

# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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## AUGUST NOTES ALONG THE CUMBERLAND

BY ALFRED CLEBSCH, SR.

During the latter part of August a nine day canoe trip on the Cumberland River offered interesting observations of many of our larger land and water birds to four members of the Clarksville Chapter, my two boys, Alfred and Billy, their cousin, Clarence Collier, Jr., and myself. From August 17th to the 25th we paddled in two canoes from Carthage down to Clarksville, a distance of 182 miles.

The weather was hot and sunny, the nights warm and the current slow. The stage of the water was as low as the dams permit. Although not pushed for time, the need of moving on did not often permit us stop to search for the small feathered folk on the banks, but the chant of the Indigo Bunting cheered us from the bordering fields, the song of the Field Sparrow was heard in many new forms, Goldfinches were quite active and from the willow bushes came the scolding of Yellow-breasted Chat and Carolina Wren. On the 19th, below Hunters' Point, a flock of thirty-five to fifty Warblers was noticed flying overhead. In places large numbers of Redwings chattered their glee over the ripening corn in the river bottoms.

Our most constant companions were Green Herons, Kingfishers and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, always enlivening the scene with action, color and music, that is, if you can give the name music to the rattling laughter of the Kingfisher, the scared and sometimes hoarse shrieking of the Green Heron and the fiendish clucking and chuckling of the Cuckoo. We saw many a fine catch made by the Kingfishers and wary Mr. Heron showed surprising agility, as he ran down the snag he was standing on, into the water, thrust bill and head under the surface and came out with a fish. A Cuckoo was scared off its nest in a willow four feet above the water on the 18th of August and two beautiful blue eggs were found in it.

At the heads of islands we could count on Killdeers and Spotted Sandpipers, the Killdeers giving complaining alarm at our approach and the Sandpipers fluttering and sailing low, with cupped wings, over the water to a point farther down on the exposed gravel bars. Once a Solitary Sandpiper rose from the edge of the bank in swallow-like flight as we passed.

Black Terns were seen every now and then during most of our trip, but none showed themselves on the last ten miles. The first met us not far below Carthage, going about their business in a serious fashion. Some were in mottled plumage and some, fewer in number, in solid black. At times the unvaried proportion of these numbers led us to think that the same group overtook or met us at points many miles apart. However, towards Nashville their number increased and the largest flock was seen below Lock 1 and counted 18 birds. They flew in formation, as if on patrol duty; once in a

while one would drop to catch a fish and resume his position in the line.

We saw more different birds as we moved nearer our goal. At the mouth of Stone's River a Least Tern, in his snowy whiteness and slender gracefulness, made a fine contrast to the five Black Terns with whom he flew. Thirteen miles below Nashville, the evening shadows falling from the high cliffs of Buzzard's Bluff, gave just the right setting for three Great Blue Herons, two little Blue Herons and a trio of American Egrets. The lumbering flight of the Great Blue, the strong wingbeat of the Egret, and the fluffy balloon-like rising of the Little Blue, characterized the three species. The Little Blues, in both white and blue plumages, was fairly common throughout the trip. Great Blues were seen only at three other points, and the American Egret only at Buzzard Bluff. Near Ashland City, over the widening river, flew four Least Terns and a little later a splendid looking group of six Common Terns in aerial manoeuvres, passed our campsite.

One of the nicest finds of the trip awaited us at Lock B, the last of the nine locks that we passed. Mr. S. A. Weakly, on whom we had called in Nashville, had told us that we would find there, nesting in our own county (Montgomery), a fine colony of Cliff Swallows. And here they were, filling the telephone wires, that are strung across the river, and showing their pretty colors in the morning sunlight against a background of blue sky dotted with summer clouds. A great many nests were in the recesses of the parapet of the concrete lock beside the dam. The number of birds on the wires and in flight seemed too large to have come from this particular lot of nests. On a submerged wall below the lock, a Lesser Yellowlegs was catching his breakfast; high-legged and a little knock-kneed, but most unconcerned.

The nights were hardly less interesting than the days. After the shadows of darkness had fallen, a few short, energetic calls from the Whip-poor-will seemed to give the signal that it was time for Great Horned and Barred Owls to start their arguments and deep-toned voice was answered by high-pitched voice ending in a scream, so that, by comparison, the calls of the Screech Owl seemed soft and re-assuring. And night after night the Cuckoo would indulge in whisper song, giving a mild staccato against the soft-blown, wailing cries of the Screech Owl. Till at daybreak there came again the Whip-poor-will's sharp signal and one of us, maybe, would be lucky enough to catch sight of one of these birds on their last rounds, just as the dragon flies began their police duty of catching away from the sleepers in the canoes the last few loitering mosquitoes.

On the home stretch, one Broad-winged and two Red-shouldered Hawks in the neighborhood of Neblett's Slough, 10 miles above Clarksville, made up for the absence of Terns and Herons. The identification of a young Red-shouldered Hawk gave us new hope to discover a nest at the slough next year. Here we met again Wood Ducks, of which we had seen a flock of twenty-five and a few single birds soon after our start from Carthage. One of them sprang into the air from a tree as we came along. We were now approaching Clarksville, which point we had left ten days before and our paddles seemed to dip a little deeper and a little faster as we saw again the familiar scenes and the birds we had seen before, along the Cumberland near home.

CLARKVILLE, TENN., August, 1936.

NOTE: The points referred to in the foregoing article lie the following distances, by water, below Carthage: Lock No. 7, 9 miles; Lock No. 6, 27;

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## THE APPEAL OF BIRD STUDY

BY BENJAMIN R. WARRINER

Birds possess great esthetic and economic worth, a plainly tangible value that ought by all means to be included in the nation's present day tendency toward the conservation and preservation of wild life in all of its forms. Furthermore, in bird study, properly pursued, there may be found the most wholesome material for development of the student in each phase of his three-sided being—physical, mental, and spiritual.

The birds, in the first place, call the ornithologist into the open for long and leisurely hikes through field and wood, at all seasons of the year and in all kinds of weather, thus providing healthful exercise without the exertion and exhaustion that so many other forms of recreation demand.

Secondly, bird study means just what the term implies. Knowledge of the feathered ones can be obtained only by real mental effort. The work most positively requires a deal of reading and research; field notes must be painstakingly kept; brief papers prepared concerning the almost endless details of an inexhaustible, ever interesting, subject. Accuracy must be conscientiously practiced, for the ornithologist brooks no half-way measures, no guesswork, no untruthfulness in his efforts to identify the birds and to know with certainty their characteristics and habits.

The birds themselves are highly ingenious. Indeed, they are deemed the cleverest of all creatures that belong to the purely animal kingdom. A number of factors go into the making of this high status. For instance, the birds sing, many of them with voices transcendently sweet. They display true skill in the building of their nests. Without tools or blueprint plans, they fashion out of straw and moss and lichen and tiny broken twigs, together with a score of other bits of waste odds and ends, secure and comfortable quarters where they deposit their eggs, hatch and raise their fledglings. They select sites of rare beauty in forest and field, in tree and vine, in weeds and grass, along streams, on hillsides, in meadows, in hedges, everywhere.

The birds bedeck themselves in raiment that always reflects their environment. Some of them wear feathers that are gay and glad. Others don gray and brown apparel, but in most instances there is always at least a bit of color to serve as a lively decoration. Red, blue, green, purple, bronze, black, white, yellow, flame, orange, with rare combinations of more somber tints—all lend their pigments to beautify and glorify the birds.

Best of all, many of the birds are travellers into far places. No insular, pent up, narrow and provincial lives for them. Reared under the bleak rim of the North Pole, certain birds fly each year to the antipodal regions of the earth and back again to their nesting grounds, a round trip of 22,000 miles. Others go from Alaska to South America. Still others travel the annual round trip from Canada to Mexico. Migrating, they fly over land and sea, through uncharted space, day and night, in storm and calm, in search of food and

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Lock No. 5, 44; Lock No. 4, 71; Lock No. 3, 92; mouth of Stone's River, 101; Lock No. 2, 105; Nashville wharf, 116; Lock No. 1, 118; Buzzard Bluff, 129; Ashland City, 150; mouth of Harpeth R., 155; Lock A, 157; Lock B, 168; and Clarksville (at mouth of Red R.), 183.—EDITOR.

agreeable climate, and in an effort to satisfy what appears to be an insatiable wanderlust.

So, the student of the birds, with the birds' fine mental capacity, beauty, song, and cosmopolitan bearing gained from their yearly visits to strange, exotic lands, dare not be a dullard. A mental sluggard, seeking companionship with the birds, would doubtless fail to realize his incongruous position, yet the birds would surely pity him.

In the third place, the birds do add a real measure of spiritual growth to the ornithologist. One's eyes are opened wide to the beauties of the out-of-doors world. One's mind ponders the mysteries of natural life and the divine source from which it comes. One's heart, in pursuit of the birds in scented, blooming fields in the springtime, in summer when meadows are sweet with new mown hay, in fall when trees are aflame and fields are brown with their coverings of frost bitten grass, in winter when the heavens are gray and leaden mist hangs heavy over stark, wooded bottoms, one's heart beats in tune with The Creator. Besides, like birds of a feather that flock together, bird students as a general custom walk and work accompanied by their own kind. Interested in the same thing, they become interested in one another and this social phase of bird study is always most enjoyable. The point may be well illustrated by considering the long and successful history of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

CORINTH, MISS., April, 1936.



## SOME HOT WEATHER OBSERVATIONS

BY JAMIE ROSS TIPPENS

The thing that worried me most during the recent hot weather, was its probable affect on four families of Purple Martins, nesting in my Martin box. From early morning, until late in the evening, this box is in the broiling sun. With the thermometer at one hundred degrees in the shade; I really suffered, when I thought what it must register in those small close rooms. I believe the sun did more to hatch the eggs, than the Martins themselves, for all day long the parent birds had their heads stuck out of the doors with their mouths open, so the box seemed to be sprouting some strange pink flowers.

One family that was in an attic room hatched first. This room had been occupied the previous year by English Sparrows, and the Martins in preparing their nest hauled some of the material out of the Sparrows nest and promptly put it back again. The only new material I saw them use, was twigs with green leaves, which they broke from the tops of elm and hackberry trees near by. After feeding their young for several days, they deserted the nest, and in about a week the Sparrows took it again. A few days later, I found on the ground under the box two dead young Martins clad with tiny pin-feathers. They were mashed flat, and were as dry as old leather, almost odorless, and covered with a coating of droppings. Two victims of the heat no doubt.

The other three families fared better, for seven of the young grew to maturity. They scrambled to the doors, when they were so young they could only hold their heads up for a moment, while being fed. One day a little fellow got entirely out on the porch, where it lay perfectly flat in an ex-

hausted manner with its mouth wide open, most of the day. I was amused at the excitement this venturesome youngster caused among the adults. They all gathered around, twittering and scolding, and all but pushed the young dare-devil back in the box. It lay flat however, and refused to leave the shady porch, where it remained until dusk. It must have gotten safely back in its nest for I searched the ground thoroughly and it had not fallen. This fledgling had only pin-feathers.

One particular Martin, brought in a good sized dragon-fly, on three separate trips, the same afternoon. There is a bird bath within twenty-five feet of the Martin box but I have never seen one Martin bathe or drink, though fresh cool water is within their reach constantly.

At my feeding station this summer, there have been only a few Robins; last year they were numerous. There is an increase in the number of Towhees, Brown Thrashers and Cardinals. The Towhees and Cardinals have added watermelon seed to their diet, and one Mockingbird developed a decided taste for the white blossoms of some *Portulaca* plants. These blossoms are large and double; I watched the bird tear up and devour two whole flowers, on one occasion.

A pair of Grackles built their nest and reared their young, in a squirrel box on top of a decapitated hackberry tree. These two must have been "affected by the heat," for any number of fine nesting sites were to be found, in the tall trees all around them.

When the first cooling rain came on July 2, after the long drouth; two Pigeons got down on the ground on the lawn and laid on their sides, raising the uppermost wing, stretching it back, so as to let the rain fall where the feathers were less thick. They turned over several times, and repeated this performance. I have never seen any creature appear more grateful for a cooling shower. I finally donned a bathing suit and went out in the rain too. It was WONDERFUL.

NASHVILLE, TENN., August, 1936.



## SIX SEPTEMBER DAYS IN THE SMOKIES

BY FRANKLIN MCCAMEY

The six days between September 3 and 8, 1936, were spent hiking and camping in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, by George Foster, of Norris, Tenn., and the writer. Observations of the bird-life was our chief interest during this period. During the six days we recorded 81 species within the Park, including 18 species of Warblers and 5 of Hawks and the others mentioned below.

On September 3rd, we drove over Rich Mountain to Cades Cove and from there hiked to the tops of Gregory and Parson's Balds. Interesting records for the day included a large flock of warblers on Rich Mountain, twelve Bob-White on the top of Gregory, one each of Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks in the woods beside the trail, 175 Nighthawks along a quarter of a mile of road in the Cove, and a Whip-poor-will calling as we cooked supper on Rich Mountain.

We left Gatlinburg on the 4th and, following the advice of Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist, found three Red Crossbills "*pip-pipping*" in the trees back of Camp H. A. Morgan—a new one for both of us. In the after-

noon, hiking along a beautiful new trail up the Tennessee side of Mt. Collins, we found Juncos, Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Mountain Vireos fairly common under 4500 feet. Warblers, particularly Black-and-white, Cairns's, and Black-throated Green were common. Where we stopped at 4500 feet, a Raven was heard croaking not far away and a Red-shouldered Hawk was carefully observed as he perched in a dead tree forty yards away. A Ruffed Grouse was heard "*clucking*" near the trail as we descended and a Black-billed Cuckoo, near the stream where we ate, finished the day.

On the 5th, headed for Clingman's Dome, we heard a Red Cross-bill flying over. From the Parking Area at 6300 feet we hiked south-east over a muddy trail to Andrew's Bald. Robins, Catbirds, and Veeries were found in numbers feeding on the blackberries along the trail. A Worm-eating Warbler was observed by Foster, and five Crossbills flew over the ridge. As we approached the edge of Andrew's Bald, like a sudden explosion, seven Wild Turkeys flew up not forty feet away and sailed out over the valley, dropping into the trees. An instant later we spied a Red-tailed Hawk and a Cooper's Hawk sailing a short distance away, and far in the distance, two Ravens were soaring about. We walked to the lower end of the Bald, where two more Turkeys flew up, one stopping in a Balsam, affording us an excellent chance to examine it. Retracing our steps, we heard Ravens croaking, and climbing a great rock, saw five of them soaring over the valley a quarter of a mile away. These five put on quite a show for us, sailing, soaring, dipping, diving, and playing on the air currents, their glossy feathers flashing in the sun. Returning to Clingman's Dome, the writer saw his first Ruffed Grouse; one bird perched on a fallen log, while another walked beneath the log, and two more "*clucked*" a little farther away. Later we climbed Clingman's Dome, but saw few birds, other than Black-capped Chickadees and a few Swallows far above the summit. Driving down, the car frightened a Raven from the road, and we watched it at close range. An afternoon hike to Mt. LeConte via Alum Cave, netted us nothing unusual except one Crossbill near the Cave and several beautiful views. The 6th was an uninteresting day, since it was spent in a garage where the car was being repaired.

September 7th was spent, in company with John R. Raper, hiking from New-found Gap out past The Jump-off and along The Saw-teeth, four miles to the northeast. The latter are so called because of the jagged rock strata which protrude from the ridge along the State line. Several Red Crossbills were seen at The Gap and more were heard down the slopes, perhaps a dozen in all. The trip was otherwise uneventful except for beautiful views and typical Canadian zone birds until we reached The Saw-teeth. Here a Duck Hawk displayed for us his superb powers of flight and a Sharp-shinned Hawk sailed inconspicuously below. Out on the Saw-teeth, the hoarse calls of two Ravens and a Grouse seen running across the trail, added interest to the hike. Little of note was seen on an afternoon trip to Rainbow Falls except the beautiful falls and a gorgeous sun-set viewed from the side of Mount LeConte. Another Raven however was heard from the trail near the falls.

On the 8th, we saw what must be the most beautiful waterfall in the Park—the Ramsey Cascades, east of Greenbrier. On the twelve mile hike, few birds were seen other than the usual Warblers and Canadian zone birds, here found at a lower altitude than usual. Two Prairie Warblers, new to

our Park list, were seen in a field below the mountain.

And so ended our six days in the new park, during which time we had covered 80 miles on foot and about 400 in the car. In spite of this mileage, however, we realized that we still lacked a lot of covering the many places of interest in this great rugged tract of more than 400,000 acres.

YALE UNIVERSITY, NEW HAVEN, CONN., Sept., 1936.



## BIRD BANDING BREVITIES—NO. 9

BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

August 1, 1936 closed the fifth year of my bird banding activities with a total for the period of 7548 birds of 98 species, ranging in size from a fledgling Hummingbird to a Golden Eagle. Return records include 476 individuals of 30 species, many of which have returned two or more times after migration. Local and State recovery records number 51. Out-of-state recoveries numbering 12 have been reported by the Bureau of Biological Survey from Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Virginia, Louisiana, and New York. The Survey reported several this year including a Mourning Dove banded April 16, 1935, shot about February 1, 1936, at Normandy, Tenn.; Kildeer, banded August 25, 1935, found dead March 25, 1936 at Minor Hill, Tenn.; Mockingbird banded May 26, 1934 as a nestling, killed January 29, 1936 at Fulton, Miss.; Robin banded July 13, 1935, shot in a rice field, February 10, 1936, at Carville, La.; Song Sparrow banded December 3, 1934, caught in a deadfall February 1, 1936 at Okolona, Miss.; Starling banded February 24, 1934, reported February 7, 1936 at Norton, Va.; Hairy Woodpecker banded March 5, 1933 in Belle Meade was caught by a dog in the same section on April 25, 1936.—The first Nashville station record of a nestling returning to its home after migration is that of 34-172603, a Catbird, one of four, banded from the nest in a honeysuckle bush at Blossomdell, June 4, 1935. It was retaken at the same place on July 1, 1936.—On account of intensive building projects all around the home banding station, trapping here has been at low ebb for several months. It is impossible to reach any conclusions as to the effect of the long drouth periods of spring and summer in 1936 on bird population in comparison with previous years. However during a peak of Warbler migration beginning September 7th when it was very dry in two and a half days of trapping, 27 were caught in a four cell water-drip trap. The list included Canadian, Wilson's, Tennessee, Black and White, Redstart, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, and Maryland Yellowthroats. Two of the last named species were returns.—Three young bird students, Arthur McMurray, William Simpson and Steve Lawrence, have started sub-stations at their homes and are doing fine work as novice bird banders. Arthur McMurray has trapped 51 birds of 10 species during vacation in the closely built section of town at 21st and Jones Ave. Wm. Simpson, whose home adjoins the wooded section of Hobbs Road, made a rare catch of two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in an interesting way. A young bird left its nest in a very tall tree and being unable to fly well, dropped to the ground in his yard. A hen began immediately to peck the tiny fledgling but it was rescued by William and placed in a box fastened to a tree near the nesting tree. The mother came immediately to feed it. He

then removed it to a trap and from a blind watched the parent bird hesitate awhile and then entrap herself as she entered with food for the youngster. Steve Lawrence located a late Yellow-billed Cuckoo's nest near his home on Belair Ave. The young were banded and were still being brooded in the nest (about five feet up) on Sept. 11th. Leo Rippy continues to do systematic work at the Love Hill sub-station. His most interesting captures this year were two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in May and a return White-eyed Vireo in June that had been banded in July, 1935.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Sept. 12, 1936.



## A BIRD SYMPHONY

BY MRS. AUSTIN PEAY

Bach, the great composer of music, wrote what are known as chorales, with parts for eight distinct instruments. None of these parts carried the same theme, but all blended into one grand symphony. Two weeks ago, I heard such a score. But it was not written by Bach, or any human hand. I have heard Grand Opera at the Metropolitan, and in the Royal Theatre in Paris. These were in gorgeous staging. But this recent concert was in a far more beautiful setting, high up in the Great Smoky Mountains, with green canopy overhead. It must have been in a spot like this that the prophet Nahum wrote, describing the majesty of God, when he said "the clouds are the dust of His feet." The hour for this lovely performance was not the usual time for concerts—four-thirty in the morning. Both audience and performers were unseen. In fact, had the singers seen the audience they probably would not have given their several parts; some would not even have appeared.

It began with the nervous haste and fluster of the Robin's "*cheep-cheep-cheep-cheep*," as if the instruments were tuning up and without expression. But soon the curtain rose to the shrill whistle of the Kingfisher. Then the real music began with the gentle *coo-coo cooing* call of the dove in the far distance like some sweet echo. Before this had died, there was the staccato whistling song of Bob White, over and over again with an answering call—probably with an extra "bob"—to his "*bob-white*." Then, as if the theme was changed and the time demanded something restful, the Pewee, the sentimentalist of the woods, began his peaceful solo. This sweet song is always the same slow and thoroughly musical, though his appearance is plain as his song. Some listeners think this bird is melancholy and mournful, as Dr. Elliott Coues says in writing of the Pewee. But to me, his voice has a slow dignity. And then, apparently thinking things were moving with too much solemnity, a Carolina Wren burst forth fluently into his well known "*whee-udel, whee-udel, whee-udel*." Until now those taking part have appeared in inconspicuous dress—only the Robin wearing even so much as a colored vest and the curtain-raiser—Kingfisher—a grey-blue suit with cap to match and white vest and tie. Now enters one dressed all in brilliant red, with a song that suits his color. You must remember, the audience is still not seen or seeing, and I only knew this fine fellow from his voice as I remembered it on other occasions. So I listened with real pleasure while the Cardinal sang that lovely, but not always true prophecy of "*wet-*

*year, wet-year, wet-year.*" While the brilliant red-bird was still disporting himself, the reprobate or the rascal of the whole play, interrupted, dressed in his ultra-marine blue coat, with a darker blue cap and vest. Without attempting anything sweet or sentimental, he intervened with his harsh and ringing "jay-jay" tones. There were many others in this marvelous chorale—but, shame to say—I can not tell you of them, because I do not know them by their voices.

All these I have mentioned, and many more, blended in one exquisite accompaniment for the maestro of the morning—to me the loveliest singer in all my bird acquaintance—the Wood Thrush. He was the real soloist. And better critics than I say that few of the woodland singers are equally gifted with the Wood Thrush, and it is a question whether any of his relatives can rival him either in tone of voice, or in song-motif. His coat or back is a soft cinnamon brown, merging to olive brown on the tail; the vest or underparts are white, distinctly dotted with rather large black spots.

That you may fully appreciate this lovely singer, I will quote some of his press comments, as it were. John Burroughs in *Wake Robin* says, the song of the Wood Thrush is "golden and leisurely." Mr. Torrey writes admiringly: "it is the most glorious bit of vocalism to be heard in our woods—a tinkle or spray of bell-like tones." Mr. Cheney declares, "in a moment one is oblivious to all else, and ready to believe that the little song is not of earth, but a wandering strain from the skies." F. Shuyler Matthews, author of "Wild Birds and their Songs," writes: "His music steals upon the senses like the opening notes of the great Fifth Symphony of Beethoven; it fills one's heart with the solemn beauty of simple melody, rendered by an inimitable voice; no violin, no piano, no organ confined to such a limited score can appeal to one so strongly. The quality of tone is indescribably fascinating; it is like the harmonious tinkling of crystal glass combined with the vox angelica stop of the cathedral organ."

So my symphony was complete when this favorite—the Wood Thrush—sang with his marvelous accompaniment. The concert closed and the curtain fell just as the sun peeped quietly over the high top of old Thunderhead

CLARKSVILLE, TENN., July, 1936.



## AUGUST WATERBIRD VISITORS AT MUD LAKE

BY BEN B. COFFEY

Mud Lake, crossed diagonally by the Tennessee-Mississippi line, and located slightly over three miles west of Lakeview, Miss., is a very shallow lake about one and a half miles long and from one to two hundred yards wide. It is reached by following a dirt road along the Mississippi River levee which is extended several miles east of the river, through the bottoms to the bluffs at Lakeview, leaving Mud Lake, Horn Lake, North Lake, and smaller bodies, and the wooded Ensley Darwin bottom-lands, subject to overflow. Grassy fields on the side opposite the lake extend to a nearby line of "barrow-pits" filled with willows. By late summer all pits except one large, open one, are dry and muddy shores mark the shallow end of it. We climb the levee to make a preliminary survey of bird life on the lake through the narrow fringe of cypress. A thick tangled undergrowth below impedes our

progress to the shore for a closer inspection. In winter the back-water often comes high up on the levee and pairs of Mallards, migrating early, rise from the undergrowth. As spring passes, the water recedes rapidly and by June the shoreline contracts within the border of trees and vines. In 1934 the lake dried up completely by the last of July. This year only a few narrow puddles were left on August 30th. Normally, enough water is present until the rainy season begins in October and American Egrets and Little Blue Herons in good sized flocks frequent the lake throughout August and September. Smaller numbers of Great Blue Herons are present and Wood Ducks are frequently seen. When the lake becomes very shallow and well margined with mud flats, no similar place near Memphis is as popular with the water birds. Many of them have been recorded here, as noted in past issues of *The Migrant* under "The Season at Memphis" and on pa. 35 of the issue of Sept., 1932.

This year the high spot of the wading bird records was the presence of about 300 Wood Ibis (locally called "Gourd-heads") among a smaller number of American Egrets on August 9. Small groups of the Ibises came in at dusk adding about 90 to the group which settled in the willows alongside the north or far side of the lake. Two flock (50 or more) of unidentified shorebirds flew over but those that we identified and recorded were at the large barrow pit, a mile away.

On August 16, the next Sunday, the water level had dropped so that the lake was about half normal size (or about two-thirds of the open area) and a larger area of mud flats had appeared. The herons, except for a few, had moved out and the shorebirds had moved in, as evidenced by the largest number we have ever recorded. The most numerous of these was the Pectoral Sandpiper, about 800 being counted. One week later the water had dropped only a little but on the 30th only a few puddles were left. Normally a time for herons, we hoped to find them at other places in this area, but due to unfavorable conditions, they have evidently moved elsewhere. Mrs. Coffey noted only a few on September 7 at Horseshoe Lake, Arkansas, a large and suitable body of water.

The list of water birds recorded at Mud Lake during August is given on the next page, together with additional records (in parenthesis) for the nearby large barrow-pits mentioned above.

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OUR ILLUSTRATIONS: The photo on the opposite page is a view of Mud Lake at the State Line below Memphis and was taken on Aug. 16, to illustrate Mr. Coffey's article above. In the distance may be seen some of the Egrets, Little Blue Herons and other birds described by him. Photo by the Editor.—On the next page is depicted a huge nest of Red-tailed Hawk, built in a big oak above the Cumberland River, at Bell's Bend near Nashville. Dr. H. S. Vaughn made the picture and his son William stands at the nest, 80 feet above the water.—On the third page, a pair of Goldfinchs are shown at their nest. Around the first of August, when our readers are thinking of cool mountains and breezy seashores, the procrastinating Goldfinch is just beginning the rather enervating job of rearing a nest-full of youngsters. In the upper picture the resplendent male is shown passing a choice morsel to his mate, to be censored by her before she gives it to the young. In the lower picture the female is shown shading her offspring from the mid-day sun. The pictures were taken recently by Miss Mabel Slack, of Louisville, Ky. (Continued on page 67).

SPECIES.	Aug. 2	Aug. 9	Aug. 16	Aug. 23	Aug. 30
Water-Turkey .....				(1)	...
Great Blue and-or Ward's Heron....	31	25	30	5	1
American Egret .....	13	50	85	2	...
Little Blue Heron, adult .....	40 plus	60	120	2	...
Little Blue Heron, imm. ....	205 plus	50	162	20	...
Eastern Green Heron .....	(2)	(5)	6(6)	(6)	1
Yellow-crowned Night Heron .....			8*	5*	...
Eastern Least Bittern .....			(4)	(2)	..
Wood Ibis .....		390	3	...	...
Mallard .....				(11)	(1)
Blue-winged Teal .....			9	11	11
Wood Duck .....	17(26)	5	40(50)	(8)	..
King Rail .....			(2)	...	...
Sora .....			(6)	(5)	...
Semi-palmated Plover .....					1
Killdeer .....	(12)	30(10)	80	60	80
Am. Woodcock .....			2	...	...
Upland Plover .....					5
Spotted Sandpiper .....			1	1	1
E. Solitary Sandpiper .....	2	2(2)	100(1)	50	7(4)
Western Willet .....				4	...
Greater Yellowlegs .....			4	...	2(1)
Lesser Yellowlegs .....		2	200	200	25
Pectoral Sandpiper .....	3	66	800	400	250
Least Sandpiper .....			2	6	15
Eastern Dowitcher .....				5	...
Semipalmated Sandpiper .....			1	...	5
Western Sandpiper .....					4
Unidentified "peeps" .....		50	...	...	6
Least Terns .....	10	...	60	30	..
Black Tern .....			20	6*	2

\*—includes one adult.

Of the 20 Black Terns seen on Aug. 16, 12 were adults.

A badly decomposed Snowy Egret was found on Mud Lake, Aug. 23

The following two species were of particular interest.

Western Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*)—A very conspicuous and easily recognized shorebird but the sub-species identity was not determined, though probably referable to this race. We got quite a "kick" out of flushing it, listening to its call and watching the beautiful black and white wings. At least four were present. We have been expecting to find this species for some time. This is the first record for this area and the second for Tennessee. One was collected at Del Rio in East Tennessee in the late summer of 1934 (*The Migrant*, 1935, page 49). In Mississippi it occurs as a

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS (Continued).—The photo on the opposite page is that of two Little Blue Herons, in snow white plumage, on the Tennessee River at Knoxville, Tenn. More about this picture will be found in the Round Table, under the heading, "He Called for a Camera."

fairly common permanent resident on the Gulf Coast.

Eastern Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus griseus*)—Five or more of this species, in almost nuptial plumage, were easily recognized by the snipe-like appearance, reddish breast, and the conspicuous white area in the middle of the back. It is believed that these were of the Eastern race. Previous records are for Lakeview, Miss., by McCamey and Foster on August 6, 1935, and Reelfoot Lake, Tenn., Nov. 27, 1875 (*U. S. Nat. Museum Bul.*, No. 142, p. 115).

Some interesting land bird records for the open fields, and records from North Lake are included in the Round Table notes.

MEMPHIS, TENN., Sept., 1936.

## THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: Nearly every weekend has been spent in the field but many trips were deep down into Mississippi or through West Tennessee. Mud Lake was visited assiduously throughout August, as noted on preceding pages, and with its drying up we will lose most of our opportunities for additional water bird records throughout September and October.—Records for North Lake, in the wooded Tennessee bottomlands northwest of Lakeview, are given herewith. Pond and Clayton, August 13: Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula thula*), 3 (first record for the Memphis area); Little Blue Heron, 40; Green Heron, 15; Killdeer, 75; Spotted Sandpiper, 5; E. Solitary Sandpiper, 12; Lesser Yellowlegs, 12; Pectoral Sandpiper, 40; White-rumped Sandpiper, 1; Least Sandpiper, 30; Least Tern, 30 and Black Tern, 40. McCamey, et al., August 16—Great Blue Heron, 73; Egret 50; Little Blue Heron, 2 adults, 80 immature; Green Heron, 10; Killdeer, 80; Spotted Sandpiper, 4; E. Solitary Sandpiper, 80 plus; Greater Yellowlegs, 1; Lesser Yellowleg, 75; Pectoral Sandpiper, 70 plus; Least Sandpiper, 6; Stilt Sandpiper, 8; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 8; Least Tern, 50 and Black Tern, 8.—On July 11 we made our only trip into the Ensley-Darwin bottoms and tried in vain to get close enough to a small flock of Fish Crows to collect one. The usual summer list was made there and in addition, on a sandbar in Tennessee Chute, we noted four "peeps", two of which were seen close enough to be identified as Least Sandpipers. The Mississippi Kites were not seen nor were any of this species noted over Vance Woods on stops made throughout the season. However, on August 16 with A. F. Ganier, et al., we saw an immature Kite at the end of the Harahan viaduct (Arkansas) and five Kites over Mound City Chute (Ark.-Tenn.). McCamey, et al., observed two the same day between Lakeview and Mud Lake.—No Short-billed Marsh Wrens were seen at Ensley, July 11, but five were recorded near Lakeview on August 2; our first trip there since May. On August 9 we listened for this species along the levee road at Lakeview and westward from the railroad for 3½ miles, recording 40 of them singing. Several of these were easily seen. On August 16, 6 were heard along this same route without making the search we did previously, and in addition, over 10 more the rest of the trip. On August 23, 5 were recorded.—On July 16 three Grasshopper Sparrows were heard singing and flushed from a field in the Hollywood section of town. This is our first summer record although intensive investigation may show this species

to be a regular summer resident here. Several were recorded at Lakeview, Miss., on August 2, 9 and 16.—Authentic descriptions of Barn Swallow nests in the 1935 prize notebooks of Shelby County students indicated that this species probably bred here. On June 25 I found my first nest for this area, plastered on the concrete girder of a bridge on the old Hernando Road, south of Brooks Avenue. Two swallows skimming over the fields and under the structure caused me to make the search. As I worked my way under the bridge a number of swallows burst out suddenly while a pair continued to fly in and out, scolding. Only one nest was found, evidently used but in good condition. Once again outside I counted seven swallows and assumed that five were immature. On July 11 this nest contained four eggs. No other nest was found.—The swallow migration reached high count on the Lakeview levee meadows during August as follows: Tree, 800, Bank, 120, Rough-winged, 500, all on the 16th; Barn Swallow, 120 on the 23rd. One Cliff was seen on the 2nd. On September 11 at twilight I noted moderate numbers of swallows darting back and forth over the river, possibly extending to the other shore; a conjecture since visibility was poor. Swallows were noted without a break, as I drove along Riverside Drive for a mile until it left the river's edge.—John Pond reports seeing a Summer Tanager feeding a young Cowbird in Overton Park, Aug. 12.—George Clayton reported Redstart, Parula, Magnolia, and Canada Warblers common and other transients present in the Park on Sept. 5 and 12.—A male Wilson's Warbler was noted in my backyard on Sept. 14.—Good fortune evidently smiled on the broods of young Robins near home as over a hundred immature birds could be found throughout July on the well house lawn nearby. A small sumach bush in my yard usually held about 15 each evening and a revolving sprinkler attracted others to the back yard. However, I was able to trap and band only a few.—**BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis.**

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW NEAR MEMPHIS:** On August 2, 1936, on our first visit to the Lakeview area since late May, we heard a few Short-billed Marsh Wrens singing from the thick growth of partridge pea and other weeds characteristic of the open area between the levee and the chain of willow-crowded barrow-pits. While I was looking for one of the Wrens, a small sparrow perched in the open atop a weed stalk and repeated a forceless two syllable chip, described as "*tsi-lick*" by Peterson. Mrs. Coffey and I were each able to approach it closely. I stood five feet away and studied it carefully, noting the greenish nape as well as a light-colored median crown line, narrow brown streaks on the flanks, and general stubby appearance. After close attention to its song we flushed it and then turned our attention to the wrens. This is our first record of this species for the Memphis area, the locality being just southwest of Mud Lake and probably one to two hundred yards inside the Tennessee line. It was probably the western form, *Passerherbulus h. henslowi*. In south Mississippi this species is apparently a not uncommon winter resident.—**BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.**

Feeding stations, to attract birds about your homes, will yield splendid dividends for the small trouble expended. Locate them near shrubbery, at the height of your window sill if close to the house and you will not only be entertained but you will learn a lot as well.

NOTES FROM CLARKSVILLE: Members of the local T. O. S. chapter submit the following notes.—A noteworthy late straggler was a White-throated Sparrow, observed here on June 7th. While a group of us were coming up the Cumberland River in a canoe, late in the afternoon, we noticed the bird on the bank in the bushes. He took flight into trees higher on the bank but the two of us who went in pursuit, found him again drowsing on a branch. There we observed his tell-tale markings at leisure. With the exception of this straggler, our last White-throat was noted on May 8, this year.—During the same trip, a few miles below town, a Spotted Sandpiper was identified by Alfred Clebsch, Jr. No check could be made to tell whether this, too, was a stranger or a nesting bird.—July 5th Pickering and Clebsch found a Parula Warbler on the island in Cumberland River 7 miles above town. Two days later the bird was seen again and his song studied.—Short-billed Marsh Wrens were discovered in the swampy meadow in front of the Idaho Springs Hotel near Dunbar's Cave and received much attention from our members. The birds were first noted on July 25th. A dummy nest was collected August 2nd. On August 7th, 24 birds were flushed and another nest was located. The two nests were unlined and rather shallow. Recently the bushy growth in the meadow that gave these birds shelter was cut by the owners. Before that time, however, Mr. Jas. Robins had found Marsh Wrens in two other sites in the same neighborhood.—Waterbirds in late summer migration were noted on the following dates: Great Blue Heron July 5th; Solitary Sandpiper July 18th; Little Blue Heron, Spotted and Pectoral Sandpipers July 30th; American Egret August 9th; Yellowlegs (flock of 8) August 30th; Black-throated Green Warblers were reported August 7th and 8th.—On August 2nd a search for late nestings gave, for about a mile of roadside hedges; Robin on 3 eggs, Cardinal 2 nests with 2 eggs each, another with 3 nestlings, Catbird nest with 3 young showing a few pins and Brown Thrasher sitting on 3 eggs. On Sept. 1st a dove sitting on eggs was reported.—Notes taken on our canoe trip down the Cumberland, Aug. 17-25, will be found on another page.—On Sept. 5th and 6th, we paddled down the Red River from Port Royal to Clarksville, keeping a close lookout for birds. An interesting record was a young Blue-winged Teal, about the size of a Bob-white, found drifting along. It was sick and full of lice and died while we were encamped. Five Wood Ducks, an immature Little Blue Heron and a Great Blue, were the only large water birds we met. The latter passed within 25 feet of me one morning as I was lying in the canoe, shortly after waking. A good list of land birds was compiled.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, SR., Clarksville.

BIRDS HUNG BY HAIRS AND STRINGS: Within the confines of Nashville, three Robins might have been accused of having had suicidal intentions were it not for strong evidence to the contrary, by reason of the fact that the birds were building their homes at the time.

The first accident occurred on Cedar Lane, in the yard of a friend. The Robin, while taking a string to her nest in a thorn tree, got the string caught on a thorn and at the same time got her foot caught in some way, in the other end of the string. When first discovered she was suspended by the string and making an effort to get loose by flying. The children of the house found her swinging back and forth and seeking aid, the bird was soon released. The next case was at the home of Mr. T. Graham Hall, on 16th Avenue, South. This bird had collected some human hair as a lining for her

nest, and in alighting on the limb of a black locust, the hair caught on the rough bark and at the same time became entangled about her foot. When first seen by Mr. Hall, the bird had become nearly exhausted by its efforts to free itself and required several hours to recover after being released. The third accident occurred on the rose arbor at my home. This Robin had found a string three or four feet long with which she no doubt expected to decorate her nest. She flew with it into the rose vines where the nest was, but before she got to the nest the string became caught. She released the end she had and took hold further down and in turning about with it, in her efforts she finally wrapped the string around her body. It was with some difficulty that she was able to release herself. Thereafter, at each trip with material, she would stop and give the string a tug but to no avail and there it remained until the young had flown.—H. S. VAUGHN, Nashville.

**SUMMER NOTES, NASHVILLE:** Ample rain through July broke the long drouth and brought on renewed nesting activities along with fresh foliage. Through August, more young birds were to be seen than the writer recalls in any previous year. Some late nestings observed were: Cardinal August 2, two nests with 3 small young in each; August 9, nest with 2 fresh eggs; a Field Sparrow's nest which contained 1 egg on August 9, contained 3 young on the 24th. A Dove's nest, with 1 fresh egg on September 6, was reported by Dr. Pickering. Mr. Todd of Murfreesboro reports: Mockingbird July 21, 4 eggs; Cardinal July 28, 3 eggs; Field Sparrow July 28, 3 eggs; Goldfinch August 22, 3 eggs; Chimney Swift, August 19, 2 young; and Dove, Sept. 8, 2 young.—Through August and into September, large numbers of Chimney Swifts, Grackles and Starlings have entered the city to roost. The Swifts are roosting again at Belmont Methodist Church chimney and a lesser number in the theatre chimney 2 blocks away. The "blackbirds" are occupying rows of maple trees on several city streets.—Shorebirds have been very scarce the present season, practically none except Solitary Sandpipers being seen.—On July 26, at Columbia, with Messrs. Gray and Williamson, I recorded two rare Warblers, the Gold-winged and the Worm-eating. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on August 8 was rather early for this species and a Chuck-wills-widow on September 5 was a bit late. Three Northern Water-Thrushes, together, were found on August 30.—A number of Short-billed Marsh Wrens were seen in August and Calhoun has record of a Long-billed. He also collected one of two Nashville Warblers on September 6. There was a distinct warbler "wave" around this date.—The old Cardinal at my home and his mate, finally brought off a brood of 3 young on July 20, and the youngsters are at this date, September 10, still begging to be fed.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

**GREAT BLUE HERONS NESTING AT MUSCLE SHOALS:** The following is quoted from a report received from Mr. F. C. Key: "On a recent trip on the Tennessee River, from Lock A, Elk River Shoals canal, to Milton's Bluff, Pilot Carter Crawford called my attention to four nests of the Great Blue Heron. They were built in the tops of large trees, three in one tree and one in another. The nests were of sticks and seemed to be poorly constructed. They are located on the left bank of the canal, which runs along the south side of the river, below the angle dam or about a half mile below Lock A."—S. A. WEAKLEY, Nashville.

**THE COWBIRD IN SUMMER NEAR MURFREESBORO:** In the last issue of *THE MIGRANT*, Mr. H. C. Monk gave a number of breeding records of the Cowbird in the vicinity of Nashville. I wish to supplement these with my records for the adjoining county of Rutherford during the three past years.

White-eyed Vireo; May 14, 1936, three eggs of the Vireo and one of the Cowbird; May 5, 1936, four eggs of the Vireo and one of the Cowbird; the nest was two feet up at the end of a branch of a small cedar and on the same branch, about 16 inches away, was an unused nest of the Vireo.

Towhee; June 16, 1935, three eggs of the Towhee and one of the Cowbird. April 14, 1935, three eggs of the Towhee and two of the Cowbird. May 6, 1936, three eggs of the Towhee and one of the Cowbird.

Blue-grey Gnatcatcher; July 17, 1935, five eggs of the Gnatcatcher and one of the Cowbird. Four of the owner's eggs were broken and the nest had been deserted; the nest was built fifteen feet up in an elm.

Field Sparrow; May 8, 1936, one egg of the Cowbird and none of the Sparrow; either the Cowbird had laid first or something had taken the Sparrow eggs.

Wood Thrush; May 23, 1936, three eggs of the thrush and one of the Cowbird. When first found, on May 19, it contained one egg—that of the thrush.—HENRY O. TODD, Murfreesboro.

**NOTES FROM WINCHESTER AND MINGO SWAMP:**—The following notes, made near my old home at Winchester, Tenn., during the past summer, may be of interest. There is an open pond in Mingo Swamp and another near Belvidere, both having been described previously in *THE MIGRANT*, (1933, p. 37). Here on August 28, there were 8 Blue-winged Teal and two days later 17 of them were counted; they were probably raised somewhere in this general vicinity. On these dates, were also observed Pied-billed Grebe, 2 Black Terns, Solitary Sandpipers, Little Blue Herons and an American Egret. The latter may be the same one that has been visiting the Belvidere pond for several years past, at this season.—Some early fall warblers were the Blackburnian on August 27, and the Canada and Black-throated Green on August 28. Other warblers noted during the last ten days in August were the Hooded, Parula, Prairie, Yellow, Black-and-white, Redstart, and Ovenbird.—F. A. PATTIE, JR., Rice Institute, Houston, Texas.

**ADDITIONAL CLIFF SWALLOW COLONIES:** In the last issue, record was made of nesting colonies of these birds at Lock D on the Cumberland near Dover, and at Swallow Bluff on the Tennessee River. Since that time, several trips on these rivers have given me opportunity to examine all other likely places for their nests. On July 24, I passed Locks A to E on the Cumberland and made notation as follows: Lock A near Ashland City; the walls of this lock are so constructed that no sheltered place for the swallows is available. Lock B, 14 miles above Clarksville, 107 nests counted under the parapet (as at Dover) and about 1,000 birds flying about. More birds this year than last. This lock was built about 1916 and the birds began nesting there the following year. Lock C, 18 miles west of Clarksville; 20 nests under parapets but very few birds about. English Sparrows were using two of the nests. Lock D at Dover; the lock-keeper reports that a large number of the birds left during July; on my last visit here, June 28, five

or six hundred of the birds were observed resting on the limbs of a dead tree on the bank. Lock E near Canton, Kentucky; parapets similar to Dover but no nests have been built. Lock F near Eddyville, Kentucky; 3 or 4 nests under parapets and a few of the swallows were present.

On July 25, I made the following notes on the Tennessee River. At Peter's Landing, on the east bank, there were ledges overhanging the water simliar to Swallow Bluff, but no swallow nests were seen. At Swallow Bluff Ldg., at the north end of the island and on the west bank, about 150 nests were seen at 15 feet. above low water. This group was described in the last *Migrant*. A mile further upstream (southward) and 30 feet above low water, about 50 nests were found and three-quarters of a mile further south, 218 nests were built on the cliff about 15 feet above low water. While examining some of the first group of nests we found two of them occupied by snakes, one with his head and neck protruding from a stem shaped entrance. They were about 18 inches long. Both snakes were killed and in each there was an adult swallow. On August 11, at Lock and Dam No. 2 at Florence, Alabama, I saw about 4,000 swallows and martins, most of them being perched very close together on two wires spanning 300 feet above the canal. I did not have opportunity to examine here or at Wilson Dam for nests but if found there later, the fact will be reported. The colony of Cliff Swallows which Mr. Howell recorded many years ago as being on the face of Paint Rock Cliff, on the river west of Guntersville, is still in existence. Mr. A. E. Dykes reported to me on July 2, that the nests were built about two-thirds the way up the high cliff, under an overhanging ledge.—S. A. WEAKLEY, Nashville.

THE SEASON AT NORRIS: During the course of the summer, two birds, both formerly believed to be quite uncommon in this area, have proven to be present in some numbers. One of these is the Bachman's Sparrow whose distinctive song is highly characteristic of the brushy fields throughout the area. The bird is still singing at this date—September 9. The other, the Black-throated Green Warbler has been seen in four different localities near Norris, and on July 8 an adult male was seen feeding a young bird which was scarcely able to fly. Subsequent trips revealed family groups in three other places. These Warblers seem to prefer hillsides of short-leaved and scrub pine, adjoining a deciduous woodland. The highest altitude at which the latter species has been found here is 1350 feet.—Three other summer Warblers of interest are the Cerulean, Parula and Pine. The first two species were observed feeding young near Norris Dam and the last mentioned was found in pine woods on Reservoir Hill.—On August 23 I made a short trip to the artificial lake near Caryville and found the following "water" birds: Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Little Blue Heron, Green Heron, Killdeer, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral and Least Sandpipers. Since that time, Louis Kalter and the writer have made there the following interesting records: Sora, Semipalmated Plover (about 2,000), Cliff Swallows, 25 Bobolinks (200 more on August 30) on August 26; Baird's Sandpiper (Details on this later) and Semipalmated Sandpipers on August 27; Blue-winged Teal on August 30; Least Bittern and Green-winged Teal on September 9.—A number of birds have 'picked up' and are singing again; the Indigo Bunting, Maryland Yellowthroat and Prairie Warbler, all were singing rather frequently during the first week in September.—GEORGE FOSTER, Norris, Tenn.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS were more numerous about Nashville during the present fall migration than ever recorded before. In *The Migrant* for Dec. 1935, p. 93, the writer gave two previous records; one on Aug. 29, 1915, and one on Aug. 17, 1935; both in the wooded Noel's Pasture south of town. On the afternoon of August 22, 1936, I thought I would search the same locality and was so fortunate as to again find one of the birds present. The next morning I searched similar localities for others and recorded two more, less than half a mile apart and about 3 miles from the first locality. On Sept. 6, John B. Calhoun, while at my camp on Stone's River, pointed out to me one of the birds sitting in the dead top of a large oak and the next morning I saw another three miles away. On the following days, Calhoun, making a special search for them, found two more, one of them being in the Noel's pasture above mentioned. The eighth record for the season was made on Sept. 11, by the writer, just south of Shelbyville, Tenn. In addition to the above records, G. R. Mayfield has two as follows: Sept. 9, 1929, near Stone's River and May 5, 1933, on the Vanderbilt campus. This usually rare transient has certain habits which make it easy to find when present, viz., it nearly always seeks the top of a tall, dead tree, or the dead top of a live tree, as a perch and from there makes short flying excursions to catch winged insects. It looks like a very large Wood Pewee, but, in addition to greater size, its bill and head are much larger in proportion to its body and the olive sides can readily be noted. It also bears a resemblance to the Kingbird.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

"HE CALLED FOR A CAMERA": On the morning of August 4th, the Knoxville News-Sentinel printed in the center of its front page, a beautiful picture of two Little Blue Herons, in white plumage, on the rocks in the Tennessee River under the new Henly bridge. In addition to a "story" under the picture, the editorial quoted below appeared.—H. P. IJAMS, Knoxville.

"HE CALLED FOR A CAMERA"

Recently three herons, birds rarely seen in this section, flew down on the river to feed and sun themselves.

There was a time, and not so many years ago, when they would have been shot as game or through curiosity, by the first person who spied them. But Tuesday when they visited here the first citizen who saw them called, not for a gun, but for a camera. The result was that a picture of these beautiful birds was transmitted to the thousands of readers of *The News-Sentinel*.

The incident is inspiring evidence of the change in attitude towards Nature's wild creatures. The new attitude reflects the more ethical ideals and the educational campaign to spread them, sponsored over many years by the fine organizations of sportsmen and wild-life lovers of America. Men would now protect and cherish these wild creatures, not destroy them.

Some seventy-five years ago, Emerson adorned the idea of the conservation of Nature's wild life in beautiful poetical language, beginning—

"Hast thou named all the birds without a gun?"

"Loved the wood-rose and left it on its stem?"—

George Shropshire in calling for a photographer to picture these beautiful birds fulfilled in 1936 the gentle teachings of Emerson three-quarters of a century ago."

NOTE:—Mr. Ijams has kindly furnished us with a copy of the beautiful photograph referred to and it is reproduced on another page. We are not informed as to the author of the splendid editorial but strongly believe that H. P. had a good deal to do with it.—EDITOR.

## CHAPTER MEETING DATES AND NEWS

Members of local chapters will please take note of the following calendar of meeting dates for the balance of the year.

**NASHVILLES** Regular evening meetings are scheduled for Sept. 21, Oct. 5, 18 (Fall Field Day), Nov. 2, 16, 30, Dec. 4 and 27 (Christmas Census). These meetings are held on Monday evenings at 7:30 p. m. in the Social-Religious Building of Peabody College. All members and friends are requested to attend and bring interested friends. The Fall Field Day will be held Sunday, Oct. 18, at Cheek's old tavern and cave on Red River in Robertson County. This is 33 miles north of Nashville on highway 41, the old Louisville Pike. It will be held jointly with the Kentucky Ornithological Society and a good turnout of T. O. S. members is requested to greet our fellow bird students from the Bluegrass State.—**KNOXVILLE**: President W. M. Walker sends the following list of meeting dates with their locations and sponsors. Sept. 20, Island Home, John J. Hay; Sept. 27, Lake Andrew Jackson, W. M. Walker; Oct. 7, Flowercroft, L. E. Hofferbert; Oct. 18, State Game Farm (Grainger County) Dr. E. B. Powers; Oct. 25, Big Ridge Park, Jim Trent, Jr., Nov. 4, Flowercroft, Miss Mary Beard; Nov. 15, W. M. Johnson's farm, Miss Lora Bond, Dec. 21, Flowercroft, W. M. Walker and Dec. 20 or 27, Christmas Census, George Foster.—**MEMPHIS**: The schedule provides for the first fall meeting to occur September 28 at The Natural History Museum in Chickasaw Park, and every 2 weeks thereafter, with a Field Day late in October. Dr. Clarence F. Moore is president. The elected Secretary, Franklin McCamey, will be missed this season, he having won a scholarship at Yale University, entering in September. He has done some splendid ornithological work at Memphis and his absence will be keenly felt. Another active member, John Jackson, has won a scholarship at the University of Kentucky.

**CLARKSVILLE**: This chapter, Dr. C. F. Pickering, president, meets every second Tuesday night. Their dates are September 29, October 13, 27, November 10, 24, December 8, etc. The group now numbers 16 members. John Lewis and Alfred Clebsch, Jr., were appointed curators and are making a collection of empty nests. The total list of birds observed in the county, during 1936, has grown to 140 species.—**MURFREESBORO**: Secretary H. O. Todd writes that the next meeting of his chapter will be on October 16, at State Teachers College and other regular meetings will follow. He has been making a detailed study of the nesting habits of the birds of his area.

**ROAN MOUNTAIN**, in northeast Tennessee, was visited last June—the 22nd to the 27th—by a group of 12 of our members, for the chief purpose of studying the bird life. The highest point on the mountain is 6313 feet and headquarters were made at the lodge, about 200 feet lower. The mountain "top" extends for several miles and its flora and fauna is that of the Canadian zone. An annotated list of the birds has been prepared and will be published later. Those who went, so thoroughly enjoyed the expedition that they voted for a similar one next June. The party consisted of Mr. and Mrs. John Bamberg, F. S. Carpenter, Alfred Clebsch, Jr., Dr. C. C. Counce, Prof. Geo. Davis, Miss Amy Dean, A. F. Ganier, R. B. Lyle, Miss Evelyn Schneider, Miss Mabel Slack and our president, Bruce P. Tyler.

Chimney Swifts remain until about Oct. 20; please report your last dates.

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## THE MIGRANT

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*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,  
it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

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### EDITORIAL CHAT

Ornithology—the study of birds—is defensibly the most fascinating of all outdoor pastimes for the cultured mind. It opens a door for personal study of virile subjects in woods and fields, along trails and brooks. Supplemented by a charming literature, progress in its study is absorbing rather than tedious. Their enthusiasm and pleasure is very frequently voiced by our members in their letters to the Editor and from the current mail he takes the privilege of quoting a paragraph from the letter of one of our newer members: "I do not believe I ever got into anything more interesting than birds. Have done less fishing this summer than ever before—all my spare time having been spent with the birds. It is certainly a study that becomes more and more interesting as one advances."

The T. O. S. is a going organization because its members have a great interest in common. When members get together they have much to relate in the way of the latest "bird news." How interesting it would be if each member could receive from all the others, a letter giving the highlights during the past three months—*provided* he didn't have to answer them all. Obviously this would be impossible but we have, as a nearest approach, this little journal. It takes a great deal of correspondence and many pages of writing to produce each number. Think of it then, as a basket of letters to you—letters which do not carry the burden of a reply.

The drouth of the past summer, mentioned on this page in our last issue and one of the worst on record for the State, was finally broken by copious general rains on July 2 and 3. Good rainfall during July, brought vegetation back in a manner almost unbelievable and far more birds than usual engaged in late nesting.

When this issue reaches our readers, the leaves will be turning to gold and brown and the cool nights of early fall will be at hand. The great migration of birds will be under way and trips afield will find feathered visitors from the north in transit, or shifting about in search of winter quarters. More than half of the transients are young birds, bound for foreign lands—they know not where they are going but, by irrepressible impulse, they are on their way. Make it a point to spend much time in the open at this season; to many, it is the most glorious time of the year.