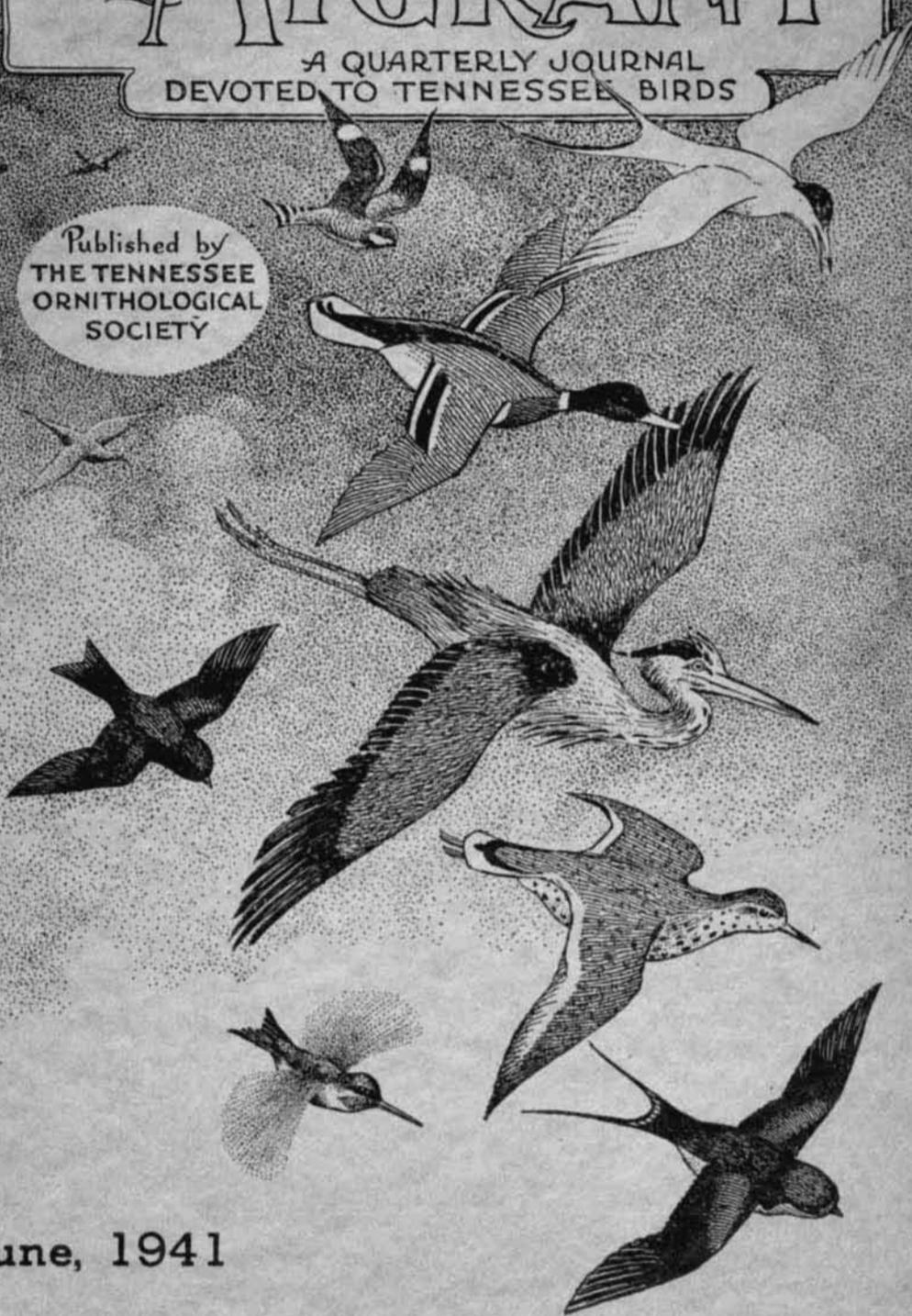


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The Cliff Swallows of Swallow Bluff

BY ALFRED CLERSCH

The Northern Cliff Swallow, *Petrochelidon albifrons albifrons*, appeals to us not only by being clad in quite a becoming contrast of colors, but draws our attention because of its peculiar nesting habits. The breeding range of this bird has its southwesterly limit in the southern part of our State, where the Tennessee River reenters it and then turns for the long northward sweep to the Ohio. There, in the southeast corner of Decatur County, Tennessee, on the left bank of the river, a settlement has existed for many years called Swallow Bluff Landing; good evidence that Swallows have been nesting at these river-bluffs since early times. Brief mention has been made of this colony in an illustrated article by A. F. Ganier and S. A. Weakley that appeared in *The Migrant* for June, 1936, to which the reader is referred for further details of the birds and their nests.

When Mr. Ganier invited me to visit the locality this spring for further studies, I accepted readily, and late in the afternoon of May 17, 1941, we arrived at the scene. The old settlement of Swallow Bluff Landing is small, and the passing of the steamboat days has taken away its prosperity. Now the Gilbertsville Dam project, which is to impound water for a distance of a hundred miles and thus reach up into that section, gives it hopes for a new lease on life. There is an old cotton gin, a tie yard, a store and a few old homes. All overlook from a moderately high bank the stately river, whose waters are usually mudstained, but due to an unusually dry spring, flowed past clear and smoothly at the time of our visit. The Tennessee comes here from due west, having completed a turn at Swallow Bluff Island, a mile and a half away.

Recognizing the bluff shown in *The Migrant* we walked along a ledge, impatiently watching for Cliff Swallows, but to our dismay only a few Rough-winged Swallows were coursing over the river. A Great Blue Heron winged his way towards the setting sun and we hoped for a swamp to explore and maybe a heronry, should the Swallows prove to be gone. But matters looked up when we learned that the birds had only moved their domicile upstream in recent years because they were driven away from the place where we stood by irresponsible people who had punched down many nests with poles in order to use the young for fish bait. Soon lodging was found and arrangements made to reach the new nesting site by boat the next morning. We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Newton J. Boggan whose help and hospitality contributed much to the success of our trip.

After a night when we were serenaded by Chuck-will's-widows and Night-hawks, a clear and bright day greeted us with the concert of many songsters. We had an excellent breakfast and embarked, equipped with anchor and chain, a six-foot step-ladder, camera, and other ornithological outfit. Mr. Boggan and his brother-in-law operated the outboard motorboat and to the side of this a flat-bottom skiff was tied for our later return. For a quarter of a mile the thin layers of the yellowish-gray limestone bluff forms a gentle arc under which the wash of the water has cut recesses ten or twelve feet in depth. The bluff rises at its highest point to about eighty feet above the water and in it was pointed out to us a large cave that is said to be inhabited by hundreds of bats. With the approach to Swallow Bluff Island the current became swift and we travelled inside the bend in the passage south of the island. This contains about fifty acres of tillable land and is augmented by the Dickey Towhead, a smaller island at the upper end, where about five acres were under cultivation. At low stage of water, only a long and straight gravel flat stretches between the two bodies of land, and ahead of them sprawls, fan-shaped, a broad expanse of gravel bar; thus the river is forced into narrowed channels on either side.

A few Sandpipers (Semipalmated, Spotted, and Solitary)—also a Semipalmated Plover—were in the waterweeds fringing the bars while in the air were many Cliff Swallows. Crossing over to the bluff side we shot into the swift and deep water, and here, under an overhang of better proportions than any we had seen, we found the nest colony of the Swallows. Its "ceiling" varied in height from ten to fourteen feet above the water. We counted roughly two hundred nests, so we estimated that from 350 to 500 birds were nesting there. In a wild swirl they rose, giving their harsh, yet not unpleasant little calls. After some pictures had been taken it became a problem to secure the boat in the swift running water for an examination of nests. Several attempts to use the anchor failed because the twelve-foot chain would not let it reach bottom. Finally, our boatmen succeeded in throwing the chain over a sharp projection of rock as the current carried us by and with a jerk the boat came to a stop. Thus secured, it was braced away from the cliff with an oar and with the water pressing against the other side, it could be held still and placed under the nests overhead. The two boats were now lashed together to increase their steadiness, the step-ladder was set up, and Mr. Ganier, by standing on the top rung, could reach the nests. They looked like little mud jugs with their sides welded to the flat stone ceiling and were built close together in irregular rows, often touching and even overlapping so that they shared common partition walls with their next-door neighbors.

Five nests that appeared to be completed were examined. Of these one held a full set of four eggs incubated about five days, one held an egg that was fresh, and another had three slightly incubated eggs; the other two were still empty. In the nests with three eggs Mr. Ganier found the two halves of a small mussel shell still held together by their hinge and they must have been thus when they were brought to the nest; the eggs lay in one of the halves. Weighing together .55 ounce and the weight of the bird being only, say, .75 ounce, it was a mystery how they came to be in the nest,

for such a heavy, bulky load would seem difficult for even so good a flyer as is this Swallow. The closed shell measured 1.5x1.3 inches. The other nests contained the usual amount of somewhat coarse bedding. Twenty-five or more of the nests were entirely complete and it was in these that the birds were already incubating eggs. These were last year's nests, for in their protected location they were not exposed to the rain, and the river had not risen to such a stage since last summer as to reach them. The river gauge at Johnsonville at the time of our visit was abnormally low for May, registering only 3.5 feet above low water. The great majority of the nests was still under construction and while we were busy with our investigations we noticed that the birds would all be away for a while and then come swarming in to go to their nests and with much clamor place their pellets regardless of our presence.

It was not long until this behaviour was more fully understood. Our observations here being completed our friends took us back to the other channel and left us at the south shore of the towhead. When we first passed there, the mud-gathering of the Swallows had presented such a curious spectacle that we were anxious to see more of it. Under this, the southern and higher bank of Dickey Towhead, backwash and eddy have formed a sediment of mud at the end of a little lagoon in the gravel bar. The towhead here is still crowned by a small grove of trees that hid for us the Swallows' travel to the nests, but there was much coming and going. At intervals with varying degree of regularity: While we watch from the bank a few Swallows are circling and cruising high. As others join them they drop lower; the more that come, the lower and wilder the circling. Maybe fifty, maybe a hundred are skimming close above the ground. Every moment we think they will alight but still they circle. Then, for an instant, just one bird drops and stands in the soft mud, wings held high. More drop down and presently there is a tangled clump of them. Only one small spot seems to have the mud in just the right condition, although we found some peckings under a sycamore bush that was struggling to hold out against the stream at the edge of the bar enclosing the mud bank. All the birds, as they scoop up the mud in their bills until a fat pellet fills their throats, hold their wings high, resembling the flock of butterflies that is feeding on a spot of mud not far away. The Swallows' feet are short and the sticky mud would doubtless soil their wings were they dragged through it. No bird is long on the ground; as some leave others still come. But the cluster thins out and then, of a sudden, there isn't a Swallow in sight. No doubt this times in with their periodic appearance at the nests. Both sexes take part in the mud-gathering, but if there is any preponderance of either sex, it is in favor of the males.

It is not yet certain what the Gilbertsville (Kentucky) Dam will do to the site now used by the Cliff Swallows. In all probability it will be set under water. This bluff, so fortunately situated for the Swallows, extends for less than a thousand feet. There are no bluffs facing the main body of the island, but farther downstream we noticed, on our leisurely way back to the Landing, two groups of nests placed much higher on the face of the rising cliff than the old site at the Landing and the present one across from

the head of the island, both of which are close to low stage of the river. These high groups of nests consisted of 25 to 35 each and were sufficiently sheltered to have been structures of a former year when an early summer rise may have driven the birds from their favorite spots to seek a higher site. There were no Cliff Swallows around them; however, at the second group, near the middle of the limestone arc, three pairs of Rough-winged Swallows were playing. One of them for a moment clung to the opening of one of the "mud-gourds", but it would be a risky guess to say that the Roughwings had become squatters in the homes built by the Cliff Swallows.

The place we visited holds other attractions for the bird student. Spotted Sandpipers may nest on the island, for we saw them there as well as up and down the river, and two of them in particular seemed to be paired. We saw a Red-shouldered Hawk go after a dead fish floating in the river and heard his calls later in the day. In a cypress swamp, a little inland from the bend above Swallow Bluff Island, we found a pair of Yellow-crowned Night Herons and, further on, a single one. They were without question nesting there. Off and on during the day an Osprey delighted our eye and just before coming ashore we saw his mate join him and the two went through some tumbling in the air, not far above the river's surface.

Speaking more generally, this section of our State has, in regard to its bird life, been explored but little and promises to reward the student who can find time to search its recesses. The landscape is charming and sufficient variety occurs in the terrain; furthermore, with the completion of the Gilbertsville Dam, changes affecting bird life will be wrought. The enormous expanse of inland water that is to be created, will attract species now strange to these parts. Unfortunately some of the present habitats, including some of the old cypress swamps, will be wiped out of existence, but new ones will arise along the shores, where island and marsh will be formed.

CLARKSVILLE, May, 1941.

Interesting Days on Reelfoot Lake

BY CHARLES F. PICKERING

Reelfoot Lake is always an interesting place to go to observe bird life and especially so during early summer migration. Knowing this to be true, Buddy Collier, Lamar Armstrong, and myself spent May 23 through May 27, 1941, at our club house on Blue Basin.

The afternoon of our first day was spent in boats on the basin to see what one could observe on the water, in the air, and at its edge where there is always saw-grass. Chief occupants of the air were Least Terns that reminded me of large white moths when they seem to stop motionless in the air and dropping suddenly head down for the small fish they feed on—and they rarely miss their target. Many Double-crested Cormorants were flying or perched on the dead snags. Very few Wood Ducks were seen. No Sora or Virginia Rails were seen, no Blue-winged Teal, no Osprey, Black-crowned Night Heron, or Gull. We did see the Bald Eagle perched high on a snag in the distance and knowing where he made his home, decided to visit him the next day.

On the 24th we crossed the basin, and leaving our boats at the Bluewing Club we started north on the old road in the direction of Walnut Log. It is just off this road, near Mud Basin, two miles south of Walnut Log, where the Eagle's nest has been in a tall cypress for a period of forty years, I am told on excellent authority.

On our start up this road we had, we believed, all necessary paraphernalia which included climbing irons, rope, both still and motion cameras, flash bulbs, snake dope, food, and another item which proved later to be quite valuable—a Cocker Spaniel. My dog would flush birds in the dense cane and thickets which we would not have seen otherwise.

Soon in our travel we heard the cry of a Red-shouldered Hawk and in a few minutes spotted his nest which contained three young. Buddy Collier climbed up, flushing them out and away. However, one of the young stopped on a limb in another tree close by. This tree was climbed, the hawk captured, carried in our arms the rest of the day, brought home, raised to maturity, and released recently in one of our favorite swamps near Clarksville.

Leaving the hawks and moving on we saw many of the common birds we felt we should find,—the Redstart being the most common in this thick shade area. Most of our friends were in full song and as we neared the big nest we heard the song of the Swainson's Warbler and I can assure you we felt that indeed we had found something. Stopping dead in our tracks the bird was quite close but not seen until I released my dog and he soon had two Swainson's on the move which were easily observed. From three to four were seen,—certainly two at the same time a little later on the ground. The magnificent Eagle was forgotten in our search for the nest of this little plain olive-brown warbler.

We three would spread out, move in a given direction through the very dense cane, meet in the distance, and start the same maneuver again. We hunted for several hours and our results were one uncompleted nest, torn shirts, and a determination to be on the grounds the next day and hunt some more.

We were there the next day and after hunting for about two hours, Buddy and Lamar found the completed nest. Its location was in such a very dense growth that the two boys were afraid to leave together for fear they couldn't find it again in their search for me—I had gone off in another direction. So Lamar stayed on location; Buddy tracked me down and soon we three were together again.

It was a typical Swainson's nest in dense cane—about three feet off the ground, but contained no eggs. The absence of eggs was a big disappointment, but we had found the nest. Clearing out just enough cane and briars, I set up my camera and made a number of exposures in black and white and in Kodachrome by means of flash bulbs. Pictures certainly could not have been made in any other way. I got good pictures in black and white and an excellent one in Kodachrome. As the day was drawing to a close and our time more or less limited, we decided to move on and soon realized we didn't quite know where we were, for in our eagerness we hadn't paid much attention to direction and had forgotten completely the Eagle. I climbed to the top of a sweet gum to check up and within forty feet was the big cypress with two immature Eagles perched out on the limbs. Foliage

was so thick that the two boys had to climb the tree one at a time to get the view. After locating this tree and seeing the Eagles we were soon on our return to the boats. We again heard and saw the warblers.

We spent May 26 in our boats on Blue Basin in search of the nests of the Least Bittern, Florida Gallinule, and Coot, along the grass. Several unfinished nests of the Gallinule were found and one complete nest containing five eggs of the Least Bittern, but no Rails were seen.

An interesting fact to me was that on May 12 to 15 of last year (1940) Song Sparrows were everywhere along the grass. Not a single one was seen or heard this trip. On these dates of last year Sora Rails were thick, a few Virginia Rails present. Sora and Virginia Rails had been so close to my boat that I had to remove my telescopic lens and use a one inch lens to photograph them. Also in 1940 several Ospreys were seen, Least Sandpipers, many Blue-winged Teals, a few American Bitterns, many Coots, Bank, Barn, Tree, and Rough-winged Swallows, Black-poll and Sycamore Warblers, several species of Gulls that I couldn't check and great flocks of Black Terns. Ten days later in May of this year, all of this was missing.

The morning of our last day was spent in "Crane Town" with Mr. Lem DeBerry as our guide. He knew the place quite well having visited it year after year. We checked by sight from two to three hundred nests and about five hundred birds consisting of American Egrets, Great Blue Herons, and Black-crowned Night Herons. Mr. DeBerry said he was convinced that we saw fewer nests and birds than he had ever seen and accounted for the fewer numbers by the fact that shooters had been to the area and killed out many of its occupants. This being the case, he said and we knew, that if this is kept up there will be no more "Crane Town" in the very near future. Let us hope that something can be done if this report is true.

If any reader of this article has never visited Reelfoot Lake—take a few days off and go for a visit you will never forget.

CLARKSVILLE, June, 1941.

HERON BANDING:—Memphis banders were able to visit a heronry below Greenville, Miss., on May 25 and June 8 and the heronry at Moon Lake on June 1. The latter contained chiefly Little Blue Herons and some Snowy Egrets. A few American Egrets were previously seen feeding at the lake's edge and one or two Anhingas and Black-crowned Night Herons soared over while we worked, but no nests were noted. At the other heronry the smaller birds were uncommon and the American Egret, the most common, about 50% reduced in numbers. This was probably due to a fire in 1937 which damaged the buttonbushes and other large shrubs. Each time we practically completed our banding by 11 A.M. The number of nestlings banded: Am. Egret, 1027; Little Blue Heron, 496; Anhinga, 144; Snowy Egret, 102; total, 1769.—A few Swifts were trapped June 6, 1941, at Palmer Hall, Southwestern. Five were new, eight were returns from 1940 (including a 1938 bird). We were not able to return later. There were no indications of nesting.—BEN COFFEY.

Symposium on Swainson's Warbler

THE SONG OF THE SWAINSON'S WARBLER

BY ALFRED CLEBSCH

The beautiful, yet simple phrase that is the song of our Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsoni*), would scarcely be attributed to this bird as performer, if the listener had to name it from the descriptions given in books commonly consulted by bird-students. As it is heard in Mark's Slough near Clarksville, at Reelfoot Lake, and I may assume, in other parts of Tennessee, the deliverance is at odds with the printed statements. Therefore, I feel that a report of the song we hear may aid in the discovery of this Warbler elsewhere in our State.

The song is a measure of four beats and resembles in its composition very much the well-known "sweet-sweet-sweeter than-sweet" of the Yellow Warbler, but is pronounced with full emphasis on each beat and without haste. As to quality, the Swainson's voice ranks, in my estimation, highest among the Warblers. It has the Louisiana Water-thrush's rich tone color as heard in the middle of that bird's wild stanza, but the Swainson's keeps this round and full quality throughout his rendition. In loudness only the Oven-bird among warblers may surpass it (making an exception of the Chat, a much larger bird), yet one must keep in mind that in the swamp habitat of our Warbler, sounds are deadened, whereas they ring out in the hilly home of the Oven-bird. Surely, the Swainson's Warbler's voice, rich and strong, carries well, and it is not at all hard to tell the direction whence it comes; nevertheless, the bird may become elusive when approached and so create the impression that his voice belies his whereabouts.

During courtship and near the nest the complete song is whistled, but when this Warbler is ranging for food, only snatches of it may be heard; again even these are easily recognized once the tone quality is learned. An elevation of about twenty feet is high for the Swainson's; still we may hear his performance, oft repeated, from such a perch on a lower limb of the swamp trees. Usually, however, he stays within six feet of the ground and feeds either on the ground or in shallow water. Thus engaged, or busy on the job of building the nest, the male occasionally bursts into song. The alarm call of this species is also quite distinctive. Its "chip", better translated as "tseep," is longer than expressions of this type used by other Warblers, and has the quality of a hiss.

So there is, after all, nothing difficult or puzzling in the utterances of the Swainson's Warbler. His voice may be the first to greet you on entering a thicket near a deep-shaded swamp; and if the bird has been heard, there is a fair chance to get a view, if instead of following and chasing, you let him tell you of his movements and give him time to show himself.

CLARKSVILLE, June, 1941.

SNAKE IN A SWAINSON'S WARBLER NEST

BY CLARENCE E. COLLIER, JR.

A pair of Swainson's Warblers were back at Mark's Slough, near Clarksville, on April 20 of this year, and on June 1 Dr. Chas. F. Pickering and I went there to look for the nest and to make pictures of it. We followed our custom of going in near the spring that feeds the swamp. Large trees darken the place and there is also enough undergrowth to fill the dwelling needs of these warblers. Our eyes still used to the brightness outside, we made out a bulky nest in a clump of stout canes. It was fastened to several stalks, below their leafy tops, and was a little over five feet from the ground. I was about to hold a mirror to let us see the inside, when a snake that lay coiled there, raised his head showing much white in a wide-open mouth. But instead of a cotton-mouth, as I feared at first,—they are common in the swamp and disposed to show their cotton-white gorge,—this was a milk snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*), only about 14 inches long. The white thing in his gaping jaws was a pure white egg of the Swainson's Warbler! The markings of this snake bear some likeness to that of the copperhead, so that I did not know I was dealing with a harmless kind when I tried to forestall the loss of the egg. As the snake drew his head back into the nest a quick wave of my arm made him turn loose the egg just before he straightened out and slithered to the ground. The egg was fresh and undamaged; we wiped the snake's spittle from it and left it in the nest. The snake showed no outward sign of having gulped any other eggs, but perhaps he had done so earlier and had already digested them.

Dr. Pickering got set to photograph the bird at the nest, but although she came close two times during the next hour and a half, she seemed too alarmed to settle down. Finally we had to let it go with an exposure to show the placement of the nest and the cane leaves used to the exclusion of all other as material on the outside. We left with hopes that matters would yet go well, but in vain. When we went back on June 8, the nest had been forsaken and still held only the one egg we had retrieved from the milk snake. The birds may have started all over, but we were unable to learn where they had rebuilt. This nest was located not far from the one found May 19, last year, and described in the December, 1940 *Migrant*. CLARKSVILLE, June, 1941.

NOTES ON THE SWAINSON'S WARBLER AT MEMPHIS

BY ROBERT TUCKER

On May 9, 1941, I found a Swainson's Warbler in Overton Park, located inside the city of Memphis, and it remained there throughout the months of May and June. It sang continuously and it is not known whether or not it nested, as all attempts to find the nest there failed. Good nesting conditions are available for the bird in the park as there is an excellent canebrake and also tangles and thickets.

On May 17, 1941, while at Wolf River just north of Memphis I heard and saw another of these Warblers. It was heard on every visit to the same place afterwards. On June 9 I decided to look for the nest, and following in

the direction of the song, found a large canebrake, which was unknown to me.

De Smith and I searched for about an hour and finally found an old nest in a small patch of cane. The nest was similar to the one found at Clarksville by Mr. Ganler (*Migrant*, 1940: 111-112). It was located about 3½ feet above the ground in the top of a clump of small cane. About twenty feet away in an identical position another nest was found. This nest was very old and was all but falling out of the cane. The canebrake was on low swampy ground and at one point touched on Wolf River.

On June 25, in a swampy area between North Horn Lake and Mud Lake, on the Tenn.-Miss. state line, just south of Memphis, no less than five Swainson's Warblers were heard singing. The different birds were on an average of about a half-mile apart. I made no attempt to find any nests.

I have as yet to find a Swainson's Warbler without hearing it sing first. Its song is a unique feature. It begins with three Water-thrush like notes going down the scale slightly, then comes a high note followed by two lower notes. It is a loud and beautiful song and carries a long distance. On timing the intervals between songs I found the time to range from 10 to 30 seconds, when the bird was unaware of my presence. When alarmed it sang every 5 seconds. The average time though was 13 seconds. MEMPHIS, June, 1941.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER NEAR JOHNSON CITY

By ALBERT E. HYDER

On June 8, 1941, a group of members of the Johnson City Chapter of the T.O.S. and a group of the Teachers' College Field Zoology class visited Rock Creek, Beauty Spot on the Unaka Mountain, and the Limestone Cove section, for the purpose of studying the bird life there. This group was composed of the following: Dr. James T. Tanner, Nancy Sheedy, Ann King, Elizabeth Dyer, Effie Gee, Bill Pearson and the writer. Tanner drove one car and took one group while Bill Pearson took the other. Tanner's party arrived at Rock Creek ahead of Pearson's and while waiting, Tanner positively identified a flock of Red Crossbills. I was with Pearson and by the time we got to Rock Creek the Crossbills were gone.

Shortly after my arrival, Tanner and I were sitting by the side of the road when we noticed a bird singing by a small creek across the road. We commented on the song and agreed that it sounded like a Louisiana Water-thrush. It sang again and I became suspicious and started stalking it. I got a fairly good look at its back and definitely decided from its song and actions that it was not a Water-thrush. It sang several times and then I came out of the undergrowth and asked Tanner what a Swainson's Warbler looked like and sounded like. He immediately remarked that he believed this bird to be a Swainson's, so we started to try and verify our beliefs. The bird would sing for a while, then quit, and, after being perfectly silent for a time, start singing in another place, usually at quite a distance. We stalked the bird for quite a while, without obtaining another view, and finally decided to go on to Beauty Spot and stop again at Rock Creek as we returned in the afternoon.

We followed this plan and when we returned, we found our bird in the same locality. This time we organized the group and started a systematic

search for our bird. We could get close, but our quarry would always manage to keep just a few bushes between us and him. Finally he flew out in the open and perched just a few feet in front of Dr. Tanner's eyes and sat there for several minutes. I was just back and to the left of Tanner and had some bushes between the bird and me, consequently, I only saw him as he flew. Dr. Tanner was positive that the bird was a Swainson's Warbler.

Later on in the afternoon as I returned home with Pearson's group, we heard another Swainson's Warbler in the Limestone Cove section. A Louisiana Water-thrush was singing just down the creek from this one and we had an excellent chance to compare the songs of the two birds.—JOHNSON CITY, June, 1941.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER IN THE MEMPHIS AREA

BY BEN COFFEY

Due to the unusual attention with which the Swainson's Warbler suddenly finds itself regarded, we exercise an editor's prerogative in having the last word on this species. In reviewing the record for this area we go back to the 'first word'—in *The Migrant* (June, 1931: 2) when we described the song as a "pretty liquid 'wee-er, wee-er chee-wee-er'." An infrequent variation of the last part as written in our note book was "chee-chee-wee-er". At that time we felt that the song might be easily confused with a variation given by the Hooded Warbler. But in the last two seasons since this species has become not uncommon, we believe that an inexperienced observer might pass it by more readily as a Louisiana Water-thrush. The latter's song is longer and has that wild beauty that sets it apart and near the top.

The first record for this area and for Tennessee was by S. N. Rhoads* who visited the state on a zoological field trip and spent part of his time near Raleigh. In the period from May 8 to May 14, 1895, he saw and heard several and collected two in the Wolf River bottoms eight miles northeast of Memphis. Ganler lists this data and his own record of September 17, 1914, a half-mile west of the Tennessee River near Johnsonville (*The Migrant*, 1934: 11-12); also our early records. This summary was a result of the recording (1934:1) of a nest with three eggs of this species taken May 21, 1902, one mile south of Athens by Richard Gettys.

There is a small cane patch in the southwest corner of the Overton Park woods and it was there that I heard and saw my first Swainson's Warbler on April 24, 1929. There was some question of a second singer on the 24th and 25th but on the 26th a second bird was found 90 yards from the first. In 1930 I found an individual there on April 20 and 27. A few evenings later I listened to it sing almost continuously for over twenty minutes. Familiarity with the song was to stand me in good stead nine years later but at the time it produced but two other records. Many a Hooded Warbler was chased down on the first part of a trip down the lower Y. & M. V. R.R. right-of-way on July 3, 1930, but subsequently a Swainson's was found in the thickets near a spring. On April 19, 1931, we found one in the Wolf River bottoms northeast of the Houston Levee Road (1931:6).

* Rhoads, S. N. 1895. Contributions to the Zoology of Tennessee. No. 2 Birds. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 463-501.

On June 22, 1939, while driving thru the Tombigbee bottoms south of Columbus, Miss., I heard this species on one of my 'listening' stops. It was recognized at once and verified by finding the singer a few feet from the road. I returned the next morning and found it and three others in a stretch of 2.5 miles. On June 24 I found one ten miles west of Columbus.

Further proof that this species was becoming more common (1940:48) arose the following year when one was reported north of Greenwood, Miss. on May 26, 1940, while in the Memphis area on April 28 three were found in the Loosahatchie bottoms at the bridge near Arlington and one at the Wolf River and Germantown Road. On a return visit to Arlington with Ganier, May 6, the birds were not found. This year the first one of the season was the Wolf-Germantown bird on April 19 while Tucker and I took time out on June 29 to find two at the Arlington site. On April 20 one was found near Five Points, Wolf River and the Macon Road. On April 27 one was found at Hack's Cross Road and Nonconnah Creek, south of Germantown, and one near Michigan City, Miss., Hwy. 5 and Wolf River. One was recorded at Lakeview on the Field Day (Horn Lake Creek, Tenn., May 11). Burdick reports one regularly at Kirby Road and Nonconnah Creek while Tucker describes above one north of town and five in the Mud Lake Area. Several observers have reported one in Overton Park which Tucker found for the census; the other recorded then was near the transmission tower in Ensley bottoms. On our Galloway-Stanton census, a cane patch in a woods just off Hwy. 70 yielded two adults and an immature out of the nest, plus a fourth bird.

Among the above 1941 records there are at least ten localities within Shelby County with one or more singers at each. The unusual increase in records can be attributed to one of three reasons: the species is becoming more common; observers becoming more familiar with song and habitat; hence more suitable localities visited. We are inclined to the first belief. Eugene Wallace reports that the species was common in migration at Baton Rouge and Tallulah, La. The writer has been familiar with the song since 1929-30 and readily recognized it in 1939. The cane patch at Overton Park is visited on every trip there, frequently in April and May. The Five Points, Lakeview, and Germantown localities have been visited often in the past as have many similar situations.—MEMPHIS, June, 1941.

ADDENDA

In addition to the Athens, Johnsonville, and Memphis Area records referred to, other published records for Tennessee are as follows:

Whittemore, Wendell L. 1937. Summer Birds of Reelfoot Lake. Jour. Tenn.

Acad. Sci. Vol. XII, p. 125. Recorded one July 14, 1936, upper end of Bayou du Chlen. Also a pair on May 2, 1936, near the Biological Station.

Ganier, A. F. 1940. Nesting of the Swainson's Warbler in Middle Tennessee. *The Migrant*, Vol. XI pp. 111-112. Two birds near Clarksville by Clebsch. April 28 to June 23, 1940. With nesting data and picture by Ganier.

Calhoun, John B. 1941. Notes on the Summer Birds of Hardeman and McNairy Counties. Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci. Vol. XVI, p. 306. Six birds recorded (first three collected) at widely scattered localities along the Hatchie River and Muddy Creek, in Hardeman County, July 29 to August 29, 1939. (Benj. R. Warriner mentions two near Corinth, Miss.—*The Migrant*, 1940: 37.) (See also Chas. F. Pickering's article, this issue—p. 25).

June Census

BY OUR MEMBERS

Patterned after our mid-winter census, this was the first of its kind during the summer season. While it did not prove as popular as the other event, now of twelve years standing, we believe it can be as valuable and as necessary. We will not repeat here our reasons as given in the March issue nor say at this time whether the project will be advocated next year. But the list itself should prove interesting in many points, even tho admittedly not representative of the state as a whole or for the localities worked. Such omissions as hawks, owls, and even vultures on several lists, and low numbers on other species, particularly those not roadside species, will be noted by experienced students of distribution. Yet the data presented gives a fair relative cross-section of our bird-life in southern West Tennessee, with two lists from Middle Tennessee, and one from East Tennessee. We want to thank those cooperating. We believe such a census will be of value in your area.

The total number of species listed for the state was 98 which includes 4 species not recorded in any individual area but rather seen enroute or on side trips. A list from the Gt. Smokies might have added about 20 other species. The largest single list was 72 from Memphis, the same as recorded last Christmas. More properly the list should be 71 summer residents, eliminating the Cormorant which nests in the state only at Reelfoot.

	Memphis May 30	Chickasaw Bluffs June 15	Galloway-Stanton June 29	Chickasaw Forest June 22	Savannah July 4	Craggie Hope July 6	Clarksville June 18	Greeneville June 7
Number of Species	72	55	58	58	51	56	45	50
Number of Individuals	1842	489	802	508	821	327	252	419
Number of Observers	3	5	2	5	1	9	2	1
Double-crested Cormorant	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Great Blue Heron .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
American Egret .....	.....	*2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Green Heron .....	.....	*2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Yellow-crowned Night Heron .....	.....	.....	1	4	2	.....	3	.....
Wood Duck .....	.....	.....	*1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Turkey Vulture .....	.....	6	25	10	8	4	2	10
Black Vulture	1	*2	13	1	.....	3	.....	7
Mississippi Kite	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cooper's Hawk .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....
Red-tailed Hawk .....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Red-shouldered Hawk .....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Broad-winged Hawk .....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	3	.....
Osprey .....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sparrow Hawk	2	*2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bob-white	32	9	12	19	14	3	3	6
King Rail .....	.....	.....	.....	*	.....	.....	.....	.....
Killdeer	7	2	8	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Woodcock .....	.....	.....	*1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Least Tern	10	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mourning Dove	27	18	14	11	57	3	4	10
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	14	8	4	7	2	5	5	3
Barn Owl .....	.....	*1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chuck-will's-widow	2	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	1
Nighthawk	9	.....	1	1	6	.....	.....	2
Chimney Swift	35	5	24	7	26	8	13	9
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	3	4	.....	1	.....	3	1	2
Belted Kingfisher	1	*1	.....	3	.....	.....	4	.....
Flicker	20	1	1	2	5	3	2	4
Pileated Woodpecker .....	.....	1	.....	2	.....	2	1	.....

(Cont.)

	Memphis May 30	Chickasaw Bluffs June 15	Galloway-Stanton June 29	Chickasaw Forest June 22	Savannah July 4	Craggie Hope July 6	Clarksville June 18	Greenville June 7
Red-bellied Woodpecker	9	2	2	4	3	3	1	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	18	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
Hairy Woodpecker	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
Downy Woodpecker	6	5	3	9	3	4	5	4
Kingbird	8	2	18	2	2	2	2	2
Crested Flycatcher	22	4	2	3	2	1	3	5
Phoebe	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acadian Flycatcher	4	1	2	6	2	5	2	2
Wood Pewee	21	13	10	21	19	6	2	4
Prairie Horned Lark	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rough-winged Swallow	11	23	1	11	1	1	4	4
Barn Swallow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Purple Martin	17	2	2	1	8	1	2	5
Blue Jay	79	20	42	14	17	9	5	5
Crow	23	20	16	10	13	6	6	6
Carolina Chickadee	11	11	3	21	15	15	9	6
Tufted Titmouse	16	8	6	21	15	8	10	6
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	2
Bewick's Wren	4	3	3	1	3	3	3	3
Carolina Wren	31	16	7	9	5	9	2	9
Mockingbird	68	10	65	1	14	2	2	2
Catbird	11	2	17	2	26	2	6	5
Brown Thrasher	27	2	6	3	5	4	4	3
Robin	208	* 6	19	4	35	1	4	6
Wood Thrush	52	10	6	7	46	25	13	8
Bluebird	2	6	18	18	2	12	8	8
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	* 2	1	11	2	8	8	5
Shrike	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Starling	14	* 2	2	1	110	1	108	1
White-eyed Vireo	13	1	7	11	5	10	5	4
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	1	3	17	1	3	2	2
Red-eyed Vireo	44	12	13	25	8	15	3	6
Warbling Vireo	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Black and White Warbler	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1
Prothonotary Warbler	8	6	1	1	1	1	14	1
Swainson's Warbler	2	1	4	1	1	1	1	1
Worm-eating Warbler	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Parula Warbler	1	3	1	12	1	1	6	2
Yellow Warbler	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sycamore Warbler	4	1	1	1	1	7	7	1
Pine Warbler	1	1	1	8	1	6	1	1
Prairie Warbler	1	1	1	13	1	3	1	1
La. Water-thrush	2	1	* 2	3	1	3	4	1
Kentucky Warbler	15	9	4	8	1	3	6	2
Md. Yellow-throat	92	28	42	11	24	10	11	10
Yellow-breasted Chat	41	18	18	11	4	6	5	2
Hooded Warbler	9	4	1	8	1	7	1	1
Redstart	14	2	6	1	1	2	1	1
English Sparrow	C	12	80	1	86	7	19	19
Meadowlark	159	11	61	1	22	1	13	13
Red-wing	42	2	25	8	6	1	14	1
Orchard Oriole	44	13	28	2	6	1	1	3
Baltimore Oriole	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bronzed Grackle	120	8	5	1	28	1	6	8
Cowbird	19	11	1	1	12	1	3	1
Scarlet Tanager	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1
Summer Tanager	17	17	6	36	19	5	2	3
Cardinal	83	34	43	9	27	12	16	21
Indigo Bunting	129	61	53	33	45	15	17	11
Painted Bunting	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dickcissel	104	* 3	7	1	1	1	1	1
Goldfinch	6	5	2	5	3	7	1	1
Towhee	1	1	1	1	6	12	2	5
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
Bachman's Sparrow	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chipping Sparrow	1	1	2	15	30	10	1	3
Field Sparrow	15	2	22	23	9	13	1	17
Song Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10

Not included in totals: * outside area. † previous day.
See also comments under following data.

MEMPHIS:—May 30, 7 to 6:30; sunny; temp. 75 to 88. Southern outskirts, from Airport to transmission tower at Miss. River in Ensley bottoms, incl. short walk to Nonconnah Creek and in Piney Woods; Riverside Park; wharf; N. 2nd. St.; Wolf River bottom NE of Payne Ave. (on foot). 40 miles by auto, 4 on foot. Also Overton Park lawn and Southwestern campus at 6:30 (160 Robins). Compiler alone. Also Robt. Tucker on foot 3:30 to 6:00, same park and campus (no duplicate records) and Joe Mason on foot 5:30 to 6:30 P.M. in vicinity of Mason's dairy, end of Walnut Grove Road. Most of Robins, Chickadees, and Titmice were in Overton Park. 81 Dickcissels in Ensley bottoms (as far as we went). The Cormorant was undoubtedly a straggler. Special localities visited for Prairie Horned Lark—Airport, one heard singing, others undoubtedly present; Barn Swallow—unsuccessful, the annual nesting site since 1936 (*The Migrant*, p. 69) was occupied May 11 but on the census an English Sparrow was perched on the nest when I investigated; Painted Bunting—five regular locations visited but faithful "6-C" was only one recorded.—Ben Coffey.—CHICKASAW BLUFFS NOS. 2 & 1:—June 15; sunny; temp. 71 to 81. Two groups a mile each on foot along Chickasaw Bluff No. 2, working from each end; state hwy. 59 from Richardson's Landing to Randolph to Burlison. Time 10 to 2:30. (Then outside census area to Covington to Henning and towards Fulton, account only bridge.) 5 mi. W of Fulton on road and two miles on foot along Chickasaw Bluff No. 1 with two parties but over same route. 20 miles by auto, not incl. retracing and detouring, and 6 on foot. Dickcissels at Hwy 51. Barn Owl was seen just before dusk, flying low across highway-street intersection in Covington. Chickasaw Bluff No. 2 was the site of a Bank Swallow colony reported by Audubon in 1820 (see *The Migrant*, 1940, p. 60.) Since Burt Monroe of the K.O.S. advised Mr. Ganier this species is now nesting at Henderson, Ky., we planned this trip to search for them. No current signs were observed but slim clues from residents make occasional check-ups advisable. The Barn Swallow was flying among a few Rough-wings at the base of Bluff No. 1.—Ben Coffey, Jr., John Pond, Demett Smith, Robt. Tucker (Memphis) and Albert F. Ganier (Nashville).—GALLAWAY-STANTON:—June 29, 6:20 to 1 and 5 to 6; sunny; temp. 79 to 92. Gallaway, on foot within 1 mi. E. of town, back roads to Hwy. 59, N. to Braden, Hwy. 70 to Mason, stopping at cane brake N. side, just W. of Tipton Co. line (4 Swallow's incl. 1 juvenal), NW to near Covington, SE via Tabernacle and Charleston to Stanton; evening, Hwy. 70, Stanton to Gallaway. 55 miles by auto, 4 on foot; observers together. A female Wood Duck and an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron seen in burnt-over Hatchie bottoms E. of Shepp, outside census area. Woodcock flushed in Loosahatchie bottoms, E. of Arlington, N. of Hwy. 70.—Ben Coffey, Jr. and Robt. Tucker.—CHICKASAW FOREST:—June 22, 5 to 11 and 4 to 6:30; sunny, temp. 74 to 96. Bethel Church, W. on Hwy. 100, then S. & W. to Lake La Joie, 3 mi. on foot around the lake, E. on Hwy. 100 to Lake Placid, S. along ridge thru oak-hickory-pine to Hwy. 105; (after trip to Henderson, Reagan, Saltillo, and return) back to Lake Placid and cabin area, then W. on Hwy. 100 to limits; only recreational and dam area visited at Lake Placid. About 30 mi. by auto, 3 on foot. Observers together. Absence of the Bachman's Sparrow was noteworthy, considering there were suitable areas. The Scarlet Tanager was recorded by

Alice Smith. Two King Rails were attempting to convoy 6 young (about 10-14 days of age) across Hwy. 100, 1 mi. E. of Henderson when we happened along. One young was banded. Other species not listed but recorded enroute to Saltillo were: Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Purple Martin, 7; Bewick's Wren, 2 records; Starling, 8; Prothonotary Warbler, 1; Bronzed Grackle, 1; also Towhee, 1, near Reagan. In the Forest itself we recorded 2 Parula Warblers in the willows at Lake La Joie the evening previous. Intensive field work from 5:30 to 7:30 on June 21 yielded about the same relative results as were obtained on the census.—Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coffey, Jr., Alice Smith, Robt. Tucker, and Ben Welch (Memphis) and Mrs. C. A. Barefield (Norfolk, Va.).

—SAVANNAH:—July 4, 12:50 to 5:30, ten miles on foot out Hwy. 69, return 1 mile; 6 to 6:20, town and ferry landing, 1 mile on foot. Heavy rains previous night, light rain in A.M., stopping at 12:50, occasional sprinkle and overcast most of afternoon; temp. 77. Since visit on March 26, 1933, first 5 miles well built-up, last section well wooded but practically all pine cut out. Some evidence of past fires. Listing of Red-eyes and Warblers below normal. Starlings were hunting a roost in town.—Ben Coffey, Jr.—CRAGGIE HOPE:—July 6, 8:30 to 4; part cloudy. Including Pine bluffs, valley of Turnbull River and Treanor farm. Cooper's Hawk nest held 3 young.—Catherine Anderson, John B. Calhoun, A. F. Ganier, Arthur McMurray, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Mayfield, Geo. Mayfield, Jr., Wm. Simpson, and W. R. Spofford (Nashville).—CLARKSVILLE:—June 19, 7:30 to 5:30; clear; temp. 70 to 75; west wind. From canoe only, Cumberland River—1 mi., Red River—1 mi., West Fork Creek—2 mi. A special search was made for nests with the following results: Green Heron, 2 (& 3 nestlings); Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 4; Acadian Flycatcher, 22 (& 12); Wood Thrush, 1; White-eyed Vireo, 1; Prothonotary Warbler, 3 (& 4); Cardinal, 10 (& 6); Indigo Bunting, 2 (& 4). Also 3 young Sparrow Hawks and 1 young Wood Duck were recorded. Nestlings and young not included in list.—Alfred Clebsch, Sr. and Clarence Coiler, Jr.—GREENEVILLE:—June 7, 6 to 10:30 and 2:45 to 6; clear; temp. 70 to 75. Reed farm along Roaring Fork Creek, Lick Creek, Bay's Mt.—Willie Ruth Reed.

THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA:—Field work by Burdick, Mason, Tucker, Welch, and others was actively undertaken this season. Our own early morning trips to Overton Park were almost back to normal, at least during most of the migrations, after a lapse during the past two years. After the Field Day on May 11 most of our work was done out of the immediate Memphis territory. A few items of interest on most of these trips will be found in comments accompanying census data elsewhere in this issue.—On March 24 Mrs. Coffey and I visited old Bry's airport and besides the 4 Upland Plovers which we had hoped to see we found a Golden Plover, the only one of the season. We were able to approach very closely in a car, using this method also in attempting to photograph the Uplands on later dates. Burdick visited the field early the next morning and saw the Golden and also a Short-eared Owl.

Mason failed to find the Plover a half-hour later. Six Uplands were there on April 6 and 10 and two on April 25—A Bachman's Sparrow was seen in Overton Park on April 3; it gave a "whisper song." The first Painted Bunting was heard early April 24 on the back of Coffey Grounds but it never returned. Three more were spotted incidentally the next day and the species continues to be not uncommon. Two were at Lakeview on the Field Day and a third south of the levee. 120 species were listed there. Swallows were almost absent, in contrast to the usual numbers skimming along the levee. A Mourning Warbler and 3 Wilson's Warblers (Burdick), 5 Northern Water-thrushes (B.C.) were seen and heard singing, an Osprey performed over the large 'bar-pit' for the benefit of the crowd, and a Florida Gallinule was found. Only one Sora was kicked-up, in line with a very marked scarcity of rails this spring. A male Hooded Merganser was flushed after a special search, Burdick and I having found a pair here on April 13. (On May 6, 1934, a female with 8 young about 4 weeks old were seen here.—*The Migrant*, 1934: 26). Due to an abnormally low stage in the Mississippi and a deficient rainfall Mud Lake was, for the first time in spring, presenting ideal conditions for shorebirds, being very shallow. On Mar. 30 Burdick, Mason, et al, recorded 20 L. Yellowlegs there; 600 on Apr. 6, and 223 on Apr. 13. A moderate number of ducks were there on Mar. 30 (999, 9 species); a smaller group on Apr. 6 (371, 10 species), including 50 Shovellers. On the 13th a Woodcock was seen. But by the 20th the river finally backed into the lake and kept the water's edge back into the willows. Burdick, Mason, and Welch watched 14 Miss. Kites along the levee there on May 15.—On Apr. 27 a trip was made just below the state line from Olive Branch east and back into La Grange. 2 Cape May Warblers were seen near the former. A wet weather pond on the Curtis farm east of Slayden yielded: Am. Bittern, 3; L. Yellowlegs, 17; Solitary Sandpiper, 5; Blue-winged Teal, 1. At 15 stops Bewick's Wrens were recorded, all near farm houses. A Phoebe was seen at each of two bridges in the Wolf River bottoms near Michigan City, Miss. A nest with 4 eggs was found at the south bridge. It was on a steel I-beam carrying a concrete road-bed. 48 miles from Memphis, the previous nearest was 112 miles—Eastport, Miss., at the Ala. line. Another Phoebe was found Apr. 20 on Shady Grove Road east of town and remained in the vicinity of a bridge a few days. It was in this area that Burdick recorded an Orange-crowned Warbler on Apr. 18, a Whip-poor-will on Apr. 20, and Mason a Worm-eating Warbler on Apr. 13. Burdick found 8 Golden-winged Warblers, April 28, and 2 Blue-headed Vireos on May 10 near his home on Stout Rd. and had a Whip-poor-will present Apr. 22-23-24. On May 20 he recorded 3 Philadelphia Vireos and a late Black-throated Green Warbler at Nonconah Creek and Kirby Road. Two Golden-wingeds were seen there May 3.—On May 17 we visited the field at Holly Springs, Miss. for Horned Larks and saw and heard 4. At Gum Pond, Tupelo, we saw 7 Black Terns, 14 L. Scaups (3 males) and 2 Blue-winged Teals. On the 18th we heard 2 Towhees singing near Burnsville, Miss.; this is a late date for transients and they might have been nesting.—Robt. Heard, Jr., of Memphis, reported seeing 200 White Pelicans swimming in Horseshoe Lake (Ark.) on June 18. He approached to within 75 feet. This evidently was an unusually early return or perhaps they were wandering non-breeding birds.—BEN COFFEY, Memphis.

MILAN AREA: First impressions based chiefly on casual observations during other work, very little actual field study; largely on Ordnance Plant site E of town and on motor trips to other parts of Gibson county; period March 25-July 20. Best Find: Horned Larks, 8 records, April 12 thru July 12, singing birds as late as June 23, over extensive open areas E of town to county line, both sides highway 104; group of 5, June 28, and 3, July 12; give every evidence of breeding. General Impression: Birds uniformly scarce thru out this section over the period, compared to personal experience at Nashville. Predominant bird voice of this countryside is the song of the Meadowlark. Blue Jay, Bewick's Wren, Red-wing, Kingbird, Orchard Oriole, and Flicker are more common than at home. Very few nests found; Mocker building April 26; Jay building April 12; Bewick's Wren on 5 eggs in a barn, May 30; Robin, 2 young ready to leave a nest, June 25; Dove about 5 feet up in old Cardinal nest in sapling. The two squabs left July 3, undisturbed by long line of workmen passing to time clocks twice daily. Starlings out of nests by May 1; definitely fewer than in middle Tennessee; about one pair per block in town, seldom seen in country.

Migration most disappointing, even in town's fine shade trees and shrubbery. Arrivals: Blue Jay, Apr. 10, flocks; Kingbird Apr. 12; Orchard Oriole, Apr. 16; Catbird, Apr. 18. Only one Baltimore Oriole, May 1; no nests noted in this section, altho looked for while trees were bare. Purple Finch, flock 12, Apr. 11; Yellow Warbler, Apr. 16, 17, 18, only; none breed (?). White-crowned Sparrows in song, last week of April; Solitary Sandpiper frequently noted Apr. 8 thru 27, countryside generally. White-eyed Vireo, Apr. 14 and 15, town shrubbery, no more until June 25 and still scarce and local. Swifts, none seen Apr. 5 on drive to Nashville; return on 7th showed a few over every town. During May Chuck-will's-widow sang much at night but seemed to stop entirely by mid-June. Phoebe noted at a few bridges Apr. 5 and 8, not followed up; Towhee common in suitable cover all about Milan and westward to Trenton, as well as N to Bradford. Prairie Warbler, one singing, bushy hillside 2 miles S of Bradford and same 4 miles S of McLemoresville, Carroll county, May 13. A fine male Barn Swallow May 30 near Milan. Following species surprisingly scarce: Crow, Shrike, hawks, vireos, Red-headed Woodpecker and Chat. Sparrow Hawks noted singly in three localities only; two fine Red-tails at Whitthorne, mid-July; no owls at all. Dickcissels few, only in bottom lands choked with Johnson grass; still in song July 22. Doves and Bob-whites present in considerable numbers throughout. Blackbird and Swift roosts already well underway.—HARRY C. MONK, 406 Avoca St., Nashville.

NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS

Murfreesboro:—H. O. Todd, Jr., pres.; Claude Shacklett, vice-pres.; Robert Duckworth, sec'y.; George Davis, member T. O. S. board of directors.

Nashville:—Dr. Walter M. Spofford, pres.; Edward Schreiber, vice-pres.; Mrs. B. H. Abernathy, sec.-treas.

Clarksville:—Dr. Chas. F. Pickering, pres.; Alfred Clebsch, sec.-treas.

Meeting dates of our local chapters remain as published in previous issues.

THE ROUND TABLE

MISSISSIPPI KITE AT NASHVILLE:—While in a golf tournament at Shelby Park, Nashville, I had the opportunity of watching a Mississippi Kite soaring overhead for about three minutes. The bird was at a height of about 200 feet and over the woods near the 17th tee. This was about 11:30 A.M. on June 12, 1941, the second day of a three day tournament. I was unable to keep a special lookout for it and did not see it again. I have seen this species often at Memphis.—AUSTIN BURDICK, JR., R. F. D., Germantown.

BALD EAGLE NOTES:—On Jan. 13, 1941, I took a boat trip on Reelfoot Lake from Samburg to Walnut Log and return. While going through Grassy Bend a few scattered Bald Eagles were noticed on the cypress trees. Upon returning through this area 10 Bald Eagles were counted—3 adults and 7 immatures. There was no mistake in this number for they flew from Grassy Bend to Horse Island in front of the boat. I was very much surprised and pleased to find such a relatively large number on Reelfoot Lake.—While making an evaluation survey of Open Lake on Jan. 28, 5 Bald Eagles were observed perched in the tops of the large cypress trees around the north and west side of the lake. During the survey we traveled by boat, which afforded an excellent opportunity to make a fairly close observation of the birds. There is no way of determining whether or not these are a part of the same birds that I observed on Reelfoot Lake several weeks before. It may also be interesting to note that literally hundreds of ducks were utilizing Open Lake. The greatest per cent of these were Lesser Scaups. Large numbers of Black Ducks, Canvas-backs, Ring-neckeds, and Teals were also observed.—On Dec. 11, 1940, I had the pleasure and privilege of banding an immature Bald Eagle. This eagle was captured near Covington by a group of coon hunters in the Mississippi River bottom. It was understood that these sportsmen surprised the bird while it was feeding on a young pig. It was captured and kept in captivity for several days by an individual who lives approximately 10 miles southeast of Covington. When the bird was banded, it appeared to be in perfectly good condition.—ALBERT J. MARSH, Dept. of Conservation, Nashville.

EDITOR'S NOTE:—These reports of Mr. Marsh are most encouraging. While it would be difficult to say what proportions of these were wintering birds and local residents, we can hope that our American Eagle is making a come-back here in the Mississippi Valley. Members of the T.O.S. would do well to spread the information that complete protection for the Bald Eagle was provided by an Act of Congress, signed by the President, June 16, 1940. This act provides that "persons taking, possessing, or dealing in Bald Eagles" will be subject to a fine of \$500, or up to six months' imprisonment, or both.

PIGEON HAWK AT MEMPHIS:—Our dairy is located about two miles east of the city limits. On Nov. 13, 1940, I saw a male of this species (*Falco c. columbarius*) perched on a fence post at our place. As I watched he caught an English Sparrow and flew thru an old barn nearby. The next time I saw him was on Nov. 24 when I was standing on a creek bank as he flew down the creek, passing within about 20 feet of me. I particularly noticed the broad tail bands and the blue-gray color of the upperparts. He flew fast and did not sail at all. On Nov. 29 Burdick was on one of his visits here and saw what was evidently the same individual. On Dec. 1 I saw the hawk coming thru the woods. The birds scattered immediately and a moment later he stopped in an elm near me. The distinctive markings were plainly visible. I crept up closer and studied him well before he took flight. Evidently he did not see me as he flew past me and again down the middle of the small creek or ditch nearby. Earlier that morning Mr. and Mrs. Coffey and Robt. Tucker joined Burdick and myself in an unsuccessful search for it.—**JOE MASON, JR., Memphis.**

SCARCITY OF RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS IN JOHNSON CITY:—For three successive summers, my mother and I have fed Hummingbirds by means of medicine vials holding sweetened water. On the open end of these vials we constructed imitation flower petals by using small wire and florist's foil in different colors. We have nineteen of these imitation flowers across the end of our front porch and every day, in past summers, we would have to refill these bottles at least once and on many days we had to fill them three times. We have seen as many as seven of these little mites at these feeders at one time. This season on April 20, one bird was seen feeding from our flower garden and there has not been another one seen there since, and this is being written on the twenty-second of July. We thought that perhaps the sweetened water had become sour and we cleaned the bottles out and filled them with a fresh mixture, all to no avail. There has been exactly one bird at those feeders since we put them up in the spring. I have seen very few Hummingbirds on my field trips this spring and summer, and this scarcity must have been caused by late cold snaps. I have noticed also that Red-eyed Vireos and Yellow Warblers and other small birds have not been as plentiful this year as in former years. I would be interested in hearing from other observers on this situation.—**ALBERT E. HYDER, Johnson City.**

CERULEAN WARBLERS SUMMERING NEAR MEMPHIS:—On June 25, 1941, while looking for birds with Norman P. Hill and Richard Bower down from Harvard University, I identified the first Cerulean Warblers (*Dendroica cerulea*) seen near Memphis during the summer months. They were in a heavily wooded area in the bottoms between North Horn Lake and Mud Lake. This is on the Tenn.-Miss. State line about 9 miles south of Memphis. The warblers were seen near a creek which runs through the woodland between the two lakes. The birds stayed about half way up in the larger trees. Three males and two females were seen and the males were heard singing often. About three of the birds were on the Tenn. side of the line. No doubt the warblers fly back and forth across the state line in their daily wanderings. There are many large trees such as Sycamore, Oak, and Gum which afforded ample nesting places for the birds. No nests were found although the warblers probably nest here.—**ROBERT TUCKER, Memphis.**

NESTING OF THE WORM-EATING WARBLER NEAR NASHVILLE:—

On June 1, 1941, I found a nest of this warbler containing 5 eggs with incubation 5 days advanced. Although this species occurs as a regular summer resident in the ravines of the Highland Rim about Nashville, its nest is difficult to find,—so much so in fact that the present record was my first. Its location was 12 miles N.W. of Nashville in a wooded ravine which opened into the valley of Marrowbone Creek. The nest was on the ground, about a third of the way up the steep hillside and 100 feet from the nearly dry creek-bed in the ravine below. The hillside was wooded with hardwoods under which was a scattered undergrowth and there was a thin growth of woodland plants on the ground.

The nest was tucked under a small drift of leaves that had lodged above the roots of growing plants and was readily seen at some distance as a round dark pocket under the leaves. There was no arching above of the nesting materials, as in the case of the Oven-bird, but the drift of leaves above it served the same purpose. The nest was a fairly compact affair, composed externally of tree leaves, some skeletonized and many with the stems on, and a few rootlets. It was thinly lined with the red flower stalks of the green moss that grew on the rocky outcrop in the gully below. The eggs were white, marked with small and medium specks of reddish brown sparsely distributed over the eggs except at the larger end where they were thickly clustered so as to form an ill-defined wreath. They most resemble those of the Kentucky Warbler but are smaller.

The nest was found by my flushing the bird at a distance of 7 feet as I slowly climbed the slope. She was abnormally agitated and nervous, the cause of which will be explained further on. The bird coasted down the slope 10 feet, fluttered on a yard further and came to a stop under some green leaves at the foot of a sapling. I stood watching her for several minutes and she did not move, the whole performance being abnormal for a warbler being flushed from its nest by a human being. Finally, I turned my head and located the nest opening on the slope above me and a foot below it, the cause for the bird's nervousness. There, with head extended and with its course laid directly toward the nest, was a box turtle. The warbler had heard the stealthy approach of the reptile and when flushed had become highly nervous from the strain.

Carrying the turtle away, I returned in an hour and found the parent sitting serenely. She permitted photographing at a distance of 3 feet and did not leave the nest until I had caressed her with a leaf-tipped switch. She then arose, glided 30 feet down the slope and on away into the woods below. As she sat upon the nest, her back and tail showed uniform green in color but her head was conspicuous with its six buffy yellow stripes separated by dark lines. The only previous nest record for Tennessee was of one found by E. McNish, 15 miles N.E. of the present location, and which on May 7, 1922, held 5 fresh eggs (see *Wilson Bul.*, 1933, 35: 55-56).—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville.

"WHISPER SONG" OF A PINE WARBLER: While collecting birds in the pine-palmetto barrens on June 12, 1941, about a mile northeast of Waycross, Ga., the writer heard a delicately varied but much suppressed song. Before long its owner was found to be a Pine Warbler (*Dendroica p. pinus*), working along

the boughs and among the needle clusters of a fair-sized long-leaf. Although the species was common in the vicinity, this bird's identity was made certain through 8x30 binoculars. The song recalled that of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and indeed was equal to the gnatcatcher's in quality and execution. It was repeated several times. Hence this "whisper song", barely audible, was superior in effect to the ordinary trill of this warbler.—A review of the literature on hand yields no instance of whisper-singing in this species. Chreswell Hunt, in his paper "The Pine Warbler's Song" (*Audubon Annual Bulletin*, No. 19: 5-7, 1928), writes considerably on the voice of this warbler but mentions nothing other than its "monotonous little trill."—Bird species known to sing in an undertone, from the personal observation of Mrs. F. C. Laskey, are listed in her article "Whisper Songs and Night Singing" (*Migrant*, 6: 1-2, 1935). Watchfulness for new records of this type of singing was thus encouraged.—ROBERT NORRIS, Tifton, Georgia.

HARRIS'S SPARROW IN SHELBY COUNTY:—On Dec. 28, 1939, when snow and ice covered the ground, I caught a peculiar looking sparrow among a group of 6 White-crowns and White-throats. While being removed from the trap he got away. On Jan. 2, 1940, I caught what was evidently this same individual again. He was banded at once and taken to the house for checking against descriptions and illustrations of sparrows. The bird was the size of a Fox Sparrow with a peculiar scaly head effect. His breast was spotted with black and his upperparts were light grayish brown. From these characteristics I identified him as an immature male Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). The bird was later shown to Burdick and to Coffey for confirmation. When released the next morning he pumped his tail in the fashion of a Song Sparrow and flew to the top of a bush 50 feet distant, from where he gave a note resembling that of the White-throated Sparrow. Three days later Burdick and I possibly saw him again. On Jan. 13 Coffey and party, including Albert F. Ganier of Nashville, made an unsuccessful search for him. A lookout has been kept for this species but no other records have materialized to date. Our dairy is located 2 miles east of the Memphis city limits.—JOE MASON, JR., Memphis.

NOTE:—This is the second Tennessee record for this species. On Dec. 10, 1933, Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey trapped and banded an immature male Harris's Sparrow as described in *The Auk* (April, 1934, 51, pp. 245-246) and mentioned in these pages (1934, p. 15).—EDITOR.

AN INVITATION:—Mud Lake, near Memphis, promises to be attractive to shore birds and herons this season, about Labor Day and the week-ends following in September. Come down and let's look for Egrets, Wood Ibises, etc. See past September issues for possibilities. We will keep 'tab' on water level and birds present; therefore can advise you of conditions if you write us. There was no 'field week' of the T.O.S. this summer.—B.C.

List of New Members

NASHVILLE CHAPTER

- Miss Mildred Berry, 41 Polk Apts.
Miss Ruth Bonner, 2802 Brightwood.
Miss Ruby Hoke, 106 Kenner Ave.
Mrs. Fergus Somerville, 'Duncana', Route 1, Madison, Tenn.
Miss Elizabeth Stickney, 306 22nd Ave. N.
Mrs. Frank Winkler, Woodlawn Drive.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER

- Dr. Walter L. Baker, 767 West Drive.
Mrs. H. L. Frantz, 638 Hollywood.
Mrs. John E. Hooper, 3151 Douglass.
Ralph B. Humphreys, 858 Trigg.
Miss Pauline James, 588 Houston.
Mrs. T. I. Klyce, Box 25, Raleigh, Tenn.
A. R. Moser, 3051 Chisca.
Miss Alice M. Seay, 2175 Poplar, Apt. 27.
Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Seffens, 2400 Autumn.
Miss Marion Van Dyke, 2023 Union.
Brother I. Vincent, Christian Brothers College.
Neil Wyatt, 840 Greer.

KNOXVILLE CHAPTER

- Miss Mary Beard, 406 E. 5th Ave.
Miss Gennie Kent, Lancaster Drive.
Mrs. C. Eggert Sanders, 'Greenacres' Holston Hills, Route 6.
Dale W. Yambert, 203 Templeton Ave., Fountain City, Tenn.

DICKSON CHAPTER

- Mrs. Hugh T. Wynns, Wynwood, W. College St.

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

- Henry O. Todd, Jr., 106 E. Main St. (Inadvertently omitted from last regular list.)
Bose Buchanon, State Teachers Coll.
Carswell Hind, Greystone, Route 3.
Claude Shacklett.
Bob Thompson, 1107 Eaton St.
Jimmy White, 441 Phillips St., Dyersburg, Tenn.

JOHNSON CITY CHAPTER

- H. B. Miller, 417 W. Maple.
Mrs. H. B. Miller, 417 W. Maple.
W. F. Pearson, c/o Tennessee Eastman, Kingsport, Tenn.
Mrs. J. L. Skelton, 211 E. Watauga Ave.
Dr. James T. Tanner, State Teachers College.

TENNESSEE AT LARGE

- Miser R. Richmond, 207 N. Jackson St., Athens, Tenn.
Mrs. G. V. Whitener, 44 Williamson St., Milan.
Dr. M. C. Woods, Paris, Tenn.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

- Dr. Arthur A. Allen, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, N.Y.
 John Bamberg, 202 Michigan Ave., Mobile, Alabama. (1929)
 Miss Margaret C. Edwards, 99 Lothrop Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.
 George Seth Guion, 1701 American Bank Bldg., New Orleans, La.
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 Dr. Harold C. Jones, Berry College, Mount Berry, Ga.
 Miss Margaret R. Knox, 4030 Park Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.
 John B. Loefer, 28 Chestnut St., Berea, Ky.
 Miss Blanche Nelson, Robbinsville, N. C.
 Robert Norris, 302 W. Cypress St., Fitzgerald, Ga.

With Our Members

Within a June week Franklin McCamey, Jr. (late of Memphis) received his M.S. from the Yale School of Forestry, was married to Miss Virginia Taber of Lakeville, Conn., and joined the staff of the New England Museum of Natural History. Last summer Franklin was nature study counselor for a group of camps near Boston, serving under the supervision of the Museum. With two assistants he is handling a similar assignment this season and has become permanently connected with the Museum as an educational assistant.

Eugene Wallace—we are afraid, also late of Memphis—received his B.S. in forestry from L.S.U. and went to work at once for the Louisiana Dept. of Conservation as field biologist. Gene is now at Ruston, La. and is engaged in a quail study project. L.S.U. will, however, have to put up with another Memphis T.O.S. member for four more years as Austin Burdick, Jr. is planning to enter there this fall. Joe Mason plans to matriculate at the Texas School of Mines.

FLASH!—A new member arrived July 8, 1941, at Knoxville—William Massie Walker, III. Congratulations to recent past-president Bill and the Mrs.

Review

A FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN BIRDS, by Roger Tory Peterson (Houghton Mifflin Company, 1941; pp. 1-240, 46 plates; price \$2.75).

This is not a western state but T.O.S. members will welcome this handbook patterned after the author's famous "Field Guide" widely used by all bird students interested in the birdlife from the Rockies east. Together the two cover the entire country. The new guide will be useful in the case of accidental stragglers from the West. More particularly it is the aid that many of our members have wished for on trips thru the West. It will add to the enjoyment and interest of such a journey. Now that we have our copy all we need is a western trip. Robt. Tucker saw the book and bemoaned the fact he didn't have it last year on a journey to the coast. A few weeks later the Tuckers were headed for Yellowstone. The American Ornithologists Union meets in Denver, September 1-4,—a good chance for such a trip and to get together with others of similar interest.

May we suggest that those of our members who do not yet have the eastern "Field Guide to the Birds" secure a copy. We know you will get a lot more out of your interest in birds in yard, park, woods, and field, if you use this easy aid to knowing your bird neighbors personally by name. Both the guides can be secured from the Methodist Publishing House, 810 Broadway, Nashville (see inside front cover).—B. C.

THE MIGRANT

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it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

PLEASE NOTIFY THE SECRETARY OF A CHANGE IN ADDRESS

TO YOU

Your editor has been unable to compose, reproduce, and mail letters to you on one or two matters deserving such attention. In using this page as a personal letter to you, he asks your indulgence and attention.

Thru the generosity and good will of Dr. S. T. Rucker, of Memphis, who contributed \$20 to *The Migrant*, subscriptions for 1941 were entered for a number of libraries, Junior colleges, and schools in our state. This is notification to any such institution that receives a marked copy. We hope that there will be some that thru these pages will share with Dr. Rucker and all our members, a love and appreciation of the birds about us. For many years Dr. Rucker's own beautiful grounds near Memphis formed an ideal and purposeful wildlife sanctuary.

A start on this issue was not undertaken until after July 6. Frankly, we planned to go afield on our week-ends this May and June and we stuck to our schedule even when we found our evenings unavailable for these pages. On July 6 we had copy for about six pages. We appreciate the response to our S.O.S. and feel that our contributors have again given you a fine issue. But we are asking that more of you send in articles and notes. We particularly want short notes from all over the state. Frankly, we are disappointed in not being able to have a seasonal resume from key areas in every issue. Supply the regional editor with your field notes. He won't use them in their entirety but he will be able to give a better picture or at least the highlights of the field work in your area. Some of you might be able to take over the assignment in order to share the responsibility.

Perusal of past issues will give an idea of the style and the kind of material. Doubtful records should never appear in print, unusual ones should have details. If the notes can be typed, please double space. Do not hold back if all you have a chance to do is to scribble a few rough notes. Just give us some time on them. NOW—please send all material on hand as soon as possible, and all seasonable material before September 5.

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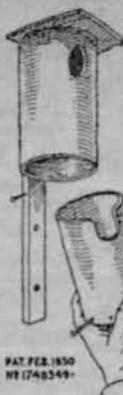
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ONE LESS HAWK:—My friend gave me this tale the other day, and thinking so well of it, I pass it on to our bird folk. Being a fancier of chickens, my friend had accumulated flocks of several varieties, among them a pen of game chickens, comprising one cock and six hens. Due to her venomous nature one of these hens was named 'Jezebel'. Jezebel was always starting a fight with one of the other hens of the group, and at such times the cock would rush between the two and seemed to say "now you girls quit your fighting," whereupon the disagreement would cease, but always with a look of dissatisfaction on the part of Jezebel.—Last spring Jezebel brought off six youngsters, and when fully half grown a Red-tailed Hawk lit among them for ominous reasons. Jezebel met the Hawk head on, and being endowed with unusual spurs for a hen, put up a winning fight. Viewing this thus far from the house, my friend decided he had better go out to see that the Hawk did no damage, which was wholly unnecessary, for by the time he reached the scene, Jezebel was on top of the Hawk pecking and beating with her wings until the Hawk seemed to be thoroughly subdued. When the smoke of battle cleared away, the Hawk was seen to have a broken wing and the head was so battered that it was thought best to dispose of it.—H. S. VAUGHN, Nashville.

—oOo—

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