open pine savanna on the Big Bottom Unit of Bridgestone-Firestone Centennial Wilderness (BFCW) and the north end of Fall Creek Falls State Park in Van Buren County, Tennessee. The habitat in the study area is primarily young pine plantation (6-7 years old) with extensive ground cover of native grasses and forbs. Fire is the primary management tool for conversion of dense pine stands to open pine savanna. In 2010, we established point count surveys across three treatments: (1) burned pine stands, (2) unburned young pine stand (6-7 years old, control 1), and (3) unburned older pine stands (10+ yrs old trees, control 2). In surveys conducted in 2010 and 2011, we found nearly twice the number of birds per point count in the burn treatment and the young unburned pine stands (control 1) than in the older pine plantation (control 2). We found larger numbers of early successional birds (i.e. Field Sparrow, Yellow-breasted Chat, Prairie Warbler, Northern Bobwhite) in the burn and control 1 stands, while finding few early successional birds in Control 2. We found greater numbers of mature forest species (i.e. Hooded Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler and Red-eyed Vireo) on the control 2 points, which was primarily due to birds occupying riparian zones that had second growth deciduous trees. Few birds were found occupying or using the older pine stands. Habitat assessments and further analyses will be completed after additional surveys are conducted in 2012.

## MONITORING NORTHERN BOBWHITE BREEDING POPULATIONS IN THE CENTRAL HARDWOODS BIRD CONSERVATION REGION

**Christopher M. Lituma, David A. Buehler, Evan P. Tanner,  
Ashley M. Unger, Patrick D. Keyser and Craig A. Harper**  
Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

**John Morgan**  
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Services

Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) populations declined by 3.8% from 1980-2006 in the Central Hardwoods Bird Conservation Region (CHBCR). Monitoring bobwhite populations and developing accurate population estimates by incorporating detection functions, and occupancy estimates is an important component of the conservation initiative in this region.

We developed a roadside-based monitoring strategy for bobwhite populations within bobwhite focal areas in the CHBCR (n = 37 counties). We randomly located five 15-km monitoring routes in each focal county along secondary roads. We conducted 5-min unlimited distance point counts along each route (30 counts/route). We conducted roadside and off-road point counts to assess roadside bias and used radio-tagged bobwhites to document calling rates by time of day and day of season.

We used count data and adjusted abundance estimates with a time-removal model with a distance covariate. We used occupancy and Huggins closed capture modules in program MARK to model occupancy and detection probabilities. We calculated relative abundance for three years of survey data as individuals/route (n = 505 routes, =  $11.8 \pm 4.7$ ). We compared a set of 34 a priori models to determine if detection probabilities and occupancy were most influenced by distance from road, visit, or year (2010-2011). The top 10 models contained the visit variable for detection probability suggesting a strong seasonal influence on NOBO detectability. Detection probabilities from the top model were influenced by year and visit effects, and occupancy differed between years. Detection was greater (>18%) during the second point count visit, versus first and third visits (n = 270) for both years and detection was greater (>11%) in 2011 than in 2010.

Results indicate a peak in bobwhite detection probabilities occurs between 1 – 29 June, and that bobwhite detectability differs between years, important considerations for population models that use summer survey data across multiple years. We will provide annual population estimates for bobwhites based on roadside based counts that can be corrected for detection and occupancy in the Central Hardwoods Bird Conservation Region.

**USE OF PRESCRIBED BURNING TO SUSTAIN  
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER POPULATIONS IN THE  
CUMBERLAND MOUNTAINS, TENNESSEE**

**Katie L. Percy and David A. Buehler**  
**Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries**  
**University of Tennessee, Knoxville**

The Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) is a Nearctic-Neotropical migratory songbird whose southernmost breeding range extends into northeastern Tennessee. The Golden-winged Warbler population in Tennessee is declining by 7.3% per year, based on North American Breeding Bird Survey data.

Beginning in 2003, the breeding population in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area of Tennessee has been monitored via nest searching and presence-absence surveys. Mean nest success across all years was 38.4 percent (range 12.2 – 62.6 percent). Mean number of young fledged per successful nest was 4.00 (range 1 – 6). Where management action (i.e. prescribed burning) has been implemented, the population has remained stable. Conversely, the population has decreased on our study sites where no management is occurring. Golden-winged habitat has been described by measuring vegetation at nest sites and within territories. Golden-winged Warbler nesting habitat in the Cumberlands is a patchy mosaic of early succession grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees, similar in structure to habitat found elsewhere across the range.

Preliminary analysis confirms the dominance of forbs (~45-53% cover), grasses (~20-25% cover), and shrub cover (~15% cover *Rubus* spp.) at the nest and territory level typical for Golden-winged Warblers. A long-term conservation strategy is needed for Golden-winged Warblers in the Cumberland Mountains to ensure the sustainability of their population.

**DETERMINATION OF BREEDING AND HABITAT USE OF  
NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL AT BIG BALD MOUNTAIN,  
CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST  
UNICOI COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

**Mark Hopey and Kathryn Gunther**  
**Southern Appalachian Raptor Research**  
**Mars Hill, North Carolina**

Eighty-nine Northern Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) were trapped and banded over seven autumn seasons (2005-2011) as part of an effort to document and monitor their presence and activity in the northern hardwood habitat at Big Bald Mountain, Unicoi

County, in eastern Tennessee. Efforts to determine Northern Saw-whet Owl breeding activity during the summers of 2010-2011 at Big Bald included playback surveys, trapping and banding, and the use of radio-transmitters to track individuals. The capture and subsequent recapture of four early juvenile plumage individuals in July, 2011, indicates the reproductive success of Northern Saw-whet Owls in the northern hardwood habitat at Big Bald Mountain.

## ORNAMENTS IN A CANOPY DWELLING SONGBIRD CERULEAN WARBLER

**Than J. Boves and David A. Buehler**  
**Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries**  
**University of Tennessee, Knoxville**

The theory of sexual selection postulates that males display ornaments, such as colorful plumage in birds, to provide reliable information about individual quality (phenotypic or genotypic attributes related to fitness) during female mate choice and intrasexual competition. Multiple ornaments may convey different messages because they are produced by different metabolic mechanisms and/or because environmental heterogeneity may influence the magnitude and direction of the relationship between ornament expression and quality.

In this study we examined the information content of potential plumage ornaments in a population of free-living Cerulean Warblers, the first such work (to our knowledge) on a canopy-dwelling songbird. We also evaluated the impact of environmental heterogeneity on the honesty of plumage ornaments by comparing relationships between plumage and quality across a range of forest conditions.

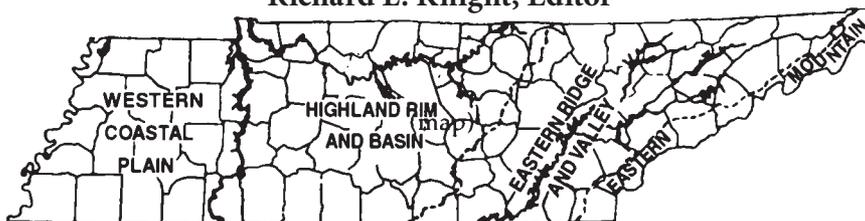
We caught and analyzed 55 male Cerulean Warblers (SY = 17, ASY = 38) and found that individuals displayed several plumage ornaments which signal phenotypic qualities likely directly related to survival and reproductive success. All 4 of the plumage ornaments we assessed (and 5 of 6 total measures) signaled male age to different degrees, thereby supporting the redundant message hypothesis.

After controlling for age, we also found evidence to support the multiple messages hypothesis as well. Tail white was the only plumage ornament positively related to condition at time of molt (via tail growth bars); structural rump plumage was the only ornament related to parental care (via provisioning rates; chroma positively, hue negatively) and body mass at time of capture (chroma negatively).

In addition, eumelanic breast band width was positively related to body mass, but only in high-density, moderately open forest habitats, providing further support for the notion of environmental contingency of melanin-based plumage signal. Furthermore, we documented non-random spatial distribution of eumelanic breast band and tail white; both were found in their most exaggerated form in moderately open forest habitat.

## THE FALL SEASON

Richard L. Knight, Editor



1 August - 30 November 2011

Temperatures this season were generally a bit above normal. Rainfall was near normal overall. Only one tropical system had any meteorological or avian impact on the Volunteer State this season. On 5-6 September, Middle and East Tennessee were soaked by rain associated with Tropical Storm Lee that was training northeastward from the central Gulf Coast along a stationary front. This broad expanse of heavy rain caused a fallout of southbound migrants, particularly shorebirds and terns, at many sites. A Magnificent Frigatebird and some jaegers near Nashville had drifted up from the Gulf with this system.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks solidified their position as breeders in Shelby County. The waterfowl migration was highlighted by a good showing of scoters in West Tennessee and the two eastern regions. A White-faced Ibis was most unexpected at a small pond in the mountains of northeast Tennessee. A single-day flight of over 7,000 Broad-winged Hawks at Big Bald Mountain exceeded the highest count listed by Robinson (1990) in *An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Tennessee*. A Yellow Rail was a nice find at Duck River Unit. Apparent juvenile White-winged Doves suggested nesting in Shelby County. A large roost of Purple Martins was monitored in Nashville. Two separate Cave Swallows along the Mississippi River added to the small number of vagrant records in the inland portions of the East. Boreal irruptives were quite scarce this fall. Two mountain banding stations continued their autumn operations.

Note the newly reorganized sequence of warblers established by the A.O.U. checklist committee this summer.

### Standard Abbreviations

ad - adult	lrs - latest reported sighting
ba - banded	max - maximum count
Co - County	m.ob. - many observers
Cr - Creek	Mtn - Mountain
ers - earliest reported sighting	R - River
et al. - and others	SP - State Park
fide - reported by	sp - species
im - immature	WMA - Wildlife Management Area
L - Lake	yg - young

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION - - The weather was rather unremarkable this autumn. Temperatures and rainfall were within historic and recent norms. Migrating shorebirds and passerines appeared in good numbers, particularly warblers and vireos, which came through in higher numbers than the last two fall periods.

*Duck - Grebe:* **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** 14 and 28 Aug, 6 Sep (broods of 4, 9, and 4 yg) Ensley (JRW), the 3rd - 5th broods reported this year, max 39 ad - 30 yg on 6 Sept with birds present into Nov. **Snow Goose:** 20-30 Aug (1 blue, could fly) Ensley (JRW). **Ring-necked Duck:** 4 Oct (1) Pace Point (SGS), ers. **Greater Scaup:** 2 Nov (3) Mississippi R, Shelby Co (JRW), ers. **Surf Scoter:** 29-30 Oct (1) Pace Point / Eagle Cr (JRW); 5 Nov (4) Mississippi R, Shelby Co (JRW); 19 Nov (1) Britton Ford (JRW). **White-winged Scoter:** 19 Nov (1) Britton Ford (JRW et al.); 29 Nov (1) TVA Lake (JRW). **Black Scoter:** 5 Nov (1) Mississippi R, Shelby Co (JRW). **Long-tailed Duck:** 17 Nov (1) Mississippi R, Shelby Co (JRW). **Red-throated Loon:** 19 / 26 Nov (1 / 2) Pace Point (JRW). **Common Loon:** 24 Nov (69) Reelfoot L (JRW), high number; 26 Nov (500+) Pace Point (JRW), max. **Red-necked Grebe:** 29 Oct - 26 Nov (1) Pace Point, Paris Landing (JRW, SGS et al.). **Eared Grebe:** 30 Sep (1) Mud Island, Shelby Co (JRW).

*Pelican - Crane:* **American White Pelican:** 25 Sep (20) Britton Ford (TJW), ers. **Anhinga:** 20-25 Aug (3-4) Mud L, Shelby Co (JRW). **Least Bittern:** 19 Aug (1) TVA Lake (JRW). **Tricolored Heron:** 7 Aug (1) Island 13, Lake Co (TJW). **Wood Stork:** 19 Aug (23) Ensley (JRW); 22 Aug (35) Mud L, Shelby Co (JRW, MCT, Nancy Moore). **Osprey:** 28 Aug (1) Ensley (Andrea Cowart); 16 Sep (1) President's Island (VBR). **Bald Eagle:** 28 Oct (2 ad) Wolf River WMA (MGW, SNM). **Merlin:** 5 Sep (1) Henry Co (MCT), ers. **Peregrine Falcon:** 12 Sep (1) Ensley (MCT), rescued from sludge; 19 Sep (1) Ensley (JRW); 4 / 23 Oct (1) Paris Landing, Pace Point (SGS, JRW); 28 Oct (1) Wolf River WMA (MGW, SNM); 17 Nov (2) Loosahatchie Bar, Shelby Co (JRW). **Sora:** 4 Oct (2+) Britton Ford (SGS). **Sandhill Crane:** 30 Nov (4+ overhead) Paris, Henry Co (Shawna Ellis).

*Shorebirds:* **Black-bellied Plover:** 6-9 Sep (1-2) Ensley (JRW); 4 Oct (3) Eagle Cr (SGS); 16 Oct (1) Dacus Bar, Shelby Co (JRW, MCT). **American Golden-Plover:** 21 Aug - 11 Sep (1) Ensley (JRW). **Semipalmated Plover:** 30 Oct (1) Ensley (VBR), lrs. **Piping Plover:** 7 Aug (1) TVA Lake (JRW). **American Avocet:** 7 Aug (2) Ensley (JRW); 7 Aug (1) Mississippi R near Shelby Forest SP (Elin Pierce, photo); 20-23 Aug (2) Lake Co (TJW, ChS); 6 Sep (2) Gibson Co (MAG), 1st Co record; 16 Oct (14) Dacus Bar, Shelby Co (JRW); 30 Oct (6) Great River Rd, Dyer Co (JRW). **Upland Sandpiper:** 4 / 11 Sep (1-2) Ensley (JRW). **Willet:** 3-12 Sep (1) Ensley (JRW). **Ruddy Turnstone:** 4-12 Sept (1-2) Ensley (JRW). **Red Knot:** 9-12 Sep (1) Ensley (JRW). **Western Sandpiper:** 20 Nov (1) Ensley (JRW), lrs. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 30 Oct (1) Great River Rd, Dyer Co (JRW), very late. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** 4-19 Sep (max 40 on 11 Sep) Ensley (JRW, MCT); 5 Nov (1) Eagle Cr (SGS). **Baird's Sandpiper:** 7 Aug - 12 Sep (1-6) Ensley (JRW); 19 Nov (1) Britton Ford (JRW). **Dunlin:** 30 Oct (51) Great River Rd, Dyer Co (JRW); 5 Nov (9) Eagle Cr (SGS). **Stilt Sandpiper:** 4 Nov (1) Ensley (JRW), lrs. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 17 Aug / 4-12 Sep (1-5) Ensley (JRW); 17 Sep (8) Millington Airport, Shelby Co (MCT). **Long-billed Dowitcher:** 9 Aug (1) Ensley (JRW). **Wilson's Snipe:** 23 Aug (1) Lake Co (TLR), ers. **Wilson's Phalarope:** 9-21 Aug (1-5) Ensley (JRW).

*Gull - Tern:* **Laughing Gull:** 25 Sep - 22 Oct (1-2) Paris Landing (TJW). **Franklin's Gull:** 9 / 14 Oct (4 / 12) Mississippi R, Shelby Co (JRW); 22 / 30 Oct (1-2) Pace Point, Paris Landing (TJW, JRW); 23 Oct (26) Britton Ford (JRW); 30 Oct / 18 Nov (1-2) Reelfoot, Lake Co (JRW). **LITTLE GULL:** 18-24 Nov (1 im) Reelfoot L, Lake Co (JRW). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 12 / 22 Oct (1) Paris Landing (TJW, JRW); 22 Oct (1) Britton Ford (JRW); 26 Nov (1) Pickwick Dam, Hardin Co (JRW). **GLAUCOUS GULL:** 26 Nov (1 ad) Pickwick Dam, Hardin Co (JRW), 1st record of an ad all others have been 1st or 2nd year birds. **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** 26 Nov (1 im) Paris Landing (JRW). **Least Tern:** 5 Aug (8 yg) TVA Lake (JRW). **Caspian Tern:** 6 Sep (2) Gibson Co (MAG). **Forster's Tern:** 5 / 19 Nov (14 / 1) Eagle Cr (JRW, SGS), lrs.

*Dove - Sparrow:* **WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** 10 Aug - 3 Sep (1-5, including juveniles) President's Island (JRW, m.ob.); 23-28 Aug (3) mid-town Memphis (Bill Berry, photo). **Black-billed Cuckoo:** 15 Aug (1) Shelby Farms, Shelby Co (VBR); 5 Oct (1) Shelby Forest SP (DDP, MTOS). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 8 Sep (1) Henry Co (MCT); 11 Sep (1) Shelby Co (JRW); 15 Sep (1) Shelby Forest SP (DDP). **Philadelphia Vireo:** 5 Oct (10) Shelby Forest SP (DDP, MTOS), max. **Blue Jay:** 4 Oct (441 flying over in 1 hour) Paris Landing (SGS). **CAVE SWALLOW:** 17 Sep (1) Shelby Co (JRW); 18 Sep (1) Tiptonville Landing, Lake Co (JRW). **Sedge Wren:** 25 Sep - 12 Oct (1-3) near Pace Point (TJW, SGS). **Marsh Wren:** 25 Sep - 22 Oct (1-3) near Pace Point (TJW, SGS); 4 Oct (5) Britton Ford (SGS). **Golden-winged Warbler:** 5 / 8 Sep (1) Henry Co (MCT); 17 Sep (6) Shelby Forest SP (DDP, MTOS). **Blue-winged Warbler:** 22 Aug (1) Shelby Farms, Shelby Co (VBR). **Canada Warbler:** 8 Sep (2) Henry Co (MCT); 21 Sep (1) Memphis Greenway (DDP, MTOS). **Wilson's Warbler:** 24 Sep (4) Shelby Forest SP (DDP). **Le Conte's Sparrow:** 12

/ 22 Oct (2 / 10+) near Pace Point (TJW); 22 Oct (1) Britton Ford (SGS, CAS). **Nelson's Sparrow:** 25 Sep (1) near Pace Point (TJW). **Lincoln's Sparrow:** 4 Oct (1) Britton Ford (SGS); 12 / 22 Oct (4) near Pace Point (TJW); 28 Oct (1) Wolf River WMA (MGW, SNM).

*Locations:* Britton Ford, Henry Co; Eagle Cr, Henry Co; Ensley, Shelby Co; Pace Point, Henry Co; Paris Landing, Henry Co; President's Island, Shelby Co; Shelby Forest SP, Shelby Co; TVA Lake, Shelby Co; Wolf River WMA, Fayette Co.

DICK D. PRESTON, 261 Sassafras Circle, Munford, TN 38058.  
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HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION - - The four month fall season in Middle Tennessee was highly varied. In Nashville, August and November both had mean temperatures that were warmer than normal, while September and October had mean temperatures that were below normal. The pattern of precipitation in Nashville was a flip-flop, with the months alternating between well below normal and well above normal amounts of rain. In particular, October was very dry, with less than one inch of rain.

Early September was particularly noteworthy because of the passage of the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee, a huge, slowly moving low pressure system from the Gulf of Mexico that moved through middle and east Tennessee. In Nashville, high temperatures reaching nearly 100 degrees just a couple of days earlier were reduced by 30-40 degrees during the system's passage, and four inches of rain fell over a three day period.

Tropical Storm Lee proved a boon for birders. At Snow Bunting Peninsula in Old Hickory Lake watchers found a Magnificent Frigatebird, a Parasitic Jaeger, and three jaegers that were too far away to be identified to species. Also at that location the weather caused several species of shorebirds and terns to stop their migration briefly making for a special fallout. Elsewhere, in a county with few previous shorebird records, a fallout of 60 individuals of six species in Lewis County on 5 September was notable; at least two species involved were firsts for the county.

*Goose - Crane:* **Snow Goose:** 19 Nov (1) Lewis Co (WMP). **Cackling Goose:** 9 Nov (20+) Duck R Unit (CF). **Gadwall:** 22 Oct (16,000) Duck R Unit (SGS, CAS). **American Wigeon:** 22 Oct (1,000) Duck R Unit (SGS, CAS). **Blue-winged Teal:** 14 Sep (200) Radnor L (FF, KB, m.ob.). **Northern Pintail:** 15 Sep (1) Duck R Unit (CF), ers. **Redhead:** 17 Oct (1) Radnor L (FF), ers. **Pacific Loon:** 19 Nov (1) Percy Priest L (SGS, ChS). **American White Pelican:** 22 Oct (500+) Duck R Unit (SGS, CAS). **MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** 5 Sep (1) Old Hickory L (FF, PDC). **Least Bittern:** 10 Sep (1) Marshall Co (DMo). **American Bittern:** 22 Oct (1) Duck R Unit (SGS, CAS); 2 Nov (1) marsh on Walter S. Davis Blvd, Nashville (FF). **Broad-winged Hawk:** 16 Sep (200) Lewis Co (WMP). **Merlin:** 7 Sep (1) Old Hickory L (FF); 10 Nov (1) Murfreesboro (TJW); 11 Nov (2 at separate sites) Percy Priest L (Richard Connors); 11 Nov (1) Hardin Co (Damien Simbeck); 19 Nov (1) Lewis Co (WMP). **Peregrine Falcon:** 2 Sep (1) Percy Priest WMA (SGS); 17 Sep (1) Duck R Unit

(TJW, ChS). **YELLOW RAIL**: 19 Oct (1) Duck R Unit (CF). **Sora**: 13 Sep (50+) Duck R Unit (CF). **Sandhill Crane**: (3) summered at Duck R Unit still present 13 Sep / 9Nov (1) (CF).

*Shorebirds*: **Black-bellied Plover**: 15 Sep / 16 Nov (2 / 1) Old Hickory L (JH, PDC). **American Avocet**: 5 Sep (1) Old Hickory L (MSm, m.ob.). **Willet**: 26 Sep (1) Old Hickory L (JH, photo). **Ruddy Turnstone**: 5-6 Sep (1) Old Hickory L (MSm, m.ob.). **Red Knot**: 6 Sep (2) Old Hickory L (JH, m.ob.). **Sanderling**: 5-6 / 22 Sep (2) Old Hickory L (PDC, FF); 5 Sep (1) Lewis Co (WMP), 1st Co record. **Western Sandpiper**: 2 Sep (1) Percy Priest WMA (SGS); 6 Sep (2) Old Hickory L (FF, m.ob.). **Dunlin**: 28 Oct (2) Old Hickory L (Scott Block). **Stilt Sandpiper**: 6 Sep (5) Percy Priest WMA (TJW); 6 Sep (6-14) Old Hickory L (Ken Oeser, FF, m.ob.). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: 2 Sep (3) Percy Priest WMA (SGS); 10 Sep (1) Murfreesboro (Chloe Walker). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 5 Sep (16) Lewis Co (WMP), 1st Co record. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: 22 Oct (12) Duck R Unit (SGS, CAS).

*Jaeger - Woodpecker*: **PARASITIC JAEGER**: 6 Sep (1, dark morph) Old Hickory L (FF, SGS, ES, photo). **jaeger sp**: 7 Sep (3) Old Hickory L (FF, PDC, MSm). **Laughing Gull**: 21 Sep (1) Old Hickory L (TJW). **Caspian Tern**: 20 Aug (1) Center Hill L (MJW); 5 / 21 Sep (6 / 2) Old Hickory L (FF, PDC, TJW); 17 Sep (3, flying over) Shelby Bottoms (FF, NTOS). **Black Tern**: 18 / 20 Aug (50 / 5) Center Hill L (John Noel / MJW); 25 Aug (13) Percy Priest L (SGS); 5 Sep (20) Old Hickory L (SGS). **Forster's Tern**: 20 Aug (5) Center Hill L (MJW); 25 Aug (4) Percy Priest L (SGS); 5 Sep (8) Old Hickory L (FF, PDC). **Barn Owl**: 27 Sep (1) Warren Co (SNM). **Long-eared Owl**: a pile of feathers found on a bale of hay at Fort Campbell, Montgomery Co, on 8 Nov (DMo) were positively identified as this species by the Smithsonian Institution Feather Lab, evidently it had been preyed upon by a Great Horned Owl or other large raptor. **Northern Saw-whet Owl**: 29 Oct (1 ba) Marshall Co (SGS). **Common Nighthawk**: 26 Oct (1) Smyrna, Rutherford Co (SGS), lrs. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: 17 Nov (1) Loretto, Lawrence Co (Don Simbeck), lrs. **Rufous Hummingbird**: 9 Aug thru season (1) Brentwood, Davidson Co (fide CAS), present 3rd straight year. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: 6 Aug (ad with recently fledged yg) Tims Ford L, Moore Co portion (ES). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: 24 Sep (1) Lewis Co (WMP), ers.

*Flycatcher - Gnatcatcher*: **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: 8 / 20 Sep (1) Radnor L (FF); 10 Sep (1) Marshall Co (DMo); 17 Sep (1) Shelby Bottoms (FF, NTOS); 28 Sep (1) Short Mtn, Cannon Co (WMP). **Philadelphia Vireo**: 17 Sep (1) Shelby Bottoms (FF, NTOS), ers; 28 Sep (17) Radnor L (KB, NTOS), max; 18 Oct (1) Radnor L (FF), lrs. **Purple Martin**: 14 / 17 Aug (90,000 - 120,000) Nashville (SGS), at roost site. **Winter Wren**: 6 Oct (1) Radnor L (FF), ers. **Sedge Wren**: 28 Sep (2) Shelby Bottoms (PDC). **Marsh Wren**: 17 Sep (1) Duck R Unit (TJW, ChS); 28 Sep (2) Shelby Bottoms (PDC). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 21 Oct (1) Ellington Agricultural Center (SGS), lrs.

*Warblers:* **Golden-winged Warbler:** 14-28 Sep (1-3) Radnor L (FF, KB, NTOS); 17-28 Sep (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC, MSm, TJW); 17 Sep (1) Duck R Unit (TJW, ChS); 28 Sep (1) White's Cr, Davidson Co (ES); 1 Oct (2) Nashville Fall Count (fide JKS). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** 4 Oct (1) Shelby Bottoms (FF); 14 Oct (1) Lewis Co (WMP); 21 Oct (1) Ellington Agricultural Center (SGS); 31 Oct (1) Radnor L (FF). **Mourning Warbler:** 17 Sep (1) Montgomery Co (fide DMo); 20 Sep (2) University School Wetland, Davidson Co (ES, JH). **Common Yellowthroat:** 20 Nov (1) Harpeth R Greenway, Davidson Co (FF), Irs. **Hooded Warbler:** 18 Oct (1) Radnor L (FF), Irs. **Magnolia Warbler:** 30 Aug (1) Radnor L (JKS), Irs; 9 Nov (1) Lewis Co (WMP), Irs. **Yellow Warbler:** 28 Sep (1) Radnor L (KB, NTOS), Irs. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 10 Oct (1 male) Radnor L (FF). **Canada Warbler:** 30 Aug (3) Radnor L (JKS). **Wilson's Warbler:** 8 Sep - 4 Oct (7 reports of 1-3 birds) Radnor L and Shelby Bottoms (FF, KB, PDC, NTOS).

*Sparrow - Siskin:* **Bachman's Sparrow:** 30 Sep (1) Lewis Co (WMP). **Vesper Sparrow:** 24 Oct (1) Robertson Co (TL); 2 Nov (1) Bell's Bend, Davidson Co (TL). **Savannah Sparrow:** 2 Nov (44) Warren Co (SNM). **Grasshopper Sparrow:** 1 Aug / 14 Oct (6 / 3) Warren Co (SNM). **Henslow's Sparrow:** 12 Oct (1) Warren Co (SNM). **Le Conte's Sparrow:** 12 Oct (1) Warren Co (SNM); 22 Oct (1) Duck R Unit (SGS, CAS). **Lincoln's Sparrow:** 4-26 Oct (1-3) Shelby Bottoms (FF, TL); 9 Oct (1) Warren Co (SNM). **Swamp Sparrow:** 30 Sep (2) Lewis Co (WMP), Irs. **White-throated Sparrow:** 30 Sep (1) Lewis Co (WMP), Irs. **Dark-eyed Junco:** 12 Oct (2) Beaman Park, Davidson Co (TL), Irs. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 31 Oct (2) Radnor L (FF), Irs. **Indigo Bunting:** 2 Nov (2) Lewis Co (WMP), Irs. **Brewer's Blackbird:** 11 Nov (5) Savannah Bottoms, Hardin Co (Damien Simbeck). **Purple Finch:** 3 Oct (2 males) Ellington Agricultural Center (Richard Connors), early; 2 Nov (1) Beaman Park, Davidson Co (TL). **Pine Siskin:** 24 Nov (6) Williamson Co (ES), only report.

*Locations:* Center Hill L, DeKalb Co; Duck R Unit - unit of TN NWR, Humphreys Co; Ellington Agricultural Center, Davidson Co; Old Hickory L, Davidson Co; Percy Priest L, Davidson Co; Percy Priest WMA, Rutherford Co; Radnor L, Davidson Co; Shelby Bottoms, Davidson Co.

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CUMBERLAND PLATEAU/RIDGE and VALLEY REGION - - Following a very hot summer, temperatures remained above average through much of the autumn. Precipitation was slightly below average in August and October, but Tropical Storm Lee dumped two to eight inches of rain in early September (heaviest in the Chattanooga area) causing a fallout of migrating shorebirds and terns. November rainfall was well above average.

The passage of a cold front on the night of 16-17 November caused significant fallout of ducks, coots, and Horned Grebes in Northeast Tennessee. On the following morning over 4100 ducks of 15 species, about 75% scaup, were observed on Boone Lake. This is one

of the largest waterfowl fallouts ever observed in the Tri-cities area. New all-time high counts were set for two species. Good numbers also occurred nearby on Watauga and South Holston Lakes in the Mountain Region. A notable fallout was also found that day at Lake Tansi on the Cumberland Plateau, consisting of about 1600 ducks of a dozen species, mostly Redheads, plus Horned Grebes and coots.

It was a stellar season at Rankin Bottoms with a remarkable 31 species of shorebirds. That is the most ever in one season and represents all but four of the shorebird species ever found there! Of particular note were Ruff, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, and Red Knot. Also noteworthy there were Tricolored Heron and Lesser Black-backed Gull. The Ruff attracted dozens of birders from at least six states to this often under-birded location. Shorebirds also made a good showing at several other regional sites. In particular, Sanderling, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper were found at multiple locations.

The passerine migration seemed near the recent norm. A tally of 17 warbler species in Ooltawah by a single party during the TOS Fall Meeting on 9 October was a rather good number for the date.

*Goose - Pelican:* **Greater White-fronted Goose:** 23 Oct (19) Upper Douglas L (DK), large number for region. **Snow Goose:** 2 Oct (1 white and 1 blue) Limestone (Jim D. Anderson, photo), early and only report. **Ross's Goose:** 23-24 Nov (1) Paddle Cr (MSa). **American Black Duck:** 1 Oct (1) Bible Refuge (DHM), ers. **Blue-winged Teal:** 14 Sep (183) Paddle Cr (JWC), max. **Northern Shoveler:** 27 Aug (4) Rankin Bottoms (RLK, m.ob.), ers; 26 Nov (62) Upper Douglas L (MBS), max. **Northern Pintail:** 14 Sep (1) Paddle Cr (JWC), ers; 17 Nov (18) Boone L (RLK), max. **Green-winged Teal:** 17 Nov (104) Boone L (RLK), new high count in NE TN. **Canvasback:** 13 Nov (62) Marion Co (TLR), max. **Redhead:** 6 Oct (1) Eagle Bend (RDH, DMy), ers; 17 Nov (165) Boone L (RLK); 17 Nov (700) L Tansi (EKL). **Ring-necked Duck:** 17 Nov (400+) Boone L (RLK). **Lesser Scaup:** 17 Nov (3,000) Boone L (RLK). **Surf Scoter:** 28 Oct (1) Steele CR Park, Sullivan Co (Don Holt); 17 Nov (6) Boone L (RLK); 17 Nov (8) Fort Patrick Henry L, Sullivan Co (GDE); 24 Nov (4) Chickamauga L, Hamilton Co (KAC). **Red-breasted Merganser:** 17 Nov (70) Boone L (RLK). **Ruddy Duck:** 17 Nov (175) Boone L (RLK), new high count in NE TN, but exceeded by another tally on the same day in the Mountain Region. **Pied-billed Grebe:** 11 Aug (1) Swafford pond, Bledsoe Co (Stephen Stedman), ers. **Horned Grebe:** 17 Nov (260) Boone L (RLK); 17 Nov (200) L Tansi (EKL). **American White Pelican:** 20 Nov (1) Hiwassee Refuge, Meigs Co (Bob Howdeshell, photo).

*Bittern - Crane:* **Least Bittern:** 30 Aug (1) Rankin Bottoms (SGS, photo). **Great Egret:** 1 Aug (14) Phipps Bend, Hawkins Co (Roger Lemaster); 2 Sep (175+) Rankin Bottoms (RLK), max; 8 / 26 Nov (38 / 12) Upper Douglas L (MBS), good numbers lingering late; 17 Nov (2) Kingsport (RAP), late in NE TN. **Snowy Egret:** 2 Aug (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS). **Little Blue Heron:** 2 Aug - 9 Sep (1-9 im) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, RLK, m.ob.). **Tricolored Heron:** 21 Sep (1) Upper Douglas L (MBS, DK), 1st record. **Green Heron:** 7

Aug (36) Rankin Bottoms (MBS), max. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: 5 Sep (1) Kinser Park, Greene Co (DHM). **White Ibis**: 7 Aug - 1 Sep (1-5 im) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, m.ob.); 19 Aug (1 im) Cardiff Cr, Roane Co (Jason Mann); 5 Sep (1 im) Kinser Park, Greene Co (DHM); 12 Sep (2 im) Kingsport (GDE); 18 Sep (1 im) Seven Islands Refuge, Knox Co (Robert Loveday); 14-17 Oct (1 im) North Fork Holston R, Hawkins and Sullivan Co line (Roger Lemaster, photo), late. **Osprey**: 12 Nov (1) North Fork Holston R, Hawkins and Sullivan Co line (fide RAP), Irs. **Swallow-tailed Kite**: from Jul thru 12 Aug (1) Sequatchie Valley, Bledsoe Co (m.ob.). **Mississippi Kite**: 9-16 Aug (1-10) Sequatchie Valley, Bledsoe Co (Damien Simbeck, m.ob.). **Northern Harrier**: 27 Aug (1) Rankin Bottoms (RLK, m.ob.), ers. **Merlin**: 8 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (KDE, m.ob.); 24 Sep (1) Limestone (RLK); 12 Oct (1) John Sevier L (SHu); 23 Oct (1) Austin Springs (MSa). **Peregrine Falcon**: 27 Aug - 15 Sep (1-2) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, RLK, m.ob.), observed hunting shorebirds; 4 Sep (1) Limestone (DHM); 24 Sep (2) Soddy Mtn, Hamilton Co (Jimmy Wilkerson); 27 Oct (1) TN R, Hamilton Co (KAC); 4 Nov (1) Chattanooga (DA); 25 Nov (1) Maryville, Blount Co (Tom Howe). **Virginia Rail**: 18 Oct (1) Kingsport (SGS, DK); 22 Oct (2) Wal-Mart Distribution Center (DHM); 15 Nov (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (KAC). **Sora**: 9 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (RLK); 18 Oct (6) Kingsport (SGS, DK); 22 / 30 Oct (1) Wal-Mart Distribution Center (DHM). **Common Gallinule**: 8 Sep (1) Kingsport (David Hunt); 4 Nov (1 im) John Sevier L (SHu). **American Coot**: 17 Nov (600+) Boone L (RLK); 17 Nov (1700) Lake Tansi (EKL); above average numbers as part of fallout. **Sandhill Crane**: 25 Oct (20) Hiwassee Refuge, Meigs Co (Charles Murray), ers. **Whooping Crane**: 18 Nov thru season (2 ad) Hiwassee Refuge, Meigs Co (Charles Murray).

*Shorebirds*: **Black-bellied Plover**: 1 Sep - 8 Oct (1-10) Rankin Bottoms, Upper Douglas L (MBS, RLK, m.ob.); 6-7 Sep (1) Eagle Bend (SW, m.ob.). **American Golden-Plover**: 28 Aug - 5 Sep / 29 Sep - 5 Oct (1-6) Rankin Bottoms, Upper Douglas L (MBS, RLK, m.ob.); 29 Oct (4) Austin Springs (RLK). **Semipalmated Plover**: 8 Sep (40) Rankin Bottoms (SGS), max. **Killdeer**: 29 Aug (450+) Rankin Bottoms (SGS), max. **American Avocet**: 19 Aug (7) Upper Douglas L (RDH, DMy et al.); 23 Aug (3) Watts Bar L, Roane Co (Wes James); 8-9 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, RLK, m.ob.). **Spotted Sandpiper**: 7 Aug (22) Rankin Bottoms (MBS), max. **Solitary Sandpiper**: 12 Oct (1) Austin Springs (RLK), Irs. **Greater Yellowlegs**: 4 Nov (2) Austin Springs (RLK); 5 Nov (1) Greeneville (DHM), Irs. **Willet**: 2-9 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (DHM, RLK, m.ob.); 10 Sep (1) Limestone (Jim D. Anderson, photo). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 6 Sep (70) Rankin Bottoms (MBS), max. **Marbled Godwit**: 6-9 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, photo, m.ob.). **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: 6-8 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, photo, m.ob.), 1st record, about 6th in East TN. **Ruddy Turnstone**: 5-9 Sep (1-3) Rankin Bottoms (DK, MBS, m.ob.); 6-7 Sep (1) Eagle Bend (SW, m.ob.). **RED KNOT**: 7-8 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (DHM, m.ob.). **Sanderling**: 29 Aug - 2 Oct (2-14) Rankin Bottoms, Upper Douglas L (FRC, SGS, RLK, MBS, m.ob.); 6 Sep (6) Lake Tansi (EKL); 6-9 Sep (1) Eagle Bend (SW, m.ob.); 10 Sep (3) Bradley Co (DCC); 13 Sep (1) Paddle Cr (JWC); 30 Oct - 4 Nov (4-2) Austin Springs (DK, RLK), new late date in NE TN. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: 29 Aug (110) Rankin Bottoms (SGS), max. **Western**

**Sandpiper:** 19 Aug - 15 Sep (1-10) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, RLK, m.ob.); 4 Sep (1) Bradley Co (KAC, DRJ); 6 Sep (2) Lake Tansi (EKL). **Least Sandpiper:** 4 Sep (120+) Rankin Bottoms (MBS), max. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** 2-18 Sep / 2 Oct (1-5, max 14 on 8 Sep) Rankin Bottoms (DHM, RLK, MBS, SGS, m.ob.); 4 / 10 Sep (2 / 1) Bradley Co (KAC, DRJ, DCC); 14 Sep / 30 Oct (1) Austin Springs (Don Holt, DK, photo). **Baird's Sandpiper:** 23 Aug - 11 Sep / 29 Sep / 9 Oct (1-5) Rankin Bottoms, Upper Douglas L (MBS, RLK, m.ob.). **Pectoral Sandpiper:** 7 Sep (150+) Rankin Bottoms (RLK), max; 6 Nov (1) Austin Springs (RLK), Irs. **Dunlin:** 5 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (DK), early; 2 Oct - 2 Nov (10-200+) Upper Douglas L (MBS, m.ob.); 20 Oct - 6 Nov (max 52 on 31 Oct) Austin Springs (RLK); 30 Oct (7) Wal-Mart Distribution Center (DHM). **Stilt Sandpiper:** 21 Aug - 5 Oct (1-40, max on 6 Sep) Rankin Bottoms, Upper Douglas L (MBS, RLK, m.ob.); 6-7 Sep (4) Camp Jordan, Hamilton Co (DRJ); 14 Sep (1) Paddle Cr (JWC). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 19 Aug - 24 Sep / 5 Oct (1-42, max on 30 Aug) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, RLK, SGS, m.ob.), new high count in state; 30 Aug (3) Paddle Cr (RRK, photo), 1st Sullivan Co record; 30 Aug (1) Bradley Co (DCC), 1st Co record; 6 / 14 / 29 Sep (1-2) Eagle Bend (Carole Gobert, RDH, DMy); 6-7 Sep (1) Camp Jordan, Hamilton Co (DRJ), 2nd Co record; exceptional showing in region. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** 16 Aug - 15 Sep (1-5) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, m.ob.). **Long-billed Dowitcher:** 30 Aug - 8 Sep (1-2) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, DHM, RLK, EKL, m.ob.); 20 Oct (1) Austin Springs (RLK); rare in East TN. **RUFF:** 27 Aug - 1 Sep (1 ad banded female) Rankin Bottoms (RLK, m.ob., photos- MBS, SGS), 3rd record and 5th in East TN. **American Woodcock:** 27 Aug (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, DHM). **Wilson's Snipe:** 4 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (RLK), ers. **Wilson's Phalarope:** 27-29 Aug / 7-9 Sep (2 / 1-3) Rankin Bottoms (RLK, MBS, m.ob.). **Red-necked Phalarope:** 6-9 Sep (1-3) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, RLK m.ob.). **Red Phalarope:** 4-9 Nov (1) John Sevier L (SHu, photos).

*Gull - Hummingbird:* **Laughing Gull:** 17 Aug - 23 Oct (1-3, with 5 on 7 Oct) Rankin Bottoms, Upper Douglas L (MBS, RLK, m.ob.). **Bonaparte's Gull:** 30 Aug (1 im) Rankin Bottoms (SGS, ES, RLK), early arrival date in East TN, and one of few Aug records in state. **Ring-billed Gull:** 29 Aug (140) Upper Douglas L (SGS), good number this early. **Herring Gull:** 8 Oct (2) Upper Douglas L (DHM), ers. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 22 Aug - 11 Sep (1, first winter) Rankin Bottoms, Upper Douglas L (RLK, MBS, DHM, m.ob.), 3rd record and new early arrival date in state. **Caspian Tern:** 17 Aug - 24 Sep (max 18 on 9 Sep) Upper Douglas L (RLK, MBS, m.ob.); 6 Sep (2) L Tansi (EKL); 5 / 7 Sep (4 / 11) Nickajack L (KAC, TLR); 24 Sep (2) Austin Springs (RLK). **Black Tern:** 5-8 Sep (1-5) Upper Douglas L (DK, RLK, m.ob.); 6 Sep (1) Paddle Cr (Don Holt); 6 Sep (1) L Tansi (EKL); 5 / 7 Sep (8 / 17) Nickajack L (KAC, TLR); 11 Sep (5) Cherokee Dam, Jefferson Co (David Trently); 14 Sep (1) Eagle Bend (RDH, DMy); 26 Sep (3) John Sevier L (SHu). **Common Tern:** 26 Aug (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS); 5 Sep (5) L Tansi (EKL); 7 Sep / 9 Oct (34 / 1) Upper Douglas L (RLK, m.ob., MBS, DK); 7 Sep (8) Nickajack L (TLR); 28 Oct (22) Austin Springs (RLK). **Forster's Tern:** 7 Sep (8) Upper Douglas L (DHM, m.ob.); 7 Sep (10) Nickajack L (TLR); 21 Sep / 4 Nov (7 / 1) John Sevier L (SHu); 24 Sep / 28 Oct (14 / 8) Austin Springs (RLK). **Eurasian Collared-Dove:** 29 Aug (1) Rankin Bottoms (SGS), 1st Cocke Co record. **Barn**

**Owl:** 30 Aug (2) Paddle Cr (JWC et al.); 17 Sep (2) Bible Refuge (DHM). **Whip-poor-will:** 9 Sep (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP), lrs. **Chimney Swift:** 21 Oct (2) Austin Springs (RLK), lrs. **Rufous Hummingbird:** late Oct thru Nov (5 ba) - 1 in Johnson City, 1 in Knoxville and 3 in Loudon Co, plus 1 which returned to Oak Ridge (Mark Armstrong). **Allen's Hummingbird:** 19 Nov (1, im male, ba) Russellville, Hamblen Co (Mark Armstrong). **Selasphorus sp:** 4 Sep (1) Craven's House (KAC, DRJ), not at feeders.

*Flycatcher - Pipit:* **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 12 Sep (1) Knoxville (KDE); 16 Sep (1) Blount Co (Tom Howe). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 7 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (DHM); 16 / 20 Sep (1) Johnson City (DW, RLK); 19 Sep (1 ba) Greenway Farm, Hamilton Co (DA); 2 Oct (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Least Flycatcher:** 14 Sep - 10 Oct (4 reports) Hamilton Co (DA, TLR). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** 24 Sep (1) Bledsoe Co (Stephen Stedman), lrs in breeding area. **Loggerhead Shrike:** 22 Oct (1) Wal-Mart Distribution Center (DHM); 2 Nov (1) Limestone (RLK); only reports. **Blue-headed Vireo:** 4 Nov (1) Austin Springs (RLK); 5 Nov (1) Greeneville (DHM), lrs. **Philadelphia Vireo:** 16 Sep / 4 Oct (1) Johnson City (DW, RLK); 17 Sep / 4 Oct (1) Greene Co (DHM); 18 / 25 Sep (1) separate Hamilton Co sites (TLR, KAC); 24 Sep (1) Austin Springs (RLK); 24 Sep (1) Bledsoe Co (Barbara Stedman), 1st Co record; 6 Oct (1) Eagle Bend (RDH, DM); 7 Oct (1) Cove Lake SP, Campbell Co (Michael Crouse). **Fish Crow:** 11 Nov (5) Nickajack L (TLR), max. **Common Raven:** 1 / 8 Aug (1) Johnson City (RLK, Rob Biller); 17 Sep / 1 Oct (1) Wal-Mart Distribution Center (DHM); 12 Oct (1) Bluff City, Sullivan Co (RLK); 23 Nov (1) Kingsport (RLK); 24 Nov (1) Phipps Bend, Hawkins Co (RAP). **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** no reports. **Sedge Wren:** 9 Oct (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP et al.). **Marsh Wren:** 1-30 Oct (1-4) Wal-Mart Distribution Center (DHM); 9 Oct (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP et al.). **Swainson's Thrush:** 28 Aug (2) Knoxville (KDE), ers. **Hermit Thrush:** 4 Oct (1) Johnson City (RLK), ers. **American Pipit:** 8 Oct (1) Upper Douglas L (DHM), ers.

*Warblers:* **Northern Waterthrush:** 23 Oct (1) Greene Co (DHM), lrs. **Golden-winged Warbler:** 6 Sep (1) Norris Dam, Anderson Co (SW); 23 Sep (1) Knoxville (KDE); 24 Sep (2) Bledsoe Co (fide EKL), 1st Co record. **Prothonotary Warbler:** 7 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (DHM), lrs. **Tennessee Warbler:** 16 Aug (1) Knoxville (KDE), ers; thru season (41 ba) Greenway Farm, Hamilton Co (DA), above average; 12 Nov (1) Johnson City (Kathy Noblet), new late date in NE TN. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** 1 Oct (1) Kingsport (John Moyle); 5 Oct (1) Johnson City (Rob Biller); 9 Oct (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP). **Mourning Warbler:** 30 Aug (1) Craven's House (Tim Jeffers). **Common Yellowthroat:** 31 Oct (1) Craven's House (KAC), lrs. **Cerulean Warbler:** 23 Sep (2) Hamilton Co (DSt, Clyde Blum), lrs. **Magnolia Warbler:** thru season (71 ba) Greenway Farm, Hamilton Co (DA), above average; 26 Oct (1) Ooltewah, Hamilton Co (DSt), lrs. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** 23 Oct (1) Knoxville (KDE), lrs. **Blackburnian Warbler:** 21 Oct (1) Knoxville (KDE), lrs. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 17 Aug (1) Knoxville (KDE), ers away from breeding areas on plateau. **Blackpoll Warbler:** 24 Sep (1) Greene Co (DHM); 16 Oct (1) Johnson City (DW); rare in fall. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 22 Sep (1) Craven's House (TLR); 8-9

Oct (2 males) Ooltewah (DSt, Clyde Blum, m.ob.). **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 24 Sep (2) Austin Springs (RLK), ers. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** 23 Oct (1) Knoxville (KDE), lrs. **Wilson's Warbler:** 30 Aug - 9 Oct (6 records, including 2 ba) Hamilton Co (Tim Jeffers, DA, DSt, DEP); 16 Sep (1) Blount Co (Tom Howe); 24 Sep (1) Bledsoe Co (Barbara Stedman), 1st Co record. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** 24 Sep (1) Johnson City (RLK), lrs.

*Sparrow - Siskin:* **Vesper Sparrow:** 30 Oct (5) Austin Springs (MSa), max. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** 6 Oct (1, window kill) Chattanooga (DA); 8-9 Oct (1-2) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP et al.). **Swamp Sparrow:** 24 Sep (1) Bledsoe Co (fide EKL), ers. **Dark-eyed Junco:** 18 Oct (1) Knoxville (KDE), ers. **Summer Tanager:** 18 Oct (1) Washington Co (RLK), lrs. **Blue Grosbeak:** 21 Oct (1) Greene Co (DHM), lrs. **Dickcissel:** 12 Sep (1, fly over) Knoxville (KDE); 1 Oct (1) Bible Refuge (DHM); 21 Oct (1) Johnson City (Nora Schubert). **Rusty Blackbird:** 30 Oct (2) Austin Springs (MSa), ers. **Purple Finch:** 29 Oct (1) Bluff City, Sullivan Co (Bert Hale), ers; few additional reports. **Pine Siskin:** 30 Nov (3) Crossville (EKL), only report.

*Locations:* Austin Springs, Washington Co; Bible Refuge - unit of Lick Cr Bottoms WMA, Greene Co; Boone L, Sullivan and Washington Cos; Craven's House - unit of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Hamilton Co; Eagle Bend - fish hatchery, Anderson Co; John Sevier L, Hawkins Co; L Tansi, Cumberland Co; Limestone, Washington Co; Nickajack L, Marion Co; Paddle Cr, Sullivan Co; Rankin Bottoms, Cocke Co; Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton Co; Upper Douglas L, Cocke Co; Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Greene Co.

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION - - Average daily temperatures were above normal and precipitation was slightly above normal for the period. An early, light snowfall occurred overnight on 1-2 October on the summit of Roan Mountain. Waterfowl movement seemed good this autumn, with notable fallouts on 10 and 17 November Northeast Tennessee and the Mountain Region had their first record of White-faced Ibis. A fallout of 101 Wilson's Phalaropes at South Holston Lake was amazing.

Banding operations were conducted at Big Bald Mountain and Whigg Meadow again this fall. At Big Bald Mountain there was a raptor banding operation in addition to songbird banding. At Whigg Meadow capture rates and species diversity were both low for this year. It was only the second time in 14 years of fall banding at this site that Swainson's Thrushes outnumbered Tennessee Warblers. This contrasted with Big Bald Mountain, where Tennessee Warblers were banded in good numbers, and the most since 2003. Below are summaries for each station.

- Big Bald Mountain, Unicoi Co: 27 Aug - 2 Nov, with 2266 birds of 50 species banded, Mark Hopey, bander. Top species banded: Tennessee Warbler - 1124,

Swainson's Thrush - 318, Black-throated Blue Warbler - 182, Cape May Warbler - 144, Ovenbird - 58.

- Whigg Meadow, Monroe Co: 1-30 Sep, with 600 birds of 38 species banded, David Vogt, bander. Top species banded: Swainson's Thrush - 198, Tennessee Warbler - 73, Black-throated Blue Warbler - 50, Blue-headed Vireo - 38, Dark-eyed Junco - 33.
- Big Bald Mountain Hawk Banding, Unicoi Co: 1 Sep - 2 Nov, with 83 birds of 7 species banded, Mark Hopey, bander. Species banded: Sharp-shinned Hawk - 40, Cooper's Hawk - 22, Red-tailed Hawk - 11, Merlin - 5, American Kestrel - 2, Peregrine Falcon - 2, Red-shouldered Hawk - 1.

*Waterfowl:* **Greater White-fronted Goose:** 27-31 Oct (1 im) Great Lakes pond (TSM, m.ob.). **Snow Goose:** 11 Nov (1, white) Great Lakes pond (TSM, m.ob.). **Ross's Goose:** 11 Nov (1) Great Lakes pond (TSM, m.ob.). **Tundra Swan:** 10 Nov (17) Watauga L (BP and JP), new high count in NE TN. **Blue-winged Teal:** 19 Aug (6) South Holston L (RLK, RRK), ers; 11 Oct (125) South Holston L (RRK, Gil Derouen), max. **Northern Shoveler:** 20 Sep (5) South Holston L (RLK), ers. **Northern Pintail:** 4 Nov (10) South Holston L (JWC). **Green-winged Teal:** 5 Sep (1) South Holston L (JWC), ers; 4 Nov (50) South Holston L (RLK); 10 Nov (50) Watauga L (RLK); 17 Nov (40) South Holston L (RLK); separate fallouts that exceeded previous high count in NE TN. **Canvasback:** 17 Nov (1) South Holston L (JWC, MSa, RLK). **Redhead:** 17 Nov (34) South Holston L (JWC, MSa, RLK), max. **Ring-necked Duck:** 24 Sep (1) Limestone Cove, Unicoi Co (JHM), possibly present all summer. **Lesser Scaup:** 17 Nov (650+) South Holston L and (450+) Watauga L (RLK), max. **Surf Scoter:** 30 Oct - 6 Nov (1) South Holston R weir, Sullivan Co (MSa, m.ob.); 17-19 Nov (2-3) South Holston L (JWC, MSa, RLK). **White-winged Scoter:** 17 Nov (6) South Holston L (JWC, MSa, RLK). **Common Goldeneye:** 17 Nov into Dec (1) Wilbur L (BP, JP), only report. **Red-breasted Merganser:** 17 Nov (45) Wilbur L (BP, JP), max. **Ruddy Duck:** 14 Oct (2) South Holston L (RLK), ers; 10 Nov (135) South Holston L (RLK, JWC et al.); 17 Nov (204) South Holston L (JWC, MSa); separate fallouts, both of which exceeded previous high count in NE TN.

*Loon - Coot:* **Red-throated Loon:** 10 Nov (1) South Holston L (RLK, JWC et al.). **Common Loon:** 20 Sep (1) South Holston L (RLK), ers. **Pied-billed Grebe:** 27 Aug (1) South Holston L (JWC et al.), ers. **Horned Grebe:** 17 Nov (42) South Holston L (RLK, JWC, MSa), max; 17 Nov (1) Flag Pond, Unicoi Co (fide BKS), unusual location. **Eared Grebe:** 11 Oct thru season (1-5) South Holston L (RRK, Gil Derouen, m.ob.), present for 18th straight year. **American Bittern:** 24 Sep (2) Shady Valley (RRK, GDE, RPL). **"Great White Heron"** from Jul thru 24 Sep (1) Nolichucky R, Unicoi Co (m.ob.). **Great Egret:** 2 Nov (1) Fishery Park, Erwin (Peggy Stevens); 4 Nov (10) Watauga R, Carter Co (BP, JP); both late. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 18 Aug - 4 Sep (1-2) South Holston L (JWC, m.ob.). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 13 Oct (1 im) Watauga R (DW), new late date in NE TN.. **White Ibis:** 14 Sep (1 im) South Holston R weir, Sullivan Co (Gail Williams). **WHITE-FACED IBIS:** 26-27 Oct (1 ad) Neva, Johnson Co (Michele von Bergen, photo,

m.ob.), first record in NE. **Osprey**: 4 Nov (1) Watauga R (BP, JP), Irs. **Broad-winged Hawk**: 25 Sep (7,000+) Big Bald Mtn, Unicoi Co (MH et al.), a very high count in the Southern Appalachians. **Merlin**: 3 / 11 Sep (1) Roan Mtn (MSa, RRK, Rob Biller); 16 Sep (1) Shady Valley (MSa); 24 Sep (2) Unaka Mtn (JHM et al.); 24 Sep (1) Watauga R (BP, JP). **Peregrine Falcon**: 25-27 Aug / 5 Sep (1) South Holston L (JWC, MSa); 28 Aug (1) Elizabethton (FJA); 3 Sep (1) Roan Mtn (Jeremy Stout); 27 Sep (2) Look Rock, Foothills Parkway, Blount Co (SW). **American Coot**: 23 Oct (1) Big Bald Mtn (SGS), unusual location; 17 Nov (2250) South Holston L (JWC, MSa), max.

*Plover - Tern*: **Black-bellied Plover**: 5 Sep (3) South Holston L (JWC, FRC, RPL). **Semipalmated Plover**: 18 Aug - 6 Sep (1-4) South Holston L (JWC, m.ob.). **Greater Yellowlegs**: 4 Nov (9) South Holston L (RLK), Irs. **Sanderling**: 27 Aug / 4-16 Sep (1-3) South Holston L (JWC, m.ob.). **Dunlin**: 20 Oct - 4 Nov (1-3) South Holston L (RLK, JWC, m.ob.). **dowitcher sp**: 5 Sep (1) South Holston L (JWC, MSa, RPL, FRC). **American Woodcock**: 8 Aug (1) Roan Mtn (SGS). **Wilson's Phalarope**: 5 Sep (101) South Holston L (JWC, FRC, Roger Lemaster), new high count in the state. **Laughing Gull**: 10 Nov (1) South Holston L (RLK). **Caspian Tern**: 15 Aug - 14 Sep (1-2) South Holston L (JWC, m.ob.). **Black Tern**: 11 Aug - 5 Sep (1-28) South Holston L (JWC, m.ob.). **Common Tern**: 15 Aug - 11 Sep (1-7) South Holston L (JWC, MSa, FRC); 28 Oct / 4 Nov (12 / 1) South Holston L (RLK), late. **Forster's Tern**: 15 Aug - 20 Sep (1-12) South Holston L (JWC, RLK, m.ob.).

*Owl - Pipit*: **Northern Saw-whet Owl**: 1 and 12 Sep (1 ba each date) Whigg Meadow (Charlie Muise); 24 Sep (1) Unaka Mtn (JHM). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: 24 Oct (1) Carter Co (FJA), Irs. **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: 4 Sep (2) Laurel Bloomery, Johnson Co (JWC). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: 15 Sep (1 ba) Whigg Meadow (DFV). **Loggerhead Shrike**: 4 Nov (1) Holston Valley, Sullivan Co (RLK). **Philadelphia Vireo**: 30 Aug (1) Roan Mtn (DW); 24 Sep (1) Ripshin L, Carter Co (FJA); 1 Oct (1) South Holston L (RLK); 8 Oct (1) Erwin, Unicoi Co (DK). **Horned Lark**: 19 Nov (1) South Holston L (AND, JWC). **Marsh Wren**: 24 Sep (3) Shady Valley (RRK, GDE, RPL). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: 11 Sep (1) Roan Mtn (DW, Don Holt), ers. **Swainson's Thrush**: 13 Sep (635) Whigg Meadow (SGS), post-dawn reorientation flight over 2 hr period. **American Pipit**: 7 Nov (2) Round Bald on Roan Mtn (RLK).

*Warbler - Siskin*: **Golden-winged Warbler**: 11 Sep (1) Roan Mtn (DW); 12 Sep (1 ba) Whigg Meadow (DFV). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 6-7 Oct (2 ba) Big Bald Mtn (MH); 22 Oct (1) Sycamore Shoals SP, Carter Co (BKS et al.). **Nashville Warbler**: 28 Sep (1) Simmerly Cr, Carter Co (BKS), Irs. **Mourning Warbler**: 16 Sep (1) Holston Valley, Sullivan Co (RLK, MSa). **Cape May Warbler**: 18 Aug (3) Roan Mtn (MSa), ties early fall date in NE TN. **Cerulean Warbler**: 21 Sep (1) Elizabethton (DW); 24 Sep (1) Ripshin L, Carter Co (FJA); rare in recent years in NE TN, also both late. **Blackpoll Warbler**: 18 Oct (1 ba) Big Bald Mtn (MH), rare in fall. **Palm Warbler**: 15 Oct (1, yellow, ba) Big Bald

Mtn (MH). **Wilson's Warbler:** 16 Sep (1) Wilbur L (AND); 16 Sep (1 ba) Whigg Meadow (DFV); 24 Sep (1) Elizabethton (BKS); 24 Sep (1) Erwin, Unicoi Co (JHM et al.). **Henslow's Sparrow:** 3 Sep (1) Hampton Creek Cove, Carter Co (MSa). **Lincoln's Sparrow:** 7 Oct (1 ba) Big Bald Mtn (MH); 31 Oct (1) South Holston L, below dam (MSa). **Fox Sparrow:** 31 Oct (1) South Holston L, below dam (MSa), ers. **Red Crossbill:** 29 Aug / 13 Sep (2) Roan Mtn (RLK, RRR, GDE). **Pine Siskin:** 29 Aug / 25 Nov (1-5) Roan Mtn (RLK).

*Locations:* Big Bald Mtn, Unicoi Co; Great Lakes pond, Carter Co; Roan Mtn, Carter Co; Shady Valley, Johnson Co; South Holston L, Sullivan Co; Watauga L, Carter Co; Watauga R, Carter Co; Whigg Meadow, Monroe Co; Wilbur L, Carter Co.

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