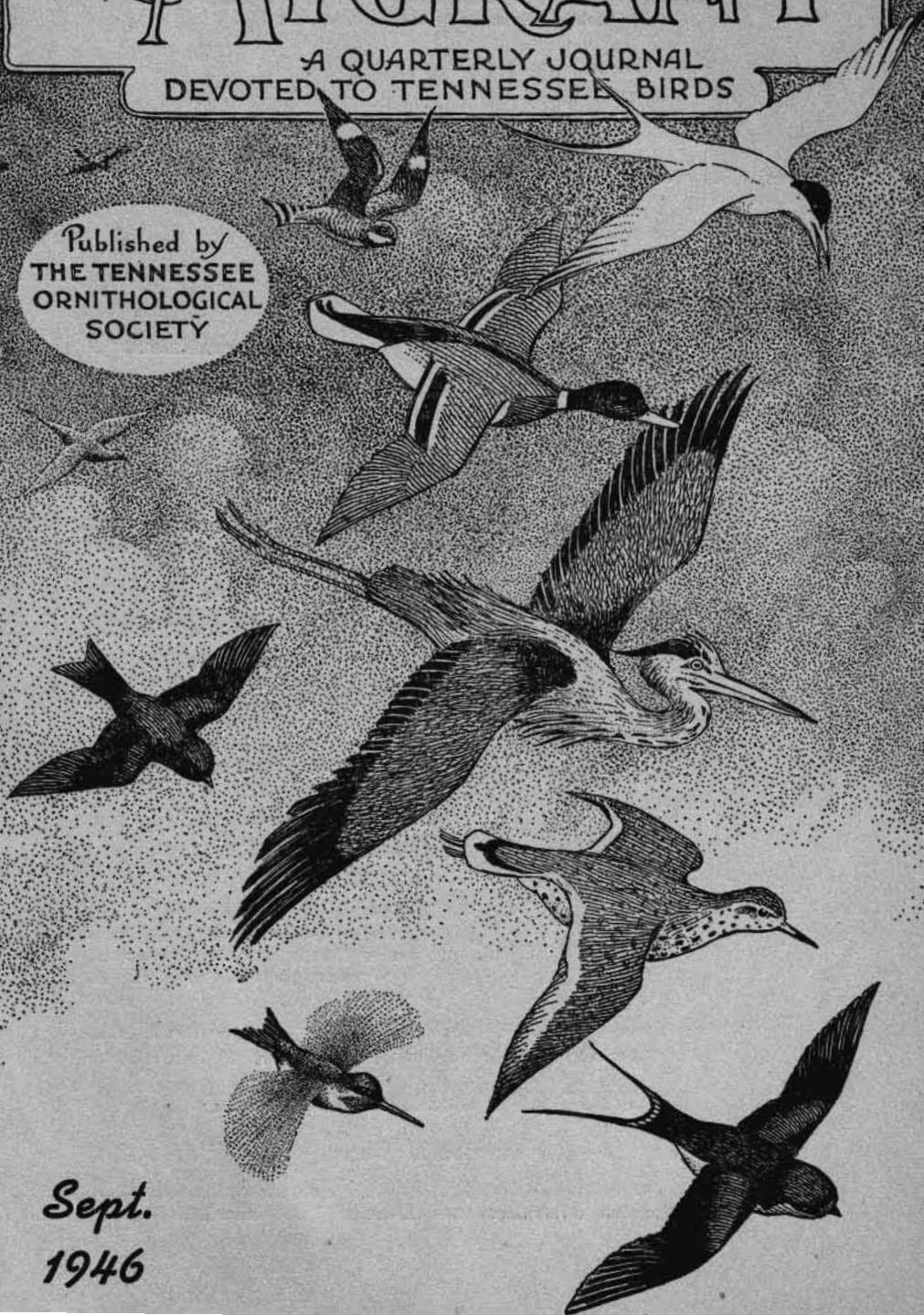


THE MIGRANT

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DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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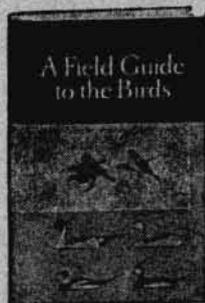
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THE MIGRANT

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF MEMBERS LOST IN THE ARMED SERVICES DURING WORLD WAR II

The membership of the Tennessee Ornithological Society has been sadly depleted as a result of the late World War (1941-1945) by the loss of eight of its splendid young members. It is not too much to say that among these young men, there were those who would have gone far in the development of ornithological study and in carrying on the work and traditions of this Society.

As a tribute to their memory and as a token of our appreciation for the supreme sacrifice they made in behalf of their country, we dedicate this issue of *THE*

MIGRANT to their memory and print below a biographical sketch of each. Our frontispiece portrays six of these eight; unfortunately, we have been unable to secure suitable pictures of the other two up to time of going to press.—ED.

AUSTIN WILLIAM BURDICK (1922-1944)

Austin W. Burdick, one of our most admired and most promising young ornithologists, was killed in action in Belgium on December 18, 1944. At that time he was an infantry ammunition bearer, and met his death when he returned in the face of enemy fire to aid three fallen comrades. For this action he was posthumously awarded the *SILVER STAR*.

Born in Memphis, Tennessee, on November 23, 1922, Austin showed an early love for natural history by bringing home many kinds of animal life that he found in his neighborhood. However, it was not long until he discovered his real field of interest—the study of birds, an interest that remained with him throughout his life. When he became old enough, he joined the Boy Scouts and developed quickly into a capable bird student under the guidance of Mr. Ben B. Coffey. Throughout the following years, his devotion to ornithology increased, and while still in high school, he learned to prepare bird skins for scientific study and also to mount birds. Here he showed an artistic touch which, combined with a natural talent, enabled him to produce beautiful bird skins.

After graduating from high school in 1941, Austin entered Louisiana State University where he studied ornithology under Mr. George H. Lowery. He spent the summer of 1942 in the State of Washington studying and collecting birds. His paper covering the results of this work was published in *The Condor* (Vol. 46, pp. 238-242). Also he had the opportunity to observe and collect Mexican birds when he visited that country in January and February, 1943, as part of a Louisiana State University expedition. He left college in May, 1943, when he was inducted into the Army.

Austin Burdick was always an inspiration to those of us who were associated with him in the field. He was eager to pursue his favorite work wherever it led him, and his untiring energy will never be forgotten by those who knew him. He was an excellent field man and collector, and consistently showed up with the prize specimen. Austin's enthusiastic desire to secure new specimens is best evidenced by fifteen birds that he collected in England with a sling shot and sent to the Louisiana State University Museum. During the few weeks when he was stationed in that country any type of field work, let alone any form of collecting and pre-

paring of specimens, was done only under the greatest of difficulties.

Many notes and articles written by Burdick may be found throughout the pages of THE MIGRANT dating from the time that he joined the T.O.S. in 1938. He added to the Tennessee list one new species, Western Meadowlark, *Sturnella neglecta*, (THE MIGRANT, V. 14, p. 77), and probably several subspecies, besides contributing much valuable general information on Tennessee birds. He was also an Associate of the American Ornithologists Union to which he was elected in 1943.

Austin's tragic and untimely death occurred long before he reached the peak of his personal achievement. But, even so, he left much to be remembered by ornithologists. His collection, numbering almost nine hundred specimens, is safely deposited in the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology, and his writings are filed in the printed pages of ornithological journals, but by those of us to whom he was a personal friend, his generous character and spirit of good fellowship will always be missed and remembered.—ROBERT TUCKER.

CLARENCE E. COLLIER, JR. (1924-1945)

Clarence E. Collier, Jr., known to his friends as "Buddy," became a member of the T. O. S. when he was twelve years old and kept a lively interest in ornithology and all outdoors until his death at the age of twenty-one. Most of his short span was lived in Clarksville, Tennessee, where after finishing high school, he attended Austin Peay State College. His gift of observation and love for nature, combined with strong body, straight character and happy personality, gave joy and high hopes to his friends and teachers. In April, 1943, he volunteered for the army air corps and two years later he was ready to go, a fighting pilot into the Pacific theatre of the war. Shortly before he was scheduled for embarkation, he drowned while swimming in Waukulla Springs, Florida, near Dale Mabry Field, on August 5th, 1945.

In bird study, he took part in Chimney Swift banding, field expeditions and in nesting studies. With the aid of linemen's spurs, he climbed the largest trees in order to gain first hand knowledge of the nests of Red-tailed Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Great Horned Owls and other species. He was an expert and careful climber and added much to the knowledge about such large birds and their nests in the Clarksville area.

As he matured, there shown through his nature a gentle understanding for life in all its forms and this, as we look back, gives a measure of completeness to his own.—ALFRED CLEBSCH.

FREDERICK WILLIAM FIEDLER, JR. (1921-1944)

The son of Dr. and the late Mrs. F. W. Fiedler and a lifelong Memphian, Fred was born here January 29, 1921. Shortly after his twelfth birthday he entered Boy Scout Troop 29 at the Evergreen Presbyterian Church of which he was a member. Reaching Eagle Scout rank on March 21, 1935, Fred was an enthusiastic camper with an intense devotion to Kamp Kia Kima at Hardy, Arkansas. He served on the staff there in 1937. As an Eagle Scout he retained a special interest in birds and joined the Memphis chapter of our Society in 1940, having participated in Christmas counts 1935-1940. Fred also assisted in banding Chimney Swifts and herons and on field trips. In April, 1935, he reported the first Starlings recorded nesting at Memphis (1935:34).

After graduating from Central High School, Memphis, in 1938, Fred spent the summer at the University of Mexico and entered the University of Wisconsin that

fall. After a year at Memphis State College and another back at Wisconsin, he entered the University of Tennessee Medical School in September, 1942. Entering the Army in January, 1943, he later attended Fort Riley and in August was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the mechanized cavalry. Going overseas June, 1944, he spent about a month at Glastonbury, Somerset, England. He joined the 2nd Cavalry Regiment during the Brittany campaign and commanded a platoon in Troop G. During an attack outside a wood between Montargis and the Loire, another platoon leader was killed, and taking command of both platoons, Lt. Fiedler led them, defeating the Germans on their front. At the moment of victory he was mortally wounded. For this action at Les Ormes, France, August 24, 1944, he was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star.—BEN B. COFFEY.

LEWIS FRELAN GODDARD (1924-1944)

Lewis Frelan Goddard was born May 9, 1924, at Procter, Vermont, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle J. Goddard, of Fountain City, Tenn. He joined the Knoxville Chapter of the T. O. S. on January 1st, 1940, and actively participated in its meetings as well as its mid-winter and spring census lists. He assisted with banding Chimney Swifts under the direction of Prof. Henry Meyer, engaged in hiking activities in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and was a member of the T. O. S. Field Week party which made a bird-life survey of the Falls Creek State Park in 1940. To those of us who knew him, it is with pleasure that we recall some of the highlights of his field work, such as his wintering records of a flock of White-crowned Sparrows, the Pine Warbler, the Brown Thrasher, the Woodcock, and others.

Frelan enlisted November 15, 1942, receiving his training for the armed services at Lexington, Ky., and Camp Crowder, Mo., following which he volunteered for duty in the Office of Strategic Services, in October, 1943, and after special training at Washington, D. C., he was based at Peterborough, England. During his off-time in England he studied the birds of that country, purchasing the best books obtainable to assist him with identifications.

In the spring of 1944, he was detailed to North Africa as a base from which to organize the French Marquis of southern France and from this base was parachuted into France on various occasions. As first sergeant and radio operator, he composed the American member of the "Jedburgh" radio unit which communicated with headquarters from hostile soil. His compatriots in this venture were an English army captain and a French army lieutenant. He met his tragic death while engaged in a parachute jump north of Marseilles (near Luynes), France, on August 7, 1944.

Frelan was of a sunny, enthusiastic disposition, never a laggard and always good company for those who were with him on bird-study or other out-door activities.—W. M. WALKER.

EARL O'DELL HENRY (1911-1945)

Earl O'Dell Henry was born November 8, 1911, at Clinton, Tennessee, the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Henry. The family later moved to Knoxville, where Earl graduated from Knoxville High School in 1929. At an early age he showed an unusual interest in bird study. He became an accomplished imitator of birds and was often called upon for bird talks and imitations.

While still in his early teens Earl became interested in taxidermy and began to build up a fine collection of mounted birds, specializing in waterfowl and birds

of prey. This collection, now in temporary possession of the University of Tennessee, came to include a number of rare species, and his technique was said to be very fine. References to some of the birds preserved by him will be found in the Knoxville and Memphis "Season" notes in THE MIGRANT.

Earl was for a number of years one of the most popular and dependable members of the Knoxville Chapter. He served as Vice-President for East Tennessee in 1939-1940 and Vice-President of the Knoxville Chapter in 1941. The most vivid picture many of his friends retain in their memories is of him on a field trip, in corduroy breeches and boots, with his binoculars swung around his neck.



Dr. Earl Henry, Brockway Crouch and Miss Robinson on Siler's Bald, 1938 X-mas bird census

Earl graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1935 with degrees of B.S. and D.D.S. He spent four years in the Dental School at Memphis and while there became an active and much esteemed member of that Chapter, where his many talents, amiable disposition and considerate nature quickly made their impress. While in Memphis he added many birds peculiar to that locality to his collection. He served as Chapter President there during his senior year in Dental School.

After entering the practice of dentistry in Knoxville, Earl worked less on taxidermy, although continuing to care for the collection and adding to it occasionally. His interest in bird study continued and he began to paint, again concentrating on waterfowl, and was well on the way to building up a fine collection of paintings when he entered the Navy.

He entered the Navy's Dental Service as a Lieutenant (j.g.) February 12, 1942. He served a year at Parris Island, S. C., and was stationed at Annapolis for fifteen months. Promotions came rapidly, and in May, 1944, he went to sea as a Lieutenant-Commander on the cruiser Indianapolis. He died in the tragic sinking of that ship between Guam and Leyte on July 30, 1945.

Commander Henry was married October 20, 1941, and is survived by his wife, the former Jane Covington, of Mayfield, Ky., and a young son, Earl, Jr., in addition to his parents.—JIM TRENT, JR.

CONRAD HASTON JAMISON, JR. (1922-1945)

Conrad Jamison, Jr., was born at High Point, North Carolina, on July 10th, 1922, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad H. Jamison. Following graduation from high school at Nashville, Tenn., and from Peabody Demonstration School in 1940, he entered Peabody College and completed his course there, graduating with a

B.S. degree in August, 1944.

Having previously planned for a course in medicine, he had an opportunity to enroll in the Vanderbilt Medical School but the desire to aid his country in its armed forces pulled more strongly and he decided to enter training at once, which he did on August 28, 1944. Basic training was taken at Camp Blanding, Florida, at which camp there then followed training in the Intelligence and Reconnaissance School. He arrived in France, January 22, 1945, and with a training that was all too short, was placed in the 94th Division of General Patton's Third Army. On February 25, 1945, he was killed in action after crossing the Saar River near Ockfen, Germany.

When a boy of twelve, Conrad had joined Boy Scout Troop 27 and progressed in this activity until he became an Eagle Scout, September 8, 1937. Attending Camp Boxwell near Nashville for several years thereafter, he was instructor for the bird-study merit badge. As a member of the Vine St. Christian Church, he was active in its young people's work.

Conrad joined the Nashville Chapter, T. O. S. during 1937, became one of its most active and consistent observers and served for a term as Secretary. His interest covered all phases of bird study, including migration, feeding habits and nesting. He became particularly interested in the study of Barn Owls and discovered more nesting pairs of these birds about Nashville than anyone had thought possible. With his co-worker, William Simpson, they summarized their findings in *THE MIGRANT* for 1942, p. 57 and 1943, p. 43. Other contributions to *THE MIGRANT* may be found in 1941: 23, 46, 71, 73; 1942: 12, 38, 42 and 56. Still other activities were bird-banding, including assisting with thousands of Chimney Swifts, and the study of birds of prey, including rearing them and training some for falconry. Talented artist that he was, he made numerous drawings and paintings of birds from life and during his course at Peabody College, prepared a number of drawings of ferns, to illustrate articles on this subject by Prof. J. M. Shaver, and which were published in the *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science*. The portrait shows him engaged in this work. The writer of this sketch quite frequently had the pleasure of Conrad's company on trips afield and found him a tireless and most congenial companion. Quiet, dependable and of a lovable disposition, his loss was a sad blow to the host of friends he left behind.—ALBERT F. GANIER.

JOSEPH THORNTON MASON, III (1923-1945)

The White Station community, just east of Memphis, was the home of Joseph Thornton Mason, III, who was, however, born in Memphis, May 31, 1923. He joined its Boy Scout Troop 21, April 20, 1936, and became an Eagle Scout October 12, 1939. With a fellow member, Austin Burdick, he served as an instructor in bird study for Memphis Scouts. Enrolling in the Sea Scout Ship "Idlewild" on March 9, 1940, Joe also became an Assistant Scoutmaster of the White Station troop April 30, 1941. As a leading Scout, his principal interest was bird study and in 1938 he joined the Memphis Chapter of the Society. He was an active and loyal participant in field work and operated a banding sub-station at the family dairy on Walnut Grove Road. Two of his unusual records appeared in *THE MIGRANT*: "Harris's Sparrow in Shelby County" (1941:41)—the second Tennessee record, trapped and banded; and "Pigeon Hawk at Memphis" (1941:39)—the first record for the Memphis area. Here his signature appears Joe T. Mason, Jr., as it does later on his Army records. During four seasons he took part in over nine Christmas bird counts and assisted in banding herons and Chimney Swifts.

After graduating in 1941 from Central High School, Memphis, where he was a member of the National Honor Society, Joe entered Texas A & M College that fall to study petroleum engineering. While there he found time to write us of his experiences with western birds and to plan for the next Christmas Count back home. A year later he was enrolled in the Army, remaining in the school but taking basic training at Camp Roberts, California, June 1 to September 25, 1943. The final departure was for the Infantry School, leading to his commission on June 6, 1944. Assigned to Company M and later as executive of Company K of the 253d Infantry, Joe joined the 63d ("Blood and Fire") Division at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi. On December 8th the Division landed at Marseille and later joined the Seventh Army in its Saar offensive. Joe was promoted to first lieutenant just before he was reported killed in action February 18, 1945, in Germany, near Saarguemines. Burial was at Epinal, France, in the Vosges. The loss of tall, manly Joe is deeply felt.—BEN B. COFFEY.

BEN CARLYLE WELCH, JR. (1924-1944)

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben C. Welch of 1946 Snowden Avenue, Memphis, and a sergeant in the Rangers, Ben Carlyle Welch, Jr., was killed in action at St. Die, France, October 30, 1944. He was born at Union City, Tennessee, September 16, 1924, but became a resident of Memphis shortly afterwards. At Central High School, Memphis, from which he was graduated in 1942, Ben was a quarterback on the football team and ran the 440-yard dash and in the mile relay on the track team. At the University of Tennessee he played basketball, entering the College of Agriculture in the fall of 1942, with plans for forestry as a career. He left school to enter the service in April, 1943, and spent some time at Camp Croft, S. C., as an instructor in an infantry heavy weapons company. At the end of one problem out in the brush he was personally commended by Lt. Gen. Leslie McNair, then Commanding General of the Army Ground Forces, who had been an observer unknown to the men. In January, 1944, Ben went overseas by way of Casablanca, Oran, and Algiers, and reported adding several birds to his life-list. A letter of March 25 announced his presence in Italy "bearded and barbarous," and undergoing final training. He entered combat as a machine gunner at the Anzio beachhead, serving with the 30th Infantry Regiment of the famed Third Division from there until they entered Rome. Volunteering for the Rangers he was with them and attached still to the Third Division during the invasion of southern France, the rapid thrust northward, and patrolling behind German lines during the cold and bitter campaign in the Vosges.

Just eight years earlier, Ben had joined Boy Scout Troop 44, October 31, 1936. He advanced rapidly in Scouting and became an Eagle Scout April 21, 1938. On March 9, 1940, he joined the Sea Scout Ship Idlewild along with Austin Burdick, Jr., and Joe Mason, Jr., and under T. O. S. member Fred T. Carney. Ben was an active camper and served as instructor in Bird Study and other Scouting subjects. He joined the Memphis T. O. S. Chapter in 1938 and assisted in each Christmas bird count and in field days thereafter until he entered the service. Swift and heron banding were other activities as a member of the Society and of the First Memphis (Cranetown) Rovers. Records of his field trips were faithfully kept and made available to others. He haunted Overton Park during spring migration and visited Hardy, Arkansas, and the Gulf Coast. His cheerfulness and enthusiasm are greatly missed.—BEN B. COFFEY.

SOME BEWICK WREN NESTING DATA

BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

In fifteen seasons (1928, 1934, 1935, and 1937-46), I have accumulated some data on 52 nests of the Bewick Wren (*Thryomanes bewicki*) in the area about my home, Warner Parks, and the intervening five to six miles. These nests were located in the following sites: metal newspaper cylinders on posts at roadside, 13; mail boxes on roadside, 12; wooden bird boxes, 11 (including one stored on a shelf in a garage); on ledge of porch or similar protected place, 7; in gourds under eaves or on porch, 3; in crevice of building, 2; and in addition, one was located in each of the following four places: hat, fastened to the inside wall of a chicken house, cardboard cylinder fastened to side of a house; within a sack of peas stored in a barn, a horizontal drainage tile in a park terrace. In two seasons, Bewick Wrens and Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) nested successfully in boxes on opposite ends of a porch about 25 feet apart. No conflicts were seen between the pairs.

The earliest of the 52 nests contained four eggs on March 30, 1942 (complete set 7), indicating the first egg was laid March 27. The latest nesting record is a brood of five young about nine days old on July 20, 1938, the last egg being laid about June 28.

The number of eggs laid is known for 22 of the 52 nests. There were three sets of 8 eggs (all April nests) with 6, 7, 7, eggs hatching and the 20 young surviving (83 per cent of the number of eggs laid). There were ten sets of 7 eggs (March to May). One of these nests was not followed, but the other 63 eggs produced 31 young (49 per cent). In addition, seven young were fledged from the drain pipe but the number of eggs in the clutch is not known. There were seven nests with 6 eggs, and two with 5 per set. The total number of eggs laid in 21 nests is 139, averaging 6.6 eggs per nest.

From the 139 eggs, 79 young were fledged or 56.8 per cent of the number of eggs laid. Six of the nests were entirely unsuccessful; a snake robbed one nest, the incubating bird was taken by a cat in one, in another, she was found dead, and from a fourth nest she disappeared. In two May nests, no eggs hatched, although there were well developed embryos. These nests were in metal roadside boxes that were exposed to the sun in very hot weather producing excessively high temperatures inside of the boxes.

Because most of the nests were built so far back in small, dark recesses, it has been difficult to get exact data on incubation and nestling periods. In one box, the set of six eggs was completed on June 27 and the first egg was hatched by 10 A.M. July 9, but no further data were obtainable as the contents of the nest were taken by a predator before my visit on the following morning. In another nest, containing six eggs, laying dates unknown, one nestling was hatched on the morning of May 8, but the sixth egg did not hatch until the afternoon of May 9. The young left the nest by May 22. On May 21, at 10:30 A.M., one of the brood had its head out of the entrance and two stood on the backs of others. Adults were still carrying food into the box on the morning of May 22, but all young had gone at my afternoon visit. In this nest, therefore, the nestling, or nest-occupancy, period was thirteen to fourteen days.

In May, 1946, there was an unusual case of Bewick Wrens usurping the nest site that was already in use by a pair of the larger Carolina Wrens. The Bewick pair had built in a mail box at the roadside about 150 feet from our mail box which the Carolina pair had taken sometime previously. On May 18, the property

owners removed the nest of the Bewick Wrens. Early on the morning of May 19, the Carolina Wren laid the fourth egg of her set in our box. This apparently did not complete the set for she did not start incubation. At 1 P.M. (C.D.T.) that day, I saw the Bewick pair diligently carrying loads of nest material into our mail box. Investigation revealed that they had a nest complete, except for lining, completely sealing in the eggs of the Carolina Wren. The new nest was built against the side entrance of the first nest. I watched spasmodically all afternoon and failed to see the original owners, but heard the male in songs occasionally in other locations about our home. Later, the replacement nest was found some 250 feet south.

The Bewick Wren nest appeared complete on May 20; the first egg was laid May 23 and the set of six completed on May 28. Two of the eggs had the heavy pigmentation in the form of a wreath around the small end instead of around the large end in the normal manner. Incubation began after the laying of the last egg, although she may have occupied the nest at night during the laying period.

Between May 30 and June 10, I spent 11.5 hours watching the pair at the nest box. From the beginning of their occupancy, both pairs had used the mail slot at the entrance, therefore, to protect the birds from interference, the door had been immediately wired shut and a substitute box placed for the mail. When incubation began, the female Bewick Wren had regular routes for leaving and re-entering the box. Usually, she flew south on her periods off the nest. As she flew out of the slot opening, she curved to the right, around the front of the box, to the east side, flying southward. Upon returning, she always landed on a scroll-work iron bracket below the box, then, flying upward on the west side of the box, she made a right turn and into the opening. Her trips were made in silence except once or twice when she used the rasping notes, apparently directing them at a person.

During my watch periods, I saw the male enter the box seven times. On five of these trips, he landed on the top of the box first before flying down to the slot and entering; on the other two trips, he flew directly into the box without stopping first. On five (possibly six) of his trips (May 30, June 2, June 5), he brought food. Twice he delivered it to the female, but she was absent on three of his visits. The first time that he failed to find her, he must have swallowed the spider himself for he came out without it; the other two times he came out with the larva still in his bill and flew off with it. He was silent on some of these trips but the third time that she was absent, he gave one musical call-note as he flew off with the food. Once when delivering food to the female in the nest, he gave the musical call before entering; on the other food delivery, he used the rasping scold many times, from a high perch behind the box, before entering. On June 2, just a half minute after the female had returned to the nest, he arrived from the south to the top of the mail box, leaned over the front edge to peer into the slot, then hopped about the box some seconds before returning to the front edge and leaning far over in an attempt to look inside. He was silent while at the box but sang five songs in a half minute after leaving. His singing occurred at some distance from the nest throughout the incubation period; I failed to see any correlation between his singing and the movements of his mate to or from the nest. His bringing food to her during her absence seems to indicate that she foraged alone, at least part of the time. In 1928, a pair of Bewick Wrens occupied a gourd on our porch. The male brought food to the incubating mate but often announced his arrival by stopping on the flower box and singing one song before proceeding

to the nest with the food.

In the 11.5 hours of daylight observation of the 1946 nest, the female spent only 37 per cent of the time incubating. In the 8 complete periods on the nest occurring during my watch, the time on the nest varied from 3 to 24.5 minutes (average 17.5 minutes). Among the partial periods (meaning she was on the nest when observations started) she stayed 41 minutes, plus. Her 9 complete periods off the nest varied from 12 to 63 minutes.

Doubtless weather conditions affect the incubation rhythm to some extent. During the first four days of incubation, with maximum temperatures of 79° to 84° F., in 192 minutes of observation on the third and fourth days, she spent 24 per cent of the time on the nest with 76 per cent off. From June 1 to June 6, maximum temperatures were 66° to 82°, with very cool nights for June. The U. S. Weather Report shows that on three of those twenty-four-hour periods, the departures from normal mean temperature were -12 and -13. During this period, I made observations on the 5th, 6th, and 10th days of incubation for a total of 314.5 minutes. She spent 53 per cent of the time on the nest and 47 per cent off.

But from June 7, the weather was abnormally hot with temperatures as high as 97°. The metal box, being in direct sunlight some hours during mid-day, must have registered well over 100°. On the 11th and 14th days of incubation, I watched for 141 minutes. She spent 23 per cent of the time on the nest (complete periods 3 to 20.5 minutes) and 77 per cent off (complete periods 14 to 63 minutes).

No eggs hatched. She incubated until June 13 (at least 16 days). Early on the 14th, when the eggs were found deserted, they were examined. One was sterile but the remaining five had large embryos, developed almost to the hatching stage but the excessive heat of the last days of the incubation period apparently was disastrous.

In two other metal boxes in exposed roadside situations, where the incubation of the two 7 egg sets was a few days in advance of the one in our box, three and four eggs, respectively, contained dead embryos. Another mail box, where nesting had begun in April, was highly successful. On May 18, 1946, the nest and seven well-developed nestlings were removed and brought to me, the report being that the postman and others failed to leave an opening for the parents on many occasions. There was one addled egg in the nest and the young appeared to be about 12 days old but varied in development. One nestling made a short downward flight but the youngest still had most if its flight feathers in sheaths. They were placed, with the nest, in a tall, roomy box indoors and fed by hand. Two gaped immediately and the others soon responded to my hand. Larva-size pieces of soft-baked custard became a favorite food. They were attractive little birds, using the twittering notes as food calls, quivering the wings and begging with open bills as they hopped about my hand. After a feeding, the seven settled in a compact group in the corner of the box, heads facing the same direction. In ten days (May 29) they took food in their bills, sometimes even grabbing it from the feeding forceps. The following day, one wiped its bill after a feeding and two grabbed food from the bill of a third. By May 31, they had been moved to a large cage on a screened porch and were helping themselves to food from a dish, although all still begged from my hand. They used the perches in the cage freely for day-time rests and roosted there at night, perched close together, usually facing in the same direction. Heads usually were tucked in the scapular feathers at night but sometimes one or two slept with heads hanging downward. June 1, the rasping note was heard on two occasions. On June 3, the temperature dropped at night

to an unseasonable 54°. Although the cage was covered, one fledgling was found dead the following morning. At 7:30 P.M. (C.D.T.) June 6, I peeped under the cover; they had not yet tucked their heads in but were perched close with heads alternating backward and forward. June 12, in preparation for releasing them, the cage, without the bottom, was placed on the grass near the house. For a few minutes, they appeared to be shy of the greenery but soon were making short, experimental hops down to it from the perches. June 15, when the brood was reduced to five (one had died during a very wet period, although protected from rain), they were given their freedom. They scattered about the garden this bright day, their cheerful twitters being heard from time to time. In the afternoon, two were foraging in the vegetable garden about fifty feet from the cage. One of these flew about a wire mesh cage back there that was occupied by a baby rabbit, twice entering it through the large-size mesh. Two stayed in the little rock garden near their cage. All were tame to me, coming close to eat custard strips as I placed some on the ground. On June 16, three were at their cage, going in and out and perching on it. Two allowed me to pick them up. June 17, two still came to the cage often to perch and feed. They frequently perched there for many minutes. One quivered its wings and gaped to my hand but did not take the proffered food. That night, at deep dusk, both were in the cage but did not remain for roosting. One of these remained in the rock garden until dark and must have roosted there. June 18, only one came to the cage during the day, and at dusk, hopped about investigating crevices near the steps. This was the last appearance. None had started to sing the lovely little warbling songs of immature wrens. Their vocal efforts were restricted to the oft-repeated "tweet-tweet," accompanied by waving of the tail.

SUMMARY

In fifteen seasons, records of 52 nests of the Bewick Wren have been obtained in Warner Parks, about my home and the intervening 5-6 miles. These were built in metal newspaper cylinders (13), metal mail boxes (12), bird boxes (11), and lesser numbers in gourds, on ledges, crevices of buildings, hat, sack of peas, drainage tile. The earliest nest had 4 eggs on March 30 (complete set 7); the latest had five young about nine days old on July 20.

In 21 nests, the number of eggs laid is 139, averaging 6.6 per nest. Sets varied from 8 to 5 eggs. From the 139 eggs, 79 young matured to fledging age (56.8 per cent); six nests were entirely unsuccessful, caused presumably by snake, cat predation, disappearance of female, exposure to extreme heat in metal boxes.

One instance occurred of a Bewick pair usurping a mail box in which a Carolina Wren was laying her eggs.

In late May and June, 11.5 hours were spent in observing incubation rhythm at this mail box which was exposed to sunshine during mid-day hours. The female spent only 37 per cent of these daylight hours on the nest. Her absences were more marked during a period of high temperatures. Extreme heat occurred on the 12th, 13th and 14th days of incubation. The eggs failed to hatch; five of the six eggs in the clutch had embryos about ready to hatch. She incubated 16 days before deserting. Other details of incubation rhythm and temperature are given.

The male brought food to the nest five times during the observation periods, finding her absent on three of these occasions; twice he carried the larva away with him.

Some details are given of a brood of seven nestlings, raised by hand from May 18, approximately 12 days of age. In ten days, they began to pick up food. All

reached independence but two died later. The five young were given freedom on June 15. No effort was made to tame them, but they remained nearby for three days, the number decreasing gradually. On June 17, one still gaped and quivered wings to my hand, but ignored the proffered food. They all used the "tweet" notes but there were no attempts to sing.

GRAYBAR LANE, NASHVILLE, TENN.

OBSERVATIONS AT THE NEST OF A PILEATED WOODPECKER

BY PHILIP S. HUMPHREY

It is not often that one is confronted with ideal conditions for the study of the home-life of any bird. However, for the first home-life study I have ever attempted I was presented with the perfect situation. The nesting hole was some thirty feet up in a dead tree and easily accessible by means of a sapling up which the most inexperienced of tree-climbers could readily scale. Furthermore, directly opposite the nesting hole and only ten feet away from the nesting tree, there grew a large tree in which a blind could be constructed or a camera placed to record the nest-life of that striking bird, the Pileated Woodpecker.*

DISCOVERY OF THE NEST.—Before the nest was discovered, the woodpeckers were observed a few times in the vicinity of the nest during the latter part of March and the first week of April. These observations all took place in a rectangular area about ten acres in extent which was largely open hickory and oak forest with scattered low clumps of cedar.

On March 27, 1946, a three-inch hole, recently excavated, was found in a dead tree with only three limbs remaining. On the seventh of April it was discovered that this hole was being used by the woodpeckers. The nest was located in the dead remains of an unidentified species of tree some fifty feet in height. The hole faced due east and very little sunlight ever reached it through the canopy of leaves on neighboring trees.

The hole, thirty feet from the ground, measured three and a half inches wide by four and a half inches high, while the cavity itself was twelve inches deep from the lower lip of the orifice and seventeen and a half inches from the ceiling. An observation hole was cut after the young had hatched and it was found at that time that the cavity measured about seven inches wide at the level of this hole which was about one inch above the floor of the nest.

THE EGGS.—These were four in number, pure white, and glossy under their coating of filth from the floor of the nest-cavity. From the fact that two of the eggs hatched on the twenty-second of April and that the known incubation period is eighteen days it may be assumed that incubation began about the third or fourth of April. Two of these eggs failed to hatch and presumably they were infertile.

It is interesting to note in passing that at no time during the course of my visits to the nest did the adult woodpeckers show any inclination to attack me, nor did either of them remain in the near vicinity of the nesting tree once flushed from the cavity.

INCUBATION AND EXCHANGE PROCEDURE.—The nest was under observation for eleven hours during the last eight days of incubation. The female Pileated Woodpecker was in the cavity and presumably incubating the eggs for three and a half hours of that time, the male for two and a fifth hours and birds of undetermined sex

*Southern Pileated Woodpecker (*Ceophloeus pileatus pileatus*.)

for one and a fifth hours. To illustrate the procedure engaged in when the two birds changed places at the nest I include two excerpts from my notes:

April 17, 6:03 P.M.—The male woodpecker arrived at a tree approximately a hundred and fifty feet to the southwest of the nesting tree. A few seconds later he landed on the southwest side of the nesting tree about twenty feet below the hole. He rested there for several seconds and then commenced to climb. When he was half way up he started making low chirring noises which can best be described by the words "*wichew-wichew-wichew*." As soon as the male finished his call the female flew from the nest hole. The male stopped for an instant and then commenced to climb again. About six feet below the hole he sidled around to the eastern face of the trunk.

6:05—The male bird had reached the nest hole. He performed bobbing movements and then entered. The female could be heard feeding several hundred yards from the nesting tree.

April 21, 5:35 A.M.—Female arrived at a tree sixty feet to the southwest of the nesting tree. Tapped several times.

5:36.—Female landed on trunk ten feet below the nesting hole. Uttered chirring call six or eight times.

5:36½.—Male flew from the nest to the east.

5:37.—Female entered the nest hole after three bobs. Male at no time replied to mate's cries. Female did not continue calling after the male flew.

The exchange procedure was fundamentally the same as those described above practically every time that it was executed during the incubation period.

HATCHING, YOUNG AND GROWTH OF YOUNG.—The first indication that the young had hatched was a slight change in the behavior of the female when she entered the nest at 5:15 P.M., April the twenty-third. She entered the hole after three bobs, which was normal, but on the first bob she uttered one very low "*wichew*" call. Fifteen minutes later I climbed the nesting tree and found that the nest contained two young. I could feel their outstretched and gaping beaks when I reached my fingers deep into the hole. The young birds emitted frantic buzzing cries. Whether they expected feed or were just giving vent to their annoyance, I do not know.

On the afternoon of April the twenty-fourth I returned to the nest equipped with a hacksaw. I cut an observation hole in the north face of the tree and about eight inches below the nest hole. The lower lip of this hole was about one inch above the floor of the nest cavity. The square of wood I removed could be fitted back into the hole and tied by means of a rope around the tree. This sealed the cavity very effectively. The adult birds did not seem to be too disturbed by the observation hole though it did take the male a little longer than normal to return to the nest for the first time. On his return he investigated the rope and did not seem to be further interested.

The two young woodpeckers were ungainly looking creatures. While buzzing they assumed "spread-eagle" positions. Their necks were stretched to the utmost and beaks pointed straight up and gaping. The wings were outspread and strained back where they were held quivering. The nestlings rested on and received stability from their tarsi which were extended in front of them. They had very fat, protruding bellies over which the skin was practically transparent affording one a good view of some of the internal organs. The young birds were entirely without natal down and their skins were deep red. The only part of them that was any other color was the egg tooth. This tooth was a large white excrescence on the tip of

the almost triangular upper mandible, which, by the way, was shorter than the lower. The young showed a marked difference in size. One was a third again larger than the other. Both young had a few parasites. In the nest cavity along with the young were the egg shells of the hatched birds.

On the twenty-seventh of April the first signs of coming feathers were seen in the form of small black dots on the wings and legs.

The smaller of the two nestlings was missing from the nest on April 28. For what reason the young bird disappeared it is hard to say. Perhaps because it was the smaller bird, it was unable to get as much food as its nest-mate and thus died of starvation to be removed from the cavity by one of the adults.

On April 30 it was found that the remaining young bird had a good many more parasites on him than before. These were in unhealthy looking clusters at the bases of his wings.

On May 5, the eyes of the young woodpecker were open. His tail and wing feather-sheaths were a quarter inch out with the tips of the feathers protruding slightly. The egg tooth had become very much diminished in size.

On May 9, the nestling was covered with feather-sheaths and on the body the contour and body feathers were just barely protruding from their sheaths. Those on the wings and tail, however, were a good half to three quarters of an inch out. Pinfeathers on the crest were red while the appropriate neck, body and wing feathers showed white. The egg tooth had almost entirely disappeared. Fewer parasites were evident on the undersides of the wings perhaps because the growing feathers afforded some concealment.

No parasites were noted on the thirteenth of May when the nestling was found to be entirely clad with feathers. By this time the beak had become much elongated and the upper mandible was the same length as the lower.

FEEDING.—One of the drawbacks of watching the nest-life of a hole-nesting bird is that activities within the cavity cannot be seen. It was only during the last few days of observation that I could see the adult Pileated Woodpecker feed its young. I witnessed the event for the first time on the nineteenth of May and observed it only four times thereafter. Each feeding followed a regular pattern as an excerpt from my notes will illustrate.

4:58 P.M.—The male bird landed on the nesting tree ten feet above the nest hole. The nestling stuck its head out shortly after the adult's arrival and commenced a continuous "wuk-wuk-wuk" call. The calls increased in intensity as the parent bird backed down to the hole.

4:58½.—The male fed the nestling, whose crest was erected, twice by inserting the beak deep into the gaping mouth of the young and regurgitating.

4:59.—The male flew from the top of the nest tree, having climbed there immediately after feeding the young. The young continued calling, the only interruption having been the actual feeding.

BROODING.—During the thirty-one days between April 23, when the young probably hatched, and May 26, when the nest cavity was found to be empty, the nest was visited fourteen times and was under observation for a period of twenty-six hours. The male was in the nest cavity for four hours of the twenty-six, the female for only half an hour, and birds of undetermined sex for three quarters of an hour. I hardly think that these figures are actually any indication of the amount of time the male spent on the nest as compared to the female. In the course of fourteen days of observing I spent on the average less than two hours a day watching the nest. In that short a period of observation it was impossible to arrive at any

definite conclusion concerning the actual length of time the woodpeckers spent in the nest-hole in a day. From the thirteenth of May to the twenty-second the adult woodpeckers spent no time in the nest during the course of my observations.

BOBBING.—An interesting behavior of the adult Pileated Woodpeckers was observed when they prepared to enter the nest hole. Unfortunately I did not make as complete notes on it as I should have as at first I did not realize that anything out of the ordinary was taking place. Every time one of the birds prepared to enter the nest hole it would execute what I call bobbing movements. The bird would be perched ready to enter the hole and then it would put its head into the hole for an instant, withdrawing it at once to scan the surroundings. After looking about for a short period, usually only a few seconds, it would repeat the performance. The female Pileated Woodpecker was observed to execute the bobbing on only four occasions. On each occasion she bobbed three times. The male was observed on eleven different occasions on each of which he bobbed from eight to thirty-six times, the average being sixteen.

Usually there would be variations of one kind or another during the bobbing. Sometimes the woodpecker would perform a "false entrance" then withdraw its body to continue bobbing. On other occasions, such as on the day I discovered the young to be hatched, a low whining note would be uttered in the course of the bobbing. Sometimes, too, the entering woodpecker would tap on the tree or some part of the entrance between bobs.

U. S. ARMY AIR BASE, SMYRNA, TENNESSEE.

THE ROUND TABLE

DOWNY WOODPECKER FEEDING ON CORN-EAR WORM.—While visiting friends in a farming community in Sullivan County in Northeast Tennessee during September and taking a stroll to look for birds, I heard a Downy Woodpecker's call from the direction of some apple trees near the barnyard. A thorough scanning of these trees did not reveal the presence of the bird even though a rustle of leaves and the sound of pecking seemed to indicate its close proximity. I finally sighted a male of this species among the still green plants of corn in a field immediately in front of the trees. Flitting from stalk to stalk, climbing all over the ears of corn and pecking busily on the husks, whose softness seemed to handicap penetration with his bill to the inside and securing whatever food looked for, the bird ultimately was seen to peck a hole through the husk of a sickly looking ear of corn and finally, with some effort, to pull out of it a corn-ear worm. He promptly flew away to a nearby walnut tree, with the grub in his bill, to devour it there in a position more comfortable than that of clinging to the ear of corn.—FRED W. BEHREND, Milligan College, Tenn.

BELL'S VIREO AND OTHER NATCHEZ TRACE NOTES.—Our personal transportation problem having been solved July 3, we set out late July 6 for Natchez Trace State Park by way of Chickasaw State Park. Joined by the John Ponds, our object was to check on some of the interesting points of my June 7-8, 1944, visit (MIGRANT, 1944:25-27). It was later in the season than desirable for hearing Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's-widow as these species call less frequently after June, but the delay was unavoidable. We reached Chickasaw Park, spending about an hour in the Lac La Joie area. A few Prairie Warblers were heard singing but only one Pine Warbler. The next afternoon on our return we heard two more Pine Warblers. No Towhees were heard on either occasion. No hawks or herons were seen.

At Lake Placid we turned back to the picnic grounds due to bad roads. Just at dusk (7:25 P.M.) a lone Chuck-will's-widow called and repeated a few times in the next ten minutes. We heard no others during the supper hour, on our stops en route to, or on our arrival at Natchez Trace about 10:30 P.M.

At 3:55 A.M. Mrs. Coffey heard a Whip-poor-will and awakened us. From our cots in the picnic area on the north side of Cub Lake we could hear a Chuck-will's-widow and two Whip-poor-wills call for a few minutes. Other species were starting to call or sing but the night birds were only brief performers. Before we started on a drive north to Maple Lake the chief attraction, near the Lodge, was a male Scarlet Tanager singing from an open perch. About half way to Maple Lake at one of our frequent stops a male Black-throated Green Warbler was seen. This species is an early fall transient at Memphis, the earliest record being two "juvenals" on July 21, 1935, by McCamey and Foster. Shortly afterwards while looking for a Prairie Warbler I picked up a Vireo, dismissing it as a White-eyed. A few minutes later a song registered with me as familiar but vaguely associated with some other region. When I tagged it as the Bell's Vireo I realized that the Vireo I saw had a dark eye. The bird was found again and Mrs. Coffey and John Pond were also able to get a good look at it. It repeated the song once, low, then remained quiet and was not found later on our return from Maple Lake. The writer had located a pair in Memphis in June, 1934 (1935:67-68), others at Lonoke, Arkansas, and found them fairly common at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, in 1943 and 1944. The Worm-eating Warbler was not found but a visit earlier in the season might have been more successful. Only one Black-and-white was noted although it was fairly common previously. No Pine Warblers were recorded as yet. Species not previously listed in the park were: Red-shouldered Hawk (5), Hairy Woodpecker (1), Red-bellied Woodpecker (2) and Mockingbird (3). Towhees were fairly common. Turning towards home, July 7, we found this species at four places south of Lexington and to within six miles north of Jack's Creek. This agrees with our trip over this area, July 19, 1936 (1941:56). Five miles west of Henderson we saw a Barn Swallow. We passed through Chickasaw to old highway 105 and near Silerton saw several flocks of Starlings in rural areas.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis 7, Tenn.

SUMMERING TOWHEES AT MEMPHIS.—In a discussion of the summer distribution of the Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) in the Mid-South (MIGRANT, 1941:51-57) based on experience from 1928 to 1941, it was mentioned that in recent years scattered records were occasionally reported for the area where this species is normally absent during the summer. On the border of its range at Natchez Trace Park it proved more common in June, 1944, than expected (1944:25-27) (see also notes this issue). From this I believed the species was becoming more common, increasing the probability of records in the Memphis area. J. Southgate Y. Hoyt has described the first nesting record for Memphis, just inside the city limits, April, 1945 (1945:40-41). That summer, Robert Tucker found the species at two places just north of Raleigh along the Austin Peay Highway, and on July 28, 1946, we heard one singing a few miles farther north. Jim Vardaman has reported a pair in his yard in the center of Memphis all this summer. I was somewhat surprised to hear two calling one morning as I drove towards McCamey's but on stopping to look at them I realized the location was the back of Jim's area. Stragglers appeared in our yard May 3-5, evidently the tail end of the migrants. Stevenson at Oxford, Miss., in 1944 to June 18 reported the species uncommon to fairly common (1945:43).—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis 7, Tenn.

NEST BUILDING OF BALTIMORE ORIOLES.—For the past six years, Baltimore Orioles have come to our yard to secure suitable nesting material for their hanging cradle. We nail the container to an old post, about 5 feet above the ground, and it consists of a small wire cone with a top on it to keep the contents dry. We fill this container with soft strings, cotton, strips of paper, and hair from the heads of those who get short cuts when hot weather comes. We have to refill it several times. Apparently, the female does the actual nest building but the more brightly colored male comes along on some trips and flies low with her, for often she carries such a load that she cannot quickly get her altitude. Up to this year, the nests have been built in the same tree, which is located just across the avenue. This year, however, she went on down the cross street. In coming to and fro and while selecting material, the female is quite unafraid and seemingly friendly. It is interesting to observe the way she chooses the material and then tests it out on an old peach stub to see if it meets requirements. If it does not, she tosses it away and promptly one of the much less particular English Sparrows flies off with it for its own nest. The material the oriole seemed to like best this year was the narrow strips of soft paraffined paper that comes around the Easter eggs we buy in little baskets for the children. I shall hunt up the nest after the leaves fall.—Mrs. S. D. JACKSON, 313 E. Watauga Ave., Johnson City, Tenn.

WILDLIFE CASUALTIES ON THE HIGHWAYS.—Although I use the highways relatively little, the number of dead creatures of the wild found on the roads in certain seasons of the year has seemed appalling, particularly during migration and early summer. In March, 1940, I started keeping a record of birds, mammals, and reptiles that had apparently met death through collision with automobiles. From then until April, 1942, on my trips to Warner Parks and in the vicinity of my home, I found 203 birds of 34 species dead on the road. In addition, the list included 129 other wildlings such as rabbits, skunks, opossums, box turtles, snakes, toads, and others.

During the wartime period of gas rationing, I made only one trip per week to Warner Parks, and, while the number of cars and the rate of speed were greatly reduced, I found so few casualties that no records were kept. However, in 1946, when restrictions on automobile travel were removed, the toll of wildlife began to mount, particularly on the two highways bordering Percy and Edwin Warner Parks and on Hillsboro Road. My trips covered about 25 miles of road south and west of home. In this small area, from late March to September 1, 1946, I found 62 birds of 21 species dead on the road. There were numerous rabbits, opossums, skunks, box turtles, moles, with rabbits, numbering 24, in the lead as casualties.

Listing the birds in alphabetical order for the five month period in 1946, the casualties are: Bluebird 3, Bobwhite 1, Indigo Bunting 6, Cardinal 4, Crow 2, Black-billed Cuckoo 3, (May 19, 20, June 3), Yellow-billed Cuckoo 5, Mourning Dove 3, Bronzed Grackle, 1, Red tailed Hawk (juvenal plumage) 1, Blue Jay 3, Mockingbird 7, Pigeon 1, Wood Pewee 2, Robin 1, Chipping Sparrow 5, Field Sparrow 1, House Sparrow 7, Brown Thrasher 3, Wood Thrust 2, White eyed Vireo 1.

In the past several years, it has been possible to save a few birds that I happened to see in time to pick up before they were killed by other passing vehicles. Among these stunned birds that were rescued, I recall an Indigo Bunting, a Yellow breasted Chat, a Yellow Warbler, a Cardinal, all of which flew away later wearing an aluminum band as a souvenir of their experience.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Graybar Lane, Nashville, Tenn.

LATE NESTS OF 1946.—On June 30, 3 Phoebes hatched from a set of 4 eggs and left the nest July 18. A Carolina Wren laid her set of 5 eggs June 30-July 4 in a box in Percy Warner Park. Four young hatched on July 18, 3 surviving to leave the nest August 2. At home, another Carolina Wren laid her set of 4 eggs July 17-20. All hatched August 3 but only 2 survived to leave the nest August 16. In Edwin Warner Park, a Mockingbird's nest held 3 large nestlings on August 5.

Each year, some of the Warner Parks nest boxes are still occupied by Bluebirds into August. This season, there were 8, with a total of 28 eggs that were laid between July 3 and July 28. From these nests 22 young fledged, leaving the boxes between August 3 and August 27. Three broods of 3, one brood of 4 young left by the 10th; three broods of 2 young and one of 4 left between August 17 and 27. —AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville, Tenn.

DDT: IT'S EFFECT UPON FISH AND WILDLIFE.—After extended field and laboratory experiments, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued Circular No. 11 under the above title and which gives the results of preliminary studies. Copies can be had from the Supt. of Documents, Washington, D. C. at 5 cents. We note with interest that when sprayed within proper limits, its effect was not found to be greatly damaging to birdlife but that many precautions are necessary. No mention is made of the potential harm that may come from individuals or city health department attaches promiscuously spraying householder's trash piles in which "home birds" may be in the habit of searching for bits of food. Heavy spraying of such places could result in high avian mortality. We quote below the circular's "Recommendations for minimizing danger to wildlife."

"Use DDT for the control of an insect pest only after weighing the value of such control against the harm that will be done to beneficial forms of life. Wherever more than a small area is involved, consult county agricultural agents, State or Federal entomologists, wildlife and fishery biologists, and United States Public Health Service officials.

"Use one-fifth pound or less of DDT per acre in an oil solution to avoid damage to fishes, crabs, or crayfishes; use less than 2 pounds per acre to avoid damage to birds, amphibians, and mammals in forest areas. Because of its greater effectiveness, use smaller quantities of DDT in emulsions.

"Use DDT only where it is needed. Wherever it is applied by airplane, provide careful plane-to-ground control to insure even coverage and to prevent local overdosage.

"In forest-pest control, wherever feasible, leave strips untreated at the first application to serve as undisturbed sanctuaries for wildlife, treating these strips at a later time or in succeeding seasons if necessary.

"In the control of early appearing insect pests, apply DDT, if possible, just before the emergence of leaves and the main spring migration of birds; for late appearing pests, delay applications, whenever practicable, past the nesting period of birds. Adjust crop applications and mosquito-control applications so far as possible to avoid the nesting period.

"Because of the sensitivity of fishes and crabs to DDT, avoid as far as possible direct application to streams, lakes, and coastal bays.

"Wherever DDT is used, make careful before and after observations of mammals, birds, fishes, and other wildlife."

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are swinging back to normal, however some rather violent swings may be encountered before we level off. If we wait until conditions are considered normal much valuable time may be lost through failure to record valuable information and observations. We feel that the time is ripe for renewing our efforts toward the advancement of ornithology throughout the state. The responsibility rests upon each individual both with respect to contributions to our journal, *THE MIGRANT*, and passing on information to friends and acquaintances who might become ardent students of ornithology.

During the war years many of us of necessity neglected or omitted many of the things we formerly enjoyed while a faithful few carried on the activities so faithfully and well that many of us take for granted that the excellent work will go on indefinitely. This will not be the case. Already some of our members who have served longest and most faithfully are requesting relief from their jobs at an early date. Doubtless some of our members are qualified and willing to take over these tasks. One of our immediate tasks is to select a successor for our Treasurer, Mr. Clebsch, who has resigned. The second task is to select a successor for the Editor of *THE MIGRANT*, Mr. Ganier, who wishes to be relieved at the end of the year.

Our constitution provides for filling vacancies in a very democratic manner, although, under present circumstances, slowly but, I hope, surely and soon. During the recent war period the election of directors was dispensed with and is only now being resumed. It is the function of the Board of Directors to handle such urgent matters as the one before us and I propose to carry out these regulations of our constitution as nearly as conditions will permit. This procedure may appear unnecessarily slow, cumbersome and unwarranted; however, it does provide broad representation and a means of keeping all chapters informed of activities of State-wide interest.

I have written our Secretary, Mr. Keeton, to request each chapter to select the number of directors to which they are entitled by the constitution, viz, one for each ten members or fraction thereof. I trust that all chapters are proceeding to comply and that within the next few weeks several candidates will be proposed for these offices and the Board of Directors can proceed to select a Treasurer and an Editor for *THE MIGRANT*.

When these matters are taken care of we propose to formulate plans for increasing our membership and attempt the organization of additional chapters to provide more adequate coverage for all parts of the state.

Suggestions regarding the operation of T. O. S., activities, projects or means of advancing our avocation will be greatly appreciated as this is your Society and we want all to cooperate to the fullest extent. However, you must let us know what you want and contribute articles for publication which are of interest to you.

Yours for more and better birding,

LEE R. HERNDON.

NOTES, HERE AND THERE

Our new President, Dr. Herndon, presents a message on another page that should inspire us all to put our shoulders to the wheel and help the T. O. S. to go forward into this new period of peace and become of greater usefulness than ever before. We suggest that you drop him a line, present some constructive suggestions and let him know that he will have your interest and cooperation.

The Kentucky Warbler, official organ of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, is now edited by Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, 3011 Meade Ave., Louisville 4, and may be had, along with membership in the K. O. S. for the small sum of one dollar per year. Its contents are much like ours and throw interesting sidelights on this adjacent area. The T. O. S. has many valued members from our sister State and, reciprocally, bird students of Tennessee are welcomed into their fold.

Our annual mid-winter bird census will be held as near Christmas as possible, the December 22 date having been chosen by the majority. Additional census lists during the two weeks that follow will be very acceptable, particularly if they cover another locality. Copies of such lists should also be sent to the *Audubon Magazine*; if desired, the Editor will transmit them to Mrs. Hickey, the census editor of that journal.

The Fall Field Day of our Elizabethton chapter was held on September 29 and was particularly successful in that 84 species were listed. This was accomplished by dividing into parties which searched diversified terrain.

Ye Editor spent Sunday, October 27, on picturesque Open Lake, midway between Reelfoot and Memphis, chiefly to photograph in color the highly photogenic old cypress trees that grow out into the water. Birdlife was not numerous but Tree Swallows made up for this scarcity when hundreds were found sunning themselves on the dwarfed cypresses and permitting photography at only a boat's length away.

Messrs Fred W. Behrend and W. F. Pearson spent a bird-study vacation in Florida during September and came back with the acquaintance of some new species as well as many other observations of interest.

This reminds us that B. Franklin McCamey is back in Memphis after three years service with the U. S. Naval Weather Service in Florida. Frank came away with many reels of excellent bird movies which he took there.

There will be a meeting of The Wilson Ornithological Club at Omaha, Nebraska, on the Thanksgiving week-end, November 29 and 30.

Canada's new air-mail stamp depicts an artistically rendered Canada Goose in flight, instead of the conventional airplane motif.

Is your file complete? The December issue will conclude another block of three volumes, with index appended and all ready for binding into book form. Missing numbers can be supplied at thirty cents each.

Pending the election of a new Treasurer to succeed Mr. Clebsch, who has found it necessary to resign after nine years service, dues should be sent to Secretary Keeton whose address will be found on the last page. By remitting prior to January 1st, you will save the Society the cost of billing.

ERRATA.—On page 26 of our last issue, in the first line, change the date from May 4, 1936, to May 4, 1946.

THE MIGRANT

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

EDITORIAL

WHY WE USE CAPITALS FOR SPELLING BIRD NAMES

There seems to be a growing trend, especially among the lesser bird journals, to cease the time-honored custom of spelling birds' names with capital letters. It is the writer's feeling that this change is not commendable and his reasons for this statement are as follows.

If our journals are to be worth saving for future reference (most editors think they are), they must be susceptible of indexing and periodically provided with a species index. When such an index is used at a future time and the name of a species is therein found to be on a certain page, it is possible to find it there quickly if marked by capitals. Indeed, it may appear near the bottom as well as near the top and the second reference may otherwise be overlooked. For those who compile the indices, the use of capitals greatly lessens the task. Anyone who has searched the literature for information about certain birds, has reason to be thankful for the time saved when capitals are used.

Those journals which have fallen into this modernistic trend and which may argue that they are of such a "popular" nature that they can disregard the rule, would appear to be in error for still another reason. The beginner bird student should have impressed upon him that he must learn the full vernacular name of each species. Without capitals, how is he to know where the adjectives leave off and the name begins? Would he know if he found scattered about on the printed page of text such names as little blue heron, black-crowned night heron, common mallard, broad-winged hawk, purple gallinule, spotted sandpiper, laughing gull, great horned owl, least flycatcher, brown creeper, black-throated blue warbler, northern water-thrush, slate-colored junco, etc., etc.? We think the departure, in the case of some, may be charged to leaving matters to the printer's judgment of what constitutes a "neat page." Others may be following the lead of Smithsonian publications but these are not analogous, for in such publications no partiality can be shown to either bird, beast or flower and to capitalize all would but add to the confusion. Our major ornithological journals all stick to capitalization and it would seem best for the lesser ones to fall in line.—A. F. G.

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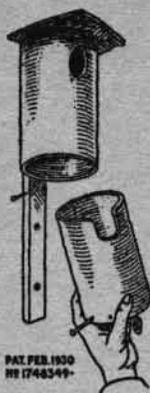
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