

THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by
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THE MIGRANT

A Quarterly Journal
devoted to
BIRDS OF TENNESSEE



Volumes 15, 16 and 17
1944 — 1945 — 1946



Edited by
ALBERT F. GANIER

Published by the
Tennessee Ornithological Society
at
Nashville, Tenn.

THE MIGRANT

Published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society, to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Tennessee. Issued in March, June, September and December

VOL. 17

DECEMBER, 1946

No. 4

BREEDING BIRDS OF THE UNICOI MOUNTAINS

By ALBERT F. GANIER and ALFRED CLEBSCH

During the last half of June in the years 1944, 1945 and 1946 we studied the breeding bird population of the summits of the Unicoi mountain chain which follows the State line between southeast Tennessee and North Carolina. The species listed below were all noted in altitudes ranging from 4000 to 5472 feet above sea level except where a lower elevation is specifically mentioned. The results of the 1944 trip were published in *THE MIGRANT* for December, 1944, and in that article we gave a detailed description of these mountain summits. This will not be repeated here except to say that, aside from a few grassy balds, the area for many miles in every direction is densely forested, chiefly with deciduous growth, yet with much of the original hemlock stand still untouched. No report had been made previously on the birds of this mountain chain.



Camp and headquarters were made each year at Stratton's Meadow Gap (4350') where a bald of five or six acres lies across the saddle of the mountain pass that is reached by ascending North River Valley. Toward its borders this bald is studded with trees and clumps of shrubs, service berries offering choice food to the birds; water courses on either slope lie partly in the open, and with all these attractions bird life is more varied and plentiful here than elsewhere in the range. From this point we explored the ten miles of ridge from Stratton's Bald (5272') on the north to Grassy Top which is south of Haw Knob (5472'), the highest point in the Unicois. The dates for our investigations were June 18 to 25, 1944, June 15 to 23, 1945 and June 16 to 26, 1946, making in all 28 days. During the last two visits we had considerable rain and lost some time on this account. The period chosen represents the height of the nesting season for most small birds and special attention was given to

seeking data on this activity. The number of species found during the three seasons was 39, 39 and 41, the composite list totaling 44 species.

Since our field work was almost altogether along or close to the boundary line between Tennessee and North Carolina, the notes are applicable to both states. While on the North Carolina side the forest was still in virgin state, and the big hemlocks reached the summits, we do not feel that conditions were sufficiently different to prevent any of the species listed from being found on either side of the line.

For the benefit of others who may visit this area and would like to spend a day in a primeval mountain forest we would suggest that they park their car on the foresters' road at Stratton's Gap, then drop over into the North Carolina side and, crossing the small stream, roam leisurely along its downward course for a half mile through virgin hemlocks and hardwoods. A compass should be used and care taken against getting lost in this trackless forest. Because of its ease of access we hope to set a movement on foot to save this particular area from the inevitable advance of lumbering operations.

Eastward from Stratton's Bald, the 3800 acre watershed of Little Santeetla Creek in North Carolina comprises the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest. This section, reached by road from the North Carolina side, is still in virgin forest and will remain so.

In addition to the avifauna we took note of the mammals encountered afield and these are listed following the birds. In verification of what the chief forester told us we saw very few snakes. One of these was a 49 inch Timber Rattlesnake we found at Stratton's Gap. It was on a pile of rock by the side of the road and was promptly dispatched. Its occurrence at such a high elevation is regarded as unusual.

For the purpose of making subspecific identifications a collection of birds was made and preserved in the form of study skins. Species represented in the collection are marked with an asterisk (*), while a double asterisk (**) indicates subspecies determined by Dr. Alexander Wetmore of the U. S. National Museum after examination of the 1944 specimens. Those taken during 1945 and 1946 are receiving further study and will be reported upon later if findings justify.

Since the localities included one of the Tennessee Game Management Areas, special collecting permits had to be secured from the State Department of Game and Fish as well as from the supervisors of the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests. To each of these we wish to express our appreciation.

We had for a capable assistant Eddy Clebsch, son of the junior author, who accompanied us on each trip and contributed materially in gathering the data and rendering help in general.

The annotated list follows. Where subspecific names are shown but not substantiated by specimens, they are the ones to be expected at this location. Stratton's Gap is referred to in the list as the Gap. The three figures following the name represent the total of individuals recorded in 1944, 1945 and 1946, respectively. They were compiled from card lists made on each day of our visits.

EASTERN TURKEY VULTURE: *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*

1-6-4

Seen occasionally, at one time as many as 6. Presumably they nest at lower altitudes where there is more open country.

- EASTERN RED-TAILED HAWK: *Buteo jamaicensis borealis* 2-1-2
Apparently rare. Observed over Stratton's Bald, at the Gap and below Haw Knob.
- APPALACHIAN RUFFED GROUSE: *Bonasa umbellus monticola* 3-3-10
Met at a number of points along roads and trails. On June 18, 1946 we flushed a hen and 6 young.
- EASTERN BOB-WHITE: *Colinus v. virginianus* 1-2-0
Heard only at the Gap, once in 1944 and twice in 1945.
- EASTERN TURKEY: *Meleagris gallopava silvestris* 1-2-0
Observed only at Stratton's and Whigg's Cabin Balds. Game Warden J. B. Lovin assured us that they were often seen at lower altitudes and conditions there looked well suited for their needs though predators doubtless take heavy toll.
- NORTHERN BARRED OWL: *Strix varia varia* 2-2-2
Two males heard nightly from the hemlock forest just east of the Gap. We saw one there on a cloudy day after locating it by the protestations of small birds that had gathered.
- CHIMNEY SWIFT: *Chaetura pelagica* 9-10-7
Noticed regularly at all points along the summit ridge, including 3 over Stratton's Bald. Near Beech Gap one was trying to break off dead twigs for nest-building and for this they are almost bound to use the hollow trunks of dead chestnut trees.
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: *Archilochus colubris* 5-11-11
Fairly common and generally distributed. The flaming azaleas, blooming during the middle of June, adorn the borders of the balds and cover some of the exposed rocky spurs. Hummingbirds eagerly seek the nectar of the blossoms.
- FLICKER: *Colaptes auratus* subsp. * 3-4-6
Uncommon but found at each bald and at other points along the ridge. Parents were feeding young in several nests.
- SOUTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER: *Ceophloeus p. pileatus* 2-4-1
Rare. These vociferous birds, which do not fail to make their presence known if about, were found in only a few places. Their chief food at lower altitudes consists of the grub worms they find in rotting and fallen trees. At high altitudes where night temperatures are low, the supply of such food is greatly curtailed.
- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: *Sphyrapicus varius* subsp. * 6-1-5
From our 1944 paper we quote, "We were pleased to be able to extend the known breeding range of this species southwestward into the Unicoi Mountains, finding them at home in the Gap, on John's Knob, at Swan Meadow (on the Carolina side at 4250'), and in the deciduous forest at 4700'. At the latter location, a pair were busily feeding noisy young in a nest hole drilled 50 feet up in a dead chestnut." During 1945 and 1946 we located Sapsuckers at Beech Gap and near Haw Knob, also some at Stratton's Gap where one was inspecting a nest hole in a tall dead tree.
- HAIRY WOODPECKER: *Dryobates villosus*, subsp. * 4-5-4
Uncommon and, as elsewhere, difficult to approach.

- NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER: *Dryobates pubescens medianus* * 3-6-6
 Uncommon, but well distributed.
- CRESTED FLYCATCHER: *Myiarchus crinitus boreus* 0-0-1
 Although indications are lacking that this species nests in the higher altitudes, it was added to our list in 1946 when we noticed one individual at 4000' along the Sassafras Ridge Road.
- EASTERN WOOD PEWEE: *Myiochanes virens* * 9-9-17
 Fairly common, but more abundant about the Gap.
- FLORIDA BLUE JAY: *Cyanocitta cristata cristata* ** 4-13-15
 Fairly common, and noisy. One of the specimens collected was a fully fledged young of the year.
- NORTHERN RAVEN: *Corvus corax principalis* 3 (or 5)-2-1
 To our published notes for 1944 we found little to add during 1945 and 1946; merely that we again saw one from Stratton's Bald and at the Gap. We were told that others could be seen around Waucheesi Knob, about 10 miles eastward.
- CAROLINA CHICKADEE: *Parus c. carolinensis* ** 7-5-9
 Uncommon. Found chiefly about the Gap and along the ridge leading to Stratton's Bald.
- TUFTED TITMOUSE: *Parus bicolor* * 8-6-20
 Fairly common and generally distributed. In their roaming through the tree tops they never tarried long and it is safe to assume that the young of the year were on the wing.
- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH: *Sitta carolinensis subsp.* * 13-7-15
 Noted at several locations, occasionally family groups with young.
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: *Sitta canadensis* * 2-1-4
 We quote from our previous paper: "Here again we were able to extend the breeding range of a species southward from its nearest outpost near Clingman's Dome in The Smokies. In the grove of virgin hemlock previously referred to, we sought for it intensively on June 23 (1944) and were rewarded by locating two of them and identified them beyond question. This probably marks the southern limit of their breeding range." During 1945 and 1946 we located them among the old hemlocks adjoining the Gap and secured an adult specimen.
- SOUTHERN WINTER WREN: *Nannus troglodytes pullus* * 2-0-2
 At the Gap in 1944 and again in 1946 we located them in the rhododendron jungle along the stream. One was secured in 1946. The song, so bold and characteristic in regions where the birds are more abundant, was weak and hesitatingly given by the individuals we approached.
- CATBIRD: *Dumetella carolinensis* 14-24-33
 At the Gap, 8 or more birds were present and others were found along the trails and on the balds, up to 5000'.
- EASTERN BROWN THRASHER: *Toxostoma r. rufum* 5-2-4
 Observed in the bald at the Gap, where they had nests, and again on Sassafras Ridge and Whigg's Cabin Bald.

- EASTERN ROBIN: *Turdus m. migratorius* ** 20-17-25
Common about the balds and in the more open woods.
- WOOD THRUSH: *Hylocichla mustelina* 30-22-38
Sixth in number of times listed, perhaps because of its loud and frequent song. Several nests held sets of eggs.
- VEERY: *Hylocichla f. fuscescens* * 50-44-46
Second only to the Junco in point of abundance, this species is well distributed from 3750 to 5472'. At the highest elevation, on top of Haw Knob, a nest with 3 eggs was found. Most of the many other Veery nests we saw held likewise 3 eggs, a few of them only two, and again, in some the brood had already hatched. As a rule the nests were built in small cattle-cropped beech sprouts, about two feet above the ground, but occasionally little hemlocks had been used. A loose pile of beech leaves is brought in and the nest proper is built into this base. The birds are very shy and it requires skill to get a good view of them.
- CEDAR WAXWING: *Bombycilla cedrorum* * 7-9-10
Several pairs made headquarters at the Gap and others were located at Whigg's Cabin Bald and on John's Knob. We doubt that they had settled down to nesting as yet.
- MOUNTAIN VIREO: *Vireo solitarius alticola* * 30-27-41
Rated fifth among the most common birds, their presence readily told by frequent song. Several nests were found, the sets of four eggs fresh in some and already incubated in others. The pendant nests, averaging 8 feet up, are compactly built and quite ornate.
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: *Mniotilta varia* * 4-3-11
Uncommon but met at several locations. Two of the specimens taken were fully feathered young of the year.
- CAIRN'S WARBLER: *Dendroica caerulescens cairnsi* * 47-32-35
Third among the most common species and a frequent singer. A dozen or more nests were found, most of which contained three eggs, while one held four, another two, and several were empty. Small young were in two nests. The birds like to build in the small beech sprouts along the ridges, about two feet above the ground, and prefer black cattle hair for lining the nest.
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: *Dendroica virens virens* * 0-0-8
One was found at Whigg's Cabin Bald in 1946 and that year we learned that their haunts are in the tree tops of the oldest hemlock stands. There we had seen them on the previous visits but failed to recognize them.
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: *Dendroica fusca* * 3-2-6
Found at three sites in old hemlock trees which form their habitat. Two handsome males were collected, more brightly colored than spring transients taken at Nashville. Finding them in the Unicois extends their breeding range in Tennessee southwestward from the Great Smokies.
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: *Dendroica pensylvanica* * 34-36-37
Holds fourth place of the most common species. The birds prefer edges of the balds but are also found in open woods along the ridges. Nests with fresh eggs were found at the Gap, whereas other nests had only been completed.

OVENBIRD: *Seiurus aurocapillus* * 21-17-18

Fairly common, but recorded practically from their song alone, for they seem to be even more elusive than the Veery. At one location, however, a fledged young let us approach and observe him.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: *Seiurus motacilla* * 0-2-1

Rare, but noted at two separate sites both of which were at 4250' elevation. We could not establish that there were pairs at either of them. One bird was seen and heard along the stream by our camp, the other one heard on Cold Creek.

HOODED WARBLER: *Wilsonia citrina* 0-0-1

Not a bird of the summits although an individual was heard where the trail crossed Cold Creek (4200') near Swann Meadow.

CANADA WARBLER: *Wilsonia canadensis* * 5-5-17

These showy yellow, black and grey warblers were well distributed and oftentimes permitted us to study their pursuits.

EASTERN COWBIRD: *Molothrus ater ater* * 1-0-0

Our single record was of a bird we collected on June 20, 1944, as it flew about the summit of Whigg's Cabin Bald (5000'). It proved to be a young of the year and may have been reared at the site in the nest of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak or perhaps that of a Junco.

SCARLET TANAGER: *Piranga olivacea* * 3-1-3

Noted at Whigg's Cabin Bald, the Gap (at least two males) and at two other locations along the ridge.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK: *Hedymeles ludovicianus* ** 10-11-32

Proved to be commoner in 1946 than they had appeared to be in the preceding years, and found to be as well distributed in the deep forest as they are about the balds. Clearly an early nester for a fledged young was found and half a dozen nests that had been vacated.

EASTERN GOLDFINCH: *Spinus tristis tristis* 5-3-11

Rare. Found at the Gap, Whigg's Cabin Bald, Stratton's Bald and along Sassafras Ridge.

ALABAMA TOWHEE: *Pipilo erythrophthalmus canaster* ** 16-26-17

Common about the balds and along the high, open ridges, up to 5200'. One nest with young and several with three eggs each were found. Singing from the pinnacle of some dead snag occupied much of the time of the males.

CAROLINA JUNCO: (*Junco hyemalis carolinensis*) * 42-58-62

By actual count of individuals this proved the most common species and it occurred alike about the balds, the roads, the trails and even in the dense forest. Some of these birds were noted on the road to Tellico Plains at altitudes down to 3500'. In our territory nests were found easily, under banks of trails and roads, among the roots of up-turned trees and in small hemlocks, a few with small young and others with three or four eggs. More than half of the ground nests, however, were found to be empty as though they had been robbed by predators.

The brief list of mammals follows. Subspecific names, where used, have been deduced from Anthony's Field Book of Mammals and from recent papers

by Komarek and by Kellogg, covering nearby areas. We limit this list to the larger and medium-sized mammals that a student of nature is likely to encounter in this region. Trapping to which we resorted during a siege of rain quickly proved to us that these mountains are also inhabited by various small mammals mostly of nocturnal habits.

MOLE: (*Scalopus aquaticus*)

Mole tunnels were observed at several places.

RED BAT: (*Lasiurus borealis*) *

Approximately five were seen at dusk each evening at the Gap and two specimens were collected.

BLACK BEAR: (*Ursus a. americanus*)

One heard at dusk at the Gap, and claw marks seen on trees at other points; furthermore several signs and signposts damaged by bears. Wardens state they are regularly present.

FLORIDA SKUNK: (*Mephitis elongata*)

Seen near Stratton's Bald, and at the Gap one or more were regularly present and without fail dug up all garbage we buried. One took up quarters in a rhododendron clump close to our tent and became such a nuisance that it had to be eliminated.

WILDCAT: (*Lynx rufus rufus*)

We saw one at dusk at the Gap and the next evening two within short distance of each other were heard. The wardens accuse these animals of being the chief menace of Turkey and Grouse.

WOODCHUCK: (*Marmota monax monax*)

One observed on Sassafras Ridge at 4200'.

SOUTHEASTERN CHIPMUNK: (*Tamias striatus striatus*) *

Quite common and generally distributed.

CLOUDLAND RED SQUIRREL: (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus abieticola*) *

Eight or ten of these little squirrels were listed and at least four sites recorded.

SOUTHERN GRAY SQUIRREL: (*Sciurus c. carolinensis*) *

A little more numerous than the preceding species.

FLYING SQUIRREL: (*Glaucomys volans* subsp. *)

This nocturnal species was not seen until our last visit when pounding brought a pair of them out of a hollow dead tree.

WHITE-TAILED DEER: (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

During June, 1946, a fawn was seen on two evenings after sunset at the Gap. Reported to be distributed throughout this forested area.

WILD HOG OR PRUSSIAN BOAR: (*Sus scrofa scrofa*)

This is part of the area where the annual boar hunts are staged, and the animals are said to have increased to several hundred head. At marshy spots on the trails along the ridges we saw signs that hogs had been wallowing there and elsewhere we noticed evidence of their rooting. Just after dark on June 24, 1946, a drove of six shoats galloped through our camp site.

NASHVILLE, TENN. (A. F. G.) AND CLARKSVILLE, TENN. (A. C.)

OCCURRENCE OF THE SAW-WHET OWL IN THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS DURING THE BREEDING SEASON

By ARTHUR STUPKA

When, on June 12, 1936, an immature specimen of the Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*) was obtained in the Cranberry Glades of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, the record was published with the comment, "This is the most southern breeding record for this species in the East."¹ Four years prior to that time (on June 22, 1932) the capture of another immature bird of this species, near Cranesville, Preston County, served to establish the first Saw-whet Owl breeding record for West Virginia.² Neither of these records is mentioned by Bent³ who gives the breeding range in part as "south to Maryland (Cumberland); probably rarely northern Pennsylvania (Titusville); Ohio (probably Cleveland and probably Columbus); northern Indiana . . ." The information which follows should serve to extend the breeding range of the Saw-whet Owl to the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, some 250 miles southwest of West Virginia's Cranberry Glades.

On June 21, 1941, at about 9:00 p.m., Norman P. Hill and Richard Bowen, two Harvard University students who were studying bird life in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, heard the notes of a Saw-whet Owl at the terminus of the Clingman's Dome road. Since they were familiar with the voice of this little owl through previous study of New England birds, they had no difficulty in recognizing it; the evening was a quiet one and the bird was calling from somewhere nearby. As a result of the subsequent conversation and correspondence with these men (and, I must confess, with ornithologists with whom we were mutually acquainted) I accepted their record as the first that had been reported to me for the Saw-whet Owl in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The place where the bird was heard, at an elevation of 6300 feet, is within one-half mile of the summit of Clingman's Dome, the park's highest mountain. Its forest-covered slopes at this point consist largely of Fraser's fir (*Abies fraseri*), with some amount of red spruce (*Picea rubens*), mountain ash (*Sorbus americana*), yellow birch (*Betula lutea*), and pin cherry (*Prunus pennsylvanica*); these, along with various shrubs and herbaceous plants which grow here as well as in northern New England, *Viburnum alnifolium*, *V. cassinoides*, *Oxalis montana*, *Clintonia borealis*, *Maianthemum canadense*, *Streptopus roseus*) serve to characterize this as virtually the most southerly extension of the Canadian zone in the Eastern United States.¹

More than two years passed away. Then on the early morning of August 11, 1943, as I was leading a group of people from Mt. LeConte Lodge to Myrtle Point (one of the three main peaks of Mt. LeConte) to view the sunrise from there, a small owl appeared suddenly out of the heavy fir forest and flew along the trail ahead of me for a short distance. It then re-entered the forest only to reappear and fly across the trail a few seconds later. The time was approxi-

¹The writer is aware of the fact that there is some question in the minds of some biologists as to whether the Southern Appalachian spruce and fir forests should be regarded as part of the Canadian zone. It is outside the scope of this article to discuss the matter.

mately 30 minutes before sunrise, and for that reason and also because the incident took place in a heavy stand of trees, light conditions were poor. But although I could see no markings nor color on the bird, its size and proportions served to convince me that this was an owl of smaller size than the Screech Owl with which I am well acquainted. Since the place where the bird was seen is at an elevation of approximately 6500 feet, the prospects that the bird in question might possibly be a Screech Owl are remote, for in the more than 11 years that I have been stationed in the Smokies I have neither seen nor heard nor had any report of a Screech Owl above an elevation of 3500 feet.² Ordinarily I would not consider the recording of such an observation, but in view of the incidents which follow, the above circumstances are mentioned for what they are worth.

On the evening of May 26, 1944, accompanied by Peter Koch of Cincinnati, Ohio, I drove to the end of the Clingman's Dome road (elevation 6300 feet) which was reached at approximately 9:00 o'clock. The air was fairly still, the temperature was estimated to be in the high 50's, and a thin crescent moon was shining in a partly cloudy sky. Less than five minutes after our arrival we heard the notes of a Saw-whet Owl coming from the forested slope to the south. At times the notes sounded as though the bird was moving about while uttering them, but occasionally neither my companion nor I could agree as to just where the singer might be located, the notes being of a ventriloquial quality. To some degree the syllables, repeated with monotonous regularity, were reminiscent of the sound made by drops of water falling one by one into an empty tin can, but they also possessed a whistled intonation which was subdued by distance. The utterance continued almost without pause for a surprisingly long time.

From Clingman's Dome we drove to Newfound Gap, five and one-half miles to the northeast, stopping briefly at a few places along the way to listen for further evidence of this or any other nocturnal species. Arriving at Newfound Gap (on the North Carolina-Tennessee line, elevation 5040 feet) between 9:40 and 10:00 p.m. we heard another Saw-whet Owl almost as soon as we had stepped from our car. The sound seemed to come from a grove of tall red spruces at the western edge of the parking area. Walking to within 25 yards of these trees we stopped and I attempted an imitation of the notes which we had been hearing. Almost immediately we were startled by a response—an entirely different throaty gurgle of several notes hurriedly rolled together. Koch and I agreed that this could be none other than the effort of some small owl. My conclusion that this exclamation was of a challenging nature was probably correct, for, upon repeating my imitation of the monosyllabic notes, the same **throaty gurgle** was forthcoming. We now estimated that the bird might be within 75 feet of where we stood. Suddenly, much to our astonishment, there came a flutter of wings as though the bird was about to alight upon the top of either Koch's head or mine, but all at once it veered away and we had but a fleeting view of its silhouette against the sky. The bird had come within a very few feet of us before departing from the scene, but due to the fact that its appearance was so unexpected we could not be certain that this was indeed a Saw-whet Owl although what was observed, in silhouette, indicated a bird of

²Henry M. Stevenson, Jr., has reported the Screech Owl from the Highlands, N. C., region (*The Oriole*, Vol. 6, No. 4, 1941) where the elevation is 3835 feet above sea level. Highlands is located approximately 40 miles southeast of Mt. LeConte.

that size. Whether it intended to strike one of us in a manner common to many raptorial bird species is a point of interesting speculation. Major Bendire⁴ quotes Dr. William L. Ralph as follows: "Just before and during the mating season these little Owls (Saw-whet) are quite lively; their peculiar whistle can be heard in almost any suitable wood, and one may by imitating it often decoy them within reach of the hand. Upon one occasion, when my assistant was imitating one, it alighted on the fur cap of a friend that stood near him."

Two nights later, Koch and I again drove into the higher Smokies, and although nothing was heard in the Clingman's Dome vicinity, where a brisk wind was blowing, we again heard the monotonously regular notes in the vicinity of Newfound Gap and near Indian Gap, more than a mile to the west. As before, the birds were somewhere on the North Carolina side of the divide. The time was 9:00-10:30 p.m.

On April 9, 1945, accompanied by my wife, we stopped at Newfound Gap at approximately 9:30 p.m. and walked over to the place where Koch and I had had the already-described adventure. A light breeze was blowing but not enough to prevent both of us from hearing a Saw-whet Owl singing at some considerable distance in the valley to the south. So persistently were the changeless notes of the bird uttered that at times when the wind strengthened and, momentarily, usurped all other sounds, the steady cadence was continued in our ears. It is the sort of note which, if listened to long enough, will tend to persist like some repeated echo even when the listener is well out of all possible range of the sound.

Less than a month later, on May 6, 1945, the identical type of song was again heard at Newfound Gap. The time was 8:30-8:45 p.m. and my companion was Dr. Alfred Lewy, of Chicago. The owl appeared to be calling from approximately the same area. Dr. Lewy subsequently published a brief article⁵ in which he wrote, in part, as follows:

"One night after dark Mr. Stupka took me up to Newfound Gap to hear what he believed to be the call or song of the saw-whet owl, a distant whistle repeated eight or ten times in the same pitch at regular intervals. The owl had never been positively seen. Mr. Leo K. Couch, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, for whom I tried to imitate the call, says it was the saw-whet."

In view of the incidents related above, it is my belief that this little owl is an occasional, if not a regular, breeding species in the spruce-fir forests of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, GATLINBURG, TENN.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—An earlier record of what was taken to be a Saw-whet Owl, was made on Mt. LeConte, June 20, 1933, by Mayfield and Ganier, for details of which see Round Table section of this issue.—A. F. G.

ANNUAL MIDWINTER BIRD CENSUS

By T. O. S. MEMBERS

We present below THE MIGRANT's 18th State-wide midwinter bird count, extending from Elizabethton and the Great Smoky Mountains on the east, across the State to Memphis and Reelfoot Lake on the west. Half of the ten lists tabulated were taken on December 22 and 21, on which dates fine weather prevailed; the others were taken later under varying conditions. Among the rarer birds listed were Bald Eagle, Duck Hawk, Least Sandpiper, Raven, Fish Crow, Prairie Marsh Wren, Pipit, Palm Warbler, Pine Siskin, LeConte's, Vesper and Tree Sparrows.

The unusual scarcity of ducks this season was reflected on the census totals and was chiefly responsible for holding down the State combined list to 93 species. This figure compares with 96, 89, 99, 108, and 94, in the five years immediately preceding. The list does not take subspecies into account since in most instances, this would necessitate collecting. We do not include Rock Doves (pigeons). Utmost care is taken to eliminate errors due to mistaken identity, and this policy is particularly adhered to with respect to rare species and to those not regularly occurring at the localities covered.

This series of annual lists provides material on which to base many interesting studies on the winter bird distribution in Tennessee. The series from Nashville dates from 1914. None of this year's lists included any of the several large bird roosts that were known to exist but mention of one of these will be found in the Round Table section. There too will be found an additional list, from Moon Lake, Miss., which is 55 miles southwest of Memphis.

NOTES ON THE CENSUS

Nashville.—Of the Doves, 70 were seen in one flock. Ducks were on Radnor lake and, as elsewhere, were few in numbers. No Robin roost here as in 1945. Juncos were fewer than normally. Turkey Vultures were missed.—Memphis.—Scarcity of water birds perhaps due to no one being on Mississippi river. The Least Sandpiper was found by Herbert Clark as it fed along the edge of a small sand-pit lake. It was verified by Joe Mount and B. B. Coffey, the latter, squatting close to lake edge, had the bird "driven" by and viewed it at a distance of 4 feet.—Reelfoot Lake.—The Prairie Marsh Wren was seen in the sawgrass, at end of Biological Station dock; the same place it was recorded in 1934 and 1940. No time was spent on open water in boat.—Henderson.—Brown Thrashers missed for first time but are known to be present.—Great Smoky Mountains National Park.—Of the Chickadees, both the Carolina and Black-capped were listed; of the Juncos, both the Carolina and Slate-colored were present. The Red-shouldered Hawk was a specimen found dead. The Pipits were in one flock. Also seen in the area, Dec. 26 to 30, were Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Eastern Turkey, 2; Palm Warbler, 1; and Fox Sparrow, 1. Also, flocks of up to 40 Pine Siskins.—Elizabethton.—Previous census lists were swelled by the additions of Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, but of species recorded in previous years we failed to list Grackle, Hermit Thrush, Turkey Vulture and Pileated Woodpecker. Golden-crowned Kinglets and Goldfinchs were more abundant than on previous mid-winter counts and likewise Fox Sparrows. Jays and Doves were scarce. The Chapter's four year record now stands at 54 species.—Greeneville.—The sparrows listed

	Nashville Dec. 22	Memphis Dec. 22	Reelfoot Lake Dec. 25	Henderson Dec. 21	Great Smokies Dec. 29	Elizabethton Dec. 22	Greeneville Dec. 28	Clarksville Jan. 5	Clarksville Jan. 12	Murfreesboro Dec. 22
Number of species	67	65	61	50	49	48	42	43	41	38
Number of individuals	5724	28477	13660	594	1459	1426	3273	1011	1928	6238
Number of observers	22	28	4	3	21	11	6	3	5	2
Pied-billed Grebe	---	---	10	1	---	---	---	---	---	---
Double-cr. Cormorant	---	---	4	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Great Blue Heron	---	6	8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Common Mallard	50	---	---	6	---	---	---	14	---	---
Black Duck	2	---	---	4	---	---	---	5	---	---
Baldpate	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Shoveller	---	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	---	---
Ring-necked Duck	6	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	3	---
Canvasback	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Lesser Scaup	6	---	52	---	---	2	---	---	---	---
American Goldeneye	1	---	25	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Turkey Vulture	---	34	1	42	48	---	4	10	82	---
Black Vulture	24	9	2	21	---	---	---	2	87	7
Cooper's Hawk	6	5	1	---	---	2	1	---	---	2
Red-tailed Hawk	17	10	5	1	2	---	---	---	---	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	7	3	4	1	---	---	2	---	---
Hawk (buteo species)	---	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	---	---
Bald Eagle	---	---	6	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Marsh Hawk	1	6	1	1	---	---	---	1	---	---
Duck Hawk	---	---	---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---
Sparrow Hawk	29	37	5	2	1	5	3	---	3	5
Ruffed Grouse	---	---	---	---	3	---	---	---	---	---
Bob-white	28	57	---	---	3	1	9	---	12	25
Coot	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Killdeer	73	257	12	3	7	1	---	---	---	21
Wilson's Snipe	1	1	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---
Least Sandpiper	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Herring Gull	---	---	16	---	---	---	---	4	---	---
Ring-billed Gull	---	39	12	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Mourning Dove	129	58	2	2	22	12	107	2	10	57
Barn Owl	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1
Screech Owl	1	---	---	---	1	1	---	---	---	---
Great Horned Owl	4	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Barred Owl	---	3	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Belted Kingfisher	4	3	5	1	4	---	2	2	2	---
Flicker	46	112	8	10	---	13	6	5	6	7
Pileated Woodpecker	23	---	7	---	1	---	2	3	5	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	28	59	5	11	---	4	5	2	6	4
Red-headed Woodpecker	---	28	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	---
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	21	26	1	4	1	3	2	4	1	1
Hairy Woodpecker	13	20	2	2	---	2	2	1	1	---
Downy Woodpecker	67	55	14	13	2	29	12	9	7	6
Phoebe	2	---	---	---	3	3	2	---	1	---
Horned Lark	176	88	---	---	---	7	35	---	61	30
Blue Jay	44	431	16	35	---	7	22	5	23	23
Northern Raven	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---
Common Crow	106	115	24	12	80	154	2050	160	31	51
Fish Crow	---	3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Chickadee	148	220	35	27	147	55	56	8	16	21
Tufted Titmouse	104	115	14	5	4	37	52	8	17	6
White-br. Nuthatch	8	1	---	---	---	1	2	---	4	---
Red-breasted Nuthatch	---	---	---	---	11	2	---	---	---	---
Brown Creeper	10	23	2	1	1	3	---	---	1	---
Winter Wren	3	17	3	1	3	3	4	4	---	---
Bewick's Wren	5	1	---	1	---	---	---	1	2	4
Carolina Wren	113	131	15	10	12	36	28	21	17	22
Prairie Marsh Wren	---	---	4	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Mockingbird	160	152	7	3	6	15	25	5	15	19
Brown Thrasher	---	31	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Robin	493	370	---	2	9	4	10	---	25	---
Hermit Thrush	7	47	2	3	5	---	---	2	---	---
Bluebird	158	49	8	7	30	42	38	7	15	26
Golden-crowned Kinglet	17	161	30	6	62	50	3	2	3	---
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	27	8	3	17	9	---	---	---	---

	Nashville Dec. 22	Memphis Dec. 22	Reelfoot Lake Dec. 25	Henderson Dec. 21	Great Smokies Dec. 29	Elizabethton Dec. 22	Greeneville Dec. 28	Clarksville Jan. 5	Clarksville Jan. 12	Murfreesboro Dec. 22
American Pipit	---	3	3	---	120	---	---	---	---	---
Cedar Waxwing	11	121	---	---	13	73	37	5	---	---
Migrant Shrike	5	53	22	4	1	2	---	---	---	2
Starling	1010	5644	1594	5	143	62	260	389	862	400
Myrtle Warbler	56	226	18	2	11	72	18	5	16	7
Palm Warbler	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1
English Sparrow	510	640	65	63	73	107	116	40	288	150
Meadowlark	149	174	10	63	28	23	47	1	24	22
Red-winged Blackbird	4	359	1447	7	---	---	---	---	---	---
Rusty Blackbird	35	---	10	4	---	---	---	1	---	---
Bronzed Grackle	7	4985	855	---	---	---	---	---	---	5000
Blackbirds-unident.	---	10000	8500	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cowbird	550	20	268	---	30	---	---	---	---	30
Cardinal	390	488	182	35	128	69	56	64	65	42
Purple Finch	16	113	2	2	2	3	21	12	90	19
Pine Siskin	---	---	---	---	4	---	---	---	---	---
Goldfinch	157	309	15	11	45	199	118	59	12	63
Red Crossbill	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	---	---
Red-eyed Towhee	107	165	1	2	3	5	2	19	10	8
Savannah Sparrow	1	8	4	---	5	---	6	---	---	---
Leconte's Sparrow	---	3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Vesper Sparrow	---	---	---	---	---	---	7	---	---	---
Junco. Slate-col.	181	840	87	27	218	96	25	8	61	29
Tree Sparrow	---	---	13	---	---	---	3	---	---	---
Field Sparrow	90	156	47	42	79	76	21	67	26	60
White-crown Sparrow	83	18	2	15	---	28	29	2	---	37
White-throat Sparrow	116	854	74	18	22	46	12	26	8	---
Fox Sparrow	4	21	3	3	---	7	---	5	---	---
Swamp Sparrow	8	82	6	28	---	1	---	13	9	---
Song Sparrow	94	198	55	17	40	38	14	11	12	36
Lapland Longspur	---	180	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

as Savannahs were stalked for some time and bore the resemblance to this species in markings, deportment and in habitat chosen.—Clarksville.—The Phoebe was up in high trees on top of Red River bluff, apparently catching insects in the air at that elevation. The Vultures were travelling in a long "procession," presumably in search of upward air currents along the river bluffs. First seen were about 80 Blacks and a bit later, an equal number of Turkey Vultures.—Murfreesboro.—No opportunity was had to visit the Crow and the blackbird.—Starling roosts reported to be present in this general area.

LOCALITIES, WEATHER AND PERSONNEL

Nashville.—Dec. 22. (Radnor Lake, Overton Hills forest, Leawood, Hobbs to Tyne roads and Richland creek, Warner Parks, Bellemeade, 101 pasture, Davidson road, Hillwood, River road, Bell's Bend of the Cumberland river and Jordonia.) 25% open fields, 20% dense woods, 30% wooded pastures, 30% thickets and old-fields. 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (owls heard later). Clear all day and visibility fine. Temp. range 26-35 degrees F. Very little wind. Ground bare (no snow this season). 23 observers in 9 parties. Total party hours 56. Party miles, 31 on foot and 45 by car. B. H. and Mrs. Abernathy, Thomas Barr, H. G. Bradley, Bill Crouch, Albert F. Ganier (compiler), Robert M. and Mrs. Hawkins, Amelia R. Laskey, Arthur McMurray, George R. and Mrs. Mayfield, Donald Maynard, J. A. Robins, E. D. Schreiber, Robert Sollmann, Walter R. Spofford, Luttrell Thomas, Harry S. Vaughn, William M. and Mrs. Walker, and George B. Woodring.—Memphis, Dec. 22. Same area as in previous 10 years, not covering Mound City chute, N. 2nd St., road north of Wolf River, Mud Island, and no one up Miss. river in boat. Our only tract of pine woods

was cut off about 1943, also south end of Mud Island entirely cleared of trees and some suburban sections built up. Old coverage adhered to, preparatory to some change for subsequent years. Wooded bottomlands, 45%; deciduous woodlots, 20%; airports, pasture and old cottonfields, 15%; suburban roadsides, 20%. 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Sunny; muddy; calm, in p.m. 5 to 15 m.p.h. south wind; temp., 30 to 61 to 58 above. Twenty-seven observers in eight parties, the three main parties breaking up variously at localities worked. Total party-hours, 88; total party-miles, 50 on foot and 110 by auto. Ben B. Coffey (compiler), Mrs. Coffey, Mrs. Floy Barefield, Fred T. Carney, Herbert Clark, Mrs. Irene R. Daniel, Mary Davant, Mrs. Ruth Harrison, Bill Heard, Luther F. and Mrs. Keeton, Lawrence C. Kent, Franklin McCamey, Jr., Jim McWhorter, Clarence E. Moore, Patricia Moore, Joe Mount, Eugene Parish, Albert L. Powell, Ella Ragland, Mrs. Sarah O. Rogers, Grady Sanders, Alice Smith, Demett Smith, Mrs. M. L. Torti, Maurice Torti, Rose Woolridge and Alan Zeigler.—Reelfoot Lake.—Dec. 25 (including Miss. river at Tiptonville, thence along south shore of lake by road to Samburg, to Walnut Log and on highway 78 to Ky. line). 6:50 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Fair; light wind in p.m.; temp. 33 to 57. Observers together in auto 45 miles with occasional short stops; island along S. side of Upper Blue Basin under water thus eliminating a 3 mile walk as in 1940. Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Coffey, Jr., Herbert Clark and Alan Zeigler (all of Memphis).—Henderson.—Dec. 21. (Same route as in previous years, including vicinity of Henderson, 2 miles east to Chickasaw Park west, including Lakes LaJoie and Placid). 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fair; brisk north wind; temp. 35-50; 5 miles on foot and 45 by car. Robert L. Witt, Freed-Hardeman College (compiler), William Malone and Bill Tarpley.—Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tenn., Dec. 29. (Same area as in past 9 years; circle of $7\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius centering on Bull Head of Mt. LeConte, including a section of the Tennessee-North Carolina divide from Collins Gap to Mt. Kephart; towns of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge; spruce-fir forest, 35%; open farmland, 30%; town and suburbs, 20%; abandoned fields, 10% and deciduous forests, 5%. Dawn to dusk. Heavy rain throughout a.m., clearing in p.m. Temp: 50 to 70 degrees F. Wind occasionally strong but mostly moderate; ground bare and wet at all altitudes; streams running full. Altitude range, 1200 to 6000 feet. 21 observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours, 42; total miles, 135 (100 by car, 35 on foot). Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Broome, Mary Ruth Chiles, Brockway Crouch, Edward Dougherty, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Dunbar, Harry Henry, Elizabeth Johnson, William M. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Monroe, Elise Morrell, W. F. Pearson, Norman Russell, Dr. and Mrs. Royal E. Shanks, Arthur Stupka (compiler), W. A. Sutherland, Paul Yambert and William Yambert. (Members and guests, T. O. S. and National Park Service).—Elizabethton.—Dec. 22. (Area of $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles radius about town, including Valley Forge, approx. 4 miles S. of Elizabethton, Watauga River banks, and bottoms s.e. to n.w. of town, Wilbur Lake, foot of Iron Mtn., north slope of Holston Mt., Buffalo, Dry and Gap creeks, hills s. and e. of Milligan College, Golf Course surroundings, Parkway Blvd., and Allen Ave. extensions. Stream courses, 25%; lake shore, 5%, deciduous woodlots, 35%; fields, pastures and thickets, 30%; city suburbs, 5%. Dawn to dusk. Cloudy in early morning, clearing by noon. Temp. 30-50 degrees F. Wind NNW, 12-18 m.p.h. Ground bare but for traces of preceding night's snow. 11 observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 38. 30 miles on foot, 16 by car. Fred W. Behrend (compiler) and

Mrs. Behrend, J. C. Browning, Miss Mary Cook, Mrs. Hugo Doob, Dr. and Mrs. Lee Roy Herndon, Prof. S. J. Hyder, Mrs. George K. Leonard, (Elizabethton Chapter members); W. F. Pearson, Kingsport and Dr. James T. Tanner, Knoxville.—Greeneville.—Dec. 28. (David Crockett Lake area, River Hill, golf course, Reed farm along Roaring Fork creek, Tusculum College campus and surrounding area.) 65% open fields, 25% woods, 10% stream banks. Dawn to dusk. Misty with intermittent rain. Temp. 50-60 degrees; no wind. Six observers in four parties. Party-hours, 20; total miles, 38 (8 on foot, 30 by car). Mrs. Willis Clemens, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nevius (Mrs. Nevius compiled), Mr. C. M. Shanks, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. White.—Clarksville.—Jan. 5. (Gracey Ave., thence along T. C. Ry., up along Cumberland River to Marx Slough, returning by same route. Much of bottoms cut off by high water.) 16½ miles on foot. 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky heavily overcast in a.m., partly clear in p.m. Temp. around 26 degrees. Wind light. Eddy Clebsch, Alfred Clebsch, Jr., and Alfred Clebsch (compiler).—Clarksville.—Jan. 12. (Including Dunbar Cave and Lake, P. A. Meriwether farm in a.m.; Red River Sheep Farm in p.m.) 30 miles by car, 3 on foot. Sky heavily overcast; no wind. Dr. and Mrs. C. F. Pickering, H. C. Phillips, Eddy Clebsch and Alfred Clebsch (compiler).—Murfreesboro.—Dec. 22. (Suburbs of the town and a short distance into the country.) Henry O. Todd and George Davis (compiler).

THE ROUND TABLE

A JUNE LIST FROM THE SMOKY MOUNTAIN SUMMITS.—On the early morning of June 20, 1933, the writers parked their car at Newfound Gap (5040' elev.), followed the 8 mile trail along the summits to Mt. LeConte (6593'), spent the night there and consumed the following day in returning by the same route. While we gave our almost undivided attention to the birds, our total list was only 27 species, but from past experience we knew this to be an excellent two-day total to compile along these high, wholly timbered summits. Since the list may be useful for comparison and for future reference, we present it here. (A more comprehensive list, for a longer stay, may be found in *THE MIGRANT* for Sept., 1938, pp. 41-45.)

Turkey Vulture, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Broad-winged Hawk, 2; Duck Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 3 (also young); Saw-whet Owl, 1 (see note immediately following); Chimney Swift, 7; Hairy Woodpecker, 8; Blue Jay, 4; Chickadee, 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 12; Brown Creeper, 2; Sou. Winter Wren, 15 (also nest from which 5 young flew); Robin, 6; Veery, 9; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 7; Cedar Waxwing, 3; Red-eyed Vireo, 1 (at Gap, 5040'); Mountain Vireo, 12; Cairn's Warbler, 11; Black-throated Green Warbler, 10; Blackburnian Warbler, 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 12; Scarlet Tanager, 1; Red Crossbill, 5 (at 3 locations); and Towhee, 4.—ALBERT F. GANIER and G. R. MAYFIELD, Nashville, Tenn.

ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF THE SAW-WHET OWL.—Reference in the above list to a sight record of this species (*Cryptoglaux acadica* subsp.) on Mount LeConte, June 20, 1933, calls for further details. Dr. Mayfield and the writer, after supping at the little lodge on the summit, strolled about in the surrounding area until dark and while doing so, flushed a little owl from a low snag at the edge of the clearing. It disappeared into the spruce-fir timber and

could not be found again. Realizing that Screech Owls would not likely be found at this high altitude and that the bird was probably a Saw-whet, the writer secured his collecting gun and waited about for more than an hour in hopes the bird would return. It was not seen to do so. The type specimen of this species was obtained in Nova Scotia and it is likely that specimens from this extreme southern limit of its breeding range would differ materially. The above date was prior to the creation of the National Park and during that period, Paul Adams of Knoxville had acted as keeper of the old log lodge through one or more seasons and kept notes on the birds he observed. He told me later that he had on several occasions seen small owls at dusk but the light was not sufficient to enable positive identification. On one occasion, one of them flew about him snapping its bill in protest to his presence.

Mr. Stupka's excellent article in this issue makes it now advisable to place the above on record as well as that of two others elsewhere. On Dec. 15, 1927, a live Saw-whet Owl was purchased from a countryman in the Knoxville city market. It had probably been injured for it did not live and it then came into the hands of Dr. Earl Henry who mounted it. The writer searched the Henry collection for it last summer but was unable to find it. In Middle Tennessee, near Thompson's Station in Williamson County, Mr. W. H. Sedberry obtained a Saw-whet during the winter of 1943. Being a taxidermist, he mounted the bird and I obtained it from him in 1945.

Records of two other occurrences of this rare little owl may be found in THE MIGRANT for 1936, p. 19 and 1940, p. 4. The first, by B. B. Coffey, is of one at Memphis on March 1, 1936, and the other is of one captured at Nashville on March 16, 1940. The latter came into possession of Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey who kept it for a time for observation, then banded and released it.—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville, Tenn.

BLUE GROSBEAK IN GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS.—In view of Dr. Lee R. Herndon's report (MIGRANT, June, 1946, p. 26) of finding a Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) near Elizabethton on May 4, 1946 (printed 1936 through error) and his remark that this represented the first Tennessee record east of Nashville, I wish to state that on May 4, 1943, I observed a bird of this species on the lawn in front of our Park Headquarters building, about two miles south of Gatlinburg. The chestnut colored wing patches were seen to good advantage. This represents the first (and only) record of the Blue Grosbeak in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.—ARTHUR STUPKA, Park Naturalist, Gatlinburg, Tenn.

WILD TURKEYS ON THE CUMBERLAND PLATEAU.—During the early summer of 1906, while surveying coal lands in Van Buren County, Tenn., we found 5 nests of the Wild Turkey in one tract of 500 acres. In all, we saw several hundred of the birds. This locality was a few miles south of Spencer, south and east of Dry Fork Gulf. I was in this locality again in 1930 and at that time saw a flock of about 20 of these birds. It is the finest range for turkeys that I have ever seen and lies just west of Falls Creek State Park.

During 1940, on about 2,000 acres of high swamp land along the Roanoke river in Bertie County, eastern North Carolina, I found 9 of their nests yet saw no turkeys other than the incubating birds we flushed. I sincerely hope the Tennessee turkeys are protected.—HOWARD WISWALL, 10 Watauga St., Asheville, North Carolina.

OBSERVATIONS AT REELFOOT LAKE.—During the middle of December, 1946, I spent two days at Reelfoot and one of the interesting sights noted was that of the great swarms of blackbirds (Redwings, etc.) that came to roost in the evening and would leave for their feeding grounds the next morning. It was a thrilling sight. From a half hour before and until after sunset, wave after wave came in and settled down for the night in the "saw-grass." They numbered well into the hundreds of thousands. I was out on the lake before daylight and when we pushed the prow of the boat into the saw-grass, a score of the birds were almost knocked into the boat. They fluttered about and settled down again a few feet away.

While sitting still in the boat, after it had been pushed well into the saw-grass, a Short-billed Marsh Wren was observed to hop about, from grass blade to grass blade, and finally into the boat only a few feet from where I sat. There were not as many water birds as I had expected, Coots being the most numerous. There were a few long flights of ducks high overhead; of those which came near enough to be recognized, seven species were identified.—ROBERT J. DUNBAR, 106 Glendale Lane, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

WINTER BIRD COUNT AT MOON LAKE, MISS.—The following census was made on Dec. 29, 1946, in the vicinity of Moon Lake, near Lula, which is 55 miles southwest of Memphis. The same route was followed as in 1940 and in 1941. Those participating besides the writer were Mrs. Coffey, Fred T. Carney, Herbert Clark, Demett Smith and Alan Zeigler. Lake from short-line drive, 35%; levee, 5%; narrow bayou, timbered, 5%; highway and old cotton fields and pasture, 35%; weedy fields, 10%; and low wooded bottoms, 10%. 7:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Overcast to noon, then cloudy; fields full of water from night's storm with wind at 30 m.p.h. Temp. range 32-52; wind fresh. 25x telescope used on water birds in addition to 8x and 10x binoculars.

Horned Grebe, 2; Pied-billed Grebe, 3; Double-crested Cormorant, 143; Great Blue Heron, 2; Mallard, 41; Black Duck, 1; Amer. Pintail, 2; Ring-necked Duck, 15; Canvas-back, 2; Lesser Scaup, 4; Bufflehead, 1; Ruddy Duck, 774; Turkey Vulture, 3; Black Vulture, 23; Red-tailed Hawk, 5; Marsh Hawk, 5; Sparrow Hawk, 9; Bob-white, 9; Coot, 16; Killdeer, 131; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Herring Gull, 16; Ring-billed Gull, 55; Bonaparte's Gull, 1, immature (chased by other gulls, small size readily apparent to all, white wings, etc., noted at 150 yards by Carney and Mrs. Coffey); Mourning Dove, 46; Barred Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 8; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 13; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 16; Crow, 5; Carolina Chickadee, 16; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 4; Mockingbird, 9; Brown Thrasher, 5; Hermit Thrush, 5; Bluebird, 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 26; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 13; Amer. Pipit, 15; Shrike, 18; Starling, 890; Myrtle Warbler, 33; English Sparrow, 91; Meadowlark, 114; Redwing, 46; Bronzed Grackle, 25; unidentified blackbirds, 240; Cardinal, 101; Purple Finch, 1; Goldfinch, 11; Towhee, 11; Savannah Sparrow, 56; Slate-colored Junco, 15; Field Sparrow, 36; White-throated Sparrow, 250; Fox Sparrow, 41; Swamp Sparrow, 27; Song Sparrow, 94; and Lapland Longspur, 12. Total, 65 species; 3583 individuals.—BEN B. COFFEY, 673 N. Belvedere, Memphis 7, Tenn.

NOTES, HERE AND THERE

The Evening Grosbeaks, which last winter made such a memorable stay in Elizabethton, have not been found there at all this winter, according to Mr. Behrend. They have thereby lived up to their reputation of being perhaps the most erratic of all winter visitants from the far north. In West Virginia, where they were recorded last winter in a number of places, we learn from Prof. Maurice Brooks that they are likewise absent.

The big bird roost near Martha, Tenn., described in our Dec., 1945 issue, continued during the present winter in nearly equal volume but with the exception that very few Robins were present. Last winter's immense Robin roost in West Nashville was nearly devoid of birds the present season. A total failure of the hackberry crop is responsible for the scarcity of Robins.

Donald M. Maynard, secretary of the Nashville chapter, T. O. S., was recently named as one of the finalists in the Westinghouse Science Talent Search, thereby winning for himself a scholarship through which he expects to prepare himself for biological research.

With this issue, we complete another block of three volumes and the twelve issues, with title page and species index at end, when bound will make another interesting and usable book for one's library. Those who may perchance have lost any issues may secure replacements from the retiring editor at 25 cents each. Arrangement has been made with the Nashville binder who bound about 30 sets three years ago, to bind in buckram (cloth) at \$2.25 per book.

We are sometimes asked where and to whom THE MIGRANT circulates. Briefly, it has a very loyal group of readers scattered far and near. In Tennessee, there are approximately 235 T. O. S. members; outside the State there are 94 (scattered from Maine to California); of subscribers among libraries, museums and kindred institutions, there are 32; complimentary and exchanges, 25; making a current total circulation of 386.

To the list of libraries, etc., published in our issue of March, 1943, there has been added, University of California Library, at Los Angeles; La. State Univ. Library, Baton Rouge; University of Mississippi Library; Ohio State Univ. Library, Columbus; Pikeville College Library, Pikeville, Ky.; Murray State Teachers College, Murray, Ky.; and Howard Tilton Memorial Library of Tulane University at New Orleans. Many of these institutions have taken pains to secure complete files and to have them bound. These, together with similar files in the hands of our members, give a permanent accessibility to our contributions that is highly gratifying.

No complete membership list has been published since June, 1938, although supplemental lists were published in June, 1941 and March, 1943. A complete revised list would require 8 pages and we have thought it best to use this space for reading matter.

As we go to press, we learn with deepest regret of the death of William M. Walker, on Jan. 23 at Nashville, in his 47th year. He was a most loyal T. O. S. member and for many years a contributor to this journal. A biographical sketch of him is being prepared for next issue.

OUR NEW OFFICERS

A letter from President Herndon, dated Jan. 16, 1947, announces the result of the election of officers by the Board of Directors to replace those who have recently resigned, as follows:

Editor—Dr. James T. Tanner, Dept. of Zoology, University of Tenn., Knoxville. Secretary—Mr. Fred W. Behrend, 606 West "D" Street, Elizabethton, Tenn. Treasurer—Mr. Lawrence C. Kent, 1896 Cowden Avenue, Memphis 4, Tenn.

By way of introduction, our new Editor is Assistant Professor of Zoology at the State university, having recently accepted that post since removing from Johnson City where he had held a similar position with the East Tennessee State College since 1940. During World War II, he saw service with the armed forces as an officer with the Naval Reserve Corps. Dr. Tanner is a graduate of Cornell University, B.S. '35 and M.S. '36, having majored in ornithology under the capable guidance of Dr. Arthur A. Allen. Following this, he accepted a fellowship with the National Audubon Society to study the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and possibilities for its conservation. His excellent monographic report was reviewed in *THE MIGRANT* for March, 1943. With such basic preparation and from his "eyrie" at the State university, our new editor comes to us well equipped for his task.

Secretary Behrend, already known to our readers through his contribution to this journal, has been one of the enthusiastic mainstays of the new Elizabethton chapter. Both he and Mrs. Behrend are active field workers and as a pastime have hiked over most of the mountain summits in that section. In addition to being a "bird-man," he is also a successful outdoor photographer. Mr. Behrend is connected with the executive offices of the American Bemberg Corporation and North American Rayon Corporation.

Mr. Kent joined us in 1937 and has been one of the standbys of the Memphis chapter, having served as its Treasurer and its President as well as being an active participant in field days, census listings and other activities. On the occasion of our Annual Meeting at Nashville last June, he was elected vice-President for West Tennessee of the State organization. Mr. Kent is connected with the Power and Light Division of the city of Memphis. No doubt ere this our new Treasurer is in a highly receptive frame of mind toward any 1947 dues that may have been overlooked or held back by reason of uncertainties or otherwise.

This reminds us, that in announcing the new officers in our issue of last June, we failed to say a word of introduction regarding our new President. Dr. Lee Roy Herndon is head of the chemical laboratory of the North American Rayon Corporation of Elizabethton and for many years has made ornithology his avocation. A native of Kentucky, he received training for his profession at Maryville College, B.A. '22 and The Johns Hopkins University, Ph.D. '28, having majored in organic chemistry. He then became research chemist for The E. I. DuPont Company and until he went with North American in 1943, he resided in the vicinity of Buffalo, N. Y. Dr. Herndon is serving us actively and efficiently as president and has participated in field work, in contributing to our journal, and in other of the Society's activities.

REPORT OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE

An auditing committee, appointed by President Herndon, composed of W. M. Walker, Jr., Dr. W. R. Spofford and the writer, examined the records and accounts of retiring Treasurer Alfred Clebsch. A detailed report was submitted to President Herndon. It was found that Mr. Clebsch filled this office for nine years, handling \$3,285.94 during that period. His records and accounts were full and complete, kept in a neat and painstaking manner and in accordance with recognized business principles. The accounts were verified and a balance of \$261.86, together with pertinent records was transmitted to the new Treasurer, Mr. Lawrence Kent. We wish to commend Mr. Clebsch for the fine service he has rendered the Society during these years.

HARRY C. MONK, *Chairman.*

CURRENT FINANCES OF THE SOCIETY

For the information of T. O. S. members, the Editor has compiled the following further data regarding the Society's financial status. It includes figures taken from the retiring treasurer's detailed report, which was audited as of Dec. 6, 1946, together with mention of additional funds added later, money due on accounts, and funds still in the hands of committees. Due to rising costs, it can readily be seen that the Society is in need of more revenue.

Balance on hand from 1946 gifts, dues and subscriptions	\$ 71.12	
Back number sales account (by A. F. G.), 1940 to date	112.34	\$183.46*
Amounts due for 1946 advertising and back numbers, approx.		28.00
Grant from Tenn. Audubon Society (int. on its endowment)		50.00
		<hr/>
Approximate total applicable to 1946 expense		\$261.46
Cost of September Migrant (bills outstanding), incl. postage94	
Est. cost of Dec. Migrant and index, incl. postage96	190.00
		<hr/>
Estimated surplus to carry over		71.46
Prepaid dues for 1947 and beyond, as of December 6		28.40*
The following items are available for the T. O. S. Endowment Fund:		
Amount in hands of B. H. Abernathy, chairman (approx.)		210.00
One life membership, turned over by retiring treasurer to Mr. Kent		50.00*
Conrad Jamison Memorial Fund (incomplete), W. R. Spofford, chairman		30.00

*The three items, \$183.46 plus \$28.40, plus \$50.00, make up the retiring treasurer's remittance check of \$261.86.

The 1946 gifts were as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Behrend, \$10; B. P. Tyler, \$9; John Hay, \$5; Mrs. R. W. Harris (deceased), \$10; Knoxville chapter, \$11; and Memphis chapter, \$14.50.

ERRATA.—In Sept., 1946, issue, page 34, line 23 (in biographic sketch of Clarence E. Collier), read "fighter pilot" for "fighting pilot." In June, 1946, issue, page 20, line 1, read "1946" instead of "1936." In Dec., 1945 issue, page 60, show 173 Field Sparrows in the Nashville list.

THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS
PUBLISHED BY THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Free to members. To subscribers, \$1 per year; single copies 30c.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE TREASURER OR SECRETARY OF A CHANGE IN ADDRESS

Fred W. Behrend, Secretary, 606 West "D" St., Elizabethton, Tenn.

Lawrence C. Kent, Treasurer, 1896 Cowden Ave., Memphis 4, Tenn.

All items for publication should be sent to

Albert F. Ganier, Editor, 2112 Woodlawn Drive, Nashville 5, Tenn.

The Tennessee Ornithological Society was founded, October 1915.

Publication of THE MIGRANT was begun, March 1930.

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

RETROSPECTIVELY

As previously announced, the writer is here closing his work as Editor, after a long connection with and no small devotion to this little journal. It is his sincere wish that our activities go smoothly on and that our members extend to his successor their heartiest cooperation.

At a shelf on my right, and extending seven inches along it, are seventeen volumes of THE MIGRANT. The time, the thought, and I might add, "the midnight oil" that has been expended to produce that array of information on Tennessee birds cannot easily be realized. It has been a most interesting task however for the Editors, at times arduous it is true, but the satisfaction of having helped many new or young observers to get upon a sound ornithological footing, has brought satisfaction as a reward. Aside from being a repository of substantial information about birds of this State, as official organ of the T. O. S. it has been the "tie that binds" and welds the widely scattered membership into a whole. Through its columns we have learned to know each other and many firm and lasting friendships have resulted. When bird enthusiasts get together, there seems never time for a pause in the conversation and so our organization has brought its social rewards as well.

The field of bird study is quite inexhaustible and to each who enter it there is the same succession of experiences in learning the ways of birds that captivated Wilson and Audubon more than a century ago. For these and other reasons, the T. O. S. and its work is never in sight of an end. As to the writer, no end to his work is planned either for he has a larger project in view and with which he will acquaint our membership later.

In closing this volume, I wish to express thanks to Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey for assisting with the proof reading, to Harry C. Monk for preparation of the three-year index, to Alfred Clebsch for capably handling the finances, to our President and other officers, and finally, to those who have generously contributed their time to write articles with which to fill these pages.

ALBERT F. GANIER.

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The English names used above are those given in the A. O. U. Check-list, 1931 edition, and therein may be found the corresponding scientific name.

In general, subspecies are ignored unless authors specifically state that the names used are based on collected specimens determined by a competent authority. Certain exceptions have been made, e.g., Juncos, Grackles, Water-thrushes, etc.

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