

# THE MIGRANT

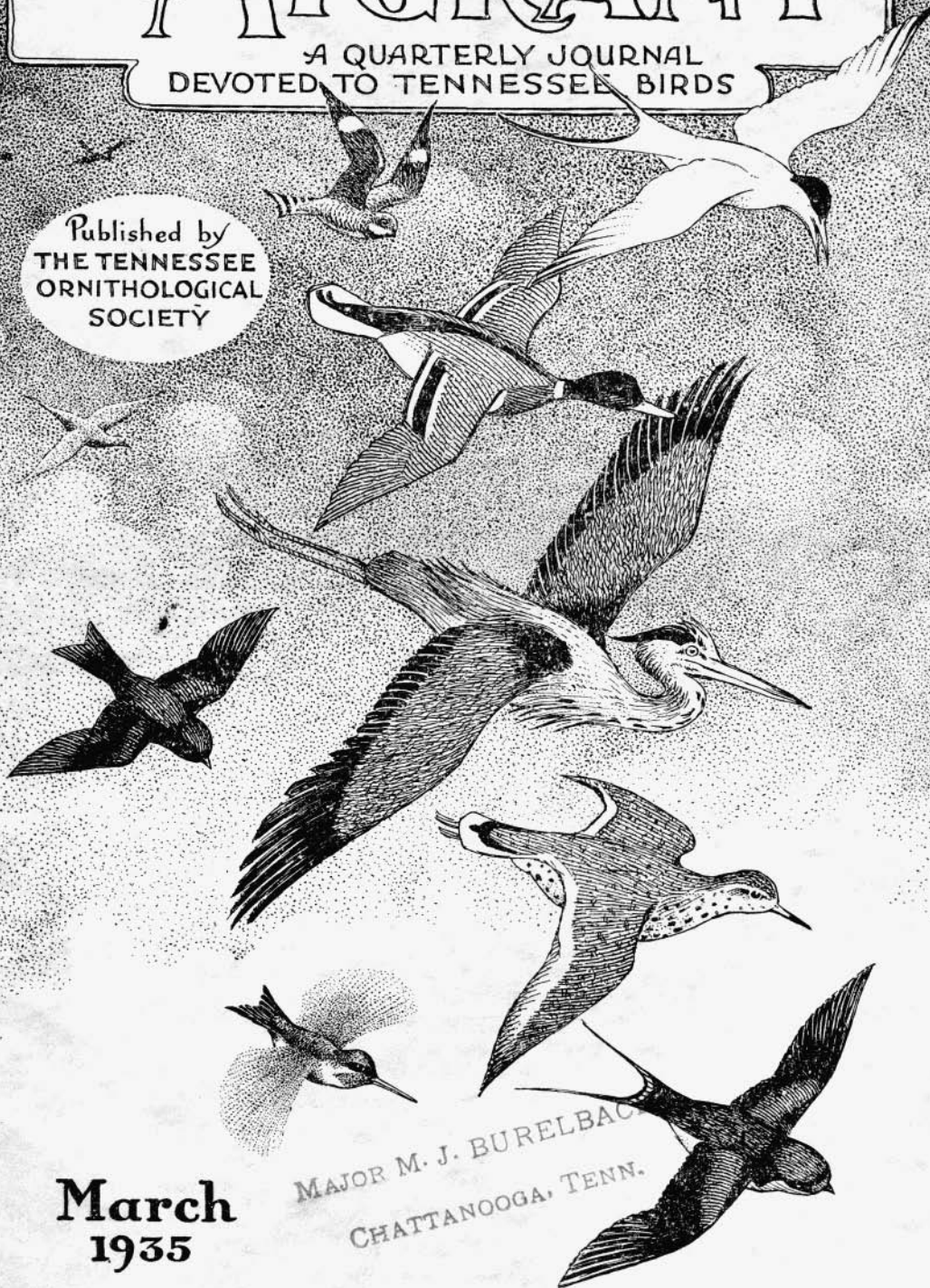
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MAJOR M. J. BURELBACH  
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.



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so fine and threadlike that it can be heard only at close range. This seems to be a serenade to his imaginary companion for he usually sings it to his own reflection in a shiny tin food container fastened to his cage.

Of the diurnal species, the Mockingbird leads as a singer of the night hours, particularly when the moon is bright in late May, June, and early July. On moonlight nights also, the call of the Killdeer may be heard repeatedly as he wings his way over meadows where his kind may be found feeding in the daytime. He has been heard in October and January.

In February, a Cardinal was heard giving a short song about a half hour before dawn and on April 14th, a song came at 4 a.m. when it was still dark, from the place where a female Cardinal had been roosting. She had completed her nest and two days later deposited the first egg. Late in June, the "whoit-whoit" song of a Cardinal was heard about midnight.

During June and late May, the Chat, the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and the Field Sparrow have been recorded, the Chat sometimes giving his peculiar, unmelodious calls at intervals the greater part of a night. One night around ten o'clock, a Cuckoo gave his "cow-cow" call very slowly for three minutes and was heard again the same night at 10:30 and 11 p.m. On two occasions, the call of the Cuckoo seemed to have aroused a nearby Field Sparrow long enough for him to respond with a trill or two, but at other times, one gave his little song from his roost in a rose vine when all other birds were still. The Field Sparrow's most persistent night singing was recorded in April; one night three of these short song periods occurred between the hours of eleven and two-thirty.

Perhaps my next decade of bird observations will increase this little list of whisper and night time singers, and probably other observers have interesting data along this line that would augment this group that frequent our garden.

NASHVILLE, TENN., March 1, 1935.



## SPRING MIGRATION AT ATHENS, TENN.

*Compiled by A. F. GANIER from the records of W. R. GETTYS*

Mr. Gettys, who gathered the following migration records, died in 1910 at the age of 32. It therefore becomes necessary for another hand to prepare these introductory sentences and to arrange and condense his notes in easily readable form.

In *The Migrant* for last March, there was presented a summary of the nesting records of this active field worker together with some biographic data pertaining to him. For the years 1903 to 1909 inclusive, he reported his migration records to the U. S. Biological Survey, sending in returns both Spring and Fall. These have been made available by The Survey to the writer, as well as a Spring return for 1902, by Prof. G. B. Stone of Athens, with whom it is probable Mr. Gettys collaborated. In one of Mr. Gettys old notebooks there was found a letter dated July 15, 1908, from Prof. Wells W. Cooke, then in charge of migration data for The Survey, reading as follows:

"Dear Mr. Gettys: Your report on the bird migration this spring is very welcome. For many years our efforts to obtain notes on the movement of the birds of Tennessee were only partially successful, but during these last few years, thanks to your efforts, we are getting a most excellent set of data for that State. Yours truly, . . ." In the extended series of papers on the migration of American birds, begun by Prof. Cooke in the early volumes of *Bird-lore*, we find these records quoted throughout. The averages which are given below do not always correspond with those published in *Bird-lore* for the reason that some extreme dates have not been used in computing the average. Where data given is too meagre, no averaging has been attempted. The reports contain other data but this is omitted due to lack of space.

It will be of interest to compare these spring records with those made at Atlanta, 125 miles south, and with Nashville, 135 miles north-west. These













Killdeer	24	1	20	3	55	2	95	14	24	--
Wilson's Snipe	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	--	4	--
Herring Gull	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ring-billed Gull	3	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mourning Dove	4	2	4	7	150	207	119	17	55	17
Screech Owl	1	--	--	--	--	1	1	1	4	1
Barred Owl	1	3	--	1	4	1	1	1	--	--
Long-eared Owl**	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--
Great-horned Owl	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Kingfisher	2	4	--	1	1	--	5	--	2	1
Flicker	106	5	9	6	65	11	49	17	30	13
Pileated Woodpecker	--	3	--	--	--	6	8	2	2	--
Red-bel. Woodpecker	39	5	6	2	40	8	28	2	7	--
Red-head Woodpecker	3	--	--	3	--	1	--	--	6	1
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	5	1	--	1	12	3	10	6	4	1
Hairy Woodpecker	7	2	--	2	2	3	13	2	3	1
Downy Woodpecker	23	3	4	2	40	26	20	4	15	14
Phoebe	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	2	2
Prairie Horned Lark	11	--	4	--	--	37	215	150	--	75
Blue Jay	237	6	16	12	50	45	25	6	34	15
Crow	42	3	113	16	5	1060	108	200	55	30
Car. Chickadee	45	10	4	4	30	197	64	6	52	--
Tufted Titmouse	63	14	--	8	40	96	40	4	37	24
White-br. Nuthatch	3	--	--	2	2	--	2	--	13	2
Brown Creeper	5	--	--	2	2	7	3	1	--	--
Winter Wren	2	4	--	1	5	--	3	--	1	--
Bewick's Wren	2	--	1	--	--	5	12	2	--	--
Carolina Wren	57	8	7	4	30	32	59	14	33	23
Prairie Marsh Wren	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mockingbird	60	2	6	9	4	42	170	7	34	21
Brown Thrasher	5	--	--	1	12	--	--	--	--	--
Robin	141	--	1	3	90	179	212	34	200	288
Hermit Thrush	4	--	--	--	4	1	--	--	2	2
Bluebird	48	6	8	5	3	41	89	53	57	26
Golden-cr. Kinglet	50	8	--	3	16	2	4	1	11	3
Ruby-crown Kinglet	8	2	--	--	4	--	--	--	--	--
Amer. Pipet	96	--	180	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cedar Waxwing	294	--	--	--	20	27	10	--	2	32
Migrant Shrike	19	4	3	--	--	2	5	1	2	2
Starling	131	46	24	33	2	180	5400	500	200	200
Myrtle Warbler	112	4	--	--	60	4	51	20	12	22
Pine Warbler	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	--
English Sparrow	Com.	Com.	--	--	Com.	--	125	100	Com.	68
Meadow Lark	179	11	90	2	15	48	53	--	--	6
Redwing Blackbird	15	337	--	--	--	--	--	--	38	--
Rusty Blackbird	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	50	--
Bronzed Grackle	405	265	30	--	20	7	--	--	--	--
Cowbird	1	62	--	--	--	23	6	--	25	--
Blackbirds-unidentified	--	1,100,000	--	60	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cardinal	225	16	17	18	40	149	143	23	60	34
Purple Finch	--	--	--	--	12	--	--	--	3	--
Goldfinch	55	3	30	2	11	15	18	4	20	2
Towhee	8	1	--	18	40	52	50	4	25	1
Savannah Sparrow	12	--	10	--	4	--	7	--	52	--
Fox Sparrow	31	1	--	--	4	1	4	1	3	--
Vesper Sparrow*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--
Slate-colored Junco	196	40	40	19	100	401	180	34	50	38
Field Sparrow	90	8	2	25	35	5	81	3	200	24
Tree Sparrow	--	--	--	--	--	52	--	--	--	--
Chipping Sparrow	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
White-crown Sparrow	12	--	8	--	--	93	61	42	3	3
White-thr. Sparrow	553	36	25	29	150	85	77	8	150	4
Swamp Sparrow	--	6	--	--	--	5	9	--	12	4
Song Sparrow	140	10	12	3	20	98	81	6	68	46

\* The Amer. Rough-leg Hawk was seen at 12/22. See note in Round Table.

\*\* The Long-eared Owl at Knoxville was shot on 12/22. Note in Round Table.

\* The Vesper Sparrows at Knoxville were recorded by S. A. Ogden.

The Marsh Wren was examined with binoculars, at 12 feet, by B. B. Coffey.

MEMPHIS: Dec. 24th. 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. Generally overcast with occasional drizzle, temp. 52 to 60 degrees. Uptown wharf, Woodstock, occasional stop on way to Raleigh, Wolf River bottoms west then back southeast to L. & N. R. R. to National Cemetery, miscellaneous points in city and Wolf River bottoms at I. C. R. R. and Payne and Jones Ave. (first party). Municipal Airport, Brooks Ave. and Nonconnah Creek bottoms at Prospect,

Piney Woods, and Riverside Park (second party). Normal section and old Saunders golf course (Hovis); Overton Park (Jackson and Calhoun separately). Two main parties out most of the day, Hovis in morning, and Park covered in an hour. Autos driven about 62 miles (within prescribed area). On foot 12 miles. Observers: Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Eagle Scouts—Frederick Carney, Franklin McCamey, Henry Turner, John McGoldrick, Robert Hovis, Jack Embury, Wendell Whittemore, John Jackson; and Jack Calhoun (Nashville) and Bert Powell. Memphis Chapter, Tenn. Ornith. Society.

REELFOOT LAKE, TENN.: Dec. 25th. 12 to 5 P.M. Overcast with drizzle part time and a heavy shower, practically stopping field work after 2:30 P.M. Ground muddy, slight wind, visibility poor, mist over lake. Short stops at Edgewater Beach, near Blue Bank, Samburg, north of Samburg, and last stop at Walnut Log with short trip out into lake by boat and four miles on foot west on Island opposite McGill Laboratory. Observers: Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Fred Carney, Franklin McCamey (all of Memphis), Compton Cook (Boone, N. C.), and Jack Calhoun (Nashville).

COVINGTON: Dec. 25, 8:30 A.M. to 12:36 P.M. Overcast with occasional sprinkle. Four miles hiked, traveling section from Smith's Farm to Liberty School. By car 10 miles on highway 51 S.-West of Covington, thence to airport 2 miles north of city.—Alice Smith.

PARIS, TENN.: Dec. 25. Temp. 40°-48°. Rain in afternoon. By motor from Paris to Eagle Creek, 11 miles hiked following course of creek to mouth on Big Sandy River, back by Highland Trail. Observers: Buster Thompson, Scouts.—Ben Whipple, Perry Bigham and R. T. Snyder.

CORINTH, MISS.: Dec. 27, 10 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Temp. 45°-50°. Visibility poor 7-8 miles west of Corinth, at Smith's bridge (Tuscumbia River Bottom) and 1 mile farther west at Gift Schoolhouse, covering both open fields and wooded areas.—Elgin Wright and Ben R. Warriner.

BOWLING GREEN, KY.: Dec. 24 Temp. 30°-40°. 7 A.M. to 4 P. M. Chaney, McElroy, and Lazarus farms, Lost River, and Drakes Creek. Observers: Ray, Lancaster, Mason, Brown, and Taylor.

NASHVILLE: Dec. 23. Temp. 30°-40°. West of Nashville; Glendale park; Granny White Pike; Percy Warner pond; Davidson Rd.; White Bridge Rd.; Radnor Lake; Mt. Olivet Cemetery; Cumberland River Bottoms; Knapp Farm Observers: Jack Calhoun, Spiller Campbell, A. F. Ganier, W. J. Hayes, Mrs. F. C. Laskey, G. R. Mayfield, V. S. Sharp, J. M. Shaver, E. C. Tompkins, H. S. Vaughn and G. B. Woodring.

MURFREESBORO: Dec. 23. Temp. 46°. 10 miles on foot. Observers: Geo. Davis, J. M. Edney, R. J. Murphy, and H. O. Todd, Jr.

KNOXVILLE: Dec. 22. Temp. 30°-60°. 7 A.M. to 4 P.M. Island Home bird reserve and other points about Knoxville. Observers: John Bamberg, Miss Mary Beard, Miss Mary Ruth Chiles, Louis Hofferbert, H. P. Ijams, W. M. Johnson, Mrs. Frank Leonard, S. A. Ogden, Dr. E. B. Powers, and James A. Trent, Jr.

JOHNSON CITY: Jan. 6 and 11, 1935. 12 man hours. Cox's Lake, Indian Ridge, Boone's Creek, and Sugar Hollow. Bruce P. Tyler, and R. B. Lyle.

DUCKS: On account of the unprecedented drouth of last spring causing a poor breeding season for most of the ducks the daily bag limit was restricted to twelve and the hunting season curtailed. Thirty days hunting in all were allowed and Tennessee chose to use these at the rate of three a week, from Nov. 8th to Jan. 12. The species hardest hit by the drouth, were the Canvas-back, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Ringneck, Gadwall, Shoveller, and Blue-winged Teal. Reports from Reelfoot Lake, the State's best duck hunting grounds, are to the effect that ducks have been scarce there the past season.



















