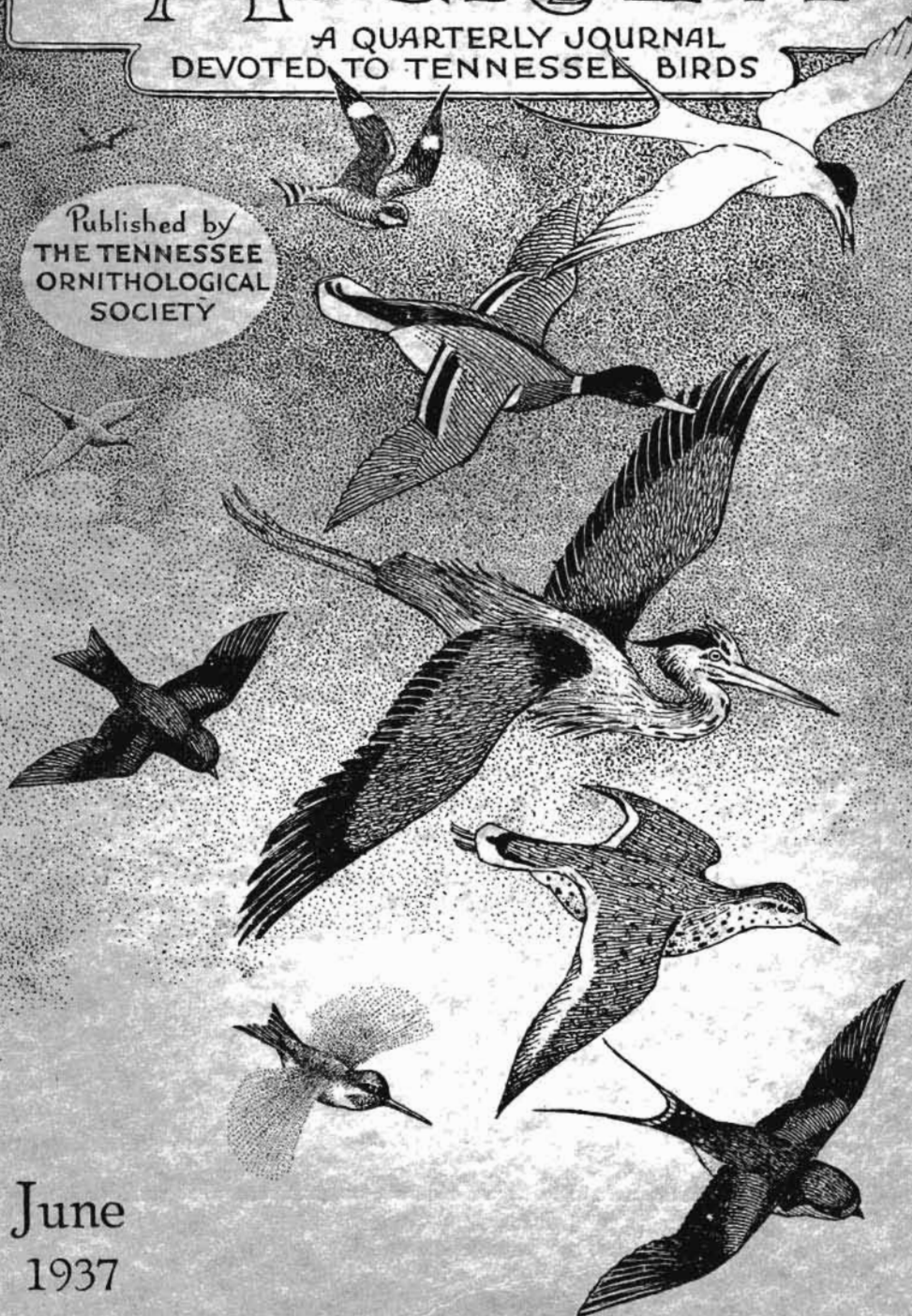


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A MAY DAY WITH THE MARSH BIRDS

BY DAN R. GRAY, SR.

With few places left in Tennessee suitable for the nesting of marsh birds, the following notes from Hoover and Mason Lake and its marshy borders, should be of interest. This sixty-acre permanent lake was built as a reservoir for the use of the H. and M. Phosphate Co. and lies about 2 miles north of Mt. Pleasant. It is fringed with willows and in places there are areas covered thickly with cat-tails growing about the normal margin.

On May 23, the writer was joined by Mr. A. F. Ganier of Nashville and with the aid of a boat and hip boots we made a careful census of the lake to find what water birds were present and the nests of as many of them as possible. Our particular objective was to find a nest of the Coot since a parent bird with young had been reported to us last year by an acquaintance who was out fishing. Although we flushed a pair of these birds during the day there was no nest and we concluded that we were too early or that the Coots we saw were transients.

Pushing out from the boat house, we crossed the lake and paddled along through the cat-tails to where the water got shallow enough to wade. Almost immediately a nest of the Redwing Blackbird was found in a green weed and shortly after, several others were found, similarly located. The lake was about two feet higher than normal and the water had flooded the adjacent weed and sedge field making good cover for the birds. Presently a call from my companion brought me over to see a nest of the King Rail containing nine nearly fresh eggs. It was built among the weeds in the overflowed field and was very open in its situation, standing in ten inches of water. The nest was entirely of dead weed stalks and stood eight inches above the water. One of the eggs was found cracked so was removed. Being a good subject for a photograph, a picture was taken and meanwhile the Rail returned and *clacked* at us from a short distance.

Separating again we waded on and shortly after the writer flushed a Coot and later another, believed to be its mate. Then another enthusiastic call brought me over to see a handsome new bird which I had not seen before in life—a Purple Gallinule. The bird had flown up from the water into a willow so we waded over together to get a closer view. We approached to within twenty feet and through the willow leaves could easily inspect his purple and green plumage with snow-white undertail coverts, carmine bill and long yellow legs. No nest was found nor during the day so we supposed no mate had come to join him. While searching for its nest however, another nest was found by the writer in a small willow and which contained five fresh bluish-white eggs. It was a platform of willow twigs two feet above the knee deep water and proved to be that of a Least Bittern. Later in the

day we flushed several of these birds near the shore. The nest was duly photographed and we waded on, soon flushing a Solitary Sandpiper on the bank. We then took to the boat and paddled through deeper water among the willows and cat-tails. Here we examined at least twenty nests of the Redwing Blackbird each containing three or four blue eggs marked with curious black dots, lines and scrawls. Most of them were built in willows from one to three feet above the water. We flushed a Blue-wing Teal along the way and thought likely it had a mate sitting on some well hidden nest out in the grassy fields adjacent.

After adjourning for lunch we returned and again taking to the boat, paddled through a large expanse of cat-tails on the side opposite the one already searched. Due to high water and retarded growth the cover was not as yet thick enough for nests of Coot and perhaps other birds. About this time we were attracted by some birds several hundred feet above us in the air which at first glance we took to be Nighthawks. They were chasing insects after the manner of that species yet they appeared too black and they lacked the white wing patch. Soon we heard their call, *kek, kek*, and knew then they were Black Terns. A little later they came down to the lake level and there skimmed over the water in their usual way, flying quite close to us and one alit on a dead snag to rest. We then returned to the opposite shore to complete our search there. One of the King Rails ran along ahead of us through a bare field for quite a distance and at a small pool we found one each of the Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers. Green Herons were noted in the willows and two more Least Bitterns were flushed. A small bird sneaking along through the flooded sedge field was followed up and found to be a Prairie Marsh Wren; we watched it leisurely and had good views. About this time we saw a bird running ahead in the shallow water that resembled a month old black chicken and on closer view it proved to be a Sora Rail. We trailed along, getting closer and closer for it was loath to fly. It finally allowed us to watch it from a distance of ten feet, nervously twitching its tail or resuming its search for food but keeping a watchful eye on us all the time.

Summing up, we found we had listed twelve species of water birds, as follows: Green Heron 8, Least Bittern 3 (and nest), Blue-wing Teal 1, King Rail 2 (and nests), Sora Rail 1, Purple Gallinule 1, Coot 2, Spotted Sandpiper 1, Solitary Sandpiper 1, Black Tern 7, Kingfisher 2 and Prairie Marsh Wren 1.

MT. PLEASANT, TENN., June, 1937.



Among our birds we find good illustrations of varied temperament. Contrast the docile, placid Mourning Dove with the wary, cruel Cooper's Hawk; the staid and plaintive Wood Pewee with the noisy, garrulous Blue Jay; the "sit-down" tactics of the Bluebird with the "move-along" habits of the Vireos, and the fidgetty, energetic Carolina Wren with the listless, languid Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

WATER BIRDS ON A TEMPORARY LAKE

BY ALFRED CLEBSCH, SR.

On a farm situated in a stretch of rolling country in the NE corner of Montgomery County the excessive rains of January 1937 had formed a considerable lake where in ordinary times a small stock pond takes care of the surface drainage. Reports came early in April that ducks had been seen there from "Hallum's Lane", the road that passes nearby, and on the 8th of April, a cold and windy day, Dr. Chas. F. Pickering and the writer went to investigate. Although high-water marks on a tobacco barn showed that the water had fallen five feet from the highest level, it still covered more than fifty acres of farm land. Reaching into wooded stretches and fields of cornstalks and tall grasses the site was an inviting loitering place for water-fowl and shore birds.

In our circuit we flushed, one by one, from the bordering fields, eleven Wilson's Snipe. With a disconcerted cry they went into a short zig-zag flight and soon resumed their search for food. Coming to a mud-flat left by the receding water we saw a flock of twenty Lesser Yellowlegs, a picture of quiet and grace. From near them the diffident Killdeer flew off in alarm, but the Yellowlegs and one Pectoral Sandpiper in their group waited for our closer approach until they raised their wings and after a few beats glided smoothly towards a brushy slough. We were following them up when suddenly the rich musical whistle of the Greater Yellowlegs rang out over their smaller voices. By careful stalking we caught sight of two of these splendid shore birds.

Ducks had been noticed from the first but had drifted to the opposite shore where trees stood in the water. On our way around to it a Sora Rail played hide and seek with us in a weed-grown sink-hole formation till he was made to fly and thus inform us whose call we had heard. Among the willows we counted eighteen Coots and standing on a branch a Green Heron seemed to ponder if this was the right place for his summer residence.

Small flights of ducks became frequent. Either they were coming in from feeding or the stiffening wind invited them to exercise. A Gadwall lit close by and two Red-breasted Mergansers went over; Blue-winged Teal and Baldpate, six of each, bored their air-way toward the open water, where a fine group of thirty (Greater) Scaup was already swimming, glistening in black and white.

Making the turn at the far end of the lake we found three Solitary Sandpipers. Our list seemed full and the afternoon well spent when before our eyes a Common Loon rose to the surface out of the water's depth. Amidst the ducks and Coots he appeared like a battleship surrounded by small craft. He was a fine male, glossy dark sprinkled with white.

By now the wind was whipping the water and with hands numb and eyes watering, we were ready to leave this unusual array of water birds. We counted it a rare treat however for in this section where no large permanent lakes exist, such opportunities are but rarely afforded.

CLARKSVILLE, TENN., May, 1937.

SUMMER BIRDS OF PICKETT FOREST

BY ALBERT F. GANIER

The birds of an area that has always been a wilderness, present some interesting contrasts when compared with areas that have been settled up by man thru the years. It was partly this that caused the 11,500 acre Pickett Forest¹ to be chosen for study by the 1937 "expedition" of the T. O. S. during the week of June 14-20. For the purpose of making as careful a census as possible of the breeding birds of the area, this group of fourteen² was afield practically all of the time each day and explored the various types of habitats to be found.

The Forest occupies all of the eastern portion of Pickett County, lies against the Kentucky line, and is on the north end of the Cumberland Plateau. This and adjacent areas, covering some 400 square miles, have been marked on maps until recent years as "The Wilderness" because of the fact that its rough topography was covered by an almost unbroken forest. Between ten and three years ago, logging railways were pushed into this section and the best timber removed, following which the tract was given by the owners to the State. The trees are chiefly hardwood but there is also a good deal of pine. The latter is mostly the scrub or Jersey pine but there is also a good deal of short-leaf pine and some of the tall stately white pines. Hemlock is to be found along the streams and under the cliffs. Mountain laurel and rhododendron (white) are well distributed. Berries of many sorts are found in abundance and with other natural foods can support a large quota of wild life. Numerous streams cut deep gorges thru the Forest area and in places there occur high cliffs of sandstone in the form of escarpments. Most pronounced of these are those along Rock Creek, Big Laurel and about the headwaters of Wolf River where cliffs two hundred feet sheer become truly spectacular. These cliffs have in years gone by, been the nesting places of Golden Eagles, Ravens and Duck Hawks. The latter are still found and the eagles may be here too but the Raven is no longer to be found. Chimney Rock, rising more than 100 feet is one of the most remarkable formations east of the Rockies.

The annotated list of 69 species follows. Gathering of the data for the compilation of this list represents the work of all members of our party and the writer is especially indebted to Mr. Alfred Clebsch Sr. for compiling daily the composite listings of the various observers. While the list is reasonably complete yet, with further field work the following species, sought but not found, would probably have been added; Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Golden Eagle, Barred Owl, Black-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, Cowbird, Redstart, the Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Cerulean, Yellow and Parula Warblers. Species seen in as many as twenty localities are termed "fairly common" or "common."

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. *Nycticorax nycticorax hacketti*. One observed on the lake, June 15, by Mengel; an unexpected find.

¹For location of Pickett Forest, see map in last issue (March) of "The Migrant."

²The party consisted of Alfred Clebsch, Sr., Alfred Clebsch, Jr., Dr. Cynthia C. Counce, Howard Counce, George Davis, A. F. Ganier, Robt. Mengel, Mrs. Mabel Slack, and Miss Emilie Yunker, for entire week. For part time, were M. S. Carter, Wm. Hay, Mrs. Mary Lee, G. R. Mayfield and F. A. Patten, Jr.

TURKEY VULTURE. *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*. Three or four seen each day, most often about the cliffs in which they doubtless nest.

COOPERS HAWK. *Accipiter cooperi*. One only was observed, however it is probable that they occur regularly and in some numbers.

EASTERN RED-TAILED HAWK. *Buteo b. borealis*. Ten seen at five points chiefly on the west side of the forest.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK. *Buteo p. platypterus*. One was seen on July 5, at Chimney Rock. It should be found regularly in this area.

DUCK HAWK. *Falco peregrinus anatum*. Six of these falcons were seen in four locations, viz, a pair a mile south of Rock House fire tower where an eyrie was found in the face of The Rock Island, a 150 foot sheer cliff above Laurel Fork; two soaring over the lake and probably from the Wolf River cliffs; one in the Rock Creek canyon near the Kentucky line, and one over the valley east of Chimney Rock. This general area is splendidly suited for these rare birds and doubtless other pairs could be located. (Fifteen miles south of the Forest and two miles south of Jamestown, in the face of a high cliff above Rockcastle Cove, the writer found an occupied eyrie of these falcons on May 29, 1927. An unsuccessful attempt to reach the nesting ledge was made with ropes and tackle, as the birds flew about protesting vociferously.)

EASTERN SPARROW HAWK. *Falco s. sparverius*. Sixteen were observed, usually where dead trees stood in clearings. Young of the year were abroad.

EASTERN RUFFED GROUSE. *Bonasa u. umbellus*. Not observed by our party but according to workers in the Forest it is often seen crossing or dusting itself in the roads and trails. Mr. Holt, Park Engineer, described a nest with five eggs found in 1936 on the ridge near the lodge.

WILD TURKEY. *Melagris gallopavo silvestris*. Practically all gone but reliably reported as being occasionally shot.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK. *Philohela minor*. The fresh tracks of one were found in marshy ground by a small mill-pond on Sampsons Hammer road on the west side of the forest. Plaster casts were made of these tracks for reference.

EASTERN MOURNING DOVE. *Zenaidura m. macroura*. A total of 13 were noted tho there is practically no cleared ground in the Forest to attract them.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. *Coccyzus a. americanus*. Seven noted during the week.

GREAT-HORNED OWL. *Bubo v. virginianus*. One heard calling on Sampson's Hammer road and evidence of others was found under some of the cliffs.

EASTERN WHIPPOORWILL. *Antrostomus v. vociferus*. Fairly common, judging by its calls which were heard at dusk and dawn in every section.

EASTERN NIGHTHAWK. *Chordeiles m. minor*. Three only were recorded.

CHIMNEY SWIFT. *Chaetura pelagica*. Fairly common, in groups of 3 or 4. Few chimneys being available, some may still nest here in hollow trees.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. *Archilochus colubris*. Nine were recorded. A nest was being built 25 feet up in a pine near the lodge.

EASTERN BELTED KINGFISHER. *Megasceryle a. alcyon*. A pair were seen on the lake where they add a picturesque touch of life to the scenery.

NORTHERN FLICKER. *Colaptes auratus luteus*. Fairly common everywhere.

SOUTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER. *Ceophloeus p. pileatus*. Four only were recorded, therefore found less common than was expected.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. *Centurus carolinus*. Only two of this species were seen; it was unexpectedly scarce.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Fourteen were seen.

EASTERN HAIRY WOODPECKER. *Dryobates v. villosus*. Nine were recorded.

NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER. *Dryobates p. pubescens*. Apparently rather scarce, since only five were listed.

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER. *Dryobates borealis*. This woodpecker of the pine woods, rare as far north as Tennessee, was found at three points in pine groves. There were several birds in each group and they usually made their presence known by their chattering "conversation." One bird was also seen in the pine grove at York Institute two miles north of Jamestown. On previous trips the writer has carefully searched for them in the Jamestown area but without success.

EASTERN KINGBIRD. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. Two were seen in the Forest and one just outside. The environment is not such as they are partial to.

NORTHERN CRESTED FLYCATCHER. *Myiarchus crinitus boreus*. Fairly common and generally distributed thruout the area.

EASTERN PHOEBE. *Sayornis phoebe*. Abundant; the rock overhangs over the streams and cliffs elsewhere were the sites of many nests examined.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE. *Myiochaues virens*. Common and much in evidence.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis*. A group of six were nesting in pot-holes of a cliff above the lake.

PURPLE MARTIN. *Progne s. subis*. Five observed flying over. It nests in boxes outside the Forest provided by the mountain people.

NORTHERN BLUE JAY. *Cyanocitta c. cristata*. Fairly common.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE. *Parus r. carolinensis*. Fairly common.

TUFTED TITMOUSE. *Parolophus bicolor*. A fairly common species.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. *Sitta c. carolinensis*. Fairly common.

BEWICKS WREN. *Thryomanes b. bewicki*. Fairly common, nest and 6 fresh eggs in woodpile on 6/16 also one with 5 young in a new cabin. It was found in the wooded areas as often as the Carolina.

CAROLINA WREN. *Thryothorus l. ludovicianus*. Fairly common; one nest.

CATBIRD. *Dumetella carolinensis*. Fairly common; several nests found.

BROWN THRASHER. *Toxostoma rufum*. Fairly common thruout these woodlands and in full song which seemed mellow here than elsewhere.

EASTERN ROBIN. *Turdus m. migratorius*. Four had established themselves on the lodge grounds but apparently not elsewhere. One nest, in a pine.

WOOD THRUSH. *Hylocichla ustelina*. Common and in ideal surroundings.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD. *Sialia s. sialis*. Common and generally distributed.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. *Poliophtila c. caerulea*. Only two were seen.

CEDAR WAXWING. *Bombycilla cedrorum*. Twelve noted, including a flock of 8 on Rock Creek. A pair were building a nest in a black gum at the lodge.

WHITE-EYED VIREO. *Vireo g. griseus*. Fairly common, its song often heard.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO. *Vireo flavifrons*. Common, a bird of the treetops.

RED-EYED VIREO. *Vireo olivaceus*. Common. Two nests contained young.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER. *Mniotilta varia*. Fairly common.

points, viz, in hardwoods at Chimney Rock, in a pine at the head of the lake,

and one on York Highway south of Pall Mall.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER. *Dendroica dominica* subsp. One only, in a pine.

NORTHERN PINE WARBLER. *Dendroica p. pinus*. Common wherever there were pines and much in evidence due to its frequent song.

NORTHERN PRAIRIE WARBLER. *Dendroica d. discolor*. We voted this the most abundant bird recorded, having recorded it 83 times on our lists. One nest with 3 fresh eggs and another with nearly fledged young.

OVENBIRD. *Seiurus aurocapillus*. Seen or heard daily thruout the Forest.

LOUISIANA WATER THRUSH. *Sciurus motacilla*. Recorded on ten occasions.

KENTUCKY WARBLER. *Oporornis formosus*. Fairly common, in all areas.

MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT. *Geothlypis t. trichas*. Fairly common. A nest with 4 eggs just hatching was found June 17 near Rock Creek.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. *Icteria v. virens*. Common, almost abundant.

HOODED WARBLER. *Wilsonia citrina*. Common and generally distributed.

ENGLISH SPARROW. *Passer d. domesticus*. Only 3 noted, these at the lodge.

SCARLET TANAGER. *Piranga erythromelas*. Common, especially on the ridges.

SUMMER Tanager. *Piranga r. rubra*. Common, mostly found in the valleys.

CARDINAL. *Richmondia c. cardinalis*. Seventeen recorded and one nest.

INDIGO BUNTING. *Passerina cyanea*. Common and much in evidence.

EASTERN GOLDFINCH. *Spinus t. tristis*. Common, usually 2 or 3 together.

RED-EYED TOWHEE. *Pipilo e. erythrophthalmus*. Common. One nest with eggs.

BACHMANS SPARROW. *Aimophila aestivalis bachmani*. Nine were recorded, in bits of open grassy woodland. Their pleasant song revealed their presence.

EASTERN CHIPPING SPARROW. *Spizella p. passerina*. A fairly common species.

EASTERN FIELD SPARROW. *Spizella p. pusilla*. Fairly common.

Supplementing the above list of birds of Pickett Forest proper, the following notes on birds observed about Jamestown (15 miles south) and in Rockcastle, Buffalo and Gwinn Coves a few miles south of Jamestown, and elsewhere in this region, may be of interest. These notes were chiefly gathered on six previous trips, including a week spent in this area, from May 27 to June 1, 1927.

A pair of GOLDEN EAGLES were observed at close range in Buffalo Cove on May 31, 1927, by G. R. Mayfield and the writer, and three others were seen, also at close range, in Gwinn Cove on May 31, 1930, by H. C. Monk and the writer. Both of these dates evidenced nesting nearby but on these and two subsequent trips I found only an old nest. In this nest, on March 25, 1928, two small young of the GREAT HORNED OWL were found. GRACKLES are not as yet regular summer residents on the Cumberland Plateau but several pair have established themselves in the village of Jamestown; they are probably the eastern form. A CHUCK-WILLS-WIDOW was recorded in the Wolf River valley at Pall Mall, on the evening of June 14, while from the high plateau about the Whip-poor-wills were calling in numbers. Four miles north of Byrdstown, a brood of newly fledged PRAIRIE HORNED LARKS were found on June 14 and on July 5 an adult bird was seen two miles south of this locality. In the long-settled flat areas about Jamestown, several species have been recorded that were not on our list of birds found in Pickett Forest. These were Kildeer, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Grackle, Starling, Grasshopper Sparrow, Yellow and Blue-winged Warblers.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

NOTES ON THE WATER BIRDS OF NORRIS LAKE

BY GEORGE FOSTER, JR.

In his article on the waterbirds of East Tennessee in the *Migrant* for June, 1935, Mr. James Trent, Jr. stated: "It is hoped that this list will serve to compare the abundance of waterbirds in East Tennessee before and after the completion of Norris Dam and the establishing of the immense lake above it, along the Clinch River. . . ."

Norris Lake has apparently had a very decided effect on the relative abundance of many waterbirds in this section. Extending seventy-two miles up the Powell River (a tributary of the Clinch), and up the valleys of a number of smaller streams, Norris Lake has a shoreline of over seven hundred miles, and when full covers thirty-four thousand acres. Norris Dam is essentially a storage dam, releasing the spring floods in late summer to maintain a uniform flow of water in the Tennessee River. Thus it is that during the course of a year's time the level of the Lake fluctuates about sixty feet. This, of course, changes feeding conditions almost from day to day, and virtually eliminates the nesting of many water birds around its margins. It is of interest here to speculate upon the feeding possibilities of the years to come, for a large portion of the marginal vegetation inundated last summer failed to come back in the fall to serve as potential bird food. Whether this has an effect on the winter abundance of waterfowl remains to be seen. Two much smaller permanent-level lakes adjoining Norris Lake have been formed, and they, Caryville and Big Ridge Lakes, have both yielded some interesting records.

It suffices to say that almost without exception every duck mentioned in Mr. Trent's paper has become more common. Notable examples of this are found in these cases:

Gadwall (one record quoted by Trent). Has been found quite regularly but in limited numbers, from November 1 until April 10.

Baldpate (listed as a very rare transient). Far from that now; 150 were seen on March 21, 1937.

Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal. Neither are rare now. The Green-winged Teal wintered here in small numbers, and the Blue-wing is an abundant late transient in spring.

Bufflehead. First recorded for Norris Lake on November 27, 1936, when five were seen. Seen frequently thereafter.

Ruddy Duck. Fairly common fall transient between November 1 and 27. Two April records, April 10 and 13.

American Merganser. All of the Mergansers are commoner now than formerly. This species is a fairly common winter resident. (fifty seen on December 12, 1936).

These are but a few of the striking changes in distribution. The American Pintail, listed as very rare, has been recorded by the writer on five occasions during the past winter. The dates ranged from November 1 to March 21, and the numbers from one to sixty. Redhead, Ring-necked, Canvas-back, and Scaup have been seen in numbers which totaled fifteen hundred birds in a day. The Redhead and Canvas-back are still comparatively rare, however. None of the above "divers" wintered here in numbers, the Black Duck and the

Mallard being our common winter ducks. Mixed flocks of the latter two species totaling six hundred birds wintered in the Big Valley area of the Lake this past season.

The Horned Grebe has presented one of the biggest surprises of the past season. On October 19, 1936, three of them were observed in winter plumage. On almost all of the twenty-odd trips on the Lake which followed during the course of the winter and spring a few of them were seen. On March 21, 1937, at least fifteen were seen, fully half of which were taking on breeding plumage with the lighter-colored "horns" then clearly visible. Lack of experience with a Graflex camera prevented a photo of a Horned Grebe in good breeding plumage at a distance of less than twelve feet.

Common Loons, also, have proven to be fairly common in migration, but did not winter. On May 16, 1937, ten of these big birds were seen at scattered intervals around the lake.

At Caryville Lake, particularly, have shorebirds been found in some numbers in late summer (see *Migrant* for December, 1936, page 102 for note on Baird's Sandpiper). The Pectoral Sandpiper and the Bonaparte's Gull, both listed by Mr. Trent on his hypothetical list, have been found in spring and fall migration. The Bonaparte's Gull was first seen on April 10, 1936, and recorded again on December 5, 1936, and on April 11, 1937, when a total of eight birds was observed. These birds were still present on May 16, 1937.

It will be noted that few definite dates have been quoted, but rather a very general picture of a few of the changes has been outlined. It has been the writer's good fortune to cover some twenty-five hundred miles on Norris Lake in the past year, and from this experience he has an opportunity to watch the gradual transition which appears to be taking place in waterfowl abundance in East Tennessee. With Norris Lake, the first TVA lake in East Tennessee, having so great an effect on bird life it will be interesting to watch the inevitable changes which will take place when the Tennessee River becomes a continuous series of almost permanent level lakes from Knoxville to Paducah.

The writer wishes to acknowledge with thanks, the co-operation and assistance received from Mr. L. B. Kaller, Mr. James Trent Jr., and Mr. George Foster, Sr., with one or more of whom he has made each of his trips on the Lake.

NORRIS, TENN., May, 1937.



BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR 1936: Papers and notes on Tennessee birds which have appeared in other journals during the past calendar year are briefly listed as follows:

In *The Auk*: July, Vol. 53, 337-8, "A Winter Food Supply for the Crow" by C. Crook; October, 482. "Injury Feigning of Bob White and Kentucky Warbler" by A. R. Laskey. In *The Wilson Bulletin*: December, Vol. 48, 241-255, "Fall and Winter Behavior of Mockingbirds" (a study of selection and defense of territory by color banded birds near Nashville) by A. R. Laskey. In *Bird Banding*: October, Vol. 7, 171-172, "Indigo Bunting Returns—1 and Returns—2" and Maryland Yellowthroat Age Records" by A. R. Laskey. In *Bird Banding News*: June, Vol. 8, p. 9, "Recoveries of Bronzed Grackles,

Robins, and American Egrets" by B. B. Coffey; September 12, "Summary of Five Years of Bird Banding" by A. R. Laskey; December, 5-6, "Banding in the Mid-South" by B. B. Coffey. In *Journal, Tennessee Academy of Science*: April, Vol. II, 95-97, "A Midwinter Bird Census of the Montgomery Bell Project" (census made at request of Atlanta Office of National Park Service. On January 5, five T. O. S. members listed 40 species), by Dr. J. M. Shaver; October, 241-250, "Waterfowl of Radnor Lake near Nashville, Tenn." (A report on birds observed in the years of 1933 to 1936 inclusive) by G. B. Woodring. In *Memoirs of The Boston Society of Natural History*, for April, 1936, Vol. 9, No. 2, pp 169-391, "The American Woodcock," monograph, by Olin S. Pettingill Jr., (the section giving status and data on this species for Tennessee, pp 243-245, contributed by A. F. Ganier).

BUILDING LAKES IN TENNESSEE: In the early stages of the national administration a feverish program of selection, elimination, and experimentation was adopted and, so far as wild life is concerned, it was mostly elimination. The unemployment situation was acute and the problem was not a matter of money, but to find something for idle hands to do. When a reclamation bureaucrat saw a lake or marsh, his eyes flashed with the fervor of the zealot. Here was something that made no contribution to the welfare of man in the way of food or transportation. "Let us away with this mistake of nature," he cried. Forthwith he set the CCC boys to work, and, under an ill-advised program of sanitation, they destroyed many harbors of aquatic birds and plants, and did little harm to the mosquitos. Today this policy is being reversed. Funds have been allotted for the building of the lakes which were once marked for destruction. We have just read that the State Conservation Department, with the aid of WPA funds, plans to build 40 to 50 lakes in Tennessee, with the ultimate purpose of a lake in every county where suitable sites can be found. State WPA Administrator, Harry S. Berry, has announced that his bureau has \$1,000,000 available for building lakes. This sum of money ought to pin many aquatic gems on the bosom of Tennessee.—R. A. WILSON, in *Fin, Fur and Feathers* Dept. of the Nashville Banner.

It is greatly to be regretted that the marsh drainage program has all but wiped out our marsh-bird population and it is to be hoped that several extensive marshes can soon be built with federal funds to bring about their restoration.—ED.

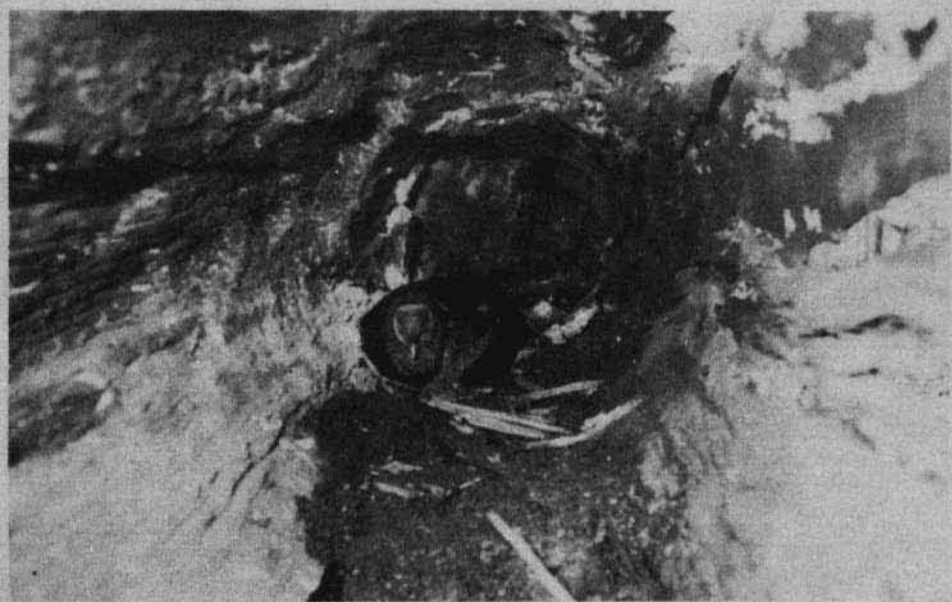
OUR ILLUSTRATIONS: On the page opposite, at top, are shown nests of the King Rail and Least Bittern, described by Mr. Dan R. Gray in his article on the first page. At the bottom is a photo of a Black Vulture incubating its egg within a hollow log and photographed by Mr. F. S. Carpenter whose notes on the nest will be found in *The Round Table*. On the next page will be found Field Day group pictures taken in early May of our T. O. S. chapters at Nashville, Knoxville and Memphis. On the opposite page is a "snap" of 11 of our 14 members who attended the "field week" in Pickett Forest in June. (For names, see article on Birds of Pickett Forest.) In center of the page is an informal snap taken on Nashville Field Day as lunch was being served. Below are pictured Messrs. Dan R. Gray, H. P. Ijams and George Davis, well known to our readers. (Continued on page 35).



Nest of King Rail



Nest of Least Bittern



Black Vulture, incubating.



*Pickett
Forest*



*Spring
Field
Day*



Davis



Diams



Bras



Chimney Rock

THE ROUND TABLE

GOLDEN EAGLE IN MISSISSIPPI: In February, 1937, a Golden Eagle and an immature Bald Eagle were brought to the Memphis Zoo by Mr. G. D. Perry of Hollywood, Miss., 30 miles southwest of Memphis. Mr. Perry writes that these birds were caught separately, two or three weeks apart, before Christmas of last year, in steel traps by two different negro employees. The trapping (for mink and raccoon) was done about three miles west of Hollywood (Tunica County) in what is called "Old River," over the levee. This was all the information Mr. Perry could supply. This our first record of the Golden Eagle for this area and, as far as the writer knows, the only published record for Mississippi.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

TWO SNOWY OWL RECORDS: In *The Migrant* for March, 1931, page 7, brief mention was made of the taking of two of these owls and to this I am able to add some further details. The first was killed 5 miles south of Paris, Tenn., on Dec. 21, 1930, by a farm youth who had found it sitting on the low branches of a large tree. It was brought to me and I now have it as a mounted specimen. It measured exactly five feet from tip to tip of wings. The breast feathers were pure white while those on the back are slightly speckled. The other, taken on Dec. 20, the same year, was received by the Taxidermy Shop of Tennessee at Memphis, it having been killed at Como, Miss., 40 miles south of Memphis. The Snowy Owl rarely comes as far south as the United States and records south of the Ohio River must be considered as accidental.—BUSTER THOMPSON, Paris, Tenn.

NOTE: Inspection of the weather records for 1930 shows that no unusually cold weather had prevailed in early December. Prior to the 20th, the lowest daily temperatures at Paris, beginning the 10th, were plus 42, 48, 31, 28, 33, 32, 20, 26, 30, 33, and 26. By odd co-incidence, the first (of four) authentic record of the Snowy Owl for Tennessee was of one taken about 10 miles northwest of Paris. The foot of this bird, regrettably killed on Feb. 3, 1918, was sent to the writer for verification. December 1930, may be considered a Snowy Owl "invasion" of Tennessee for two more were killed in the State during that month. One taken Dec. 3 at Reelfoot Lake was mounted and is now in the State museum and the other, taken Dec. 31 near Johnson City, was mounted by a Knoxville taxidermist. No other records have come to my attention.—EDITOR.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS (Continued). Pictured opposite is the great Chimney Rock or "Bluebeard's Castle," on the west side of Pickett Forest at the Kentucky line. This is one of the most spectacular monoliths in the Eastern United States and we believe this to be the first published photograph of it. After a long trek thru the wilderness with three companions, the Editor got this unobstructed view from the top of a tall pine. As to its ornithological significance, well, let us suppose that in days gone by it was a favored lookout for Peregrines, Ravens and Golden Eagles.

NOTES BY MEMBERS OF THE CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER: A Lesser Snow Goose spent 3 days (March 28-30) on the farm of Mr. Paoli Meriwether in company with tame geese. Dr. Pickering took several pictures of this bird which had to be flushed to show itself in flight.—A male Red-legged Black Duck spent all winter on Dunbar's Cave lake with tame Mallards, remained after they had been put up early in April to protect the spawn of fish and was a little later himself led into captivity.—Chimney Swifts first arrived on March 22, 8 in number. A spring roost was observed April 9 and 10, 300/500 birds going in from 6:00 to 6:15 p.m. and the same again on May 2, a dark and rainy day.—A Prairie Horned Lark was seen on May 16, presumably nesting nearby.—Cliff Swallow: At the crossing of Cumberland River at Dover, Tenn., a strong colony (about 250 birds) was found nesting on May 16, under the separate span in the approach to the bridge. The nests can be seen from the low field underneath. The bridge itself held only a much smaller colony (about 30 birds). These two groups are taken to be off-shoots from the main colony at lock D, a short distance down-stream.—Purple Martin: First spring arrival March 11, 1:45 p.m. They seemed to enjoy a snow storm that came in the latter part of March as much as they do thunderstorms in summer.—Tufted Titmouse: Several pairs of adult birds were noticed feeding one another April 4 and 17; this is probably a courtship demonstration.—Catbird: An early arrival came to his old nest on April 8 but surrendered it later to a pair of Cardinals which remodeled it to fit their needs.—Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireos came April 17 and 18, ten days later than last year.—A Worm-eating Warbler was found at Neblett's Slough on April 18.—Wilson's and Canada Warblers, 7 and 5 respectively, were observed at various sites during week of May 16 to 23, feeding mostly high in trees, especially the "Black Cap" quite active. As in the fall these two species were found not far apart.—Bronzed Grackles were observed nesting on May 16, in the top chords of the steel bridge across the Tennessee River west of Dover. The nests were built on the steel connecting plates and the Grackles flew up through the lattice to reach them. A rather hot site.—Some late or last records for winter visitants or spring transients are as follows: Winter Wren, April 14; Solitary Sandpiper, 3 on May 15 and 16; Bobolink, on May 15 a flock of 30 noted in a fresh cut alfalfa field; Purple Finch, one on May 7 was with a flock of Goldfinches; Savannah Sparrow a few as late as May 17, now in fine breeding plumage; White-crowned Sparrow, last record 4 on May 8; White-throated Sparrow, 1 on May 20; Swamp Sparrow until April 25 and Song Sparrow, abundant around March 18 in creek bottoms.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, SR., Clarksville, Tenn.

SPRING NOTES FROM CORINTH: My 1937 spring season has been particularly enjoyable. March 30 brought two rare and beautiful male Red-breasted Mergansers to Liddon's Lake. Ruby-crowned Kinglets sang on each of my early spring hikes; on April 16 one of these diminutive vagabonds poured out his brave little heart from the old pear tree that takes up all the space in my tiny backyard. Incidentally, this old tree planted 45 years ago, has harbored many a rare bird. Every now and then one shows up within its deep foliage that is not supposed to visit a town area so crowded.—Success crowned my ten years of searching for a Blue Grosbeak

on April 18; it was at Sugarnole Pond in Tuscumbia bottom. Elgin Wright and Johnny Johnsey witnessed the find. The Blues, two males, acted in every detail just as the Rose-breasted species does. Again on the 25th we found some 7 or 8 males and females feeding in tall willows in the same bottom but 2 miles upstream. Later visits to the area failed to reveal the birds. My second Worm-eating Warbler was found in the bottom at Whitmore Levee the same date, April 25.—At Liddon's Lake on May 6, I saw what looked like 3 slender black chickens, walking over the thick vegetation that covers a small pond that lies west of the main lake. The birds were uncanny, queer, and startled me. I knew they were not Coots. Then I remembered—of course they could be nothing else than Gallinules. A close-up view presently proved them to be the beautiful Purple species. I cannot describe them. You must look them up in your bird book, the one with colored pictures. And in the same spot with the gallinules I found my first Least Bittern, a female.—On May 9, Wright and I found our first Lark Sparrow. We were on our way at 5 A.M. to Waukomis Lake, when beside the road a strange bird sang as he sat atop a tall, slender white oak. Neither of us knew him. Presently he flew down into a patch of dead cotton stalks and began feeding and we were able to mark every detail of him at close view. Then back to the tree he went for another bit of song. Later our bird books confirmed our identification. He is a large beautiful sparrow with a song that ranks with the best. In some parts of the country he seems to be a common species but here he is a lovely rarity.—On May 9 also, in a thick swamp, we found our first Canada Warbler. Numbers of White-throated Sparrow were lingering on that late date. I have learned an important lesson this May: in this month the transients, many of them, are at their height; indeed May is a better month for them than April.—On May 15, at Willow Slough on the edge of Tuscumbia Bottom, between 5:30 and 6:00 in the evening, I found the following list in open fields and lush meadows, the entire area covering some 10 acres: male and female Bobolinks, Dickcissels, Indigo Buntings, Kingbirds, Swamp Sparrows, Field Sparrows, Grasshopper Sparrows, Doves, Cardinals, Redwings, Meadowlarks, Cuckoos, Acadian Flycatchers in the willows, Chat, Chimney Swifts and Purple Martins, all told 16 kinds. And I should also add the Barred Owls that called from the big bottom near by, and sweet clover and blooming alfalfa and hairy vetch and pasture thistle and knee-deep meadow grasses studded with yellow wildflowers—all with a fragrance that was good to inhale. The sunset hour in a deep meadow on a May day is an experience not to be forgot. But, after all, the break of day is the best time to go out for birds. This May 16, I was in the bottom at sun-up and found a veritable small flock of Bay-breasted Warblers, and Magnolias, and Chestnut-sided ones, not to mention half a dozen Cardinals. Gnats filled the woods and the birds were feasting. Hundreds of Cedar-Waxwings stuffed themselves. When I passed through the deep underbrush the gnats would fly out and they sounded like rain but they were not in the biting stage so did not annoy me.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

LATE MIGRATION OF THE BROWN THRASHER: A single Brown Thrasher foraged in the yard at 1022 Eighteenth Avenue, South, and in the alley near this place late in the fall of 1936. He could be seen almost any

day until November 21. After this date, he was seen no more. He appeared strong and healthy, and when last seen flew away across the adjoining yards. A second Brown Thrasher was seen on Saturday, November 7, in a thicket on the Elmhill Road, four and one-half miles from Nashville.—JESSE M. SHAVER, George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee.

A COWBIRD'S ERROR: If a Cowbird, or any other bird for that matter, had a sense of humor, I suppose it would think that the laying of its eggs in the nest of another, usually smaller bird, was a great joke. On the contrary, the inevitable result of such a trick is usually disastrous to the rightful owner. However, I know of one instance where the joke was on the interloper. It is the usual habit of the Cowbird to locate new nests of other species and to deposit its first egg therein on the same day the first egg of the owner is laid. Sometimes two and even three more eggs are added by the miscreant on succeeding days, and there follows a corresponding curtailment of the eggs of the rightful owner. For example, I recently collected a set of only two Kentucky Warbler eggs from a nest which contained three of the Cowbird. None of my friends has ever found, nor can anyone recall having read of, the Cowbird making so gross a blunder as to deposit its eggs in an abandoned nest, yet such an instance was found near Nashville on May 9, 1937. Having noticed an old nest of the Red-eyed Vireo, built five feet up from the ground on the end of a hickory limb in a woodland, one of our party asked a companion to look into it. To his great surprise, the companion found two Cowbird eggs in the nest, both fresh. The nest had come through the winter and from its dilapidated appearance, it must have been a very bad winter. It was hung to the twig with the frailest of fibers and one wondered how it could have held the usurper. Here was one place where Cowbird eggs were in the right nest because their chances of hatching were as dark as the bird's feathers. The joke was on the Cowbird. The nest was in an enclosed and posted grounds and there is no probability that the eggs were placed there by human hand.—BURT L. MONROE, Louisville, Ky.

A BLUE-WINGED WARBLER NEST NEAR NASHVILLE: On May 9, 1937, while attending the Annual Spring Field Day of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, I had the great pleasure of being in the group which discovered the nest of the Blue-winged Warbler. We were on the Spain farm, 19 miles north of Nashville, in Robertson Co., and our party had been listing the birds up Sycamore Creek. At one place along the creek, we left the stream proper and crossed over to a sedge field about 1/3 of an acre in size. The field lay at the base of a slope covered with some timber. The thin sedge was intergrown with blackberry briars and at one end there was the remains of a log hut. I happened to be walking in advance of the rest of the party toward this hut and was anticipating the listing of the Blue-winged Warbler for our list, when I flushed one of the birds about 15 feet ahead. It feigned injury and I realized that we were near its nest. I did not move my position for fear I would lose the exact location and awaited the arrival of the rest of the group. A thorough search, supervised by Mr. Albert Ganier, revealed the nest which was placed between two briars and a small sedge clump, resting on the ground and extending five inches up to the rim. Externally, it was made of oak leaves; then bark strips and weeds, with a final lining of grasses. Two oak leaves arching over the top,

as is customary with the habit of this species, obscured the eggs from view. It contained five fresh eggs which were pure white in color, marked with dots of light brown chiefly about the larger end. Several photographs were made of the nest, during which time both parent birds came about and protested. Two other male birds were heard within a half mile of this nesting site.—BURT L. MONROE, Louisville, Ky.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER AT NASHVILLE: For ten years past no local record has been made of this rather rare transient. On May 7, the writer heard an unusual warbler call during the early morning in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. He had just noted a large group of Cape May Warblers, two Nashville Warblers, two Magnolia Warblers and a Canada Warbler and was looking for more species on this lucky day. The Black-throated Blue was singing a song quite similar to the one heard in the Great Smokies during the nesting season. At other times, this species has usually given only a *Zay, Zay, Zay* call immediately recognizable. The bird was followed for some time but he gave only the one song with but little variation. Most of my 22 previous records have been made in Shelby Park or on the Vanderbilt Campus and are as follows: 1916, April 21 (2), 28 (3), May 5 (1), 12 (1); 1917, May 4 (1), 5 (2), 6 (2), 7 (1), 9 (1), 14 (1); 1921, April 26 (1), 27 (1), 28 (1), May 1 (1), 12 (1); 1923, May 5 (2), 6 (6), 12 (1), 16 (1); 1926, May 4 (1), 6 (1), and 7 (1). —G. R. MAYFIELD, Nashville.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER HABITS: On Sept. 6, 7 and 8, near Nashville, I had the opportunity to watch three of these birds and observe their habits. The first, noted at 3:30 p.m. on a warm day, was making long flights after insects from the dead top of a big oak. Mr. Ganier tells me that all of his birds have been found in similar locations. However, the individuals I located on the 7th and 8th were seen very early in the morning—between 6 and 7—and they were making their flights near the ground from the lower branches of large trees or the dead tops of small trees. The inference is, that in the cool of the morning the high-flying insects have not begun to move about and the Flycatchers must rely on perhaps less desirable sorts of the low-flying kinds. One of the birds, which was collected, was exceedingly fat.—JOHN B. CALHOUN, University of Virginia.

PHOTOGRAPHING A VULTURE: On May 15, a nest of the Black Vulture was found near Louisville in a large hollow beech log in a woodland. When I peered within, the old bird was found to be sitting on one egg which was deposited about 7 feet from the entrance. Instead of flushing, the bird continued to sit so I decided to take photographs of her and finally did so from a point not over 6 feet distant. Proper light was secured by the use of a photo-flash bulb. On June 19 I returned, hoping to find a young bird and to take a series of pictures of it. However the egg had been deserted meanwhile and was found to be addled without sign of embryo in it. It is probable that the egg was overdue to hatch when I found it on May 15 and perhaps the gentleness of the bird was due to its having continued to incubate for some time beyond the usual period which is said to be about 30 days.—FLOYD S. CARPENTER, Louisville, Ky.

NOTE: The excellent picture is reproduced on page 31.—EDITOR.

NOTES FROM WHEELER DAM: Herring Gulls, which came and went in large numbers last winter, with every rise of the Tennessee River over the freshly flooded lands, have been less common this season but more consistently present. Ducks also have been less common on Wheeler Lake, perhaps due to the increased depth of water; I understand however that they have been common at the shallow "Green Onion" inlet on Wilson Lake, 3 miles below Wheeler Dam. Hawks seem to be more common this winter than usual particularly Marsh Hawks and Sparrow Hawks. A Tree Sparrow, the identity of which I am reasonably sure, was noted during Christmas week here; an interesting record for this far south. About the same time, a flock of 20 Rusty Blackbirds, a Pine Warbler and a Fox Sparrow were listed. Brown Thrashers have been observed on two occasions. Shrikes are frequently noted along the roadsides. The Florence, Ala., paper told of an Eagle (probably the Bald) having been killed near Wheeler, the first week in December—JOHN BAMBERG, Guntersville Dam, Alabama.

NOTES FROM MURFREESBORO: An American Bittern was killed near here on Nov. 6. Two Double-crested Cormorants were on the mill pond in Stone's River at Walter Hill on Nov. 22; one of these was shot and found to contain 14 small fish. Eight Hooded Mergansers were seen on Nov. 28. Dr. Black gives Oct. 12 as the last date on which he saw Chimney Swifts roosting here.—H. O. TODD, Murfreesboro.

RED-BACKED SANDPIPER AT KNOXVILLE: On October 4, 1936, I took a company of six Boy Scouts to Lake Andrew Jackson, about fourteen miles from Knoxville, for a bird-study trip. Our activities centered mainly on following the shore of the lake in a search for possible shore birds. During the course of our activities we came upon a small sandpiper which, peculiarly enough, was so tame that, by a cautious approach, we were finally able to get within six feet of it. My first impression was the peculiar slightly curved, medium-length slender bill. We happened to have with us a copy of *Birds of America*, Vol. I, the plates of which we consulted on the spot and our only possible verdict was Red-backed Sandpiper (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*). It was in fall plumage of course but with ideal color plates, description and estimate of size, I felt no doubt as to the correctness of naming the bird as this species.—EARL O. HENRY, 401 Med. Arts Bldg., Knoxville.

NOTE: Dr. F. M. Chapman, in his description of this species, says it "may always be known by its slightly curved bill" and that "it is an unsuspecting, rather stupid, little Snipe, less active than most members of this family." Dr. Henry's record above is the first for Tennessee.—EDITOR.

AN OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER IN THE SMOKIES: The finding of one of these rare flycatchers always marks a red-letter day, particularly in spring when the bird may be suspected of being on its breeding ground. On May 16 one of them was observed in Cades Cove by the writer and other members of the Knoxville Chapter who had joined the field trip scheduled there for that day. The bird was atop a dead tree on Boring Ridge, about 1.5 miles southwest of Oliver's Lodge and at elevation 2200 feet s.l. Ten days later, hoping to find it still there and perhaps to establish a breeding record, W. M. Walker and Charles Baird returned to the site but were unable to find it. They concluded that most likely our bird was a transient.—H. P. JAMES, Knoxville.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS have become common enough around my place this year to justify comment. During the last of April three pairs were building in bird boxes near the house. On May 2 (our annual spring census) 14 Prothonotary Warblers were listed. At the end of the first week in May two pairs were sitting on five eggs each; the other on four eggs. The latter nest was destroyed later. The others reared four young each. On June 4 one of these original pairs had rebuilt in the same box and had one egg. The other original pair had finished rebuilding nearby. Both birds carried nesting material which consisted of green moss, dried leaves and pine needles. First sets of eggs were five each; second sets were four each. Two infertile eggs were removed by the old birds before the young left the nest. None of the nests were closer than 500 feet to the Tennessee River which flows nearby. I have been surprised to note how high in the big trees these birds feed and sing at times, reminding one more of a Redstart than of a marsh-loving bird. During the past 20 years the Prothonotary Warbler has been a rare bird with us. Only one nest had been found and it was destroyed by high water. Last year a fisherman put up a crude bird box near his shack on the river bank. It was well above high water and two broods of Prothonotary Warblers were reared successfully, which I believe accounts for my success this year.—H. P. IJAMS, "Island Home," Knoxville.

THE SEASON AT KNOXVILLE: George Foster and the writer, at Norris and Knoxville respectively, have found the Golden-winged Warbler more frequently this year than in 1935 or 1936. We have three or four records each for this rare species. Also on April 26 the writer was at Andrew Jackson Lake from 6 A.M. until past noon, and while there found a total of five Blue-winged Warblers. Both the Golden-winged and Blue-winged were located by note and identification then confirmed by sight. Both species were found in cut-over timber near the lake shore where the second growth and young trees ranged from three to twelve feet in height. The birds were very active even for warblers, and seldom fed in foliage higher than twenty feet from the ground.—The usual flock of American Mergansers did not winter on Lake Andrew Jackson this winter. Except for a flock of five Mallards there was a very evident lack of ducks until about March 10. Since then, three Sandpipers, the Osprey, Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, the American Bittern, and several species of ducks have been recorded. Four Blue-winged and three Green-winged Teal were present the middle of May but grazing cattle were rapidly destroying the high grasses around the shallow parts of the waters edge, thereby lessening the possibility for nesting sites.—Other interesting occurrences at the lake: A Duck Hawk was observed the morning of April 10. An American Bittern was seen on April 26 and another recorded on May 27; there were no other records between these two dates. A local taxidermist reported to Mr. Ijams that a Wood Ibis was shot at Cedar Bluff on April 16. The caretaker at Lake Andrew Jackson reported a bird of similar description as being at the lake a few days earlier; perhaps the same one.—A trip to Cade's Cove on May 31, yielded 64 species 51 of which were in the Cove. Six miles on foot along the C. C. C. fire roads yielded a nice list of warblers. Of these we recorded the Black-and-white 18, Blackburnian 1, Black-throated Green 30, Hooded 16, Kentucky 33, Maryland Yellowthroat 2, Palm 1,

Pine 17, Redstart 4, Yellow 3 and Prairie 8. We found young of the Black-and-white and judging from the actions and notes of a B.T.G., it was feeding young. The Palm Warbler was evidently a late migrant.—A rainy ten days at the beginning of warbler migration hindered the activities of our club members. A few of our "first dates" for migrants are late since the birds were common when first noted. The following are the Knoxville T. O. S. first dates for spring migrants: Purple Martin 2/27, Brown Thrasher 2/28, Chipping Sparrow 3/7, Pine Warbler 3/13, Tree Swallow 3/14; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 3/21, Rough-winged Swallow 3/21, Cowbird 3/21, La. Waterthrush 3/22, Vesper Sparrow 3/28, Barn Swallow 3/30, Black-and-white Warbler 3/31, Yellow Warbler 4/6, Chimney Swift and White-eyed Vireo 4/9, Wood Thrush 4/10, Ovenbird, Hooded Warbler, and Hummingbird 4/15, Redstart 4/17, Black-thr. Green Warbler, Green Heron, Whip-poor-will, Chuck-wills-widow, Prairie Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Chat, Crested Flycatcher, Nighthawk, Kingbird, Orchard Oriole, and Spotted Sandpiper 4/18, Catbird 4/20, Warbling Vireo 4/21, Red-eyed Vireo and Maryland Yellowthroat 4/24, Summer Tanager 4/24, Grasshopper Sparrow 4/26, Palm Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow-throated (Sycamore) Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Wood Pewee, Scarlet Tanager and Solitary Sandpiper 4/26, Magnolia Warbler, American Bittern and Cliff Swallow 4/28, and on May 2 we recorded Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue-headed Vireo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Veery, Baltimore Oriole, Lincoln Sparrow, Bobolink, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Prothonotary, Canada, Blackpoll and Tennessee Warblers. The Wilson Warbler, our latest, was seen on May 15.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville.

A WOODCOCK AT HIGH ALTITUDE IN GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK: On June 12, 1935, I flushed a Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) from a clump of trees on Heintooga Bald at an altitude of 5,150 feet, in the southeast corner of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Further observation revealed numerous holes made by this bird in the moist soil under the spruce. This "Bald" is entirely covered with grass, small shrubs, fallen deciduous trees and this colony of spruce. The entire region with the exception of the summit described above is surrounded by deciduous trees. This is my only record of the species in the Park, although I looked carefully on many field trips for the bird.—RAYMOND J. FLEETWOOD, (Former Naturalist Assistant, Great Smoky Mountains National Park) Paducah, Ky.

THE REELFOOT CRANETOWN attracts more and more ornithologists each season and justly so, for it exhibits the most interesting aggregation of nesting birds in the Central South, if not in the entire Interior. A letter from Dr. Chas. Kendeigh states that he and Dr. Victor Shelford took classes from the University of Illinois to Reelfoot on March 26-29. Eighty-eight species of birds were listed including 2 Yellow-crowned Night Herons on a large pond within the wet forest near the Hickman Gun Club. Dr. C. F. Pickering of Clarksville and Dr. H. S. Vaughn of Nashville both visited the site with friends during April for the purpose of making movies. Mr. Karl Maslowski and two fellow bird students from Cincinnati will visit Cranetown in June as will Prof. Rudolf Bennitt and others from the University of

Missouri in July. Still other visitors were reported.

Some Cormorants were shot from the nests in 1936 by fishermen who thought they were thus conserving game fish in the Lake. Upon a protest being made by officers of the T. O. S. to the Tenn. Dept. of Fish and Game, orders were issued by Director Buntin that no gunfire was to be allowed in these nesting colonies in future. During June, 1936, Mr. Floyd Carpenter of Louisville found a pile of heron bones under the "Little Cranetown" which is situated at the upper end of the lake just within the Kentucky line. Being outside of our state, the Editor presented the situation to the U. S. Biological Survey and their Mr. W. E. Crouch has sent him the report of Mr. Robt. C. Souper, Game Management Agent of Henderson, Ky., dated May 31. The following quotations from Mr. Souper's report are of interest.

"On May 26, I went to Reelfoot Lake to investigate conditions in the heronies there. I first visited what is known as "Cranetown," on the west side of the lake and here I estimated there were at least 2000 nests. Of these about 50 per cent were of American Egrets, 20 per cent Cormorants, 15 per cent Blue Herons, 10 per cent Anhingas and 5 per cent Black-crowned Night Herons. In the smaller herony known as "Little Cranetown," located in Otter Basin a north arm of Reelfoot Lake that extends into Kentucky, I found 46 nests, 29 of these were of American Egrets, 16 were of Blue Herons and 1 of the Anhinga. Mr. Wm. Fraley and Mr. Dee Shaw both Tennessee Wardens, accompanied me on this investigation. We did not find a dead bird in either of the two rookeries. We made a check up on the fish that had been dropped by the birds while feeding their young. We identified one blue gill, one small cat fish and about thirty other fishes that were carp, skip jack and one or two drum. I spent one whole day talking to different guides and camp operators on different parts of the lake in regard to protection of these birds. I did not find any one that had ever known any herons or egrets to be shot on the lake or in these rookeries but I did find that in the summer of 1936, many Cormorants had been shot in 'Big Cranetown,' and supposedly been used for trot line bait. Many of the Cormorants I think were shot by parties who considered them very destructive to fish. . . . Through all the conversations with the guides and wardens on the lake I did not find anyone that seemed to hold the heron or egret accountable for any destruction of fish and I feel that these birds are getting good protection there but I did find one guide that said he had seen large droves of Cormorants in the fall that were very destructive to many varieties of fish. He said he had seen them come up with crappie in their bills and just cut them in two and would only eat half of it. . . . I explained to him that these fish eating birds always caught the weakest fish and the ones that were easiest to catch were probably afflicted with some disease and that the presence of these birds no doubt has kept off a pestilence among the fish on this lake. I also discussed these birds from this angle with everyone that I contacted."

Late records of Mourning Dove nests are being compiled for the use of the U. S. Biological Survey. Members who can furnish such data are requested to send it to Mrs. Amelia Laskey, Graybar Lane, Nashville.

THE MIGRANT

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

EDITORIAL CHAT

The Regional Wildlife Conference, scheduled for Nashville on July 14, 15 and 16, is a significant event. It will be addressed by conservation leaders of national reputation and be attended by hundreds from Tennessee and adjacent states. Birds will receive a generous share of attention on this program and it is encouraging to know that their worth from an aesthetic standpoint is growing steadily in the minds of the general public.

The steady development of wildwood parks thruout the country, brings from visitors to these areas a desire to become acquainted with the wildlife present and about the birds there centers the greatest of such interest. The article on the summer birds of Pickett Forest Park in this issue, will be reprinted for wider distribution. Reprints of the list of birds of Roan Mountain, published last year, are also available.

John James Audubon, more than any other naturalist, has captured the fancy of the reading public as witnessed by the fact that the fourth recent biography of him has just appeared. The author is Mr. Stanley C. Arthur of Louisiana, the publisher is Harmonson's of New Orleans and the price (edition limited) is five dollars. The Bayou Sara country of southern Louisiana was "home" to the colorful Audubon thru his happiest and most ornithologically productive years and Mr. Arthur has brought out these and many other details in a very thoro and entertaining manner. A big book, amply embellished with illustrations and well worth possessing.

The Editor again invites members to send in notes and articles for publication. If articles on the birds of your locality are not appearing in "The Migrant," it is probably because you have failed to contribute to its columns.

STATE OFFICERS: On the Annual Spring Field Day at Nashville, the following officers were elected for the year beginning July 1st. President, Merrill S. Carter, Nashville; Vice-pres. for East Tenn., Wm. M. Walker, Knoxville; Vice-pres. for Middle Tenn., Amelia R. Laskey, Nashville; Vice-pres. for West Tenn.; Ben B. Coffey, Memphis; Editor-Treasurer, Albert F. Ganier, Nashville, and Secretary, Harry C. Monk, No. 3108 Long Blvd., Nashville. Your officers will appreciate suggestions from members. Nominations for new members should be sent to the Secretary.

W. H. SEDBERRY

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and
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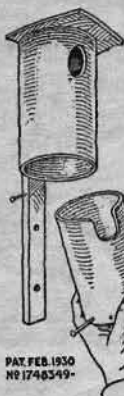
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