

# THE MIGRANT

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DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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Photographed from life in northeast Louisiana by Dr. Arthur A. Allen

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## HOW BIRDS SPEND THEIR WINTER NIGHTS

A SYMPOSIUM BY T. O. S. MEMBERS

In mid-winter, birds spend more than half of their time at roost. During this time they gather no food but must retain a bodily warmth considerably greater than that of humans. When we consider our own dry and heated habitations and provisions for a warm night's sleep, we wonder unendingly how such small and fragile creatures as birds can live the long, cold nights thru when hard rains, sleet and bitter north winds add to their discomfort and peril. Little specific data has been published on this subject, so a symposium was called for and what may be regarded as a first installment is given below. A good deal has been made known of the communal roosts of gregarious species, such as those of the Grackles, Robins Swifts etc., and to keep this article to its assigned length, reports on these have been deferred to a future issue.—EDITOR.

By SCOTT HUTCHISON, Memphis, Tenn.—The following observations have been made about my home in the suburbs. A female Flicker sleeps in my 30 room Martin box, using a front room, on the first floor on the east side. A male Flicker roosts in a one room box about 150 feet away. This box was designed for Crested Flycatchers and the Flicker enlarged the hole to accommodate his greater size.—In February, 1942, I often heard the lusty call of a Carolina Wren just after daylight and in the late afternoon about 30 minutes before dark. On several afternoons I watched in order to locate the bird's roosting place but was unsuccessful. One evening as I watched the songster, he suddenly flew toward the ground and darted thru a latticed fence. Just beyond, an old grey shirt hung on a clothes line just under the roof of the garage. It had hung there sometime and a sleeve thrown over the line formed a pocket of its upper half. I brushed by this as I passed and out flew my Wren. From a nearby hiding place, I saw the bird return and dart into the sleeve. This roost continued to be used for nearly two months and on occasions I visited the sleeper at night and, observing with a shielded flashlight, found him fast asleep with his head behind a wing and his tail always toward the opening.—A male and a female Cardinal sleep in the shrubs on the east side of the house. A Mockingbird drove them away from a privet hedge on the west side, presumably because there were berries there.—Two Starlings were roosting in February in another, smaller, Martin box but their occupancy was irregular. One was seen carrying leaves into a box, the first of February. I suppose this was nesting material, rather than "bedding."

By ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville, Tenn.:—Many of our small winter birds seek the protection of honeysuckle (*lonicera*) and other evergreen thickets when darkness falls. They fly towards them in short dashes and their movements show wariness. Towhees and Cardinals turn in early, White-throats, Song and Swamp Sparrows follow, while the Chickadees linger awhile. But it isn't long before the feeding grounds are still and from the vine-covered slopes come bed-time calls from one bird to another. I visited such roosting place one night after a winter census. My dog, "Pal," was prowling through the honeysuckle and aroused one of the sleepers, but suddenly he came cowering to my side. I looked up and saw a Barred Owl glide toward us noiselessly. Then in the moonlight the Owl must have caught sight of us. He veered off and strong beats of his wings sent him away.—We wonder what other birds do on winter nights and catch but few glimpses. Late one November afternoon when a raw chill wind struck out of the west I flushed a Bluebird from a Robin's nest up in a medium sized maple tree. The wind ruffled his feathers badly and while I was watching he returned and settled back into the nest. Sometimes we may read the signs and guess what happened. After the cold weather in January, 1940, I found droppings in a number of old nests and concluded they must have given shelter to some winged travellers. That year I saw places where Horned Larks and Longspurs had roosted on the ground in the scant protection of frozen clods among the rubbish of disked cornstalks.—Of man-made structures, the iron trusswork of bridges and water-tanks has come to my notice as the resting place chosen by Flickers. Walking home in pouring rain from our last winter census I scared out two of them in the middle of the afternoon from the steel span across McAdoo Creek and near my home is a water tank in whose supports I have also found Flickers roosting in sheltered niches.

By AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville, Tenn.—An article "Where Wild Birds Sleep" by S. F. Aaron (*Dearborn Independent* 1927), in which the author described his patient search for the roosting places of many species, his success in many cases and complete bafflement in others, aroused my interest in this phase of bird life. I began keeping notes on my own observations. Aside from the numerous roosts of Crows and the mixed flocks of Grackles, Starlings, Redwings, Rusty Blackbirds, Martins, and Robins at various locations, the greater part of my data was obtained about my home.—Mourning Doves go to roost about dusk. A magnolia tree was often used, particularly in February and March. Two birds frequently wished to use it but one would finally leave for other quarters. Tall privet was used and later in the season, deciduous growth shrubbery, hackberry and catalpa trees.—Cedar Waxwings in flocks of 10-30 have been found in a spruce tree, a magnolia, tall lilac bushes, plum thicket and among the brown dried leaves still clinging to the lower branches of the pin oak in very early spring. The lilacs and plum trees were used in late spring. They too often go to roost early; April 18, 1942 at 6:40 P. M. when the sun was still high in the west, I was startled by the explosive flight of a flock from a plum thicket that I had not seen as I approached.—In April 1942 I banded an ingenious pair of Carolina Wrens that Francis Lawrence had discovered one night in his garage when his car lights revealed two little tails protruding from a fold of an old portiere hanging there.—

Mockingbirds often enter buildings for protection from the cold. I have records for a mated pair going into a garage but using separate perches, two in porches, and one that went down a chimney at dusk. Each winter, evergreen trees and shrubs such as cedar, spruce, and Amoor River privet were used. A beauty bush near the house was occupied in summer. On one night a mated pair roosted on the same twig; it was opposite a window. Once one came in early spring to privet shrubs at the house, tucked her head in her feathers and took a nap in mid-morning.—Bluebirds in Warner Parks regularly use the nest boxes in winter for sleeping quarters, as evidenced by the quantities of regurgitated hackberry seeds and the droppings accumulating there each cold season. At the farm home of Miss Cynthia Tompkins, two Bluebirds furnished considerable amusement as during the 1942-43 winter they squabbled for best position on a ledge under the eaves, visible from indoors. Each wanted the inside spot, repeatedly hopping over and pushing the occupant to the outside.—A Chickadee liked to use a gourd suspended to a tree when the nights were cold.—For many years Slate-colored Juncos, in groups as high as 20, regularly used the dense growth of English ivy on the broad stone chimney of our house for roosting. As this is the outlet from our heating plant, the stone absorbed enough heat to give off warmth which must have made it particularly desirable on cold nights. Juncos began to fly in at 4 p. m. They also have been found in the foundation plantings of evergreens and in a cedar tree. A Towhee sometimes joined the Juncos in the ivy; another was found in the spruce at the front of the lot. Other members of the Sparrow family used the shrubs near the house; in May a Whitethroat used the beauty bush (*Kolquitzia*) which at that time was cascaded with its lovely tiny pink bell-like blossoms. Clumps of privet that formerly grew at the ends of the house were favorites of many small sparrows, including White-throats and White-crowns as well as Cardinals. There were many arguments between the latter and the Mockingbirds at deep dusk. A small arborvitae was used in February, 1939, by two recently arrived Chipping Sparrows. Native sparrows also liked the pin oak in December when the twigs, densely covered with cupped brown leaves, gave protective concealment as well as shelter.—In February, Myrtle Warblers were startled more than once from a tangle of coral honeysuckle vines on the south side of the garage where at least two had gone to roost.—In the March, 1942, MIGRANT, p. 14, I gave some observations on the roosting of Bob-whites.

By BERT POWELL, JR., Memphis, Tenn.:—Birds can hide and find shelter in many unusual places and they do not need a place that is warm; only a wind breaker that will give them protection from the wind and, if possible, shelter from rain as well. Hiding in such places birds can weather the coldest blow with comparative comfort. The reason for this is that their feathers, layer over layer, provide excellent insulation. Another factor in their favor is that their heart-beat is more rapid than that of our own and this circulates their blood more rapidly. Given sufficient food, it is improbable that a bird would die from cold.—Last summer we had a morningglory vine twisting up the square brick columns that support the roof of our porch and when winter came on I persuaded my mother to let it remain so it would offer a refuge for the birds. A pair of Cardinals have used this mass of dead vines as a roosting place and every evening we can watch the birds sneak to bed.

They get on the side that gives protection from the wind and the porch roof keeps them dry.—English Sparrows have long found that houses offer good roosting places. At the home of a friend, each column cap of the front porch was found one night to have one of these sparrows crouched upon it. There they found shelter from both wind and rain.—Flickers and perhaps other woodpeckers are having stiff competition for their roosting holes from Starlings. Behind my house is a small woodlot and in it is a large dead tree where Flickers have nested for years and roosted there in winter. On March 1 I saw a Flicker vainly trying to hold his lofty bedroom against the persistent intrusion of a group of Starlings which finally exhausted his energy and patience and caused him to retire in their favor.

JAMES A. ROBINS (Nashville) has recorded in *THE MIGRANT* (1936, 7: 21) a unique winter roost of a Mockingbird on the Peabody College campus. This bird chose a perch a few inches above an electric bulb on the side of a vine-clad brick building. In its bright, warm radiation this Mocker slept snugly thru the coldest nights.

GEORGE R. MAYFIELD (Nashville) states that he has flushed Bluebirds at dusk that had sought their winter roosting place among the dry leaves of pin oaks that hang on till spring. These large leaves are in bunches and curl up at the tips thus affording obscurity and a degree of shelter. A. F. Ganier and Mrs. Lasky (above) report Cedar Waxwings using these oak leaves similarly, for roosting.

By ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville:—Mockingbirds often roost upon an old nest of their own or on that of a Thrasher, especially if located in a thorny osage-orange tree and close to the ground and therefore partly screened from the wind. Many have thus been found at dusk and droppings in most such nests during the winter gives further evidence. Other favored roosting sites are privet hedges (until the leaves fall off at midwinter), masses of honeysuckle or greenbrier vines that have climbed, and among the thick branches of catalpa bungei quite often grown in parks and lawns. Twice I have found them gone to roost in a discarded tangle of farmers wire field fence, there safe from intruders at least.—Chickadees and Titmice roost in cavities in winter and that such quarters are often cramped is shown by the fact that many of those that come to my window feeding shelf for breakfast, still have their tails bent. I have captured two that had spent winter nights in low Bluebird boxes at my home.—A Carolina Wren was found roosting on chilly September nights in the pocket of an old coat that had hung for some time on a rear porch. Another habitually roosted between two timbers on the inside of a garage wall. Still another would spend the nights in an old wrens nest in a box placed near the ceiling of a back porch. On March 14, 1943, one took lodging for that (clear) night in a pile of cedar boughs although buildings were near.—Pileated Woodpeckers roosts habitually in a hollow limb or trunk of a live tree, both to avoid the dampness of rotten wood and as security against winter storms which often break off and fell dead trees. There are always two and often three openings provided, possibly for ventilation but more likely to permit rapid exit in case a marauder should enter one of the holes.—Downy Woodpeckers excavate a hole in autumn quite often in a fence post, which location is safe from winter storms. Wood-

peckers of all kinds use considerable judgment in not excavating their roosting holes in limbs or trees so rotten that they are likely to be broken by storms.—Flickers are more prone to roost about buildings or in natural cavities. I saw one go into the cavity of a live walnut during January at roosting time. Edgar McNish reported to me that he had seen as many as half a dozen go into the hollow top of a big sycamore to roost.—I believe that Blue Jays regularly roost in natural cavities when cedars are not available and Bluebirds habitually do so. Very good evidence of Jays and Flickers roosting in such cavities is the fact that their feathers are often found in them, showing that they had been captured there by predators. Screech Owls are probably chiefly responsible, for feathers are nearly always found in holes too small to be entered by the larger owls, besides, Flickers and Jays are too heavy for a Screech Owl to transport from elsewhere.—Nuthatches and Brown Creepers probably roost in natural cavities too, although one could conceive that they would have protection from rain and greater security from enemies by roosting under the shingle-like bark of the shag-bark hickory, swamp white oak or similar species.—In late winter, White-throated Sparrows, Juncos and Towhees will roost in a loose flock upon the ground in woods. The place selected is where many leaves have collected in low undergrowth such as buck-bush, cane, greenbrier and blackberry briar. The first two species named also frequently roost amid grass and roosts that overhang creek banks. Along with Cardinals they have a very decided preference also for a dense briar patch.—Meadowlarks, as might be supposed, roost on the ground in grassy fields; not in compact groups but scattered here and there. They may thus be flushed at dusk along with Savannah Sparrows.—On Jan. 13, 1940, in company with Mr. Ben B. Coffey and about 15 miles north of Memphis, we watched Lapland Longspurs go to roost at dusk. There were about 400 in the flock and after flying about in a compact flock, they suddenly dropped to the ground and quickly hid themselves in the thick grass which grew there.

## SOME AGE RECORDS FOR BANDED BIRDS

By AMELIA R. LASKEY

There has been much conjecture upon the longevity of wild birds and until the advent of bird-banding, it was practically impossible to secure definite data on this subject. By the banding method, however, it has been possible to prove that certain individual birds at least do live for a number of years. The following data, accumulated during my banding operations, are here presented as definite information on this interesting problem.

The records of my banding stations at Nashville show that 229 birds (36 species) have been found to have reached the age of 3½ years or more. These records cover nearly 12 years of continuous trapping at my home and periodic trapping at several substations. Grateful acknowledgement is made to those who have assisted at various times.\* Since August, 1931, 21,000 birds of 123 species have been banded and in addition, over 36,000 Chimney

\*Norman Tompkins, Mrs. E. C. Hicks, J. B. Calhoun, M. L. Rippey, Jr., Arthur McMurray, Wm. Simpson, E. S. Lawrence, C. Jamieson, Jr., F. S. Campbell, M. S. Carter, A. F. Ganier, Mrs. M. Disaukes, J. H. Metcalf, H. C. Monk, H. Schigman, L. Wolfe, and others.

Swifts since 1938. This total of 57,000 birds includes the 13,000 Swifts banded in Nashville under the leadership and Federal permit of J. B. Calhoun, whose records are kept in my file.

For brevity, the tabulations are given in condensed form. All banding numbers have been omitted; a long dash separates the records of individuals. Sex is shown where determined and is indicated by "M" for male and "F" for female. The first date shown represents the date of banding. Ages shown are minimum, since many adults may have been several years old when first trapped.

Of the age records ascertained, 1 was found to be at least 11 years of age, 1 was 10, 1 was 9, 2 were 8, 1 was 7½, 3 were 7, 3 were 6½, 13 were 6, 6 were 5½, 32 were 5, 13 were 4½, 138 were 4, and 14 were 3½ years of age. Of the four-year records, 84 were of Chimney Swifts. A future paper will discuss returns and recoveries of this species.

CHIMNEY SWIFTS: 10/16/28, Chattanooga, Tenn.; retaken Nashville 10/22/39; 11 years.—10/9/30, Jasper, Tenn.; retaken Nashville 9/18/39; 9 years.—8/17/34, Illinois; retaken Nashville 10/1/39; 5 years.—5/19/35, Ontario, Canada; retaken Nashville 9/11/40; 6 years.—9/23/34, W. Va.; retaken Nashville 9/7/41; 7 years.—5/16/35, Wisconsin; retaken Nashville 9/13/39; 5 years.—10/2/36, Wisconsin; retaken Nashville 9/14/41; 5 years.—79 banded in Nashville and 2 banded in Clarksville in 1938 were retaken in Nashville in 1942; age 4 years. As less than 200 Swifts were banded in Nashville previous to 1938, it is obvious age records are restricted. One 1938 bird has been retaken in 1939, 1940, 1941, and 1942.

HAIRY WOODPECKER: M; 3/5/33; killed about 4/25/36; 4 years.—M; 4/2/37; retaken 4/17/40; 4 years.

DOWNY WOODPECKER: M; 3/1/32; repeated 4/20/32 and 1/31/34; found dead 9/16/36 near station; 5 year plus.—M; 11/23/33; retaken 5 times, last date 4/12/39; 6 years.—F. 12/5/35; retaken 3/8/39; 4 years.

BLUE JAY: 9/15/32; retaken 5/23/37; 5 years.—4/25/33; shot 6/3/38; 6 years.—7/27/37; retaken 5/24/42; 5 years.

TUFTED TITMOUSE: 2/5/33; repeated 8 times, to 1/2/36; 3½ years.—12/19/35; retaken 4 times, to 1/31/40; 4½ years.—1/8/38; retaken 5 times, to 4/8/42; 5 years.—2/19/38; retaken 6 times, to 11/21/42; 5½ years.

CAROLINA WREN: M; 6/25/34; retaken 20 times, to 1/18/38; 4½ years.—F; 11/19/34; retaken 12 times, to 4/19/39; 5 years.

MOCKINGBIRD: M; 8/27/31; disappeared March '35; 4 years.—4/14/33; disappeared Dec. '35; 3½ years.—9/15/33; retaken 5/27/38; 5 years.—3/10/34; retaken 5/8/41; 8 years.—M; 5/8/35; retaken to 8/5/39; 5 years.—10/3/35; disappeared April '39; 4 years.—F. 3/22/36; shot 1/3/39; 3½ years.—M; 10/1/36; still occupying his territory at my home March '43; almost 7 years.—M; juv.; 5/14/37; killed by cat 6/15/42; 5 years.—9/24/37; reported killed 1/30/41; 3½ years.—M; 9/16/38; retaken 1940 and 3/2/43; 5 years.

CATBIRD: 8/13/31; returned 1932, 33, 34; last date 6/21/34; 4 years.—6/6/32; retaken 5/13/35; 4 years.—6/24/33; retaken 7/3/36; 4 years. 7/4/33; retaken 1935, 6/19/36; 4 years.—7/5/33; retaken 1935, 4/28/36; 4 years.—5/17/34; retaken 1937; killed by auto, 7/26/37; 4 years.—6/5/34; retaken, last date 9/21/37; 4 years.—7/1/37; returned 1938, 39, 40, 41, last taken 9/10/41; 4 years.—Imm. 9/7/37; retaken 1938, 40, last date 7/19/41; 4 years.—5/18/38; retaken 1939, 40, 5/19/41; 4 years.

BROWN THRASHER: 8/30/32; retaken 1932, 33, 34, 35, to 8/8/35; 4 years.—6/20/33; retaken 1934, 35, 37, 40, to 3/23/40; 8 years.—4/26/36, taken 1937, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 to 3/16/42; 7 years.—8/19/36; retaken in 38, 39, 40 to 5/16/40; 4 years.

ROBIN: 9/30/31; retaken 1933 and 11/3/35; 4½ years.—M; 9/13/33; found sick, died 3/20/42; 10 years.—F; 9/30/35; last seen 7/4/39; 4 years.—F; 10/7/35; killed by auto 5/20/39; 4 years.—9/16/36; retaken 1938, 39, 40, to 3/14/40; 4 years.—9/18/36; recovered spring 1940; 4 years.—6/27/37; died 6/2/40; 4 years.—M; 3/11/38; retaken 1939, 1940, to 3/29/41; 4 years.

BLUEBIRD: M; 4/16/32; retaken 1933, 34, to 9/23/34; 3 years.—F; 4/26/36; retaken 1937, 38, 39, to 11/4/39; 4½ years.—F. 5/24/39; retaken 1940, 41, 42, to 4/2/42; 4 years.

STARLING: 1/3/36; found dead Dec. 1940, 5½ years.—3/1/36; returned 1/27/39; 3½ years.

YELLOW WARBLER: 6/16/37; retaken 1938, 5/30/41; 5 years.

NORTHERN YELLOWTHROAT: F; 8/31/32; last taken 7/26/37; 6 years.—Imm. M; 9/9/32; retaken 1933, 34, 35, 36, to 9/19/36; 4 years.—M; 9/1/36; retaken 1937, 39, 41, to 9/16/41; 6 years.—M; 9/13/36; retaken 1937, 38, 39, 40, 41, to 6/28/41; 6 years.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: 5/21/36; retaken 1937, 40, to 9/15/40; 5 years.

BRONZED GRACKLE: F; 6/17/32, retaken 7/24/35; 4 years.—M; 3/23/34; retaken 3/22/38; 5 years.—M; 3/18/36; retaken 5/30/41; 6 years.—Young; 8/31/36; shot 10/11/40; 4 years plus.—F; 7/26/37; retaken 7/2/40; 4 years.—M; 4/1/38; shot 9/13/41; 4 years plus.—F; 6/2/28; died April 1942; 5 years.

CARDINAL: M; 2/2/32; retaken until April 1935; 4 years.—F; 12/17/32; retaken 2/26/36; 3½ years.—F; 2/4/33; permanent resident to 9/4/35 3½ years.—M; 7/3/34; retaken 4/16/37; 4 years.—Young M; 19/27/34; retaken 3/17/40; 6 years.—M; 12/17/34; retaken 1/27/40; 5½ years.—M; 9/10/35; found dead 1/1/41; 5½ years.—F; 1/25/36; retaken to 6/7/39; 4 years.—F; 12/16/36; found dead 6/17/40; 4 years.—F; 2/16/37; retaken 3/25/40; 4 years.—juv. F; 8/4/37; found injured 8/14/41; 4 years.—F; 8/20/37; retaken to 11/18/40; 3½ years.—Im. M; 9/3/37; retaken to 3/3/43; 6 years.—Imm. M; 9/3/37; retaken to 1/28/43; 5½ years.—M; 8/31/37; retaken 1/4/42; 4½ years.—F; 3/31/39; retaken 12/31/41; 3½ years.—M; 5/30/39; retaken 3/24/42; 4 years.

INDIGO BUNTING: Imm. M; 8/30/33; returned 1935, 37, 38, found dead 5/19/38; 5 years.—J—F; 8/21/34; retaken 1936 and 1938; died 5/26/38; 5 years.—M; 9/9/34; retaken 1935, 10/1/38; 5 years.—M; 5/17/35; retaken 1936, 37, 38, 39, 40, to 6/4/40; 6 years.—M; 5/23/35; retaken 1936, 37, 38, 39, to 5/21/39; 5 years.

GOLDFINCH: F; 8/7/35; retaken 9/3/38; 4 years.—F; 9/28/39; retaken 1940, 41; found dead near station 3/19/42; about 3 years.

RED-EYED TOWHEE: M; 6/26/33; retaken 1/19/36; 3½ years.—Imm. F; 7/17/34 retaken to 9/28/37; 3 years plus.—Young F; 11/29/34; found dead 3/8/39; 5 years.—Imm. F; 8/20/35; retaken to 1939; found dead 9/28/39; 4 years.—Young M; 10/26/35 in Belle Meade; retaken there 1/1/36; retaken 2 miles east 8/3/36; found on road near place of banding 1/31/43 unable to eat or fly, plumage good. There had been 6 days of ice covered ground. Bird fed by hand by A. R. L., recovered, released 2/7/43; flew well; 7½ years.—F; 10/30/35; retaken 1/28/40; 5½ years.—M; 11/13/35; retaken to 4/7/40; 5 years.—Young F; 10/12/36 later nested near station; retaken to 12/20/42; 6½ years.—Young F; 10/27/36; retaken to 2/7/41; 4½ years.—M; 3/25/37; retaken to 7/17/41; 5 years.—Imm. M; 6/30/37; retaken to 5/25/42; 5 years.—Young M; 9/26/37; retaken to 5/17/42; 5 years.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO: Young M; 2/8/33; retaken 1935, 37, last 12/27/38; 6½ years.—2/11/35; retaken 1935, 36, 37, 39, last 3/23/40; 6 years.—Of others trapped and taken, 4 had lived 5 years, 1 for 4½. 4 for 4, and 3 for 3½ years.

FIELD SPARROW: 10/5/34; retaken each summer to 5/8/40; 6 years.—3/27/33; retaken 1934, 35, 36, 37, to 4/1/37; 5 years.—3/28/33; retaken 1934, 35, 36, 37, to 4/20/37; 5 years.—Imm. 8/3/37; retaken each spring to 3/21/42; 5 years.—Of others trapped and retaken, 5 had lived to 4½ years, and 12 to 4 years. An immature, banded 7/18/33, was retaken 1934, 35, 36 and to 4/3/37, during which period it was captured more than 350 times at the banding station. It left each year by early November and returned each March.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: 3/23/32; being in adult plumage, it must have hatched 1930 at the latest; last date retaken 5/3/34; 4 years.—Adult; 11/6/33; retaken 1934, 35, 37, to 3/16/37; 5 years.—Imm. 11/6/33; retaken 1934, 35, 36, 37, to 12/7/37; 4½ years.—Imm. 11/14/33; retaken 1934, 35, 36, to 10/28/37; 4 years.

GAMBEL'S SPARROW: Adult; 2/1/32; being in this plumage, it must have hatched 1930 at the latest; retaken 1933, 1934, to 3/10/34; 4 years.—Imm. 12/11/34; retaken 1935, 37, to 11/25/37; 3 years plus.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: F; 11/30/32; retaken 1934 and last 12/6/37; 5½ years.—F; 12/31/34; retaken 1935 and last 2/3/40; 6 years.—Two others banded and retaken had lived between 3 and 3½ years.

SONG SPARROW: 2/2/37; retaken 1938, 1940, 1942 and 2/13/43; 6½ years.—12/16/32; retaken 1/20/36; 3½ years.—Two others trapped and retaken had lived at least 3 years.

NASHVILLE, TENN., March, 1943.

## THE IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER

A REVIEW OF THE REPORT BY JAMES T. TANNER

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker is almost a fabulous bird. Even among the aboriginal indians this huge woodpecker, with powerful white bill, flaming crest and powerful sweeping flight, was the object of mythical folk-lore and its striking head was sought as an ornament for their chieftans. Calvesby, Wilson and Audubon, our best known early ornithologists, sensing the public's interest, made it the subject of extended and interesting eulogies in their works. Never a common bird, few ornithologists have ever learned much of its habits. The haunts of the Ivory-bill were the dense and uninviting swamp lands of the coastal regions of the South and up the flood plain of the Mississippi River little if any above the mouth of the Ohio. Even Audubon, who spent some years in the Bayou Sara country of Louisiana, learned but little of them first hand. B. C. L. Wailes, careful observer and naturalist who lived at Natchez stated, when compiling in 1854 the first list of the birds of Mississippi, that even by that time it had become a rare bird.

The Passenger Pigeon passed out of the picture before the turn of the century and even at that time the Ivory-bill seemed destined to follow. A few were known to reside in Florida and so few were the southern investigators at that time that little was known of their status elsewhere. Interest was considerably revived in 1932 however by the discovery of some of the birds in the great 80,000 acre Singer tract of low primeval hardwood forest in northeast Louisiana. Dr. Arthur A. Allen of Cornell University, enterprising and unexcelled photographer of wild birds, organized an expedition there in 1935 to photograph for posterity the living birds in their forest home and to record in colored motion pictures, with sound, their intimate home life. At subsequent meetings of ornithologists over the country Dr. Allen thrilled his audiences with those fine reproductions. One of the best of these photographs is reproduced as a frontispiece to this issue.

The interest aroused, to a large extent by showings of Dr. Allen's pictures, led the National Audubon Society to cast about for some means of saving the Ivory-bill from final extinction. It was determined that a careful study should be made to determine the present status of the bird and to study its life history, to determine its requirements and its enemies. One of those who had assisted Dr. Allen in his work in 1935 was James T. Tanner, one of his graduate students in ornithology at Cornell and Dr. Tanner being available, qualified and keenly interested, was assigned the investigation.

The excellent results of his work are now in hand, in the shape of "Research Report No. 1, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker,"\* representing twenty-one months in the field in the South visiting practically all areas where the birds had once lived, searching for new areas, and making detailed observations of the homelife of the only birds actually encountered, those in northeast Louisiana. His search for new areas was fruitless and definite late reports from previously known areas were unsatisfactory. The lumberman had marched on before him and the big "Logcocks" seem only to survive in prim-

\*The Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Oct. 1942, by James T. Tanner; pp I-XII, plus I to III; colored frontispiece plus 20 plates and 22 figures. \$2.50. National Audubon Society, 1035 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

eval forest where trees may live on to their natural age and, dying, provide breeding places under their dead bark for the larvae (grubs) upon which they chiefly feed. This food, the Ivory-bill was found to procure by *scaling* off the dead bark, with its chisel-like bill, and trees were found so extensively scaled that large quantities of the dislodged bark were found about their bases. Dr. Tanner profited by this discovery in searching other localities for the birds, for if dead trees showed no recent scaling it was good evidence that they were not in the area. The Pileated Woodpecker was found to scale off bark only to a minor degree.

Some earlier observers had predicted that the last Ivory-bills would be found in the great swamps of bald cypress but apparently this picturesque tree is not a factor in their requirements. The big sweet gums and the Nuttall's oak were the ones from under whose dead bark these woodpecker's secured by far the major part of their food. Logging rights on the entire Singer tract have now been sold and logging has been in progress for five years. Within two or three more years, at the present rate of demand for lumber, its devastation will be complete and with it will probably go this remnant of these stately American birds. According to Dr. Tanner, there are probably only a few other pairs, in Louisiana, in Florida, and possibly still in South Carolina.

Aside from the problem of an adequate food supply, the species seems to be highly unsuccessful in its nestings. Laying only two or three eggs and with but one brood per season, Dr. Tanner found that three nests out of six, followed thru, proved unsuccessful. He records the disappearance of nearly fledged young from the nest and feels that revelation of the marauder might assist in the preservation of the species. The reviewer believes that this, perhaps consistent, marauder of Ivory-bills nests is the mink, a highly carnivorous and pugnacious animal that is common in the swamps of Louisiana. The mink, as the reviewer knows from experience in that region, is a very resourceful animal and one of its accomplishments is that of climbing trees when occasion demands. Young woodpeckers in the nest, near the point of leaving, are particularly vociferous with their guttural mouthings and readily reveal their presence. In view of the above, one could hardly conceive any hesitancy on the part of a passing, hungry mink, upon such notice that breakfast was ready to serve, even tho far overhead. A sheet iron mink-guard about the base of nest trees would remove this menace.

The report reveals that preservation of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is now dependent upon setting aside, in areas still known to be inhabited by the birds, large enough tracts of timber to afford a proper range and a supply of the type of floor that is needed. To insure the latter it would become necessary to artificially kill enough trees each year if the tract were not sufficiently large. Stands of big timber, even tho remote from transportation, will call for a considerable sum for their purchase. However, interested benefactors might acquire the lands, retain the title if desired and effect a lease to The Audubon Societies for their control and continuance as a sanctuary. The Societies would be glad to have any aid or suggestions that might lead to securing control or title to such sanctuaries. As of 1939, Dr. Tanner believes that twenty-four Ivory-bills may be left in their former homes. There may be a few as yet unfound but that is unlikely. Within just a few years we may hear that the last one has passed on into history to join the Passenger Pigeon and the Carolina Paroquet.—A. F. GANIER.

## TIME AND SEQUENCE OF EARLY MORNING SONG

By GEORGE R. MAYFIELD

About eighteen years ago, the writer spent a few June days in the high Smokies near Clingmans Dome. Each morning he was awakened "at the crack of dawn" by the singing of Robins. Soon afterwards, they were joined by the Carolina Juncos with their twirling notes. Then came the drowsy drone of a Red-breasted Nuthatch on some nearby snag. The matin song of the Veery, the Towhee, the Chickadee, the Mountain Solitary Vireo, the Cairn's and other mountain warblers, following generally in that order. This regular succession each morning was so noticeable that I decided to make a study of the time and sequence of bird song at Idlewild Wood, our summer home on Stone's River, about nine miles southeast of Nashville.

The season of the year chosen was around mid-June, and the years 1931, 1933, 1934, 1937 and 1940, are selected as typical for the species that nest in this area. Sunrise on June 15 occurs at 4:29 a.m. and on the 30th at 4:33 a.m., C. S. time. A summary of the time periods during those years shows the following results.

I.—Time periods on clear mornings, 3:20 to 3:32 a.m.—Chuck-wills-widow, Nighthawk, Purple Martin and Kildeer; generally in that order.

II.—Time group for next group of singers, 3:30 to 3:42 a.m.—Wood Pewee, Chat, Crested Flycatcher, Indigo Bunting Meadow Lark, Carolina Wren, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Wood Thrush, Cardinal, Summer Tanager, Towhee, Bob-white, Dove, Crow and Titmouse. The songs or calls of this group follow each other in rapid succession and vary in order from one morning to another.

III.—The species in this group, from 3:40 to 3:55 a.m., can be arranged in the following order.—Chipping Sparrow, Catbird, Field Sparrow, Chickadee, Orchard Oriole, Bluebird, Bewick's Wren, Brown Thrasher, Maryland Yellowthroat, Blue Jay, Kentucky Warbler, Mockingbird, Kingbird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Goldfinch, Flicker and Hairy Woodpecker. Here again the order may vary from morning to morning.

IV.—This last group begin singing or calling about 3:50 a.m. and may even not start until four. They are the Baltimore Oriole, Chimney Swift, Downy Woodpecker, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Sycamore Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo and the Black-and-white Warbler. These last species are the late risers and either "turn over for another nap" or keep silence until daylight is well advanced. It can be seen quite easily that the vireos and warblers are the Sybarites of the bird world. It might be added by way of excuse that their insect food is late in stirring and hence they are not inspired to sing until feeding time comes.

Some of these species are night singers but this fact does not seem to cause any change in the order mentioned above. Regular night vocalists are the Mockingbird, Chuck-wills-widow, Nighthawk, Kildeer, Chat and Cuckoo. Moonlight nights are generally the times when they burst into song during the hours regularly assigned for sleep. Cloudy mornings throw the period of song from five to fifteen minutes late and the difference seems to show that light has much to do with the inspiration to sing. Dr. J. M. Shaver (1931,

*Wilson Bulletin*, v. 43, no. 1) and Mrs. E. B. Walker (1928, unpub. thesis), have reported on this and arrived at the same conclusions. It might be added here that the order indicated probably holds for various parts of the South and the writer would be glad to get the observations of others as a check on his own studies.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

## THE SEASON

CLARKSVILLE, TENN.:—The winter has passed without unusual happenings here in the shift of bird populations. Ducks have come to us in small numbers only. Earlier in the season reports from an observer in an airplane indicated a fair number of them on ponds in the northern sections of the county, but hunters have found little sport. Although we have had some sharp cold spells, in the main the weather has been mild. Myrtle Warblers have been fairly common throughout the season. Brown Creepers, Winter Wrens, and Bewick's Wrens were found more easily than usual. Winter Wrens were heard singing during January. Purple Finches occurred with some regularity. Robins stayed on and Mourning Doves have been here in good numbers. We have had our usual allotment of Tree Sparrows and found them not at all scarce. Search for Longspurs proved fruitless for the third consecutive winter and Horned Larks were not plentiful. By the middle of February their flocks had already dispersed; single birds had become the rule and there were occasional mating displays. We feel safe in saying that in general the bird life of the season bore the marks of a mild winter.—On Feb. 7, a Great Horned Owl's nest held two freshly laid eggs. This nest was towering 85 feet off the ground in the very crown of a big yellow poplar and measured five and a half feet in diameter. The depression from the rim to the center was slight and gradual. Clarence Collier, Jr., who climbed to it reported a corn cob and a few shucks in it. We discovered the nest last year and it was then occupied by a pair of Red-tailed Hawks, which had probably built it, while the owls raised young in another nest, several hundred yards away. Now that nest has recently also been adorned with cob and shucks and the hawks were seen near it.—ALFRED CLEBSCH.

THE SEASON AT NASHVILLE:—The winter since Christmas has been comparatively mild but during the first ten days of March there was an exceedingly cold spell, with snow, and temperatures as low as 7 degrees above zero. The first spring migrants that one expects to see were late in arriving. The Brown Thrasher was not noted until March 15, when Dr. G. R. Mayfield recorded one singing on the Vanderbilt campus. He also reported a Black-crowned Night Heron in the North Nashville marsh on March 13, and nearby in open water flushed 3 Blue-winged Teal.—Other early arrivals were 2 Phoebes on Sycamore Creek, Feb. 28, (by Clebsch, Ganier and Jamison) and 4 Vesper Sparrows on March 18 in Warner Parks, by Mrs. Laskey who also reported Chipping Sparrows on March 3.—Dr. Spofford put up several Bluebird boxes near his home in Lealand the latter part of January and almost immediately Bluebirds began to build nests in them. Mrs. Laskey reported that she had visited the Warner Parks Bluebird nestbox project on March 18 and out of 58 boxes examined, there were 10 nearly complete nests and about 20 others partially built.—Among the raptore notes, Dr.

Spofford records elsewhere some local Duck Hawk occurrences. On Jan. 24, he observed a pair of Black Vultures in their mating flight. On Jan. 31, he observed a pair of Red-tailed Hawks breaking sticks from trees and flying high in air with them. Also, that on Feb. 7, a male Sparrow Hawk visited a specially designed nesting box he had erected and that during the first half of March a pair of them went in and out of it frequently. Observations on the Red-tailed Hawks in the Radnor Lake hills, by Spofford and Jamison, revealed that there were at least 6 well marked birds in this area as late as Feb. 13. They can be told apart by certain missing feathers in wings and tail. Also, 3 of these hawks were immature. On March 13, the above two observers visited a Red-tail's nest in Warner Park. Although, the nest was a new one, it had all but fallen from the limbs upon which it rested, due to recent strong winds. From an adjacent hillside, 2 eggs could be seen in it, precariously perched on the rim. The following morning the writer climbed the tree and by means of a board, some nails and heavy cord, the nest was righted and secured firmly to the tree. The success of this nest will be reported on later. On the same day we visited another Red-tails nest which had been rebuilt this year after having been vacant for several seasons. On March 14, the female could be seen upon it, from a nearby hillside, apparently incubating.—On Feb. 21, the writer took a trip with Mr. Ganier thru Trimble Bottoms up the Cumberland. Huge flocks of blackbirds were seen all day long, our estimate being 300,000 Bronzed Grackles, 200,000 Starlings and many Cowbirds. Low flying flocks of Grackles made a distinct roar and they were musically vociferous as well. Two Rusty Blackbirds were found feeding in a buttonbush swamp. 4 Wilson's Snipe were flushed from a marshy place and nearby we found a small sparrow, believed to have been a LeConte's since it would not flush a second time. A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks were soaring over their old nesting grounds and a pair of Barred Owls were found watching for crayfish over a branch that flowed into the river.—A nice flock of ducks has been on Radnor Lake all thru the winter and consisted of Mallards, Ringnecks, Lesser Scaup, Baldpate, Pintail, Bufflehead and a few Coots.—Mr. Ganier reports that a Barred Owl was observed on Feb. 2nd, in the business district of the city opposite the Union Depot. He reports Starlings and Bronzed Grackles roosting during late Feb. and on into March, in the bare tops of deciduous trees in the old city cemetery in South Nashville. About 4,000 he states went to roost there on March 18 in the tree-tops and that night, at about eleven, there was a thunderstorm accompanied by a violent wind and a near cloudburst during which it rained nearly two inches. The cemetery keeper was interviewed the next morning and stated that only 2 or 3 dead birds had been found under the trees, thus proving how capably these hardy birds can withstand the elements.—CONRAD JAMISON.

**MEMPHIS AREA:**—Our "birding" this season has been confined largely to our own back yards with only a few field trips, so the lack of records for infrequent or rare visitors does not necessarily mean they were not present this winter.—On Feb. 7, Alice Smith and the writer hiked over a large part of the territory covered by the Raleigh Christmas Census party. Due to extremely high winds, birds were scarce and only 27 species noted. Myrtle Warblers were very common, 60 of them were seen and in almost every instance they were feeding on Poison Ivy berries.—Bert Powell reports a

Woodcock was flushed in Overton Park on March 13. This is the first Spring record for Woodcock in several years. On the same day Bert found a single Vesper Sparrow on the Southwestern Campus. Purple Martins were first reported in Memphis on March 10; they were also seen Mar. 11, 12, and 13, at separate localities. The next migrant was the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, seen by Brother I. Vincent on March 17. He also reports 7 Chipping Sparrows on March 20.—The housing situation for birds in this area is evidently as acute as for *Homo sapiens*. On March 20 at the Christian Brothers College sanctuary a Bluebird house was placed and ready to "let for a song"; ten minutes later a pair of Bluebirds had taken full possession!—MRS. BEN COFFEE, Memphis.

THE SEASON AT KNOXVILLE:—(From H. P. IJAMS, dated March 13th.). It is almost too early for any bird news to have happened here; however the Purple Martins have arrived and this I consider the real opening of Spring activities. Of course the Redwings are here and we have had a great flock of Grackles around for the past three weeks—seems as if the recent cold wave had retarded their migration. Robins are filtering in, but there has been no large flock movement as yet. I feel rather sure that these first birds are our local summer residents. The Cardinals are singing freely and the male is feeding his mate at our feeding station. The Carolina Wrens have just about finished a nest in a can that I stuck up for them in the tool shop. Speaking of Purple Martins, they arrived at 5:15 P.M., March 10th. which, by the way, is the exact date of their average arrival here. For the past three years they have been early getting here, i.e. very late in February. As a boy I spent a good deal of my time on the Tennessee River here and one of my earliest recollections is of how destructive the spring freshets were to the birds. An eight or ten foot tide would wash out an untold number of nests. We still have Spotted Sandpipers but it is probable their early nests are washed out by the floods. We are hoping that the numerous power and storage dams the T.V.A. has erected in East Tennessee will establish a permanent water level and a great deal more shore line. This will make ideal Sandpiper nesting grounds. Water birds are already on the increase and we are constantly getting reports on gulls, terns and various ducks that were formerly scarce. Another year, I hope to make a report on the benefit that these new lakes have been to the birds of this section.

(From Prof HENRY MEYER, dated March 9th.). Gas rationing and extra duties have curtailed field trips but we have gotten much pleasure from our feeding shelf at home. Mrs. Meyer has maintained a record of the birds frequenting our yard and from her daily lists, I find the following have been regularly recorded since Jan. 1st., Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Crow, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Starling, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Cardinal, Towhee, Slate-colored Junco, Field Sparrow and Song Sparrow. Records were also made in our yard of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Myrtle Warbler and Woodcock. The Woodcock, always a difficult bird to find, was in this instance found dead on our driveway about six feet from the road, on March 3. One wing had been torn off, there was a hole in the neck and the crop was ruptured. A fresh earthworm still dangling from its bill,

showed that it was feeding when killed; perhaps by a cat. I preserved the skin, as well as was possible, and found it to be a female. Although its breeding season was due to begin within a few weeks, the ova were not very far along in development, the largest being about  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch in diameter. The native sparrow flock has been large this winter; White-throats ranking first followed by the Field Sparrows. On Feb. 28, about 20 Chipping Sparrows were mixed in with the 150 native sparrows in the yard. Mourning Doves have been present regularly since Feb. 19. Golden-crowned Kinglets have been very common this winter. Bluebirds, contrary to the ideas of the general public, are holding their own nicely, judging from their presence in the area near our home. In this area, about  $\frac{1}{10}$  of a mile in radius, 15 to 25 of the birds can be found regularly. In this connection also, I quote from Mrs. Meyer's notes of Jan. 3rd last; "I saw a flock of about 200 Bluebirds flying over, with their characteristic soft flight. Bluebirds seen to be plentiful this winter."

(From W. M. WALKER, dated March 9th). Cedar Waxwings were relatively abundant here during the late fall and until Dec. 15. Cardinals, Towhees and White-throated Sparrows have been particularly common this winter. Field Sparrows, Juncos, Bluebirds, and Golden-crowned Kinglets have been locally (spottily) abundant but in other localities, scarce. Purple Finches and the woodpeckers (except the Pileated) have been hard to find. Two unusual records for the winter were of Red-breasted Nuthatch, which were found in two localities about Knoxville. The Brown Creeper has been present in unusual numbers from X-mas thru February. Returning Redwings were reported March 3 and 4. Flocks of 200 or more Robins arrived Feb. 18. On Feb. 19, Mr. Ijams reported a flock of more than 4000 Grackles. Mr. William Johnson thinks the large hawks are coming back, or at least holding their own. On a recent trip to the Smokies he saw 3 large ones, probably Red-tails, soaring around in the same up-current of air. On March 7, he reported 2 more large hawks, soaring in the distance, near House Mountain east of Knoxville.

## THE ROUND TABLE

THE CRANES PASS OVER GEORGIA:—In our last issue, H. P. Ijams of Knoxville, recorded that a large flock of Sandhill Cranes on their southward migration had spent from Oct. 22 to Oct. 24 at Seymour, 15 miles east of Knoxville, and that one of them had been shot. In the December issue of *The Oriole*, R. J. Fleetwood reports that on Nov. 1, six days later, he observed a flock of 15 Sandhill Cranes passing southward over a point in Jones County, Georgia. This location is 200 miles south of Knoxville and 75 miles southeast of Atlanta. The birds were low enough for Mr. Fleetwood to identify them without question. It seems likely that this may have been part of the flock reported by Mr. Ijams. And it was a rare piece of luck that an ornithologist happened to be in their path, and watching, as they passed.

—EDITOR.

HOODED MERGANSER'S NEST ON REELFOOT: (The following is reprinted from *The Kentucky Warbler*, 1942:54).

"I found a nest of the Hooded Merganser on Reelfoot Lake, Tenn., May 18, 1941, about 500 yards below 'Red' Boyette's landing. It was about 10 feet above the surface of the water and was in a partially hollow tree. The eggs were laid about the middle of April and would have been eaten by a snake if I had not happened along. When I put my hand into the cavity to count the eggs, I felt the snake which later dropped out of a hole lower in the tree. There were 14 eggs in the nest, a little larger than hen's eggs, and it took them nearly five weeks to hatch. The young were active a few hours after hatching although they had no wing feathers. I did not find out how they got from the tree to the water unless the mother bird carried them. As to whether the drake helps with the incubation or rearing of the brood, I do not know. I have never seen him in the vicinity of the nest or of the mother and baby ducklings. The ducklings are sooty black with a few grayish spots and are able to take care of themselves from the start. . . ."

—WARREN SIGHTS, Paducah, Ky.

GOLDEN EAGLE NEAR SOUTH PITTSBURG:—On January 11, 1943, one of these eagles was captured by a farmer in the Jump-Off section of the mountains in Marion County, Tennessee. This is approximately 12 miles northwest of South Pittsburg. It was reported that a pair of these eagles did away with several of the farmer's young goats (kids) before they were successful enough to catch one by one of its toes, without injury, in a steel trap. A kid caught and dropped by one of the eagles was used for bait and several traps were set. It was first reported that the kid weighed 30 pounds and when the fact was revealed that these birds cannot lift more than 10 pounds, the estimated weight of the goat was dropped to 20 pounds. It was learned by telephone conversation with sportsmen in South Pittsburg that the eagle had feathered tarsus and was brown; thus its identity was established.

After exhibiting the eagle in South Pittsburg and all schools in that vicinity, the local Conservation Officer released it in good condition on January 14, 1943, on the Orme Mt. road three miles northwest of South Pittsburg. It had been planned to band the bird, but bands were not available. The eagle was not at all vicious. South Pittsburg is on the Tennessee River, about 12 miles from the escarpment of the Mullins Cove section where these birds were formerly found in breeding season, as recorded in the 1933 March issue of THE MIGRANT.—ALBERT J. MARSH, Dept. of Conservation, Nashville, Tenn.

HAWK MENDS A BROKEN WING:—A fine adult male Red-tailed Hawk was turned over to the writer by George R. Mayfield, Jr., on March 8, 1943. It had been captured alongside the highway, east of Camden, Tenn., in the lower branches of a tree, apparently ill or stunned. The bird was docile in manner and examination revealed that it was underfed (weight, 27 oz.) and that he had sustained a broken wing (ulna) within the last two or three weeks. The bone had mended but a recognizable callus remained. Several flight feathers showed unmistakable evidence that the bird had been shot. In a recent article on skeletal injuries in birds (Tiemeier, 1941, *Auk* 58:350-59), it was found that 8% of the Accipitridae and 4% of the Falconidae, in the University of Kansas museum's skeleton series, had sustained broken

bones including those of wing and leg. It would be very interesting to know how such injured birds, which depend entirely on foot and wing for sustenance, survive the recovery period. Probably ground feeding buteos can capture some of their normal food items, such as mice and insects, while confined to the ground by wing injury, while falcons obviously would be less apt to survive. In the present case cited above, it is quite possible that the bird had been feeding on a dead animal killed by road traffic, and that fear of fresh damage to the injured wing caused it to permit capture. It is more difficult to understand how a broken wing reaches functional recovery without immobilizing the injured part. Certainly a break of either the ulna or radius alone of the two-boned "forearm" should be much less serious than a fracture of the "upper arm" or the "hand".—WALTER R. SPOFFORD, Nashville, Tenn.

RECENT OCCURENCES OF PEREGRINE FALCONS:—A falcon (Duck Hawk) banded at Racine, Wis., on Oct. 1, 1941 was shot near Leona, Rutherford Co., Tenn. on Nov. 14, 1942, as reported elsewhere in this issue. Another falcon, banded as a nestling at Reelfoot Lake, April 20, 1942, was killed at Alabam, Madison Co., Arkansas, May 24, 1942. This is one of the young referred to by the writer in a previous issue of THE MIGRANT (1942, 13:29—31), the bird having wandered more than 300 miles westward since it left the nest.

On Christmas day, 1942, Prof. Robt. Hawkins reported a Peregrine flying over the Belle Meade suburbs of Nashville. While the writer was flying his trained Peregrine (see MIGRANT, 13:47), on January 24, 1943, an immature male falcon, a wild bird, came rapidly toward the swinging lure, then zoomed up fully five hundred feet, towered directly overhead for a moment, and then fell off down wind at an astonishing rate, a rapidly diminishing black speck.

Mr. Albert J. Marsh, of the State Dept. of Conservation, adds the following record: "Mr. J. E. Hayes, ardent sportsman of Humbolt, Tenn., reports that while he was fishing at the Maness Swamps (Lake Obion), in the Obion River bottoms north of Greenfield, on Feb. 14, 1943, he observed a Duck Hawk in rapid flight, passing only a few yards overhead. Along the course of it's flight, approximately thirty Blue-bills (Scaup) flushed from the water; however the falcon did not attack. Mr Hayes is quite an outdoor man and his identification can be accepted as authentic."—WALTER R. SPOFFORD, Nashville, Tenn.

PEREGRINE FALCON NEAR MURFREESBORO:—On November 14, 1942, a farmer named H. G. McPeake who lives in the country near Murfreesboro, shot and killed a Duck Hawk or Peregrine Falcon. He claimed that the bird was after his chickens. Noting that the falcon had an aluminum band on one of its legs he brought it to town a few days later and I sent it to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be traced. Shortly afterward, word came from them that the band had been placed on Oct. 1, 1941, by Mr. Ed. Prins, who had captured and banded it near Racine, Wisconsin.—H. O. TODD, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

**SUMMER RECORDS OF SPOTTED SANDPIPERS:** Among our birds the Spotted Sandpiper holds a unique position. The species does not nest here, yet we have a number of records to show that individuals may be met through the entire summer. As the breeding range, begins not far to the north and northeast of us, it is not surprising that spring migration ends late and fall migration begins early. We can assume that breeding birds are absent from the middle of May to the end of July. Field lists show May 13 and May 19 as departure dates and July 27 and July 30 for the return. For the intervening period however, we have the following dates scattered over the past seven years: June 7 (1936), June 2, July 4, 5, 18 (1940), and July 11 (1942). Specimens collected by me bear the dates of June 2, 1940 and July 11, 1942. Both of these were males in good plumage but not in breeding condition.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville, Tenn.

**BARN OWLS NESTING AT COLUMBIA:**—While at my home near Columbia, Tenn., during the recent holidays, I found that the Barn Owls which had nested there in a large hollow red oak, since the summer of 1941, were present at their nest cavity throughout December. The original pair are believed to have moved to their present site from Mr. Dan Gray's colony just a few miles away. Their first two offspring matured about September 7, 1941, and apparently the entire family moved elsewhere for the winter. On March 11, 1942, a pair returned to the oak and on June 18, three almost mature offspring were found in the tree. One of these was killed on July 16, by an auto on the nearby highway. I was absent from home until Dec. 15 last at which time I found two recently dead and almost mature offspring under the tree. One had attempted to get into a hole under the tree and the other was lying near on ploughed ground. Although their stomachs were empty, they were not particularly thin and their plumage was in good condition. Perched on the hollow of the tree was one parent and a nearly grown young. The lone parent had fed only the offspring remaining at the nest and had permitted the two that fell to the ground to die from lack of food and exposure. At night the owls were very noisy, often giving their rasping cry all night. This was an instance of fall nesting and of two broods being raised in one nest the same year. Pellets collected under the nests, since Sept., 1941, contained 9 unidentified mice, 3 white-footed mice, 3 meadow mice, 4 short-tailed shrews, 2 rats, 2 young cotton-tail rabbits, 5 Bronzed Grackles, 2 English Sparrows and 1 Meadowlark. In this list, only the insectivorous Shrews and the Meadowlark are recognized as beneficial. The Grackles were taken in June and July at which time they are injurious to garden corn. Being away from home for months at a time, I missed many pellets. Needless to say these owls are protected at my home.—PVT. HARRY YEATMAN, (Columbia, Tenn.), Co. A, Surg. Sec. Bldg. 261 S. M. D. T., El Paso, Texas.

**BARN OWLS AT MURFREESBORO:**—A pair of these interesting owls have made their home for the past three years in a big hollow tree at the rear of my home. This is on the outskirts of town, on the Woodbury pike, with open country all about. Thinking there might be a winter brood, Mr Todd climbed to the cavity on Dec. 23 last but there were neither eggs or young. Another pair nested in town, near Tenn. Woman's College last year but later, this tree was ignited by a grass fire and burned up.—GEORGE DAVIS, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

**TWO IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER RECORDS:**—During 1935, the late Mr. J. F. Frazer, of Independence, Mo., advertised to dispose of his collection of bird skins and among them he listed two Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. Replying to the writer's request for the data on the skin tags, Mr. Frazer wrote that the male had been collected May 27, 1903, in Jefferson County, Florida, and that the female had been collected in Madison Parish, Louisiana, by A. L. Williams, on Nov. 26, 1908. I do not know what disposition was made of these specimens.—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville, Tenn.

**PALM WARBLERS, A CORRECTION:**—In our last issue (p. 75) and in our issue of March, 1939 (p. 7 and 9), Palm Warblers found in winter were referred to as Yellow Palm Warblers, the eastern subspecies. A series of six specimens, collected by the writer in the Nashville area, were submitted to Dr. Alex Wetmore of The National Museum and he has referred them all to the Western Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum palmarum*). The dates on which they were taken were Sept. 30, Jan. 7, April 16, 18, 20, and 22. It would seem from the above that the Western Palm is the prevailing form in this region.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville, Tenn.

**FORMER SWIFT ROOST IN A HOLLOW TREE:** The following Tennessee item is reprinted from *The Wilson Bulletin* of March, 1926, p. 36. At the time, "just after the Civil War," there were not nearly so many large chimneys available for Swift roosts as there are today. Records of two other instances of Swift's roosting in hollow trees will be found in *THE MIGRANT*, 1941:76). "One day in the late summer, just after the Civil War, in the deep woods of Middle Tennessee, I came upon a very large tulip tree, nearly six feet through and at least fifty feet up to the first limb. One of the large limbs had been broken off, leaving a hole about two feet across, which evidently was the starting point of a deep hollow in the tree. It was just before sunset and the Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) were passing into the hole by the dozens, just as they now do into chimneys when going to roost. I have never noticed another instance of this kind.—J. A. McLAUGHLIN, Marshall, Mo.

**HOLSTON RIVER BOAT TRIP:**—On March 9, I had the opportunity and pleasure of making an investigational boat trip down the Holston River with Mr. J. F. Tomlison, Supt. of the Buffalo Springs Game Farm, putting in approximately a mile below the Cherokee Dam and taking out about twenty-five miles down stream. This happened to be one of the few pretty and ideal days we have had in the past few months for such a trip, the river being high, fast and clear. It was surprising to find so many ducks on the river, about 75 being seen. A good list of birds was made and included Red-shouldered Hawk 2, Cooper's Hawk 2, Pileated Woodpecker 2, Great Blue Heron 4, and Black-crowned Night Heron 2. Several attempts were made to photograph the ducks taking off, but in vain. A large cave in one of the steep rocky cliffs was investigated. This particular cave happened to be the home of a family of fox, for their tracks and signs were very evident. Also an owl was using the cave for a roost. Owl pellets could not be found; possibly they were destroyed by the fox. In one corner of the cave we found the remains of a rabbit, crow, and meadow lark. It could not be determined whether or not these birds and animals fell prey to the owl or fox.—ALBERT J. MARSH, Dept. of Conservation, Nashville, Tenn.

ANOTHER WINTERING LINCOLN SPARROW AT NASHVILLE:—Because there have been no reports of Lincoln Sparrows (*Melospiza Lincolnii*) in winter, the species had been considered a spring-fall transient in Tennessee. At my home banding station, two winter records have occurred, the first on Dec. 22, 1935, and Jack Calhoun collected one from a flock of Field Sparrows on Nov. 30, 1934. (Laskey 1936 MIGRANT 7:4). My second record occurred during the inclement weather of late January when ice and snow covered the ground for a week. January 30, 1943, the individual caught was in the soiled plumage acquired by birds wintering in the environs of sooty Nashville. Since August, 1931, I have banded 47 Lincoln Sparrows; 31 in April and May; 2 in March; 1 on Feb. 22, 1939, repeating until March 21. For autumn there are 11 records, all banded in October. There are now records for this species for each month from October through May, at Nashville.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville, Tenn.

A RECORD OF THE SNOW BUNTING IN ALABAMA:—The winter of 1939-40 will long be remembered as one of the coldest ever known in the South. At Birmingham, January of that winter was the coldest month on record, with a nine-inch snowfall on the 22nd and 23rd and a monthly mean temperature of 30.6° F. The lowest official temperature was 1° F., but the municipal airport reported -10° F. on the morning of the 27th. Preceding the heavy snow, a light one had fallen on the night of the 18th, and the official temperature the next morning was 2° F. Realizing that some northern species might well be present under such conditions, I took a field trip near East Lake (Birmingham) on the afternoon of January 24. It was not long before I was examining a Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) at close range. Another was seen later in the afternoon, these constituting my second record of the species at Birmingham. As I approached the first Horned Lark, however, another bird flushed well in advance of me and flew toward the late afternoon sun. Under such conditions it was not possible to make out its markings, but the call notes were heard clearly and recognized at once as something utterly strange to me. It was not difficult to imitate nor to remember them—a sort of rattling “ti-ti-tick,” followed by a more musical, down-slurred “whew.” The former note was strongly reminiscent of the alarm note of a Cowbird. The process of elimination led me to suspect either a Snow Bunting or a Lapland Longspur, two species with which I could claim no field experience. A thorough study of the descriptions of the call notes of these and other species in two of my field guides did not help me form any conclusions at the time regarding the identity of this bird, but I knew that it would be easily possible to recognize these call notes the next time I heard them. My opportunity came about two years later, when I heard and saw Snow Buntings on several occasions around Ithaca, New York, in February, 1942. When I heard their call notes I recognized them immediately as being absolutely identical with those I had heard at Birmingham. Apparently there has been no previous published record of Snow Buntings in Alabama, Mississippi, or Tennessee, but they may well be expected again under such severe weather conditions as those prevailing at the time of this observation.—HENRY STEVENSON, Cornell, Univ., Ithaca, N. Y.

GUESTS AT A FEEDING SHELF:—The unprecedented March cold wave, which ushered in the first ten days of the month, brought us a real

treat in the shape of hungry feathered visitors to our feeding board. This board is just outside of a window, about 15 feet above the ground, and is kept well supplied with grain, crumbs, suet, etc. The Carolina Wrens look things over and stuff themselves by the hour. The Titmice and Chickadees come together and work over the assorted menu. Then the Downy Woodpecker goes to work on the suet and what a time he does have. After filling up, he takes pieces over to the white oak nearby, and tries to fill up the various cracks in the bark. Yesterday and this morning a Myrtle Warbler has been working around and an occasional English Sparrow comes up for a special bit to eat. These sparrows know that they are not wanted and will move off at the slightest movement, while the Downy and the Wrens will look up and go on eating if we do not come too close. This morning the Downy forced the sparrows to leave and would not let them come back. For several days we have had a real close view of a Hairy Woodpecker. He showed up on the 1st of March and has been at the board every day since. Several times he has come when the Downy was on the board and you could get a real comparison of the size of the two birds. Last Saturday the Cardinals gathered and have been around since. I counted at least 16 on the back walk at one time. Numbers of White-throated Sparrows were there also. Several Juncos were in the leaves and finally one flew up to the board and ate some of the crumbs. Several Doves have been feeding with the chickens but have not come up onto the board. The Towhees are moving lots of leaves and are in find plumage, the males being especially handsome with heads of satiny black and dark red eyes.—WILLIAM JOHNSON, Knoxville, Tenn.

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### IN THE ARMED SERVICE

Many more of our members have donned their uniforms. Of the Memphis group, Cpl. Ben B. Coffey, our former Editor, has compiled the following list: Ensign Fred T. Carney, U. S. Coast Guard, U. S. S. PC590, Care Postmaster, San Francisco;—Lieut. Harold Elphingstone, 6th Ferrying Group, Long Beach Army Air Base, Long Beach, Calif.—Lt. John H. Embury, Jr., HQ. 36th Engrs., APO 668, Care Postmaster, New York City.—S/Sgt. Chas. E. McPherson, 472nd Bomb Sqd., Greenville Army Air Base, Greenville, S. Car.—B. Franklin McClamey, AAFTD, 110 Atkinson, M. I. T., Cambridge, Mass.—A/C John Pond., 305 Bldg. 1106, Bronson Field, Pensacola, Fla.—Cand. Bob G. Shaffer, 24th Bty. AAS, O. C. D., Camp Davis, N. Car.—Pvt. James M. Vardaman, HQ Btry. 328th F. A. Bn., APO 85, Camp Shelby, Miss.—Pvt. H. E. Wallace, Barracks 2005, 84th Cav. Ren. Trp., Camp Howze, Texas.—Lt. (j. g.) Wendell Whittemore, M. C., Care Main Dispensary, Naval Air Sta., Jacksonville, Fla.—and, Cpl. Coffeys address is O. C. S. Class 57, Ft. Sills, Okla.—Lieut. H. C. Monk of Nashville, Continues at Ft. Belvoir, Va., awaiting transfer,—Harry C. Yeatman of Columbia, has been transferred to El Paso, Texas.—Dan Grey Jr., is enrolled but we do not have his address.—Lieut. L. D. Thompson of Paris is at Camp Roberts, Calif.—James B. Young of Louisville is with the F. B. I. at San Diego, Calif.—Lieut. Burt C. Monroe, also of Louisville, has been transferred to the Army Air Base at Dyersburg, Tenn.—Pvt. Francis S. Lawrence of Nashville, is stationed at Sioux Falls, S. Dak.—Cpl. V. P. McLaughlin, Jr. has been transferred from Clarksville to Grinnell, Iowa.

## SUPPLEMENTAL MEMBERSHIP LIST

Being those who have become members of the T. O. S. since publication of the last list, in June 1941 issue of THE MIGRANT.

Dr. Katherine Anderson	Vanderbilt Hospital, Nashville, Tenn.	
George H. Boyles	719 17th Ave., So.,	"
Mrs. O. E. Brown	C 1 Newstead Apts.,	"
Sam Clark, Jr.	Glen Leven Drive,	"
D. J. Cummings	3200 Long Boulevard,	"
Miss Harriett Gates	2504 West Linden St.,	"
Miss Florine Long	Vanderbilt Hospital,	"
Prof. R. M. Hawkins	South Bellevue Drive,	"
Mrs. R. M. Hawkins	South Bellevue Drive,	"
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Miss Vera McElveen	308 Chamber of Commerce Bldg,	"
Mrs. Albert J. Marsh, 9 Park Circle Apts.	3200 West End A.	"
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Miss Jessie Clay Orr	308 Chamber of Commerce Bldg.,	"
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Nat Smith	Ft. Sanders Hospital,	Knoxville, Tenn.
Roy Wedekind	800 Garden Avenue,	Fountain City, Tenn.
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James E. Chessor	Route 1,	Centerville, Tenn.
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Miss Edith Pope	Thompson Station,	Tenn.
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# THE MIGRANT

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## EDITOR'S CHAT

Winter as usual has long overstayed its welcome and, tarrying late, has caused March to go down as one of the coldest on record. This recent inclement weather has made the symposium upon winter roosting, printed in this issue, most timely indeed. Those who have wondered how birds spend the cold blustery nights will find some of their answers in this issue.—One of the most interesting objectives of bird-banding is to find out how long birds live. We are fortunate to have an article bearing upon this question from Mrs. Laskey who, by the volume and consistency of her bird-banding work and by the logical interpretations of her findings, has proved herself a real ornithologist. In this issue she has skimmed the cream from her records and given us the best of her findings on longevity.—Dr. Mayfield literally sleeps in the woods at his camp in summer so has taken advantage of the opportunity to ascertain for his fellow observers just when the birds really begin the day.—The report upon the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is the work of our fellow member James T. Tanner who, until his recent entry into naval service, was president of our Johnson City chapter. We vote Dr. Tanner the honor of being the ornithologist who has learned more about this rare bird than anyone who has gone before him.—For the many worth while notes in *The Season* and in *The Round Table*, your editor expresses appreciation and a wish for 20 good pages of copy to fill the June issue.

MEETING AND ACTIVITIES:—The Knoxville Chapter, T. O. S., has issued a mimeographed program for the entire year. Spring activities include evenings meetings on March 3, April 7, May 5 and June 2. Field trips are scheduled for March 21, April 11, 18 and 25, May 2, 9, 16 and June 2. The May 2 date is that of the annual Spring Bird Count at the Island Home Sanctuary.—The Nashville Chapter meets the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings of each month in the S-R Bldg. of Peabody College. Groups go afield each weekend and a Spring Field Day will be held May 16 or 23.—The Memphis Chapter holds evening meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month and expect to hold their Spring Field Day in May.—Chapter secretaries, given in last issue, may be contacted for details

ERRATA:—In the midwinter census tabulation in our last issue, page 62, the Great Smokies list was credited with 135 Tree Sparrows but this number should have been for Field Sparrows. The Memphis list should have included 103 Flickers. Readers will please correct their copies. In the heading on the editorial page, your editor's name was incorrectly given as Alfred.

GLENHAVEN

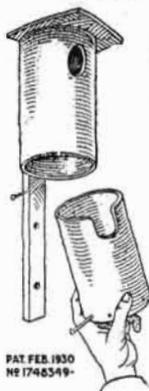
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