

THE MIGRANT

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DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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Nest and eggs of Cairn's Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens cairnsi*) found near the Beauty Spot in Unicoi County, Tenn. and photographed by Bruce P. Tyler, 215 West Unaka Ave., Johnson City, Tenn. This species breeds at the higher altitudes in Greene County.

THE MIGRANT

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Birds Of Greene County, Tennessee

by JOHN B. WHITE, *et al*

The following list of birds covers those observed in Greene County, Tennessee, by members and guests of the Greeneville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society; some observations were made before the organization of the chapter in December, 1946.

Greene County is in Upper East Tennessee. Greeneville, the largest town and the county seat, is approximately in the center of the county. The ridges, beginning with the Appalachians on the southeastern boundary and ending with Bays Mountain on the northwest, run northeast to southwest. The main streams and their contiguous valleys, Nolichucky River and Lick Creek, run parallel to the ridges; the secondary streams, as a rule, run at right angles to the mountains and the main streams.

The Nolichucky drains the county southeast of Greeneville to the North Carolina state line atop the Appalachians; Lick Creek drains the county from Greeneville to the Hawkins County line and Bays Mountain.

The point of highest elevation is on the state line, 4890 feet. The elevation drops 2600 feet in two airline miles from Camp Creek Bald to the foot of the mountain.

The elevation on the lower Nolichucky and Lick Creek is a little less than 1100 feet. At Greeneville it is 1554 feet, and on Bays Mountain at Chimneytop it is 3076 feet. The Lick Creek valley is subject to overflow during the winter and spring months, making territory for observation of ducks and wading birds.

The Nolichucky has one small hydroelectric dam forming Davy Crockett Lake, and this makes good territory for the larger waterfowl.

Outside the higher mountains, which make up only a small part of Greene County, the land is used mainly for farming.

Back from the main streams the topography is either rolling or knobs, and a large portion is used for farming.

The only "balds", grassy areas on the higher mountains, in the county are on Camp Creek Mountain and on Cold Spring Mountain. The area being in the Transition Zone of the Austral Region and bordering on a small portion of the Canadian Zone in the Boreal Region may account for some vertical migration in the county.

The letters used in the list referring to the relative abundance are these: A—abundant; C—common; F.C—fairly common; U.C—uncommon; R—rare; V.R—very rare. The letters referring to seasonal status are the following: PR—permanent resident, may be found throughout the year; SR—summer resident, during the breeding season only; WR—winter resident, only during the winter months; M—migrants, pass through during spring and fall; V—visitant, for short periods only; Ac—accidentals, outside of their normal range. Example of the use of the letters: Bluebird:A-(SR) FC-(WR): Bluebird abundant summer resident and fairly common winter resident.

ANNOTATED LIST

- PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*).R-(M).
 One observed Oct. 23, 1955, and again Nov. 27, 1955, on Davy Crockett Lake.
- GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea Herodias*).R-(PR).
 AMERICAN EGRET (*Casmerodius albus*).UC-(V).
 LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Florida caerulea*).VR-(V).
 (EASTERN) GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*).FC-(SR).
 BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*).R-(M).
 YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (*Nyctanassa violacea*).R-(SR).
 AMERICAN BITTERN (*Botaurus lentiginosus*).R-(M).
 CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*).UC-(M).
 BLUE GOOSE (*Chen caerulescens*).R-(M). One flock of 25 observed feeding in a corn field along Roaring Fork Creek in 1952. One member of this flock voluntarily remained behind and stayed on a farm with a tame goose until 1955.
- MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*).UC-(M).
 BLACK DUCK (*Anas rubripes*).UC-(M).
 GADWALL (*Anas strepera*).R-(M).
 PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*).UC-(M).
 GREEN-WINGED TEAL (*Anas carolinensis*).VR-(M).
 BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Anas discors*).FC-(M).
 SHOVELLER (*Spatula clypeata*).R-(M).
 WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*).R-(SR); UC-(M).
 RING-NECKED DUCK (*Aythya collaris*).UC-(M).
 LESSER SCAUP DUCK (*Aythya affinis*).FC-(M).
 BUFFLE-HEAD (*Glaucionetta albeola*).VR-(M).
 HOODED MERGENSER (*Lophodytes cucullatus*).R-(M).
 TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*).A-(PR).
 BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*).FC-(PR).
 SHARP-SHINED HAWK (*Accipiter striatus*).R-(PR); UC-(M).
 COOPER'S HAWK (*Accipiter cooperii*).UC-(PR); C-(M).
 RED-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo jamaicensis*).R-(PR); FC-(M).
 RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (*Buteo lineatus*).R-(WR); UC-(M).
 BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*).C-(M).
 BALD EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*).R-(M). One shot by a farmer near Baileyton in the spring of 1941. One observed over Davy Crockett Lake Oct. 23, 1955.
- MARSH HAWK (*Circus cyaneus*).R-(WR).
 OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*).R-(M). Possibly summer residents at Davy Crockett Lake. One pair was observed building a nest in the spring of 1940 by the Conservation Officer there.
- DUCK HAWK (*Falco peregrinus*).VR-(V). One observed in the Lick Creek valley near Albany during the 1954 Christmas count.
- SPARROW HAWK (*Falco sparverius*).UC-(PR).
 RUFFED GROUSE (*Bonasa umbellus*).UC-(PR).
 BOB-WHITE (*Colinus virginianus*).FC-(PR).

RING-NECKED PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*).VR-(PR). Farmers at the base of Bluff Mountain and on Roaring Fork Creek have raised and liberated these birds.

WILD TURKEY (*Meleagris gallopavo*).R-(PR). This species was observed on Rich Mountain in June 1941 and on Cold Spring Mountain in December 1955.

KING RAIL (*Rallus elegans*).VR-(M). One observed in the fall of 1952 and another in 1954, both along Roaring Fork Creek.

SCRA (*Porzana carolina*).VR-(M). One on Lick Creek in April 1941, one at Davy Crockett Lake April 23, 1950, one at Davy Crockett Lake Oct. 19, 1952.

BLACK RAIL (*Laterallus jamaicensis*).VR-(M). One record on Bluff Mountain in 1948.—The only other record for Tennessee was of a bird collected in Coker County by Mr. N. F. Stokeley in June 1915. (THE MIGRANT 6:49, 1935).—Ed.

COOT (*Fulica americana*).UC-(M).

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*).C-(PR).

WOODCOCK (*Philobela minor*).R-(WR).

WILSON'S SNIFE (*Capella gallinago*).UC-(WR); FC-(M).

UPLAND PLOVER (*Bartramia longicauda*).VR-(M). One observed near Washington County line April 12, 1953.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularia*).R-(M). Possibly SR.

(EASTERN) SOLITARY SANDPIPER (*Tringa solitaria*).R-(M).

GREATER YELLOW-LEGS (*Totanus melanoleucus*).R-(M).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Totanus flavipes*).UC-(M).

LEAST SANDPIPER (*Erolia minutilla*).VR-(M).

HERRING GULL (*Larus argentatus*).VR-(M). One record, June 1948, on Davy Crockett Lake.

RING-BILLED GULL (*Larus delawarensis*).UC-(M).

MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaidura macroura*).A-(PR).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus americanus*).UC-(SR).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*).R-(SR).

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*).UC-(SR). Possibly PR. One winter record Dec. 30, 1943.

SCREECH OWL (*Otus asio*).C-(PR).

GREAT HORNED OWL (*Bubo virginianus*).VR-(PR). Heard and seen on Bluff Mountain from 1947 to 1950.

BARRED OWL (*Strix varia*).R-(PR). Bluff Mountain and Lick Creek valley.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*).FC-(SR).

(EASTERN) WHIP-POOR-WILL (*Caprimulgus vociferus*).FC-(SR).

NIGHTHAWK (*Chordeiles minor*).A-(SR).

CHIMNEY SWIFT (*Chaetura pelagica*).C-(SR).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus colubris*).FC-(SR).

(EASTERN) BELTED KINGFISHER (*Megaceryle alcyon*).UC-(PR).

FLICKER (*Colaptes auratus*).UC-(PR).

PILEATED WOODPECKER (*Hylatomus pileatus*).UC-(PR).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Centurus carolinus*).FC-(PR).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*).R-(PR).

- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*).R-(WR).
 HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopus villosus*).R-(PR).
 DOWNY WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopus pubescens*).A-(PR).
 EASTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus tyrannus*).FC-(SR).
 CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*).UC-(SR).
 EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*).C-(SR); UC-(WR).
 ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax virens*).R-(SR).
 WOOD PEWEE (*Contopus virens*).FC-(SR).
 HORNED LARK (*Eremophila alpestris*).FC-(PR). More numerous in winter.
- TREE SWALLOW (*Iridoprocne bicolor*).VR-(M).
 ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*).UC-(SR).
 BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*).C-(SR).
 PURPLE MARTIN (*Progne subis*).UC-(SR).
 BLUE JAY (*Cyanocitta cristata*).A-(PR).
 RAVEN (*Corvus corax*).VR-(PR). Only in the Appalachians.
 CROW (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*).A-(PR).
 CAROLINA CHICKADEE (*Parus carolinensis*).A-(PR).
 TUFTED TITMOUSE (*Parus bicolor*).A-(PR).
 WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta carolinensis*).R-(PR).
 RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*).VR-(WR).
 BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia familiaris*).R-(WR); UC-(M).
 HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*).VR-(SR).
 WINTER WREN (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).R-(WR); R-(SR). In the mountains.
- BEWICK'S WREN (*Thryomanes bewickii*).R-(PR).
 CAROLINA WREN (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*).A-(PR).
 LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN (*Telmatodytes palustris*).VR-(M). Two records, both in the spring of 1955; one at the foot of Bluff Mountain, one near the Nolichucky River.
- SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN (*Cistothorus platensis*).VR-(M). One individual observed at close range in a wheat patch from May 2 to May 13, 1954.
- (EASTERN) MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus polyglottos*).A-(PR).
 CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*).UC-(SR).
 (EASTERN) BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*).A-(SR); VR-(WR).
- ROBIN (*Turdus migratorius*).C-(PR); A-(M).
 WOOD THRUSH (*Hylocichla mustelina*).FC-(SR).
 (EASTERN) HERMIT THRUSH (*Hylocichla guttata*).R-(WR); FC-(M).
- OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH (*Hylocichla ustulata*).UC-(M).
 GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH (*Hylocichla minima*).R-(M).
 VEERY (*Hylocichla fuscescens*).R-(SR). Only in the higher mountains.
 EASTERN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia sialis*).A-(SR); FC-(WR).
 BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Poliotilta caerulea*).A-(SR).
 (EASTERN) GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus satrapa*).UC-(WR).
 (EASTERN) RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus calendula*).R-(WR).
- AMERICAN PIPIT (*Anthus spinoletta*).VR-(V).
 CEDAR WAXWING (*Bombycilla cedrorum*).FC-(WR).

- LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (*Lanius ludovicianus*).UC-(PR).
STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*).A-(PR).
WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*).A-(SR).
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*Vireo flavifrons*).R-(M).
BLUE-HEADED VIREO (*Vireo solitarius*).R-(SR). In the mountains.
RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*).C-(SR).
PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*Vireo philadelphicus*).VR-(M). One record, in 1948 in Gretna-ville.
(EASTERN) WARBLING VIREO (*Vireo gilvus*).R-(M). One individual observed for seven days during May 1955 on Roaring Fork Creek.
BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER (*Mniotilta varia*).C-(SR).
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*).R-(SR). One record at White's mill during the nesting season of 1952. One record in the spring of 1955 along the Nolichucky River.
WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helminthos vermivorus*).R-(SR).
TENNESSEE WARBLER (*Vermivora peregrina*).R-(M).
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Vermivora celata*).VR-(V). One observed during the fall along the Nolichucky River.
PARULA WARBLER (*Parula americana*).R-(SR).
YELLOW WARBLER (*Dendroica petechia*).C-(SR).
MAGNOLIA WARBLER (*Dendroica magnolia*).C-(M).
CAPE MAY WARBLER (*Dendroica tigrina*).R-(M).
BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (*Dendroica caerulescens*).R-(SR). In the mountains. C-(M) out of the mountains.
MYRTLE WARBLER (*Dendroica coronata*).C-(WR); A-(M).
BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Dendroica virens*).R-(SR); C-(M).
CERULEAN WARBLER (*Dendroica cerulea*).R-(M).
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Dendroica fusca*).R-(M).
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Dendroica dominica*).R-(M). Two records, Sept. 22, 1955; May 25, 1950.
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Dendroica pensylvanica*).UC-(SR).
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (*Dendroica castanea*).R-(M).
BLACK-POLL WARBLER (*Dendroica striata*).R-(M).
PINE WARBLER (*Dendroica pinus*).R-(PR). During 1954 several pairs were observed all summer, one pair known to have nested and raised young near DeBusk School. Four also observed on 1954 winter count.
PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Dendroica discolor*).R-(M).
PALM WARBLER (*Dendroica palmarum*).R-(M); VR-(WR). Dec 23, 1940 (1); Dec. 26, 1941 (5).
OVEN-BIRD (*Seiurus aurocapillus*).UC-(SR).
NORTHERN WATER-THRUSH (*Seiurus noveboracensis*).UC-(M).
LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH (*Seiurus motacilla*).UC-(SR).
KENTUCKY WARBLER (*Oporornis formosus*).R-(SR).
CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*).VR-(M). One record May 2, 1949 on Bluff Mountain.
MOURNING WARBLER (*Oporornis philadelphia*).VR-(M).
YELLOW-THROAT (*Geothlypis trichas*).A-(SR).
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (*Icteria virens*).C-(SR).
HOODED WARBLER (*Wilsonia citrina*).R-(SR).
WILSON'S WARBLER (*Wilsonia pusilla*).VR-(M).
CANADA WARBLER (*Wilsonia canadensis*).R-(SR); UC-(M).

- AMERICAN REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*).R-(SR).
 ENGLISH SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*).A-(PR).
 BOBOLINK (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*).R-(M).
 MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella magna*).A-(PR).
 RED-WING (*Agelaius phoeniceus*).A-(SR); UC-(WR).
 ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*).C-(SR).
 BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*).R-(SR).
 RUSTY BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus carolinus*).UC-(WR); FC-(M).
 PURPLE GRACKLE (*Quiscalus quiscula*).A-(SR); R-(WR).
 (EASTERN) COWBIRD (*Molothrus ater*).C-(SR); R-(WR).
 SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*).R-(SR).
 SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*).C-(SR).
 CARDINAL (*Richmondia cardinalis*).A-(PR).
 ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*).R-(SR).
 (EASTERN) BLUE GROSBEAK (*Guiraca caerulea*).R-(SR). On May 1, 1954 one individual was present, May 2 five, and from the middle of June to August, one male. In 1955 one pair was present through May and June.
 INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*).A-(SR).
 DICKCISSEL (*Spiza americana*).FC-(SR).
 (EASTERN) EVENING GROSBEAK (*Hesperiphona vespertina*).VR-(V). Dec. 18, 1945 to March 1946. Nov. 10, 1950 to March 1951. March of 1955.
 (EASTERN) PURPLE FINCH (*Carpodacus purpureus*).FC-(WR).
 PINE SISKIN (*Spinus pinus*).R-(V).
 COMMON GOLDFINCH (*Spinus tristis*).A-(WR); C-(PR).
 TOWHEE: CHEWINK (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*).UC-(PR).
 SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*).UC-(M).
 GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (*Ammodramus savannarum*).FC-(SR).
 HENSLOW'S SPARROW (*Passerherbulus henslowii*).R-(V). During the winter. Three observed in Dec. 1946 in weed covered wet land along Roaring Fork Creek. Observation was made at close range (six feet) over one week period. Two recorded along same creek Oct. 16 to 22, 1955.
 (EASTERN) VESPER SPARROW (*Poocetes gramineus*).R-(M).
 PINE WOODS SPARROW (*Aimophila aestivalis*).R-(SR).
 SLATE-COLORED JUNCO (*Junco hyemalis*).UC-(PR); C-(WR).
 (EASTERN) TREE SPARROW (*Spizella arborea*).VR-(WR). One record, Dec. 28, 1953 five observed along Lick Creek.
 (EASTERN) CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*).UC-(SR).
 (EASTERN) FIELD SPARROW (*Spizella pusilla*).A-(PR).
 WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*).A-(WR).
 WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia albicollis*).A-(WR).
 (EASTERN) FOX SPARROW (*Passerella iliaca*).R-(WR).
 LINCOLN'S SPARROW (*Melospiza lincolni*).VR-(M). One record May 1, 1955 along Lick Creek.
 SWAMP SPARROW (*Melospiza goergiana*).R-(WR).
 SONG SPARROW (*Melospiza melodia*).A-(PR).
 Peterson's *Field Guide To The Birds*, second revised edition 1947, which used for reference *Fourth A. O. U. Check List Of North American Birds* (and the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first supplements) was used as reference. 104 Union Street, Greenville.

Bird Casualties At Smyrna And Nashville Ceilometers, 1955

by AMELIA R. LASKEY

On the night of September 24-25, 1955, more than 1400 birds of 51 species were killed or injured as Sewart Air Force Base, Smyrna, and a few at Berry Field, Nashville.

After a week of warm weather with temperatures reaching 90 to 97 degrees, there was a sudden change on September 24. Rain and northerly winds prevailed, with temperatures for that day ranging from 73 to 68 degrees. When rainfall ceased in the afternoon, the cloud ceiling was only 500 feet.

From my previous experiences, it seemed very probable that there would be a concentration of migrating birds at ceilometers, so I went to the Nashville airport. At 9:45 p. m. there were hundreds fluttering rather high in the beam. There was much noise made by a concentration of delayed arriving and departing planes, which seemed to keep the birds from the lower level. The cloud ceiling had risen to 2300-3000 feet after dark. At 10:45 p. m. one of the American Airlines employees helped me to gather about a dozen birds from the runway. When shown these, the Weather Bureau immediately turned off the ceilometer beam temporarily to allow the birds to disperse.

It was not feasible so late at night to go to Sewart Air Force Base at Smyrna, about 10 miles south-east of Berry Field. I phoned the Weather Bureau there at 11:30 p. m., knowing that their ceilometer is equipped with a "hood" or screen so that they can operate on the invisible ultra-violet beam, thus eliminating all visible light. The man at the phone investigated, said the birds were in the beam, and that they would use the hood.

The following morning, I went to Berry Field first, collecting a few additional birds, only 35 in all. Then I went on to Sewart Air Force Base. The destruction there was appalling. The Weather Bureau men had been unable to operate the hood, probably due to lack of experience; it had been used successfully on previous occasions. Three heavy sacks contained the birds gathered from the runways, and in addition a large area near the ceilometer, on driveways, and among the foundations and excavations of buildings under construction, contained both living and dead birds. A lieutenant helped me gather as many as possible.

As on previous disaster occasions, I sent a report and suggestions to Frederick C. Lincoln, Assistant to the Director of Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C. He took up the matter with the Pentagon and the Weather Bureau with gratifying results.

Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay recently issued a newspaper release that Air Force Bases east of the Mississippi have orders to use the screen during September and October and whenever necessary to protect migrating birds. Commercial ceilometers are to be equipped with these screens. At Nashville, the screen has been installed at Berry Field. It operates satisfactorily and eliminates all visible light from the beam.

Although it was not possible to catch many of the numerous injured birds hopping about the Smyrna ceilometer, four survived to be banded and released: Olive-backed Thrush, 2; Tennessee Warbler, 1; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1.

As there were no different species at Nashville, the 35 collected there were not kept separated from the Smyrna group. In the latter group, 35 individuals were mashed too badly by vehicles for identification. The outstanding find was a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, the first specimen for Tennessee (See Round Table note in this issue). Species with the highest count of casualties were, Tennessee Warbler, 206; Ovenbird, 187; Magnolia Warbler, 157; Olive-backed Thrush, 139; Northern Yellow-throat, 100. The three species heading this list also led in numbers of casualties at the Nashville ceilometer in October 1951 and October 1954 (MIGRANT 22:60 and MIGRANT 25:68). The list of casualties for 1955 follows: Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Virginia Rail, 1; Sora Rail, 11; Mourning Dove, 1; Nighthawk, 1; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 4; Acadian Flycatcher, 2; Alder Flycatcher, 3; Wood Pewee, 5; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Catbird, 77; Wood Thrush, 9; Olive-backed Thrush, 139; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 58; Willow Veery, 4; White-eyed Vireo, 7; Yellow-throated Vireo, 16; Red-eyed Vireo, 74; Philadelphia Vireo, 25; Black and White Warbler, 44; Worm-eating Warbler, 1; Blue-winged Warbler, 1; Tennessee Warbler, 206; Nashville Warbler, 3; Magnolia Warbler, 157; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Black-throated Green Warbler, 23; Blackburnian Warbler, 5; Yellow-throated Warbler, 2; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 33; Bay-breasted Warbler, 12; Prairie Warbler, 2; Palm Warbler, 12; Ovenbird, 187; Northern Water-thrush, 18; Kentucky Warbler, 5; Mourning Warbler, 3; Northern Yellow-throat, 100; Yellow-breasted Chat, 4; Wilson's Warbler, 1; Canada Warbler, 5; Redstart, 55; Bobolink, 4; Scarlet Tanager, 10; Summer Tanager, 9; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 3; Indigo Bunting, 15; Dickcissel, 3; Grasshopper Sparrow, 1; Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 1.

1521 GRAYBAR LANE, NASHVILLE 12, TENNESSEE.

1955 Fall Migration Of Hawks

By THOMAS W. FINUCANE

Last fall the T. O. S. undertook its sixth consecutive study of the migration of hawks across our state. The total count was about 700, including 532 Broad-winged Hawks. This is the smallest total so far obtained.

The weather had a depressing effect on the count. Starting Sept. 24 there were general rains and cloudiness in eastern Tennessee for the remainder of the month. The last two weeks of September usually provide the bulk of our records for Broad Wings, but this year the absence of observers in the field Sept. 19 through 22, followed by inclement weather, can explain our failure to record this species in larger numbers.

The Chilhowee, Unicoi and Little Frog Mountains were investigated during the last week of September and discovered, in spite of the discouraging weather, that this system of ridges northwest of the Great Smokies is part of the migration route for Broad Wings and other hawks.

The accompanying chart gives dates, observers, localities, hours of observation, wind direction and velocity, temperature, weather conditions and the count of all hawks reported.

After the discovery that a particular location is on a route taken by Broad Wings in their flight southward it is still to be learned whether the location witnesses the passage of this species in substantial numbers every autumn, most autumns, or only once or twice in a decade. It would be interesting to have a record of the total number of hawks observed from this location during the last half of September over a period of years and how this number varies from year to year, from day to day, and from hour to hour.

It is evident that the flights of Broad Wings observed in September 1950 were of a different character from the migrations reported in THE MIGRANT in previous and subsequent years. The flights observed by William M. Johnson, Knoxville, by Stephen R. Russell, Abingdon, Va. by Elinor Pugh, and by the writer and others in 1950 were very spectacular, if not sensational. In 35 years of, admittedly casual, bird study the writer has seen such a mass of hawks on only one other occasion, in the spring along the south shore of Lake Ontario. Even without the possibility of recurrence of such flights the hawk count would have much to offer the T. O. S. and its members in scientific and recreational values.

It is appropriate here to express our appreciation of the thought, labor, and enthusiasm given to this project by Mr. Behrend during the past six years.

KEY TO OBSERVERS

W—Adele West, Chattanooga; B—Fred Behrend, Elizabethton; O—J. B. Owen, Knoxville; R—Miss Jennie Riggs, Mrs. W. F. Bell, Nashville; C—Miss Riggs, Mrs. Bell, Miss Ruth Castles, Johnny Ogden, Nashville; Y—Howard Young, Kingsport; M—Spencer Meeks, Kingsport; N—Fred Behrend, Elizabethton, and Richard Nevius, Greeneville.

KEY TO CHART LOCALITIES

- a—Chattanooga Area.
- b—Elizabethton 1500 ft.
- c—Yellow Mts. 3600-5600 ft. (Hump, Yellow, Big Yellow Bald) Avery County, N. C.
- d—Holston Mt. (McQueen Knob) 3800 ft.
- e—Beech Mt. 5500 ft.
- f—DuPont Springs and Green Top, Sevier County, Tenn. 3000 ft.
- g—Millstone Gap Fire Tower, Blount County, Tenn. 2300 ft.
- h—Little Rock Fire Tower, Blount County, Tenn. 2650 ft.
(f, g, and h are on the crest of Chilhowee Mt.)
- i—Cold Springs Fire Tower, Monroe County, Tenn. 4000 ft.
- j—Hemlock Knob, Monroe County, Tenn. 4032 ft.
(i, j, and l are in the Unicoi Mts.)
- k—House Mt., 15 miles NE of Knoxville 2000 ft.
- l—Buck Bald Fire Tower, Polk County, Tenn.
- m—Sunset Rock on Rt. 70S in Nashville Area 1500 ft.
- n—Sassafras Knob Fire Tower near Ducktown, Polk County 3000 ft.
- o—Round Bald, Grassy Bald, Low Gap, all east of Roan Mt. 5500 ft.
- p—Lake Phillip Nelson, Carter County 3500 ft.
- q—Roan Mt. 6300 ft.
- r—Mendota Fire Tower, Scott County, Va.
- s—Beech Mt. (Pinnacle), Avery County, N. C. 5500 ft.
- t—East End of Cross Mt., Carter and Johnson Counties 3600 ft.
- u—Bradley Gap (south of Hump Mt.), Yellow Mt., Big Yellow Bald 5000 ft.
- v—Big Bald Mt., Unicoi County, Tenn. and Yancey County, N. C.

KEY TO WEATHER

C—cloudy; F—fair; H—high; L—low; R—rainy; V—variable
1434 WATAUGA STREET, KINGSPORT, TENN.

The Round Table

FIRST SPECIMEN OF SHARP-TAILED SPARROW FOR TENNESSEE
—A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni*) was found among the 1548 dead birds of 51 species that I brought home from Sewart Air Force Base, Smyrna, Tennessee immediately after the great bird-fall at the ceilometer beam there on the night of September 24-25, 1955. The Air Force Base is about 20 miles south-east of Nashville.

A. F. Ganier prepared the specimen and sent it to Dr. Herbert Friedmann, U. S. National Museum, for verification of the race. It is now in Mr. Ganier's collection. He also has specimens taken in Alabama, Louisiana and South Carolina. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow breeds in the prairie provinces of Canada, south to South Dakota and western Minnesota. In migration, it moves to the Atlantic Coast of southern United States (R. T. Peterson, 1947, Field Guide to the Birds, p. 271).

Although this is the first specimen for Tennessee, there are three published sight records for the species. The first of these (Audubon Field Notes, 1953 (1):7) stated that L. R. Herndon and others had seen a Sharp-tailed Sparrow in the heavy snow in early November (1952) at Elizabethton, Tennessee which was the first record for that region. Recently I wrote to Dr. Herndon for more details, receiving the following reply, dated March 13, 1956:

"The Sharp-tailed Sparrow was observed by the writer alone on the afternoon of November 23, 1952. It was in a fallow field grown up with weeds near the Watauga River at the upper end of Sycamore Shoals and very near the western boundary of the City of Elizabethton. About 8 inches of snow covered the ground, which completely covered the short grass and ground cover which made it impossible for the bird to get down in the grass and low weeds and disappear. The sun was shining brightly behind me while I studied it at close range through 10x binoculars and, at times, within such close range that I could not focus my binoculars on it. I watched it for fully 20 minutes and followed it through a distance of approximately 100 yards, as it hopped along in the snow or made short flights from weed to weed. A bright ochraceous-buff color was the predominating color of the breast, sides, wings, and on the sides of the head. No visible streakings were present on the breast or sides. The head stripes and back appeared somewhat brownish with the back feathers margined with buff. The contrast of the buffy color against the background of snow in the bright sunlight gave a very striking appearance of the bird."

The second record was made October 25, 1953 in Memphis when one bird was seen by George Peyton, Jr., Ben B. Coffey, Jr., and others on President's Island (THE MIGRANT 24, 84-85, 1953).

Another record of two Sharp-tailed Sparrows is reported by Ben B. Coffey, Jr., for October 9, 1954 and a single bird on October 11, 1954 by Harry Landis, Jr. and George Peyton, Jr. The 1954 records were also made on President's Island (1954 Mid-South Bird Notes 3(5):11).—AMELIA R. LASKEY, 1521 Graybar Lane, Nashville 12, Tenn.

POSSIBILITY OF HARLAN'S HAWK NEAR CHATTANOOGA—On December 27, 1954, in Birmingham, Alabama, the writer observed a large, black-looking *buteo* soaring over Vanderbilt Rd. Since it was a dark, sunless day, I thought it might be a Red-tail, but a closer approach and use of binoculars showed it to fit the description of a Harlan's Hawk. Immediately upon returning to Chattanooga I wrote Thomas A. Imhof, reporting the presence of a possible Harlan's Hawk.

On Dec. 26, 1955, while working on the Christmas count, Mr. Imhof went to the Vanderbilt Rd. area with my report in mind and found a bird which he identified as a Harlan's Hawk. He made an unsuccessful attempt to collect it. I'm sure that I was more surprised than Mr. Imhof that the Harlan's Hawk was there for him to find.

All this brings to mind an incident I have not previously reported because of the uncertainties involved. On April 12, 1953, Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Broley, my husband, and I went to Chickamauga Park, a few miles away in Georgia, on a field trip of several hours. The day was perfect and light conditions very good. It was between 9 and 10 a. m. when we pulled up to one of my regular stopping places where Red-tails are frequently seen. A bird of that general size and shape was observed in flight, rather high, and looking very dark, but it finally came close enough to give us a good look. Since I had never seen such a black-appearing hawk at that date, I was at a loss to identify it. Mr. Broley stated that if he were seeing it at Delta, Ontario, he would call it a Harlan's Hawk.

Research in THE MIGRANT back to 1935 shows no record of this species in Tennessee, though there is a report of one collected in Bolivar County, Mississippi, by Merritt Vaiden. Walter Spofford expressed the opinion that several birds seen by him could have been Harlan's or Western Red-tails, but he favored the latter choice.

Although the observation of April 12, 1953 was about five miles into Georgia, I feel that the possibility of a Tennessee record is of interest, and these remarks may serve to alert field workers to be on the watch for this rare species.—ADELE H. WEST, 1625 S. Clayton Ave., S. E., Chattanooga 11, Tennessee.

RED CROSSBILL IN CHICKAMAUGA PARK (GA.).—On Dec. 1, 1955, a familiar continuous "chip-chip" was heard overhead. The bird was in flight, and immediate use of binoculars showed dark red underparts. About 500 feet away it perched, but as I walked toward the tree, it left and flew back over my head. Again I focused on it in flight and listened to the characteristic call of a Red Crossbill. I identified it as such, but noted it in my personal records as a tentative identification. A few weeks later, Thomas A. Imhoff of Birmingham informed me that a sizeable flock reached Gadsden, Ala., about Dec. 1 and was still there. On January 21 we drove to Gadsden and easily located the flock by its voice.

On Feb. 23, 1956, I heard the call in my yard, and finally located the feeding bird in the top of a pine. This individual was an immature male. Several times during the day it left that tree and flew to others in neighboring yards, returning each time to the tree in which I first found it. It was not seen after that date.—ADELE H. WEST, Chattanooga, Tenn.

A DICKCISSEL VISITS NASHVILLE IN WINTER.—February 5, an unusual looking bird was observed feeding on fine chick feed with a flock of House Sparrows in our back yard about thirty feet from the dining room window. Examination through a binocular showed it to be a male Dickcissel with yellow breast, black throat patch and rusty shoulders. He appeared to be in perfect flying condition as he flew down to the ground or up to the hedge with the flock. Soon he began to follow other sparrows to the sunflower seed feeder. He would take a seed, fly to the ground and, unable apparently to crack the whole shell at once, cracked it in sections, putting the uncracked portion on the ground while he ate the kernel from the cracked portion. He was here again the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 11th of February (It was away from home the 6th and 10th). His feeding procedure was the same on those days as when first observed.

(I believe this is the second winter record of a Dickcissel in Nashville. THE MIGRANT 21, 31, 1950 for first record).—MRS. W. F. BELL, 210 Carden Ave., Nashville.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK'S NEST WITH SIX EGGS FOUND IN CEDAR TREE.—A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter striatus*) established two noteworthy records at Basin Spring during the 1955 season by laying six eggs in a nest built in a cedar tree (*Juniperus virginiana*).

Several observations of a Sharp-shinned Hawk in the vicinity of previous nests led me to look for a 1955 nest on May 2. I heard low hawk-calls as I climbed the hill in the general area. In previous years nests had been found in pine (*Pinus virginiana*) but search of the pines failed to reveal one. Finally a nest was located in a cedar and one of the hawks was standing on its rim. After a short interval the hawk flew silently away and did not return or give any distress call as I climbed the approximate 20 feet to the nest.

Because limbs of cedar grow somewhat more acutely upward from the trunk than limbs of pine the body of the nest, built largely of pine twigs and against the trunk, appeared bulkier and somewhat more conical at the bottom than other nests I have seen but the contour of the top surface was the shallow depression of a typical nest sparsely lined with scales of pine bark.

On May 2 the nest contained 3 eggs which did not feel warm. Egg-clutches of 2 nests found in other years in neighboring trees had numbered 5 so it was a surprise to find, May 15, a set of 6 eggs being incubated. Some time late in May Mr. A. F. Ganier photographed the eggs in the nest. The eggs were still unhatched June 1. On June 7 there were 3 fluffy, white, downy hawklets, 1 pipped, and 2 unpipped eggs. The baby hawks were neither fearful nor belligerent. When held close to the ear at least one of them gave tiny, almost inaudible sounds.

Close watch on developments was impossible. Suffice it to say that all 6 eggs hatched. Mrs. Amelia Laskey and Charles Hunt banded the 6 nestlings June 19. On that date they were still covered with down but showed various stages of development. One had primary and tail feathers showing well. They were still in the nest June 26. Though hawk-calls were heard the young birds were not observed in the area of the nest on July 2 (ARL, CH). On July 8 Mr. Hunt saw what appeared to be a food-pass to a young hawk in the air over the nesting area.

Bent's Life Histories indicates that various species of pine are the trees most frequently chosen for nesting and that the usual egg-sets number 4 or 5. Bent says that sets of 6 eggs have been reported for this species and that it has been recorded as building in cedar but each occurrence would seem to be rare.—KATHERINE A. GOODPASTURE, 9716 Elrod Rd., Kensington, Md.

The Season

MEMPHIS—Temperatures have been slightly below normal while precipitation continued falling off as fall moved into winter. December rainfall was about one-fourth of normal; no change until a record snow of 5.2 inches on Jan. 23 and 2 inches of rain on Jan. 29. The river stage, at an all-time low of —5.4 feet, then climbed fast, to near flood stage. Because of the latter, most Black-birds left the President's Island roost, apparently moving to the heronry site, 1½ miles NW of Marion, Ark. After the snow, yard species were in reduced numbers at Coffey Grounds—Rough-legged Hawks were seen only on our Count plus a first at Moon Lake, Miss. on Jan. 2, by Dr. Harry Wilcox. A Short-eared Owl was seen Oct. 12 (BC), perhaps attracted by the transients at the nearby ceilometer, Memphis Municipal Airport. Oliver Irwin reported one at President's Island, Feb. 25 and 26, while 5 were flushed at the Union City airport, Mar. 18, by Alice Smith and Mrs. Coffey (LC). Records were thus below the last two years, but L. B. Jones reported about 50 present at Minter City, Miss. between mid-December and February. On Oct. 8 I noticed ten Franklin's Gulls circling above the river but moving downstream fast. This is our second Tennessee record. Besides the first record (THE MIGRANT 18:60-61, 1947) there is another published record, of apparently the same bird identified by two other parties separately and later by the writer, as a Laughing Gull (IBID 22:30, 1951). At the Island, 3 Bonaparte's Gulls were seen Nov. 19 (BC and OI, separately); from 3 to 4 were reported (OI; George Peyton, Jr.) thru Nov. 26, and one Dec. 2 (OI). In recent years only, we have listed the Fish Crow on our Xmas. Counts but couldn't find one this year; I saw one, Dec. 18, at the N. Bellevue dump. At the island roost, Aug. 20, Irwin saw 80 crows, some and possibly all, Fish Crows, come in at dusk but eventually leave. Small numbers noted there Aug. 12 and 29 also (BC et al).

Late Tree Swallows were: Nov. 12,—2 (OI), 20 (GP, Harry Landis, Jr., David Brown), and Nov. 20,—1 (OI). A red-breasted Nuthatch was seen at homes, Oct. 10 (GP) and Oct. 15 (Mrs. M. L. Torti). The Western Meadowlark arrived at the Penal Farm,—3 on Oct. 15 (BC); this was the usual number except 12 on Nov. 20, and about 18 heard each trip from Feb. 26. One at Woodstock, Dec. 26 Count, was the 4th away from the Farm, and one near the ferry, Ashport, Mar. 18 (LC, AS, BC), was our first West Tenn. record outside Shelby County. Other firsts were: Hickory Flat, 1, Dec. 25 (BC) and 4 to 8 Feb. 19 (LC and Mrs. Cleo Yancey); Holly Springs Experiment Station, 1, Mar. 4 (BC, LC, AS). Records of the Brewer's Blackbirds at the Farm were: 45 on Nov. 5, none Nov. 12, 19 on Nov. 20, 6 on Dec. 17, and none since. On Mar. 18 we saw 70 near Cherry (Ft. Pillow road). A male Spotted Towhee (BC), Nov. 19, between Raleigh and Bartlett, was the 2nd Tenn. record; we couldn't find it on later dates.

The Lapland Longspur was low at Memphis but record highs, —6190 on the Lonoke, Ark. Count, Dec. 24, and 6000 (one flock!) at Fletcher Field near Clarksdale, Miss., Dec. 31. Sprague's Pipits and Smith's Longspur returned in low numbers but practically disappeared in December. The Smith's showed at the Penal Farm Nov. 20 only.—two fields, 12 and 6 (3rd season); at Field 21 (Woodstock), 35 on Nov. 19 (2nd casual). A frantic search, Dec. 17 and 18, yielded none but at Field 21 I licked one up for the Count, Dec. 26, and I got up 2 on Jan. 21. The Sprague's arrived at the Farm Oct. 12 (2); 4 on Oct. 29, down to a wandering single on Dec. 17, reappearing at usual haunt Jan. 15 with 1 or 2 to date (GP, DB, BC).

Purple Martins arrived much earlier than ever before. James Lancaster suddenly noticed 2 pairs at his box, the evening of Feb. 16 and reports that they remained, except for a very few early, colder days. His previous earliest, of over 20 years, was on Feb. 26. One at Mrs. J. K. Speed's box, Feb. 17, and there was an unverified report at a box in Millington, Feb. 15. Altho Golden Plover arrived just over the line at Lakeview, Miss., 3 and 2 on Mar. 3 (GP, BC) and across the river in numbers, Mar. 11 (BC, LC, AS), over 600 at Crawfordsville and small flocks near Marion, none was found at the Penal Farm Mar. 3, 10, 17. A Lesser Yellow-legs was at Lakeview Mar. 3, and 9 were with 2 Pectoral Sandpipers at the Tupelo fish hatchery, Mar. 4 (BC). At Lakeview 75 Golden Plovers and 11 Pectorals were seen Mar. 18 (GP, DB). Raymond F. Gray reports a Florida Gallinule, caught in a city hedge, Mar. 19, given him at the Zoo. Mrs. C. E. James reported 100 gulls moving north over her home in Whitehaven Mar. 11, and there were frequent reports of migrating geese in early March. On the 18th at Keller's near Halls, we saw 15 Snow Geese, 180 Blue Geese, and ducks resting; later, NE of Dyersburg, 2 Snows and 38 Blues over, and at dusk, near Ridgely, about 200, probably Blue Geese mostly. — La. Water-thrush reports have been: Lakeview, in Tenn., 1 on Mar. 18 (GP, DB), Overton Park, 1 on Mar. 20 and 21 (DB), and 1 near Pickwick, Tenn., Mar. 22, by Dr. Wendell Whittemore. — BEN B. COFFEY, JR., 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis.

NASHVILLE—November 1955 was 3.1° below the normal average, and December was 2.1° below normal. Possibly this continued cold had influence on some species. Certainly the lack of hackberries caused by the severe freezes late in Mar. 1955 affected the Robin population which was at a low ebb Christmas and has remained so all the late winter. Rusty Blackbirds which have been absent and Redwings which have been scarce, are thought to have been so on account of the dry marshes last fall.

Our fall migration dates, both for departing summer residents and arriving winter residents, as well as for migrants, were about average. However, some of our permanent winter residents have been conspicuous by their scarcity. In fact, on the whole our bird population this winter has seemed smaller than usual, as was indicated by our 1955 Christmas count. Of a total 77 species listed, 44 were reported in smaller numbers, as Goldfinches, Towhees, White-throated Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, Myrtle Warblers, and three species of woodpeckers; 17 were reported in increased numbers, mostly ducks but, interesting to note, also Bluebirds, Cedar Waxwings, Swamp Sparrows and Juncos.

Some interesting winter records have been secured. Horned Grebes have been more numerous than usual, 1 having been seen in Dec., 1 in Feb., and 1, 2 or 3 on five dates in March (CMW). A flock of Black-crowned Night Herons have wintered along the Cumberland near Bush's Lake, the second successive winter—24-25 this year, 15-18 last winter. They were first recorded there for the season Nov. 10th, and have been seen frequently up to the present; this is the fourth year Short-eared Owls (at least 2) have wintered in Buena Vista Bottoms.

Unusual winter visitors have been 1 Pigeon Hawk, Bush's Lake (CMW); 1 Red-backed Sandpiper, Bush's Lake, first seen by Weise 10-21, again 11-29, 12-27, and last seen Jan. 14th when the lake was almost completely frozen over; 1 Dickcissel at 210 Carden Avenue (SMB) (See Round Table).

A seemingly late migration date for Canada Geese was Mar. 14 when a flock of 50-60 was observed flying northwest (HM).

Spring arrival dates are as follows: 1 Brown Thrasher Mar. 10 (BHA), (we had no Thrasher on Christmas Count as in '49, '53 and '54); 50 Chipping Sparrows were reported Mar. 1 (RW); Phoebes were reported moving into territories Feb. 20th; 1 Greater Yellow-legs was reported Mar. 3 by Weise, also 4 Lesser Yellow-legs Mar. 13, 1 Solitary Sandpiper Mar. 18, 2 Purple Martins Mar. 15, 1 Louisiana Water-thrush Mar. 17. — Mrs. W. F. BELL, 210 Carden Ave., Nashville.

CHATTANOOGA—Unfavorable weather with much rain kept local bird-watchers indoors most of the past winter. However, a few events are worth mention. Horned Grebes were seen 3 times, and on Feb. 13 there were 8 in 1 group; an American Egret on Nov. 20 was late; the Black-crowned Night Heron that roosts in a magnolia tree every spring arrived Feb. 21, over a month early; a Duck Hawk was seen March 11 (after 3½ years of watching) flying low toward the north; on Nov. 14, 1955 (2) and Feb. 19 (1) the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were found again. These are the 4th and 5th observations of this family. Their presence in June, Aug., Nov., Dec., and Feb. indicate they are permanent residents in Chackamauga Park (In Georgia); scouting Purple Martins arrived Feb. 26, same as last year; Water Pipits have now been recorded each month from Oct. through Mar.; only an occasional Cedar Waxwing has been seen all winter—single individuals now seem to be scouting the eleagnus bushes to see if the fruit is ripe.

Rusty Blackbirds have been evident in much larger numbers than previous winters. Purple Finches were scarce until about Mar. A group started building up then at my feeding station. On Mar. 9, 10, 11, and 12 about 100 were banded. Over 50% were back in the trap within that 4-day period, some as many as 5 times.

Species hard to find this winter were Myrtle Warbler, Winter Wren, Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Brown creeper. The Brown Thrasher was less in evidence than usual. — ADELE H. WEST, 1625 S. Clayton Ave., S. E., Chattanooga 11.

KNOXVILLE—The winter has been colder and wetter than those of recent years, but this had little apparent effect on the kinds and abundance of wintering birds. Likewise the migrations of fall and early spring have not been out of the ordinary. The following notes describe a few interesting items.

The only large flocks of migrating geese reported from this area were seen on October 22: a flock of 225 and another of 150. With the larger flock, reported by Jimmy Tucker and Edward Manous, were 6 Snow Geese. Two unusual fall migrants were found by Joseph C. Howell on October 23; a Lincoln's Sparrow and a Nashville Warbler, the latter being four days later than the previous latest record. All other fall migration dates were within the range of dates of previous years' records.

No wintering Pine Warblers were reported this year. Pine Siskins have been seen as usual in the Smokies, but the only Knox County report was for a flock of about five on January 24 and 25. Numbers of Evening Grosbeaks have been seen in the Smokies, but not any in Knox County this winter. Red Crossbills have been unusual visitors to my house; on December 3 three individuals

came to the bird bath and drank, and six came on December 24, but since then only single Crossbills have been erratically present during February and the first week in March. Crossbills have been reported only once before from Knox County (THE MIGRANT, 23:75, 1952). A few wintering Fox Sparrows have been reported, some coming to feeding stations. Samuel R. Tipton, who has maintained a banding station for several years, has for the first time more White-crowned than White-throated Sparrows. Other persons maintaining feeding stations have not noticed any change in their numbers.

An extremely early Purple Martin was seen on Feb. 19 on a T. O. S. field trip; this immediately followed a period of warm and windy weather to the south of us. No other Martins were seen until about Mar. 4, when the newspaper carried accounts of Martins appearing at long-established houses.—JAMES T. TANNER, Department of Zoology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

GREENEVILLE—Fall observations include a Nighthawk Oct. 10, a Chipping Sparrow Oct. 17, a Grasshopper Sparrow Oct. 20. A Swamp Sparrow and Savannah Sparrows were seen Oct. 16 and Nov. 23, the first White-crowned Sparrows Oct. 20, a Fox Sparrow and two Winter Wrens Oct. 29. Pine Siskins were seen Nov. 6, Blue-winged Teal and Wood Ducks Oct. 18, a Wilson's Snipe Nov. 12, a Woodcock Nov. 26, a Coot Nov. 26. A Hermit Thrush was noted Nov. 24, Dec. 27 and 29. A Brown Thrasher was seen Dec. 29 (Clemens).

An adult Bald Eagle was seen Oct. 23 over Davy Crockett Lake and a Double-crested Cormorant on the lake. There Nov. 27 Darnells found a dead Double-crested Cormorant and a dead Fox Sparrow; nearby on the same date were two live Fox Sparrows. In similar dense growth on Lick Lake sluice a Fox Sparrow was found Dec. 27.

Two Wild Turkeys and eight Ruffed Grouse were seen on Cold Spring Mt. Nov. 20, just above the Round Knob parking area was a Brown Thrasher.

At their feeding table the Darnells had in Dec. and Jan. a gray Blue Jay, one lacking the typical black markings. A Kingfisher repeatedly visited the heated water supply maintained by the Dale Parks, traveling a considerable distance from the nearest stream.

Frequent rains since late January and consequent flooding of creek bottoms have attracted birds. Three Great Blue Herons, seen singly on Roaring Fork during early winter, were noticed since mid-January as a closely-associated group. Seven Wood Ducks temporarily joined a flock of domestic ducks Jan. 1. A Wilson's Snipe was seen Feb. 8, a Coot on Roaring Fork Mar. 4-10 and another on a Mohawk pond Mar. 4 (Johnny Mac Carter), a Lesser Yellow-legs Mar. 10. On Mar. 11 (T. O. S. field trip) on Davy Crockett Lake 75 Ring-necked Ducks, 2 Coots, and a Pied-billed Grebe were seen. At the same place Mar. 17 Darnells saw many Ring-necked Ducks and Mallards. Mallards, Shovelers, Blue-winged Teal, and Baldpates were on a temporary Lick Creek pond Mar. 18, and Wood Ducks were on the creek.

Red-winged Blackbirds had increased in numbers by Feb. 7. Other spring arrivals are these: Chipping Sparrow Feb. 27, Swamp Sparrow Mar. 11, a Brown Thrasher Mar. 23, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Mar. 28. Pipits were present Mar. 17 (Darnells).

One Dove nest was nearly complete Mar. 5; incubation was in progress in another Mar. 18. Carolina Wrens, Bewick's Wrens, Bluebirds, and Titmice are nesting — MRS. RICHARD NEVIUS, Route 1, Greeneville.

KINGSPORT—Two Pigeon Hawks were observed flying over Reedy Creek Feb. 25 by Mrs. Switzer. She also reported a Blue-headed Vireo on Mar. 13. Our earliest previous record was Mar. 19, 1955. Geese have been shot this winter by hunters on both Patrick Henry and Boone lakes.

No fall flights of Broad-winged Hawks were seen here, altho frequent observations were made around the slopes where flights were seen in 1950 and 1951.

The Osprey has become scarce in this area. Only one bird was shot at the fish hatchery during the past year. No record is kept of the shoot, but within recent years it has been between 5 and 10 or perhaps more each year. The same trend appears in the hawk count. In previous years the lowest number of Ospreys reported was 6, but only one was counted in the fall of 1955, and this observation was made near Nashville.

We reported Palm Warblers on our Christmas Census this year for the first time. Subsequently winter reports have been made by H. S. Young. There is also an unusual abundance of Myrtle Warblers. The little wave of migrating Fox Sparrows which we have observed previously in late winter went unnoticed this year. — THOMAS W. FINUCANE, 1434 Watauga Ave., Kingsport.

ELIZABETHTON—The late fall and early winter were rather dry with only 1.8 and 1.35 inches of precipitation in Dec. and Jan. respectively. Most of the precipitation during Jan. was in the form of snow, which persisted throughout the month. Feb. had 6.28 inches of rainfall and the first half of Mar. continued at about the same rate. Although the minimum temperature is frequently lower (14°F.) than during the past winter, the average temperature was only slightly lower than for the past few winters.

The passerine bird population for the area appears to have been about normal with a few species less abundant than usual, as the Cedar Waxwings and the northern finches. Wintering water birds were scarce until recently, possibly because of the extremely low water level of our T. V. A. lakes. The first Red-headed Woodpecker in Carter County for several years was reported by Frank Ward on Mar. 17, near Milligan. He also reported a Rough-winged Swallow Mar. 18, which was five days earlier than our earliest record. Lynn Gregg, our new publisher of THE MIGRANT, reported the arrival of a pair of Purple Martins at his bird houses about 2:30 p. m. Mar. 13. This was eighteen days later than their earliest arrival date here. A flock of Water Pipits (30) was reported by Dickie Hughes Mar. 7. Pine Warblers again wintered in the area. Rusty Blackbirds and Brewer's Blackbirds were reported Feb. 25 by Roby May and three Brewer's Blackbirds were observed at close range by Howard P. Langridge and L. R. H. Mar. 18 — L. R. H.

Book Reviews

ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR BACKYARD. By WILLIAM J. BEECHER. *All-Pet Books, Inc., P. O. Box 151, Fond du Lac, Wisc.* 63p. \$1.

The content of this book can be told from the following list of chapter headings: Backyard Improvement, Food and Shelter, Speaking of Birds, Attracting Birds in a Subdivision, Suburban Birds, Attracting Birds to City Backyards, Luring Park Birds, Attracting Birds in Winter.

Each of these subjects is treated in a general and rather diffuse way, with some suggestions as to things to be done that will attract birds, and in several of the chapters, brief descriptions of the kinds of birds that might be found in a subdivision, suburb, etc. A person who has already had some experience with birds and in feeding and attracting them will find little new in this book. It would be useful to a beginner, and experienced birders might find it a suitable gift to a person just becoming interested in the subject. — JAMES T. TANNER.

WOODLAND BIRDS. By PHYLLIS BARCLAY-SMITH. *Penguin Books, Inc., 3300 Clipper Mill Road, Baltimore 11, Maryland.* 95c.

This little book might be of interest to anyone who likes to collect books on birds or to anyone desiring to learn something about the commoner woodland birds of Britain and western Europe. It begins with some general remarks on woodland birdlife, and then describes in non-technical language sixteen species of birds inhabiting woods. The last part of the book consists of sixteen plates, each illustrating one species. These pictures are in color, and altho small (about four by seven inches), are very attractive. — JAMES T. TANNER.

THE BIRD BOOK. *A Picture Album of American Birds by Leon Augustus Hausman, M. A., Ph. D. Published by Arco Publishing Co., New York.* \$2.50.

Dr. Hausman received his Ph. D. at Cornell University. He has since joined Rutgers University where he teaches Zoology and Ornithology in Douglass College. During his 41 years of teaching experience he has written many books on birds and nature.

The present volume is the result of his conviction that a knowledge of bird families would be of benefit to the student. Fifty-nine bird families are summarized here, with an illustration of the best known representative of each. This introduction is a stepping stone to species identification through the medium of 362 black and white illustrations, a complete description of the bird presented, its scientific and popular names, its behaviour, and habitat.

In addition there are 16 pages of selected Audubon bird prints in full color, and a good index.

Tho this book is slightly larger than the "Pocket Guide" books used by some Ornithological students, the excellent illustrations serve as a valuable assist to identification of birds in the field, and is a fine addition to the bird student's library. — LAWRENCE C. KENT.

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Editorial

Acknowledgment and commendation is due and is hereby made for the splendid job performed by my immediate predecessor. He has held the job longer and thereby published more pages (151) of THE MIGRANT than any other incumbent to this office. The T.O.S. as a whole owes a deep debt of gratitude for the professional manner in which the work was performed. All of my predecessors have set a high standard of excellence for me to follow. This will make the job easier for me, as I have their product to serve as a guide.

You, the membership, have provided the bulk of the material for publication, which you will continue to do. As Mr. Ganier pointed out at the annual meeting of T.O.S. in Nashville on May 7, 1949 in his talk entitled: "Some Things Yet to be Learned about our Tennessee Birds" (THE MIGRANT 20:38, 1949) there is scarcely an order of birds that he did not list, about which there is still a lack of information. The list was sufficiently comprehensive to permit any member to select an individual species for investigation and study without encroaching upon the field of another member. There are still interesting facts to be learned about most common birds as, for example, distributions, migrations, nesting and other habits. Occurrences which were considered rare only a few years ago take place with almost predictable regularity now. These possibilities are being mentioned to encourage all of our membership to begin working on a project for future publication. This applies particularly to our non-contributing members. Select some subject in which you are especially interested and begin collecting and organizing your information. Make a detailed outline of the work you propose to carry out and then carry it out as best you can. You will not be able to adhere strictly to an outline but it is far better to have one and not stick to it than to have none at all. In case you need assistance with a project, I am sure that many of our thoroughly experienced members would be glad to assist you and act as a consultant, if you would call upon them.

My motive for this suggestion is to provide an adequate supply of good material for future issues of THE MIGRANT. Two or three articles of a few pages length each should be available for each issue. It would be of great assistance to me if I knew that such material was in preparation and when it might be ready for publication. The policies of the new editor will not deviate greatly from those of the past. THE MIGRANT will be what you make it and it is my sincere hope that I can live up to the standards set by my predecessors and that our associations in this venture will be satisfying to all concerned. — L. R. H.

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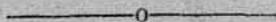
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