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THE MIGRANT

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PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS MAKE NEWS

Dr. Louis Leroy, one of our Memphis members, and a pair of Prothonotary Warblers were given over a half a column of newspaper space May 25. Dr. Leroy's picture was given but since Mr. and Mrs. P. Warbler were out when the newspaper photographer called, only their nesting site was pictured. The latter is reproduced herewith thru the courtesy of Mr. Eldon Roark and the Memphis Press-Scimitar. We quote below from Mr. Roark's 'STROLLING', a very popular and widely read column of interesting local happenings.

"The other Man of the Week is Dr. Louis Leroy, physician and surgeon, river sportsman.

"For the next few weeks Dr. Leroy will forego the pleasures of his cabin cruiser, the Gobbler Um, in order that some old friends of his may raise a family undisturbed.

"Last year, about this time, STROLLING printed an article about a pair of wild canaries— or prothonotary warblers, if you want to go ornithological that had slipped aboard Dr. Leroy's boat and built a nest in a granite pitcher up on a shelf behind the engine—a pitcher that the doctor used in priming his motor.

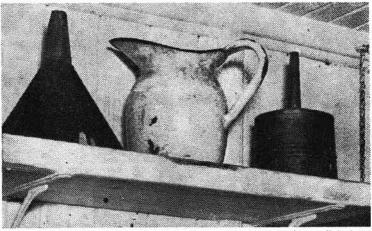
"Well, when their presence was discovered, that just about put an end to the Gobble Um's cruising for the time being. Those canaries coudn't be disturbed. And they hatched out four fine youngesters. They grew up and three of them got away to most successful solo flights. One little fellow, however, developed rudder trouble—or sump'n—and made a forced landing on Wolf River. For a few minutes it looked like the end for him, but some boys put out to the rescue in a skiff. After he dried out, he tried to solo again. That time he headed toward land instead of water—and had better luck.

"Anyway, you can guess what has happened, can't you? Yep, Mr. and Mrs. Wild Canary are back—and have built a nest in the same pitcher! It must be the same couple, for it isn't likely that two other canaries would pick out such a place for a nest. It's amazing that even one couple would make such a selection one time.

"The bird commonly called a wild canary is the goldfinch. But, as I say, these are prothonotary warblers, not goldfinches. They are found only along lakes and streams, and fishermen call them wild canaries. Their natural nesting place is in a hollow limb over water. "The warblers go to Central America—or below—for the winter, and return in the spring. So this couple came thousands of miles— flying without a radio beam or even a compass—and went right back to a pitcher on a shelf behind the engine in a small boat, tied up in Wolf River, Memphis, Tenn., U.S.A. And if that isn't navigating, what is it? Heck, when an aviator hops across the ocean, and, with aid of radio and all kinds of instruments, lands in the city he's aiming at, we say he is sho some flyer. Yet, I don't suppose these little prothonotary warblers think they're doing anything worthy of note.

"But getting back to Dr. Leroy: I say he is a good Man of the Week because he is going to let the Gobbler Um stay right where it is till those birds raise their family. To move the boat right now while Mrs. Warbler is laying, might frighten her away for good. After the young hatch, she won't be so easily frightened.

"If Dr. Leroy wants to breeze around in the river any soon, he'll do it in the outboard motor."



Courtesy of Press-Scimitar.

EDITOR'S NOTE: — The birds entered thru a back window, crossing a large room and passing thru a doorway into the engine room. The pitcher was located on a high shelf just under the ceiling, as shown in the picture above. The engine room has windows on two sides but the windows are normally kept closed.— The male was generally heard singing from the willows bordering Mud Island, across Wolf River from the cruiser and a long line of boat houses moored along the Memphis wharf. The river was full and at that point about 60 yards wide. The female was often seen flying back and forth. I did not have the opportunity to attempt banding the adult or the young warblers. Visits were as follows: May 23, nest completed; May 30, two eggs; June 4, 4 eggs; June 25, gone but reported to have left that morning.—For a bird so associated with our lakes and rivers it seems strange that it should, as often reported, nest in so many unusual places and near man. Several instances have been reported in our pages. This species will occupy bird houses and tin cans nailed up for its use.

THE BLACK VULTURE IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY BY H. O. TODD, JB.

During fifteen years of field work in Tennessee I have found the Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus atratus*) to be my favorite study. This bird is quite common in Rutherford County. Near my home there are three of their roosts, with as many as one hundred and fifty birds using one roost. The latter part of April, 1937, while looking for Vulture nests, I counted fifty-two in one small elm tree.

Here the nesting site of this Vulture is almost always a rocky crevice or a pocket under a large, shelving rock; for there are few hollow trees or logs left in this section. In the past three years, I have located forty nests and have found only three in trees. One of these three was in a tall beech in an opening twenty-five feet from the ground. Great Horned Owls used this nesting site in 1937. The second nest I found in a tree was in a leaning oak large enough for a man to go down into its hollow trunk; inside it the eggs were laid on the level with the ground. The third tree-nest was built in an oak about fifteen feet from the ground in a hole having a spongy mat of dead leaves for the eggs to rest on.

The earliest set of eggs I have noted was one of March 22; the latest set was of May 21. The last date was probably due to the first set being destroyed by some enemy.

I shall try to describe a few nests. The first was one in a large crevice twenty feet long, fifteen feet wide, and twelve feet deep.At one end the rocks formed a shelter for the eggs. On April 6, 1935 I found a set of two eggs in this hole. In this same hole on July 7, 1935 I found another set; one egg was in the process of hatching, the other was addled. I watched this nest very carefully, wishing to band the one bird; I banded it in August, 1935. Due to the depth of this crevice, though, the bird had to be full grown before he could leave it; hence it was eighty-one days after I had banded him before he quit the nest.

On March 27, 1936 I again looked into this nest site and observed one egg-I returned on March 30 and found two eggs where there had been only one. Trying an experiment, I collected these eggs to see how the nesting birds would react. Being in this neighborhood on April 24, I found another set of two eggs and collected them. I returned again on May 19 and I found two more eggs, both fresh, in the same nest. By this time the old bird would not leave but would remain nearby and watch me while I looked at her eggs. With this I ceased trying the patience of the Vultures; I decided to watch the newly laid eggs to learn the time of incubation. I saw one open in thirty-five days and the other in thirty-seven. I have a picture of one of the eggs after it had pipped and another of both birds three days old.



Another nest was on a rocky slope called Wolf Hill. The site was an unusual crevice seventy-five feet long, four feet wide, and six feet deep, broken in the middle by a pocket fifteen feet deep. I discovered a set of two eggs at each end of the crevice. One set was in the open except for a large, flat rock extending across the crevice about three and one-half feet above the eggs. On June 24 I found two Vultures four days old in this crevice. I made another trip on August 4 and took their pictures. They were at that time very hard to hold, and tried to bite me. When I returned August 23, I found both young perched on a large rock close to the nesting hole. When they saw me, they jumped for the nest; but I caught and banded them.

MURFREESBORO, TENN.

A BACK YARD THEATRE

BY JAMIE ROSS TIPPENS

Perhaps the chief attractions in our back yard are the bird baths. On the brow of a gentle slope in the side yard is a large umbrella-shaped plum tree under which our chairs are placed. From this 'private box' we look down upon a wide grassy plot with a background of many tall hackberry trees forming vistas of Gothic arches against the sky. Within this grassy space three bird baths are invitingly located, while further back in the rear a spring makes; a pool under a willow.

Water seems to attract birds, particularly running water. Often, in the afternoon on hot days I have fixed a spray and before I could get away from it the birds appeared. Cardinals, Robins, and Crested Flycatchers enjoy it. Once a Yellow-billed Cuckoo lay in a puddle and stretched his wings to the descending mist. A little White-eyed Vireo would come to the spray and after prolonged showers, would hop into the bath and take a real ducking, then jump out smartly and fluff up like a yellow ball.

One bath is' an up-ended old whisky barrel, the warped bottom of which forms a perfect basin. This place is preferred by Robins, Grackles, Towhees, and Blue Jays. Squirrels also visit it. I have watched many Robins, perched around the edge, several looking fiercely across at each other and snapping their beaks, Meanwhile another plopped down in the middle of the basin, and, with a look of utter satisfaction, had a regular orgy of bathing. Presently the others would start fluttering and dipping with occasional passes at each other. They seemed to have as much fun as a bunch of small boys in a swimming pool. When a Grackle or two appeared on the scene all the Robins left. I liked the way these lordly sleek black rascals walked with unhurried, stately tread around the edge of the bath, carrying their beaks pointed skyward, before they entered. They took very thorough baths, usually getting so wet they could hardly fly. There is something very satisfying about watching a Grackle bathe. The Towhees, seemed to be modest and in a great hurry, took a few quick dips and were gone before I ever had a chance to study their technique. The Blue Jays had a lot to say before they came down from the trees to drink and bathe. This they did with such gusto and abandon, they frequently spattered out so much water that I had to refill the bath after them. A Blue Jay bathing always reminds me of a glorified cornflower in the rain.

A concrete basin about two feet in diameter and on an 18-inch pedestal is located in the edge of a rock garden, under a little plum tree with another small tree partially screening it. There in this secluded spot the Maryland Yellow-throat, Yellow Warbler, White-eyed Vireo, Brown Thrasher, Mockingbird and Tufted Titmouse came to refresh themselves. This bath seemed to attract the shyer birds. A Catbird came here to drink and bathe at about two o'clock every afternoon in the summer. I have never been able to see a Titmouse bathe,—apparently this species is more shy than the others.

A third bath is another concrete basin only twelve inches across and placed flat on the ground. Each afternoon a family of Mourning Doves would come here to drink. I never saw them bathe. They would fly to a tree nearby and sit quietly for some time, then making up their minds that it was safe, they would fly down, walk around, look at the bath and surroundings carefully,-all preliminary to just taking a drink. This place attracted a Wood Pewee, but he would only sit on a dead limb high above the bath with his shoulders hunched up and look on.

The English Sparrows are the dirtiest, noisiest and most self-assertive things on the place. After dusting themselves in anything from dust to ashes they would congregate in one of the larger bird baths, splash out all of the water and leave such a mess that is was necessary to take a broom and clean up after them. The Mockingbird on the other hand is a dainty bather. He prefers a dripping faucet and a shallow pan and will wait around for some one to fix just the right sort of bath; meanwhile refusing to mix in with the tough sparrows or the other birds, but just let one of them approach his drip!

The best place to watch for migrants was at the willow-shaded spring. From under a rocky bank a trickle of water made a natural pool surrounded by mint and bergamot and somewhat encroached upon by water cress. Here was a seclusiveness that the wildest ones approached with confidence. Waxwings, Indigo Buntings (my husband called them "Blue Pops"), Warblers of all kinds, and Sparrows would come here in the evening about dusk. No other place would attract such a variety. It was here one afternoon that I was attracted by a bird indignation meeting. Jays, Grackles, some Redstarts and other little fellows were seated in the tree while the Mockers were darting down toward the spring. Examining the premises thru binoculars I finally made out a big grey cat hidden in the dry grass and bushes near the little pool. His color so blended and he was so still that only his eyes could be seen at first. My heart stood still,-the foolish birds were flying just above him and I felt sure that he would get one before I could get him. I ran to the house and got the little rifle. Laying it alongside a tree I centered it on his head and saw him give a quivering jerky lurch as the little ball took the interloper out of my bird theatre.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

BIRDS IN FLIGHT

BY BENJ R. WARRINER

Amateur bird students should not overlook the opportunities afforded them for better identification of the birds when the birds are on the wing. All of the various species exhibit certain peculiarities of flight. No two kinds react in exactly the same manner to the task of flying. These differences in some cases are very slight, and in other cases widely divergent. No doubt there are many factors that combined, result in a fixed type or style of flying for the members that compose a species. Length of tail as well as its shape, formation of wings, the bird's weight and size, length of neck, size of head, feet—all have a direct bearing on the matter of motion in the air.

When a bird is in flight his wings and tail are outspread and the general contour of his body is easily observed. Folded up, on the ground or in a bush or tree, a bird is one thing; in the air, unfolded, he is a creature of different shape, and he brings into play movements never seen by the observer at any other time. So, when the birds are flying the student may use to advantage these two identification aids: first, the peculiar motion of the bird; and second, the length and breadth of the bird's wings and tail and the general outline of the whole outstretched body.

Frequently it is only necessary for an ornithologist to get the merest passing glimpse of a bird high in the air in order to make sure identification. Color counts for nothing, for color at the time cannot be seen. He depends solely on some idiosyncrasy of motion, and of course on the bird's general size. For instance, the Blue Jay flies slowly and most laboriously. The air taxes his strength and forces him to make a display of his awkwardness. At the other extreme, the cooing Dove is the personification of grace. He flies high, wide, and fast. Approaching his resting place, frequently he swings in slow, easy beats through the last few yards; again, he comes into a tree under full speed and stops almost instantaneously.

The Shrike is another bird that makes a poor showing in the air. He is swift enough when darting down upon his prey, but he flies as though he were afraid he might fall. His whole body seems to be in a nervous kind of jerky motion. Most of the Woodpeckers, too, are awkward on the wing. Smooth and easy effort is lacking; they labor too much to qualify for an award for grace.

The Goldfinch, however, has a flight all his own. He dips up and down in long curve-like motions; and he calls in high-pitched voice all of the time he flies. I have strained my neck many a time looking skyward for an illusive Goldfinch that I could hear but could not see. The bird is a mere sprite and by flying high almost erases himself from view.

Meadowlarks have a habit of sailing through the air, especially when they are near the earth. They have learned how to set their wings and to coast effortless through space. Robins are things of exquisite beauty when high against a background of azure, early on a frosty morning when they are in flight from their roosting grounds to their feeding grounds for the day. Rays from the sun coming up beneath the birds fall upon their red breasts and turn them into splotches of flame. They whistle as they fly and beat their wings hurriedly, though rythmically.

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The Yellow-breasted Chat is the clown of the air. He flies with wings and feet flopping and dragging as though they were broken. He runs, skips, and jumps apparently all in one motion. His flight is short, and direct to a perch he returns before he gets fairly started. Cedar Waxwings nearly always go in droves; they fly in a compact body and light in the tree in the same formation. An individual sallies forth a few feet for a gnat; but when one bird leaves the perch for a distant goal, all the others go with him. The Flycatchers are easily identified by their habit of sailing out from a dead limb to snap-up a passing victim. They feed, it seems, almost exclusively from the air and rest on their perches between morsels. Yes, all of the birds have their own peculiar manner of flying. Their outstretched wings, their grace, their clumsiness, their speed, their labor, all are the greatest of helps to the student who would know the birds better.

CORINTH, MISS.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION By Dr. George R. Mayfield

For more than twenty years the Tennessee Ornithological Society has transacted business under the provisions of the constitution originally drafted by A. F. Ganier in 1915. In 1921 this constitution was revised to some extent but the changes were inconsequential. The expansion of the Society to a really state-wide status and the gift of \$500 to the old affiliated Tennessee Audubon Society gave rise to the hopes that Tennessee might some day have an organization like that of Massachusetts where the funds and the membership are sufficient to finance educational and sanctuary work and to realize worthwhile objectives. With this view in mind President Carter appointed a committee to revise our constitution early last fall and they have held several meetings in Nashville and corresponded with all the chapters with regard to proposed changes.

The adoption of this constitution at the Spring Field Day, May 15, now paves the way for the incorporation of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. Directors were chosen from the various chapters and from the State at large in the proportion of one director for each ten members and part thereof. No chapter, however large, may have more than five Directors, and this insures the right of the smaller Chapters to have a voice in the management of all affairs of said Society.

A most important meeting of the new directors was held at the field day with the usual good will and harmony prevailing. Judge Thomas H. Malone is now arranging for the proper incorporation of the Society under the laws of Tennessee governing such bodies.

Memberships are now classed as Active, Sustaining, Life, Honorary, Corresponding and Junior. This provision makes possible additional types of membership and encourages more generous contributions from those members able to do so and desirous of more adequately promoting bird study and bird conservation.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS:-Dr. C. L. Baker reported a Purple Martin at his box on Mar. 3, a day earlier than earliest date given in last issue. Mr. Guth banded two Martins at a T. O. S. meeting and the writer took them home for the night. Next morning pink celluloid bands were added and the birds were liberated at 7 o'clock. They circled about for two minutes with other Martins that appeared out of nowhere, then all vanished. The two were at Guth's box, 8½ miles south, in 25 minutes-Blue and Snow Geese were heard going over home at 11 and 11:15 P.M., March 12, and heard at 4:30 A.M., March 13, by the Allisons; all three flocks were small.-On May 29 a visit was made to Shelby Forest. A Broad-winged Hawk was seen in the vicinity of the old gravel pit. A few American Egrets were seen, flying singly over the wooded bottomlands towards the river. Northeast of the Forest a Grasshopper Sparrow was heard in a field of oats,-the same location as last June. Towards a nearby wood our first Mississippi Kite of the season passed over. On June 2, two Grasshopper Sparrows were heard near the Penal Farm but about 1/2 mile from the field where they were heard last July. There are similar likely places in the county but except for our one record inside the city, these two areas are the only places where we have found this species in the summer. It is a common transient near the Lakeview levee .-- The highway 'bar-pit' contained water one to three feet deep and Pied-billed Grebes nested there for the first time in three years. Six floating nests were located. On the field day, May 1. one set had hatched a few days previously. Another set was temporarily uncovered for all to see, the nest being about ten feet from dry land and easily visible thru the sparse cover of old weed stalks. A Least Bittern's nest with four eggs was also a special exhibit for those willing to wade a short distance. A King Rail's nest was found there May 8 but on the 14th the young were found to have left the nest about two days before .-- Young Rails crossing a highway near Millington, behind an adult bird, were reported during the last of April.-Least Terns, and up to four Black Terns, appeared on Wolf River, downtown, in mid-May. The Leasts became very common the first week in June and up to 120 were estimated there in a half-mile stretch .- Shorebirds were really scarce this spring,-only a few of the common species being seen. Lesser Yellowlegs were first seen about a month after the usual early arrival date. Suitable muddy margins were almost entirely lacking. The migration of Swallows also appeared light .-- Our first June record of a Towhee within 80 miles of Memphis was at Ellendale, almost 8 miles east of town, on June 5. At that time the bird sang at length but we were unable to locate it June 11 or June 26. The usual last date of departure is about May 8 .-- BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis.



THE SEASON AT CLARKSVILLE:-With the passing of Spring we look back on a season of rather irregular bird migration. The early travellers, probably led on by mild weather, came sooner than expected, but the later migrants did not follow their wing-beat. Purple Martins, early for the third consecutive year, came on March 12. They were seen that day flying to their boxes at two points 5 miles apart.-Some of the shore and water birds remained with us unusually late. On May 2 a Snow Goose stayed again a day or two with tame Geese, apparently friends made in April of the previous year; at least we like to think that it was the same bird, once more northward bound. Since two more birds of this species were seen April 10 on the Cumberland River, we feel that the occurrence of Snow Geese in spring as well as fall is not as rare as we formerly thought. Various species of Sandpipers (Spotted, Solitary, Least and Semi-palmated) were seen till May 19, as were also Semipalmated Plover and Coot. On the 18th Dr. Pickering, following up the report that a Coot had been seen on Big Beech Pond near town, visited this pond which has an unusually good shore line for 'peeps'. He found the Coot gone but encountered a Black-bellied Plover that was searching in the edge of the water for food. He studied the bird at length with 7-power glasses and compared it on the spot with illustrations. Although lame in one foot the bird otherwise proved in fine shape as it took off in fast flight when finally flushed intentionally. Another new species for our list was the Gambel's Sparrow, one of which was taken April 5 at a local banding station. Two weeks later the bird was again recorded.-Early in April W. M. Noland found a case of melanism in a Cardinal. With the exception of red beak and some red on the shoulders the bird was so dark that it had to be called black. A contrast to this "black Redbird" was a "white Blackbird" or albino Bronzed Grackle that appeared near one of our banding stations on June 16. It walked into a trap two days later and was banded and released. Albinism in this case was complete, all feathers being pure white and the feet, claws, and bill showing pink. The pupils were the typical dark pink while the iris showed the gray of that of the young bird.-ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville

NOTES FROM THE NASHVILLE AREA:-Cedar Waxwings were more abundant this spring than in many years, large flocks being present during April and May, feasting on the hackberries which in some other years have been stripped by Starlings and Robins .-- During a trip on the Tennessee River on March 20, the writer observed a Bald Eagle perched on a snag at a point 14 miles north-west of Guntersville; this date would indicate it as nesting nearby. The "pools" created by the new T. V. A. dams on this river, together with the heavily wooded mountain slopes adjacent, will doubtless cause a number of pairs of these fine birds to become permanent residents-A Duck Hawk's nest was reported in Falls Creek State Park in Van Buren Co., by G. R. Mayfield who with a group of T. O. S. members visited this area on June 13. The eyrie was on a ledge of Yellow Bluff, where one of these falcons had been observed at nesting time in a previous year. From across the canyon, three large young could be seen on the ledge where they were being fed by one of the parents. Henry O. Todd informs me that he visited a Duck Hawk's eyrie north of Chattanooga,-one not heretofore reported; the birds were present. This brings the number of Duck Hawks known by the writer to be nesting in Tennessee, up to 15 pair.- A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks took heavy toll of a

flock of Bob-whites that were being fed by B. H. Abernathy on his premises south of the city and he finally succeeded in killing both of the culprits with a rifle. One of them when examined by me was found to have had its thigh bone broken by an earlier shot but the member had healed straight tho encumbered by a large knot about the bone.--A new nesting locality of the Sharpshinned Hawk was discovered in a pine wood not far from Ashland City and on May 22 the nest of the pair was found containing 5 eggs, incubated about one week .- The King Rail has often been seen in previous years during May, in the river bottom marsh in North Nashville and believed to be nesting there. In this marsh, on May 21, I found a pair tending their week old young ones. One of them, black and the size of a baby chick, dived in the shallow water and held on to the grass roots until it was poked out after at least a minute's submergence .- Prothonotary Warblers often nest in queer places; at Sycamore, on May 15, the T. O. S. Field Day Group found a nest in an angle of the steel bridge, containing 4 eggs, hatching.-Blue Jays, which normally nest in a crotch against the trunk of a tree, had departed far from their custom in a nest found on May 22. They had chosen the rafter-plate at the corner of a high open hay shed and their four young were ready to fly. There were plenty of suitable trees all about.-Cliff Swallows were reported by S. A. Weakley as having arrived at Lock B and D, on the Cumberland, on April 13 and that they had at once started the construction of their nests under the lock wall.-Shorebirds are rarely recorded in numbers in spring near Nashville, due to the fact that most pond levels are up into the grassy borders so that no bare shoreline is exposed. A leak in the 2 acre Donelson pond however on May 15 had left a bare and muddy shore and here the writer and others recorded the following water birds: Green Heron 1, Semi-palmated Plover 1, Killdeer 3, Spotted Sandpiper 4, Solitary Sandpiper 2, Greater Yellowlegs 4, Lesser Yellowlegs 8, Pectoral Sandpiper 1, Least Sandpiper 6, Semi-palmated Sandpiper 4, and Black Tern 8. Of especial interest also, was a pair of Bobolinks, prospecting in the marsh grass at the pond-head.-The Annual Spring Field Day, held at the old Sycamore Powder Mills near Nashville on May 15 ,produced a record list of 118 species, seen there and enroute.-Warblers were unusually scarce during migration this year, there being nothing approaching a "wave" at any time .--The writer's third "expedition" to the Tennessee mountains, worked the Great Smokies from June 12 to 19 and with good weather, the 15 members of the party gathered considerable new information. Some of the results will be published in a future issue .-- ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville, Tenn.

THE SPOTTED SANDPIPER:—Alighting after a short, low flight, it first stands still, to look about, then making a deep bow to the spectator, you might feel complimented by the obeisance, did not the elevation of the rear extremity turned toward you the next minute imply a withering contempt. Bowing first toward you, then from you, the sandpiper resumes his own affairs, only asking that you go right on with yours. He rarely walks, but runs so fast his long little legs seem to stick out in front and behind him. When his interests bring him nearer you than he really wanted to get, he draws his head back down close between his shoulders,—RUNS past,—and without turning his head a fraction of an inch he gives you a look from the corner of his eye which plainly says, "I never met you, and hope I never shall".—MRS. M. L. HUGHES, Clarksville.

MIXED FLOCKS:-In our issue of Sept., 1937, appeared an article on this subject by Dr. Mayfield and in the October, 1937, issue of The Auk we find a review of an article pertaining to similar flocking habits of birds in Australia. The article appeared in The Emu V. 37 pp. 254-261, April, 1937, and the review is as follows: "These notes are interesting for comparison with similar habits in small insectivorous species from other lands. Just as in our northern woods, where Chickadees form the activating basis of miscellaneous flocks of warblers, nuthatches, small woodpeckers and kinglets in the autumn, so in Australia the Sittellas (nuthatches) provide leadership, and a mixed flock of various species of small birds troop from tree to tree, always with more or less calling which serves to keep the group together as well perhaps as to space the birds. The cause of such an association is not only the common desire for food at the given time, but no doubt a strong desire for a certain sociability is a chief factor in the cohesion of the group." The same article reviewed in Bird Banding, brings out the fact that "The feeding habits of the species showed no overlap, but there probably was disturbance of insects and hence help to each species by the rest. As the author quotes John Burroughs "Together they made a pretty thorough search,-fine, finer, finest"."-A. F. G.

CORINTH CHAT:-March 12 brought the season's first Purple Martin. Wood Thrush sang in creek bottom March 31, my earliest record of this minstrel. About April 1, American Goldfinches came to town in literal thousands. For two weeks they remained to arouse almost universal interest among citizens; they were the essence of happiness as they played in yards, along streets, on housetops, perched on electric wires, in trees everywhere. One woman went into her yard to dig up a bountiful crop of dandelions that had bloomed overnight. To her amazement the dandelions flew away, singing derisively but mischievously .-- April 3, I saw a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers building a nest 40 feet from ground in crotch of slender ironwood tree. Usually this species builds on a horizontal limb. Prairie Warbler in pine woods west of town; found this Warbler nesting last summer in north Georgia near Lookout Mountain. Audubon saw only one Chestnut-sided Warbler during all of his career. I added the fifth one to my list this spring.-April 24 found nest of Brown Thrashers in low thick shrub in farmyard, with four babies. More Kentucky Warblers this season than usual. One sang near me in woods and I detected notes very similar to certain parts of the song of Carolina Wren. Dickcissels plentiful in Cane Creek meadows 4 miles west .- May 6, I found 500 Bobolinks in blooming vetch field on edge of town. Again on May 8 found flock in another vetch patch. Males predominated No more beautiful sight than a flock of male Bobolinks sailing low over a lush meadow. As they fly they drop their legs straight down, as though too indolent to tuck them up.--Every now and then some bird not supposed to show up in a crowded town area drops down in my tiny backyard. A few days ago an Indigo Bunting came, a female Summer Tanager, a Yellow-breasted Chat and a Maryland Yellow-throat. Earlier in the season a Ruby-crowned Kinglet sang in a bush near my window, and a strange thrush, similar to a Veery, sang timidly in the rain while in thick foliage.-BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

A SCREECH OWL FISHERMAN:—On the night of April 27, 1938, while frog hunting on the Poorlands Valley section of Norris Lake, the boat was moving slowly along a rather bluff-like bank when I was startled by a splash at the lake margin about 20 feet away. Instantly spotting the source of the splash with my flashlight I saw a moving object on a rock some 3 feet above the recently disturbed surface of the lake. My paddler immediately asked me what the object was, but I was unable to answer for a few seconds until I finally saw that it was a Screech Owl (in the red phase) holding in its bill a struggling minnow. It gave the little Owl at first the appearance of having a long shiny bill and made it look most unusual.

I cannot claim that I saw the Owl fishing, but I did hear a splash just under the rock on which the bird was perched and the Owl certainly did have a small fish in its bill. The rock was almost over the water, but was much too far above the water for even a large fish to have jumped onto it. The Owl must certainly have taken the fish from the water.—JIM TRENT, JR., Knoxville

A STARLING ROOST:-The cedar thickets on the hills about 7 miles north of Murfreesboro, have been a favorite roosting place for Grackles, Crows, Cowbirds, Starlings and Robins for a number of years. In winters gone by, these roosts were raided by the natives with sticks, torches, and bags and many of the birds were taken to make 'pot-pie.' Mr. H. O. Todd of Murfreesboro reported on his Xmas census that the roosts were being used by thousands of Starlings; so on the evening of last Jan. 8. Mr. A. F. Ganier and the writer called by for him and made a visit to the roost. Our purpose was to catch and band as many of the birds as we could, for the cedars were low and the birds could be reached by hand. Unfortunately for our purpose, however, we found that raids for Starlings had been made a few nights before, with guns and sticks, and the flocks of birds which appeared, passed on to the west. By dusk, however, a flock of about 4000 had assembled and covered the limbs of a large bare tree like so many leaves. From here they made sorties for a roosting place, flying in rapid, compact flight, like a well drilled regiment of soldiers and making a very beautiful exhibition for us. They finally, at nearly dark, selected a large cedar tree that stood alone in a meadow and as they entered this tree it seemed impossible to us that such a cloud of birds could all find a place to perch upon its branches. When they had all settled, and it had become nearly dark, we walked about under the tree, listening to their mutterings and chatterings overhead but they did not elect to fly out even tho we could be plainly seen below.-ARTHUR MCMURBAY, Nashville.



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BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR 1937:—Papers and notes on Tennessee birds which have appeared in other journals during the past calendar year are briefly listed as follows: In *The Wilson Bulletin*: March, Vol. 49, pp. 15-16, "Further Notes On A Very Old Cardinal" by A. F. Ganier—A male Cardinal banded at the author's home, Feb. 12, 1924 and under observation from 1933 to date of writing, shows sign of age after the nesting season of 1936. A note added Feb. 15, 1937, states this bird was last seen Nov. 20, 1936.—In *Inland Bird Banding News*: December, Vol. 9, p. 9, "Report of Amelia R. Laskey, Councilor for Tennessee," includes some recovery records.—In *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science*: January, Vol. 12, pp. 114-128, "Summer Birds of Reelfoot Lake" by Wendell Whittemore. A list of 116 species, with notes, observed during twelve weeks of the summer of 1936. Miscellaneous items and an article by A. F. Ganier also appeared in *Tennessee Wildlife*.

MEETINGS

Notification of the following meeting dates have been received. CLARKS-VILLE: July 5, 19; Aug. 2, 16, 30; call or write to Alfred Clebsch who is secretary. MEMPHIS: Meetings will resume the third Monday in Sept. and are held at two week intervals except for holidays or in case of special programs. Sunday afternoon trips to Mud Lake are being planned for Mid-August and Mid-September. Mrs. T. I. Klyce, Raleigh, Tenn., is secretary.

ANNUAL T. O. S. MEETING:—Once again the picturesque setting of the old Powder Mill on Sycamore Creek near Ashland City became the scene of the annual meeting and spring field day of the T. O. S. On May 15 the Nashville chapter, following its custom, acted as host to the representatives that came from other parts of the state. Knoxville, Memphis, Columbia, Pulaski, Murfreesboro, and Clarksville were well accounted for. Out-of-state visitors included Mr. and Mrs. John Bamberg from Scottsboro, Ala., Dr. Gordon Wilson of Bowling Green, Ky. and Mr. Starr from Glasgow, Ky. A total of 77 attended. The new officers and directors (listed elsewhere) were elected and plans were laid for another year of growth and progress for our organization. The feeling of companionship was of the finest and the field work brought good results as listed in 'Nashville notes'.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Secty.-Treas.

OTHER FIELD DAYS:—The first spring field day of the Clarksville Chapter was held April 24 along Spring Creek near the state line. Messrs. Ganier, Vaughn, Robins, Rippey and McMurray from Nashville joined 11 members of the local chapter. 64 species of birds, including a number of first spring arrivals, were listed at the site. A Winter Wren and two Lincoln Sparrows, all identified by Mr. Ganier, were among the best finds.

The annual spring field day of the Memphis Chapter was held May 1 and, as usual, at Lakeview on the Miss. state line. The wooded bottomlands were flooded but a good list was secured on higher ground. Practically no shorebirds were recorded (nor at any time this season) and the list total was about 100. Over 80 attended and we were glad to have with us Mr. Carter, T. O. S. president, and three of his young proteges from Nashville; from Arkansas-Dr. W. H. Deaderick of Hot Springs, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Oldham of Crawfordsville, and Mr. C. M. Owens of Monticello; and from Rosedale, Miss., Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Vaiden, Sammy Ray, Bobby Linnell and two guests.

THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIBDS. PUBLISHED BY THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY. Editor, Ben B. Coffey, Jr., 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis. Secretary-Treasurer, Alfred Clebsch, 838 Gracey Ave.. Clarksville. Regional Editors: Albert F. Ganier, Nashville; Harry P. Ijams, Knoxville; Bruce P. Tyler, Johnson City; Alfred Clebsch, Clarksville. Business Manager, Vernon Sharp, Jr., 225 Capitol Blvd., Nashville. Dues for Active and Corresponding Members, \$1 per year, should be sent to the Sec.-Treas. Subscription price, 75 cents per year, free to members. Sustaining members, at \$5 per year, receive four extra copies mailed to addresses designated. Items for publication should be sent to the Editor. "The simple truth about birds is interesting enough, it is not necessary to go beyond it."

In the September issue we plan to tabulate for different points throughout Tennessee, lists of the most common summer residents. From the city chapters and older and more experienced observers we are asking for a list of the ten most common species in relative order. A brief statement as to the area for which the list applies (preferably an entire county or a large section of one) and the general type of country, should accompany the list. To our other members throughout the state I am personally requesting that you notice particularly the most common birds this summer in your community and send me such a list. If you desire, limit the list to five species. We should all "do it ourselves" if we expect results from any projects of the Society. Here is a chance to test our co-operative ability and also increase our list of contributors to *The Migrant*

It is suggested that you prepare such a list now. You'll change it several times before you send it in. Even than you'll not be sure of some of the rankings but do not let that deter you. Following the example of the Nashville Chapter about six years ago I prepared a list of 15 summer residents in order of abundance for Shelby County. Today I believe, any list I would prepare would probably differ at many points. But it's best to think it over and put it down for a starting point anyway.

Please send in these lists not later than Aug. 25. Receipt by Aug. 15 will save me writing you. All other copy should reach me not later than Sept. 10, except for seasonal notes, the earlier the better. At present our 'copy' file is practically exhausted. We hope to have 28 pages in September. So please send in feature articles and miscellaneous notes. The field of bird study is inexhaustible. There's time this summer for the preparation of much 'copy'. Perhaps there are some notes or data you may have put off preparing. It's your *Migrant*. Don't let that membership list frighten you. Remember we have a responsibility "to record and encourage the study of birds in our section."

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eatman. Har	ry, Route 1, Columbia	1934
umbro Mrs	J. W., 304 Haynes Street, Lewisburg.	1938
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	d, 838 Gracey Ave	
labeah Alfre	d, Jr., 838 Gracey Ave	1020
lobsoh Will	am A., 838 Gracey Ave	1026
lebsch, willi	and 828 Green Ave	1097
ebsen, Edwa	ard, 838 Gracey Ave	1020
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Burelbach, Major M. J., 510 West Fourth Street, Chattanooga	
Butts, Dr. Wilbur K., University of Chattanooga, Chattanooga	1933
Cahn, Dr. Alvin R., c/o T. V. A., Norris	1936
Counce, Howard, Counce, Hardin Co	
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Davis, Prof. George, Sta. A, State Teachers College, Murfreesboro	1931
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Driver, Russell B., 1706 Windsor Ave., Bristol	1933
Durand, Forrest V., c/o U. S. Soil Conservation Service, Springfield	1938
Dyer, Mrs. Minnie M., Byington	
Eagle, Mrs. John H., Sparta	1932
Endsley, Prof. J. R., Freed-Hardeman College, Henderson	1938
Fowler, E. P., Celina	
Fuller, Mrs. C. E., Fuller's Ridge, Route 6, Chattanooga.	1936
Hyder, A. E., 908 West Maple Street, Johnson City	
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Lyle, Robert B., W. Unaka Avenue, Johnson City	
Lyle, Robert B., W. Olaka Avenue, Johnson City	1007
Marsh, Albert J., c/o Soil Conservation Service, Humboldt	1937
Merritt, Dixon c/o Lebanon Democrat, Lebanon, FOUNDER	1915
Moorman, Miss Anne Armstrong, Somerville	
Morrison, W. P., Dickson	
Neal, Billy, Head Street, Paris	
Plummer, Cameron McR., c/o St. Catherine's, Bolivar	
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Smith, W. Fulton, c/o First National Bank, Bristol	
Stupka, Arthur, Great Smoky Mts. Nat. Park, Gatlinburg	
Tyler, Bruce P., 215 Unaka Ave. Johnson City	.1932
Todd, Henry O., Woodbury Pike, Murfreesboro 109.2. C. Juni: St.	1935
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Williams, Samuel M., Eagleville	.1937
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