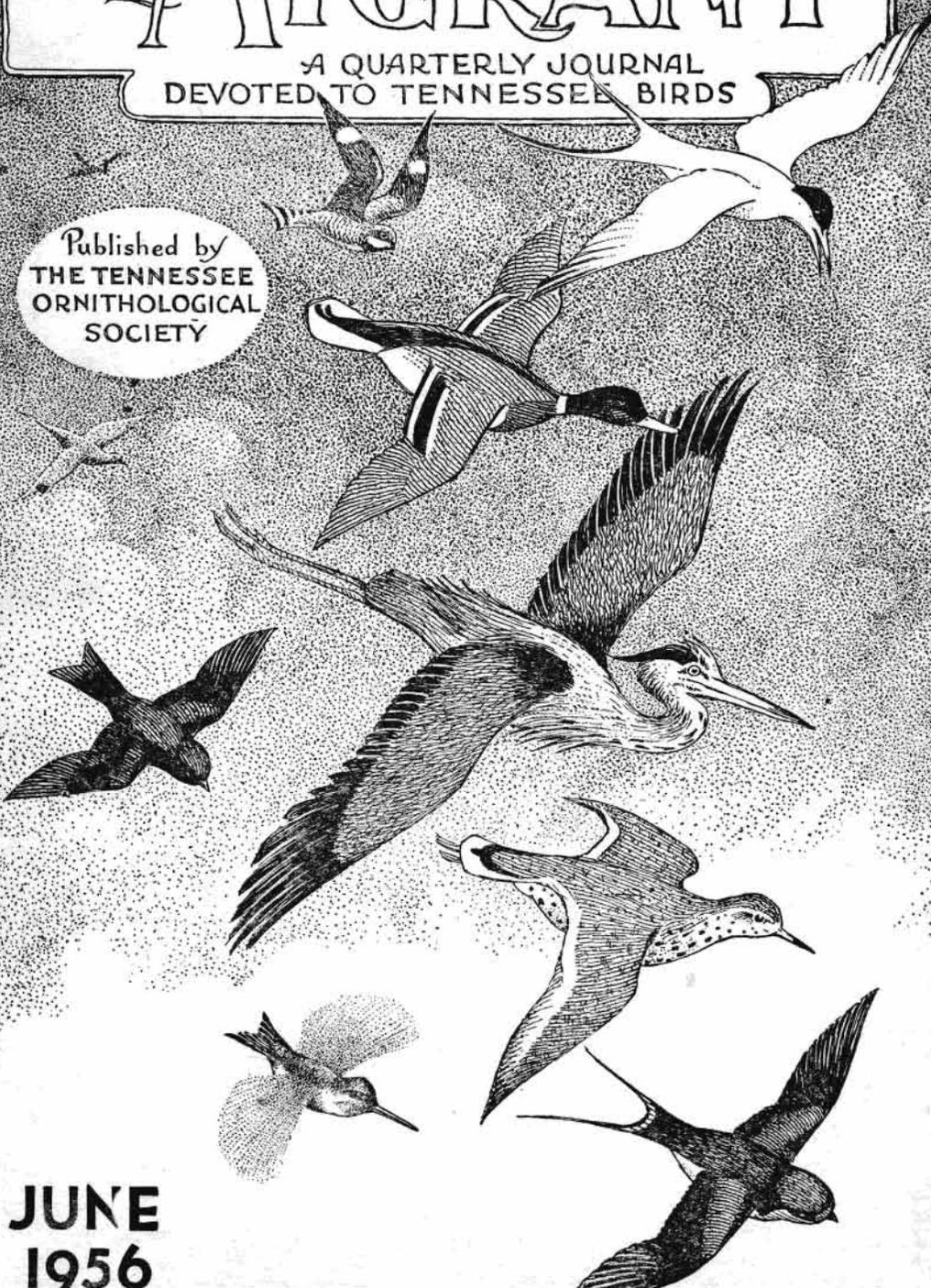


# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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P. Jams  
36

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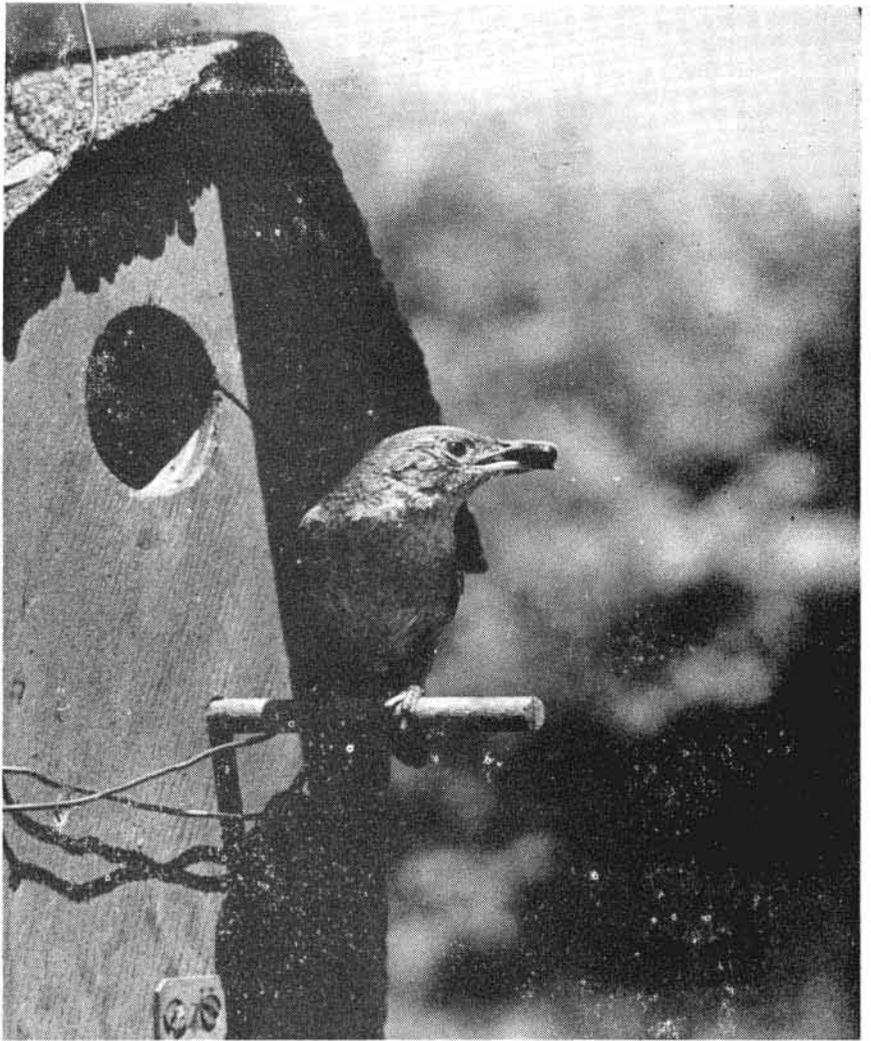
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CAMERA SPECIALISTS

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Knoxville, Tenn.



The photograph of the House Wren and Nesting Box were contributed by Robert Bullock of 602 E. Parkway Boulevard, Elizabethton in whose back yard the birds were nesting and in which locality they are reported to have nested annually since 1939.

# THE MIGRANT

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## THE HOUSE WREN IN TENNESSEE

Page 23 — Line 2 — June 1956 E. R. HENDRON

On February 14, 1949, Mr. Allen P. Phillip of 113 Olive Rd., Tucson, Arizona, wrote a letter to Dr. James T. Tanner, a college mate concerning the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) in Tennessee. A copy of this letter was forwarded to your editor, a portion of which is quoted here:

"I am writing you, however, about "The Migrant" one of the very best of our regional papers as you certainly know. I read the December 1948 issue with great interest, especially Bruce Tyler's note on wrens, and it occurred to me that the Migrant could do a real service to eastern ornithology by pushing this wren problem hard. I mean, if the House Wren is spreading into Tennessee, encourage careful work on the numerical status, past and present of both Bewick's and Carolina. Everyone writes that the House Wren pushes out the Bewick's; but Mr. Tyler's note certainly suggests that the decrease of Bewick's is the important thing and that the House Wren pushes in when (i. e. after) Bewick's disappears.

So I'd like to suggest that the Migrant gather and print all available information on the numerical status of Bewick's wren and the Carolina now, and in the past, to see if maybe the problem won't be put in a new light as the years go by."

This article is an attempt to summarize the information of all references in THE MIGRANT during the past twenty-five years (1931-1955).

Ornithologists of note, in their publications have inferred that the House Wren did not breed in Tennessee. In his "Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America" by Frank M. Chapman—second revised edition, p. 401, states "---- the southern limit of breeding range south to Kentucky and Virginia." In "Birds of North Carolina" by Pearson, Brimley and Brimley, 1942, p. 253, they give "---- the southern limit of breeding range to Kentucky and North Carolina." In "A Field Guide to the Birds" by Roger T. Peterson, second revised and enlarged edition 1947, p. 186; he also gives as the southern limit of breeding range, south to Virginia and Kentucky.

The first nesting record of the House Wren in Tennessee, of which we have knowledge, was found by Robert B. Lyle (18, 29, 1947) near Johnson City in 1913. This likely is the same nest referred to (5, 54, 1934) in the preceding article entitled "The Nesting Birds of Northeast Tennessee" by Robert B. Lyle and Bruce P. Tyler, they had this to say:

"Breeds very sparingly in the Transition Zone; more common in the Canadian Zone, on top of Roan Mountain, where on July 7th. the birds were observed in full song, but no nests were found."

\* All references are to THE MIGRANT unless otherwise indicated.

Chronological references in THE MIGRANT are given with accompanying comments (3, 27, 1932) - one banded by Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey at her home in Nashville. (3, 28, 1932) - Ben B. Coffey of Memphis comments: "The first time I have seen House Wrens here was on April 17; two at widely separate locations." (3, 30, 1932) - Bruce P. Tyler of Johnson City stated: "On May 1, I had the unusual experience of observing a pair of House Wrens here. This recalls to my mind an experience with these birds which occurred here one spring a few years ago, when a lone male stayed in my yard for about three weeks. Hoping to have a new breeding bird about my premises I at once put up a special nest box in order that "Mrs. Jennie" would be pleased should she put in her appearance. The male sung continuously and seemed entirely pleased with the surroundings. At that time a pair of Bewick's Wrens were about to bring forth a brood of young from a nest under the sleeping porch and in another they were completing a set of eggs. One day it became evident that relations between the two kinds of wrens had become strained to the breaking point and war to the death ensued. Both the Bewick's Wren's nests were destroyed and the young killed and after several days fighting all of the birds disappeared, never to return. I mourn for my Bewicks still, since they had come regularly every year and we were much attached to them." "NOTE: While the House Wren has never been reported nesting in Tennessee, we have read many unfavorable reports about its nest and egg destroying habits in the North. Our two breeding species, the Bewicks and Carolina, are entirely peaceable toward each other and toward other birds, and we think it would be best to discourage the House Wren from extending its breeding range in this direction.—Eds." (George B. Woodring). (6, 74, 1935) - (BPT) again states "The Eastern House Wren appeared at Johnson City, Tennessee, April 25, 1935. This species is regularly observed during migration but nests here only with extreme rarity. A few miles to the north in Virginia it nests regularly. Perhaps in time it will extend its habitat to include this locality." (7, 26, 1936) (BPT) adds this species to the winter list for Northeast Tennessee. "In December, 1935, this species was frequently observed, probably being delayed transients." (7, 38, 1936) - (BBC) - "The House Wren, with not more than two records for any previous spring, was noted in Overton Park on April 14, 20, 21, 24 (two) and 25; a few were found singing." (8, 15, 1937) - (BBC) "A House Wren was seen on the river bluff edge at Trigg Avenue, March 11." (8, 76, 1937) - (Alfred Clebsch) - Charleston - "A nice find on October 9 was a Carolina Wren and a House Wren in the same cedar tree, with the bird student only six feet away. The House Wren obligingly gave samples of his song." (12, 71, 1941) - (Robert Tucker) - Memphis - "\_\_\_\_\_ a House Wren was seen at Payne Avenue and Wolf River on Oct 4." (13, 2-3, 1942) - In an article entitled "The Wrens of Tennessee" a summary is given of the observations previously listed here with some additions and comments regarding the various divisions of the state by several observers. "This is a rare transient in Tennessee, more often found in the spring than in the fall. Since the species nests north of the Ohio River and winters along the Gulf and southward, most migrants must pass over

the state in one night's time." "Memphis area - no records from 1928 until April 17, 1932, ---- Generally one or two records of single birds each spring ----" Nashville area - Rare and irregular spring transient, present some years and absent others. Majority of records are in the last two weeks in April with extremes of April 1, 1922 and May 10, 1931. Two were seen on May 10, 1922; all other records were of single birds. In 25 years experience I have seen 25 birds (Monk). The bird is so shy and wary in Middle Tennessee that he is no doubt overlooked very often. In these 27 years on 3,000 trips or daily records I have these; April 4, 1917 - 1; 1922 - April 24, 29 and 30. On the latter date the bird was singing his rattling song quite frequently. I also have a fall record and two spring records. (Mayfield). Only a few records on the Peabody campus, a representative migration period being March 23 - May 2, 1932. (Shaver)." Knoxville area - One sight record by Mrs. Meyer on April 29, 1939, at the Island Home Sanctuary." "Johnson City area - Quite rare. Observed on top of Roan Mountain, near Cox's Lake at Johnson City and on Beaver Creek, just south of Bristol." (BPT). "Great Smoky Mountain National Park - A rare migrant. I have but one record - a bird seen October 7, 1938, near park headquarters (2 miles south of Gatlinburg) at 1450 feet altitude.

Mr. Raymond J. Fleetwood, ---- observed this species in Cades Cove (1800 feet altitude) on October 22 and 23, 1934 and on April 22, 1935." (Arthur Stupka). "Subspecies - The Eastern House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon aedon*) would probably be the more common race found passing through the state. The only specimen secured by the National Museum party was a somewhat grayish phase of the Ohio House Wren (*T. a. baldwini*), collected near Reelfoot Lake, October 23, 1937 (Wetmore, 1939). One of this race was collected Jan. 16, 1938 at Rosedale by Vaiden. The only winter record at Memphis (White Station), December 30, 1941, was a specimen collected by Burdick and cataloged at the Louisiana State University Museum as a Western House Wren (*T. a. parkmanii*). All three forms may occur regularly." (13, 10, 1942) - Robert Tucker of Memphis has done a splendid job illustrating the House Wren along with five other wrens which occur in Tennessee. (13, 23, 1942) - A House Wren was recorded by Burdick and Mason at Mason's Diary on Dec. 30 and Smith and I recorded one at Wolf River and Payne Avenue on Mar. 6" (RT). (13, 43, 1942) - "---- House Wren, Millington, April 26 (BBC and RT)." (13, 63, 1942) - Great Smoky Mountains - "----the House Wren was observed at close range with 8x binoculars by Stupka who found it again next day and observed it in full sunlight ---- this is our first winter record of a bird that is a rare transient here at best; ----" (AS Dec 20, 1942). (14, 56, 1943) - Nashville - September 26, Ganier's camp on Stone River "----1 House Wren, ----" (Conrad Jamison). Elizabethton (LRH) (17, 6, 1946) - "Of particular interest to us was the finding of the House Wren, it being heard singing at four different locations. At this date, (June 16, 1945) these birds were doubtless on their breeding grounds. The first was at a farm house across the road from the Wayland (Cloudland) school on the State Line Road; the second was near the intersection of the Shell Creek and State Line Road,

both points being in Tennessee. The other two were in Elk Park, N. C., one as we entered and one as we left town. The latter two we did not hear on the following day as it was raining when we passed, but the other two we heard singing in approximately the same locations as the day before." (17, 11, 1946) - a record of a House Wren in Memphis by Albert Leigh Powell, Jr. presumably a winter record. (17, 14, 1946) - Knoxville region - Henry Meyer - "On April 29, 1939, Mrs. Meyer heard and saw a single bird at the Island Home Sanctuary. From 1939 to 1944 I have no records of this bird; however, Mrs. Meyer's diary of May 12, 1944 states: "I was attracted by the familiar song of the House Wren so common at home in Illinois and discovered one carrying sticks and grass into the rustic bird-box near our outdoor oven.' ---- During this entire period of time May 12 through July 4 only one House Wren was seen or heard at any one time, and we concluded that our visitant was an unmated bird." "So far as I know there are no winter records of the House Wren for Knoxville. A note from William Walker reports a House Wren seen and heard in the Island Home area on March 24, 1945. This is our earliest spring record." "On May 15, Mrs. Meyer's diary again reports a House Wren singing in our yard. We hoped it would stay and acquire a mate, but a nesting record does not seem to be imminent for the bird has not been seen again." (18, 29, 1947) - Shady Valley - (BPT and RBL) In June, 1934, Messrs. A. F. Ganier and Bruce Taylor spent a week in Shady Valley, in Johnson County, in extreme northeastern Tennessee, studying the birds but did not list the House Wren. On May 24, 1947

- "Our attention was called to this bird by its characteristic song. The nest was soon located in a hole in the top of a fence post in cleared land, and was found to contain two eggs. The House Wren has lived rather abundantly in the valley extending from Bristol to Roanoke, Virginia, but it rarely crosses the line into Tennessee." (18, 62, 1947) - Memphis - (BBC) "On the March trip to Overton Park on the 30th., 3 House Wrens (early and uncommon) ----" (19, 44, 1948 - Henry M. Stevenson and Arthur Strunka) "Within its geographical range, this little wren may be found at almost any altitude in the southeast. ---- Another was seen at 1500' near Gatlinburg, Tenn., December 20 and 21, 1942." (19, 73, 1948) - Status of the House Wren in Northeast Tennessee - (BPT) "The House Wren was unknown in this territory save as a rare spring migrant. During the last four years a very few singing House Wrens have been noted during the breeding season but have not returned to their locations a second year. This year, 1938, however, the pair that was reported in THE MIGRANT last year has returned to its original nesting box and raised two sets of nestlings, one in the original and one in a neighboring box. The inference might well be that this pair of wrens has definitely settled in Johnson City."

"During the last twenty years, about, the Bewick's Wren has decreased in numbers until at this time it is one of the rarest of our birds. The reason is that the House Wren and the Bewick's Wren refuse to dwell in peace in the same general habitat. Wherever they meet they fight. The House Wren has driven out the Bewick's Wren and is very slowly taking possession. Now we have records for two successive years of the House Wren breeding in

Johnson City and also in Shady Valley." (19, 74, 1948) - House Wren Nesting at Greeneville, Tenn. - (J. B. White) - "In 1947 this pair of House Wrens apparently hatched two broods and stayed until about the first of September. Their feeding range seemed rather limited, being mainly a vacant lot that I had used for a garden. In April, 1948, they returned to the same box, and another pair built close by in a hole in an aspen tree. This year both pairs left about the middle of August." He stated there is some evidence that the House Wrens are not at all uncommon in Greene County. (20, 17-18, 1949) - Blountville - (Thomas W. Finucane) Mr. Finucane located thirty-two singing House Wrens in Bristol on July 4, 1948. At the home of Mr. William Turner, 227 Taylor Street, four birds could be heard singing at the same time. Mr. Turner stated that he had had House Wrens since 1935. The following day Mr. Finucane observed fourteen House Wrens in Kingsport. Mrs. Thomas of Elizabethton reported a pair of House Wrens nesting near her home. On July 25, Mr. Finucane and the writer located one House Wren in Elizabethton, about thirty in Bristol and three in Johnson City. (20, 29-31, 1949) - Mr. F. W. Brehrend lists the House Wren among the birds to be found on the approaches to the mountains rather than on the mountain tops. He listed the House Wren among the summer residents of the Transition Zone in Upper East Tennessee. He also states that of unusual interest is the occurrence of large numbers of House Wrens in the Kingsport chapter's territory. (20, 32, 1949) - The Spring Field Days. "House Wrens were seen only in the northeastern corner." (21, 32, 1949) - Notes of Some Specimens of Birds from Shelby County, Tennessee. - (R. E. Tucker) - "Ohio House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon baldwini*) There is only one specimen of the House Wren from Tennessee in the L. S. U. collection. It was reported, in error, as a specimen of *parkmanii* (THE MIGRANT 1940 v. 13-3), but upon re-examination it was found to be a typical example of *baldwini*." (21, 52, 1950) - (James T. Tanner) - "This year for the first time House Wrens were found nesting in Knox County; singing birds were found by J. C. Howell late in May, and on July 4 two nests in the same general locality, were found." (21, 63, 1950) - Kingsport - (TWF) - "The House Wren continued its upward trend, while Bewick's and Carolina Wrens held their own (21, 63, 1950) - Birds of Carter County, Tennessee (LRH) "House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*). Rare summer resident. Extreme dates April 13 to October 4. One nesting record in Lily Addition of Elizabethton, 1948 (E. H. W.). (22, 12, 1951) - Memphis (BBC) - "----- on Dec 24 we recorded ---- 2 House Wrens, ----" (22, 33, 1951) - Some East Tennessee Bird Observations - (JCH) - "My first observation was a singing male seen near Corryton in northeast Knox Co., on July 16, 1949. No nest was found. On July 4, 1950, in the Lonsdale section of Knoxville I was shown a House Wren nest in a suspended gourd in the back yard of a private home. The home owner, Mr. R. C. Ailor, and his wife, took an interest in the activities of the birds and they told me that the nest contained eggs. A male House Wren sang in an apple tree above the suspended nest and a second individual was seen to leave the nest. In the same yard in a tool house 75 feet from the first nest was a second nest of this species. The male of this pair sang frequently while I talked with the Ailors. A third singing male

heard in a yard three blocks away from the Ailor home seems to indicate that this species is becoming established as a breeding b.r.l." (22, 47, 1951) - Knoxville - (JTT) - "Other unusual nesting records were of House Wrens, which apparently nested again in the Lonsdale section of Knoxville, ----" (22, 49, 1951) - Kingsport - (TWF) - "Mrs Switzer reports that three pairs of House Wrens nested this summer in an area of about three acres in her neighborhood. Last year one pair of Bewick's Wrens and one pair of House Wrens nested in the same area. The Bewick's Wrens appeared in April, but did not remain after the arrival of the House Wrens in May. Carolina Wrens also nest in this area, and Mrs. Switzer said that she has heard all three singing at the same time." "The House Wren is primarily a city bird. More specifically, he is a bird of residential districts where there are gardens and shrubbery and of course, Wren Houses. In Sullivan County there are very few House Wrens outside of Bristol and Kingsport, and probably a hundred in each of these two cities. I have lived in Blountville nearly six years and have seen only one and heard only one other House Wren there. Besides the two transients I have seen nor heard no others outside of the cities of Kingsport and Bristol. On the other hand, Bewick's Wrens are distributed generally over the country (22, 65, 1951) - Reelfoot Lake - (Howard and Evelyn Barbig) "\_\_\_ and House Wrens were observed at close range by all members of the party." (Dec. 30, 1951). (23, 25, 1952) - Kingsport - (Ann H. Switzer) - "House Wrens are increasing in numbers year by year in this area. We feel that 23 is a very conservative figure, low because we cover little residential area in our census." (23, 52, 1952) - Nashville - (Katherine A. Goodpasture) - "Two House Wrens in song on Apr. 23 were reported by H. C. Monk; he also had reports on Apr. 26, 27, and 29." (23, 53, 1952) - Knoxville - (JTT) - "One record indicating a change that began some time ago is of a nesting House Wren in Knoxville, active on May 4, 1951, was the first year that nesting House Wrens were reported in this area." (23, 55, 1952) - Kingsport - (AHS) "In the second week of July the Kingsport Chapter made a casual census of nesting House Wrens, reporting fifteen nesting pairs in ten yards and gardens scattered over the southeastern section of town." (24, 12-13, 1953) - A Census of House Wrens in Upper East Tennessee - (LRH) - If the fifteen House Wrens reported from Kingsport, in the preceding reference, are added to those reported in this summary, a total of forty-six singing males or probable nesting pairs were reported from Kingsport, Greeneville, Johnson City, Bristol and Elizabethton near the middle of July. (24, 59, 1953) - Greeneville - (Mrs. Richard Nevius) - "Mr. and Mrs. White found House Wrens in early June, at the peak of their nesting activities, to be abundant in town. Mr. White located about 20 pairs about town." (24, 60, 1953) - Kingsport - (AHS) "In this summer census nesting House Wrens were also noted, a total of 24 in the residential areas in the northeast section of Kingsport." (25, 14-15, 1954) - House Wren Nesting Survey in Upper East Tennessee, 1953 - (LRH) - The total singing males reported for this census was 50, with no report from Bristol, or an increase of six over the preceding year when Bristol was included. (25, 15, 1954) - Memphis - (BBC) - "A House Wren was found near Raleigh on Oct. 31 and Nov. 28 but not on Dec. 27 or Jan. 24." (25, 49-50, 1954) -

Mid-July House Wren Survey (July 10-19) (LRH) - A total of sixty-three House Wrens were reported for the census period. The increase over the preceding year was equal to the birds reported from new locations as: Knoxville, Erwin, Mountain City, Roan Mountain town and Shell Creek. Although Chattanooga, Oak Ridge, Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, Sevierville and Newport were covered none was found. Shady Valley which had previously had birds nesting there, produced none. From Roan Mountain town through Burbank to the top of Roan Mountain produced no birds. (25, 51, 1954) - A House Wren at Lebanon - (Tressa Waters) - A House Wren appeared there at the end of May, 1953, sang, took possession of an abandoned Bluebird nesting box, cleaning it out and carried new nesting material. A week later he disappeared and did not return. "---- - the only House Wren, so far as we can ascertain, that has ever visited this area." (25, 54, 1954) - Chattanooga - Among the spring migrants was a House Wren on March 9. (25, 55, 1954) - Greeneville - (RRN) "J. B. White found nine pairs of House Wrens nesting about Greeneville, a marked reduction over last year's numbers." (26 45, 1955) - Sewanee - (Harry C. Yeatman) - Several birds are mentioned as extending their breeding range in Tennessee, among which the House Wren is extending southward.

THE MIGRANT references to Christmas and Spring Census lists are not listed here. House Wrens have been listed in the Christmas counts six times and all since 1949. Only one bird was reported in each instance except the 1950 Memphis list which reported 2. Other census reporting them were Reelfoot Lake (2), Gatlinburg (2) and Johnson City (1). All of the spring census lists containing House Wren reports have been since 1944 except one from Johnson City, May 1, 1932 (2).

#### HOUSE WREN REPORTS on SPRING CENSUS

Location	Times Reported	Number Reported
Reelfoot Lake -----	1	1
Memphis -----	1	3
Nashville -----	1	1
Knoxville -----	4	8
Greeneville -----	8	61
Kingsport -----	7	104
Johnson City -----	1	2
Bristol -----	3	72
Elizabethton -----	9	29

Conclusions: 1. During the past several years the House Wren appears to have established itself as a breeding species in East Tennessee.

2. The breeding range of this species appears to be progressively extending in a southwestward direction across East Tennessee.

3. There is no record of House Wrens nesting on the higher mountain tops of East Tennessee.

4. More than 90% of the House Wrens located on breeding bird censuses have been in the residential section of our towns and cities, in contrast to the Bewick's being found chiefly around farm homes in the country. 1533 Burgie Street, Elizabethton, Tennessee.

### THE 1956 SPRING FIELD DAYS

BY T. O. S. MEMBERS

The spring field days for Memphis and Lebanon were rained out, leaving only eight areas to report. The period covered was from April 21 at Chattanooga to May 13 at Reelfoot Lake. The total of 179 species compares favorably with previous counts. Only the three immediately preceding counts exceeded this one. In 1954, the year of the largest number of species, 197, twelve localities reported, and the next highest 191, in 1955, ten localities reported.

The birds reported from each locality are listed in the "Tabular Record" which follows. The localities are arranged from west to east across the state. The general information from each locality follows with additional information regarding birds marked with an asterisk (\*). The abbreviations used are: "A" —abundant; "C" —common. "FC" —fairly common.

REELFOOT LAKE—Four participants with Howard Barbig, the compiler.

NASHVILLE—The count was made on the occasion of the annual meeting and covered the two days of May 5 and 6. The list was compiled at the conclusion of the business meeting. The territory covered was in the vicinity of Nashville, Radnor Lake, Buena Vista Marsh and the Warner Parks.

CHATTANOOGA—The same area was covered as on the Christmas count. Weather - clear with light wind; temperature 31 degrees to 70 degrees F. Twelve observers with Adele West, compiler. Observed immediately preceding the count were: Wood Duck, Crested Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Whip-poor-will, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Prothonotary, Blue-winged Tennessee and Prairie Warblers, Scarlet Tanager and Pine Siskin. Florida Gallinule was found at the same location as in 1955. Woodcock was the first observed in 3.5 years.

KNOXVILLE—The usual area within 7½ miles of Sharp's Gap. April 29, 1956, dawn to 2:00 p.m. with a few observers working until dark. Partly cloudy, windy and after early morning, warm to hot. Thirty observers in 15 parties; James T. Tanner, compiler. The Redhead and Ringnecked Duck, were here later than usual, seen by Brockway Crouch. The Woodcock were identified by Samuel R. Tipton, the Blue-winged Warbler by Mrs. R. A. Monore, and the Nashville Warbler by Joseph C. Howell. Because of the below average temperatures that persisted until a few days before the Field







Veery	.....	6	2	1	1	1	1		
Bluebird	.....	1 C	14	70	29	15	6	26	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	.....	6	12	21	85	44	22	33	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	.....							1	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	.....	1	7	10			1	1	
Cedar Waxwing	.....	100	28	150					
Loggerhead Shrike	.....	2	6	2	5	1		1	
Starling	.....	12 C	160	330	105	200	151	132	
White-eyed Vireo	.....	8 C	13	42	13	22		23	
Yellow-throated Vireo	.....	1	6	4	5	4	3	7	
Blue-headed Vireo	.....	1						11	
Red-eyed Vireo	.....	13 C	13	125	11	60		28	
Philadelphia Vireo	.....	2			1				
Warbling Vireo	.....	5	12	7		4		2	
Black and White Warbler	.....	FC	9	38	2	17		20	
Prothonotary Warbler	.....	16	12			1		1	
Worm-eating Warbler	.....	3	3	1	10			7	
Golden-winged Warbler	.....	2	3						
Blue-winged Warbler	.....	2	1						
Lawrence's Warbler*	.....							1	
Tennessee Warbler	.....	9 FC	8		9				
Nashville Warbler	.....	5	1		1				
Parula Warbler	.....	5	4		1	3		9	
Yellow Warbler	.....	10		65	23	34		62	
Magnolia Warbler	.....	1	7	9	2				
Cape May Warbler	.....	7	13		3				
Black-throated Blue Warbler	.....			3	5			17	
Myrtle Warbler	.....	14	52	95	23	1		22	
Black-throated Green Warbler	.....	7	1	25	2	6		2	
Cerulean Warbler	.....	6 C		8		10			
Blackburnian Warbler	.....	5	3	2	1	2		5	
Yellow-throated Warbler	.....	5	8	6	1	1			
Chestnut-sided Warbler	.....	7		15	1			7	
Bay-breasted Warbler	.....		FC		11		25	1	
Black-poll'd Warbler	.....	96 A		5		44		2	
Pine Warbler	.....		7	9		2			
Pairie Warbler	.....	2		25	1	13		3	
Palm Warbler	.....	13		2				1	
Oven-bird	.....	10	12	8	6	21	2	91	
Northern Water-thrush	.....	1							
Louisiana Water-thrush	.....	13	1	5	3	10		2	
Kentucky Warbler	.....	3 FC	4	12	1	15		1	
Connecticut Warbler	.....	1							
Mourning Warbler	.....	1							
Yellow-throat	.....	30 C	16	54	15	24	2	41	
Yellow-breasted Chat	.....	3	15	48	15	51		37	
Hooded Warbler	.....		FC	3	7	1	30	1	16

Bobolink	-----	-1	.65	---	-.7	---	---	---	---
Canada Warbler	-----	---	-.1	---	---	---	-.4	---	---
Redstart	-----	-.12	-.13	---	-.5	-.1	-.6	---	-.27
English Sparrow	-----	-.25	-C	.52	.65	.90	1.00	-.18	1.49
Eastern Meadowlark	-----	-.6	-C	.41	1.35	.33	-.42	-.16	-.85
Red-winged Blackbird	-----	200	-C	330	335	-.69	-.58	-.9	-.46
Orchid Oriole	-----	-.3	FC	-.1	.55	.16	.20	---	-.2
Baltimore Oriole	-----	-.1	-.7	---	-.7	-.6	-.7	---	-.3
Rusty Blackbird	-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	-.49	-.1
Grackle	-----	-.40	-C	-.7	3.55	-.73	-.90	-.75	1.70
Cowbird	-----	-.20	-.15	-.26	-.82	-.25	-.32	-.5	-.8
Scarlet Tanager	-----	---	-C	---	.31	-.4	.26	---	-.14
Summer Tanager	-----	-.3	-C	.12	.55	.15	.30	---	-.1
Cardinal	-----	-.50	-C	.79	2.55	-.17	1.10	-.44	1.07
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-----	---	-.36	---	-.34	-.7	-.6	---	-.15
Blue Grosbeak	-----	---	-.1	-.1	---	-.1	---	---	---
Indigo Bunting	-----	-.15	-C	-.2	.79	-.42	-.77	---	-.28
Dickcissel	-----	-.25	-.52	---	---	---	---	---	---
Purple Finch	-----	---	---	-.3	---	-.9	-.2	.45	1.04
Goldfinch	-----	-.1	FC	100	230	-.70	-.66	-.36	1.25
Pine Siskin	-----	---	-.8	---	---	---	---	---	---
Red-eyed Towhee	-----	---	-.15	-.61	1.30	-.26	-.46	-.8	-.80
Savannah Sparrow	-----	---	-.15	-.8	.23	-.2	-.1	---	-.1
Grasshopper Sparrow	-----	---	-.7	-.1	.23	-.9	-.17	---	-.4
Vesper Sparrow	-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	-.1
Bachman's Sparrow	-----	---	-.1	-.1	-.1	---	-.5	---	---
Slate-colored Junco	-----	---	-.4	-.1	---	---	---	-.7	-.2
Chipping Sparrow	-----	---	-C	.13	.64	-.36	.12	-.5	-.38
Field Sparrow	-----	-.3	-C	.35	1.00	.22	.54	---	-.64
White-crowned Sparrow	-----	-.8	-.73	-.20	-.4	-.2	-.2	-.15	---
White-throated Sparrow	-----	-.16	---	-.77	.21	-.3	-.12	-.51	---
Swamp Sparrow	-----	---	-.2	-.2	-.2	---	---	---	-.2
Song Sparrow	-----	---	---	-.10	1.20	.24	-.63	-.13	-.98
TOTAL	-----	82	135	88	132	109	116	43	111
GRAND TOTAL OF SPECIES	-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	179

### LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE NESTING DATA AT NASHVILLE

By AMELIA R. LASKEY

A Shrike is often found year after year occupying a certain small area for the winter or for nesting. In Nashville from 1948 through 1955, I have observed 7 nest of the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) in five seasons, built within a row of young trees along a few-hundred-yard stretch of a well-travelled road in the Warner Parks area. Young trees, mostly twiggy hackberries and elms border the road; meadows are adjacent where grasshoppers are plentiful. In two seasons, 1951 and 1955, the resident pair successfully raised two broods. Five of the seven nests were successful.

All but two nests were in the hackberry trees, from 8 to 15 feet above the ground; the early nests were built before the trees were in leaf. Because of the difficulty of examining the nests often, it was not possible to obtain reliable data on the incubation and nest-occupying periods. Nests were typical of the species, made of twigs, interspersed with strips of cloth, paper, grass, and lined with feathers. Clutches of eggs ranged from 2 to 7, but it is possible that something had happened to some of the eggs in the small set before the nest was found. A. C. Brent (1956, U. S. Bulletin 97, p. 135) states that Loggerhead Shrikes lay 4 to 6 eggs, though 4 and 5 are commoner than 6,

On April 3, 1947, a nest with 2 eggs was examined. It was built in honeysuckle vines on saplings, nine feet from the ground. The following day it still contained only 2 eggs. The bird was seen incubating until April 12, but between that date and April 16, the nest was destroyed by a predator.

On April 20, 1950, 3 eggs in a nest about ten feet from the ground were hatched by May 5. On May 19, the three young were perched on the nest rim and on June 1 they were perching on a nearby utility wire. On July 6, the adults were feeding nestlings in the next hackberry tree of the row, 15 feet above the ground. Heads of two nestlings appeared above the nest rim as they were fed on July 11.

In 1951 on June 5, I found a nest about 10 feet up which was conspicuous because of the quantities of white paper on the outer part of the nest. The following day it was examined; 6 eggs were being incubated. The young hatched before June 21. On June 26 when they were banded, the 6 nestlings were nicely developed with primary and secondary feathers breaking through the sheaths. Some were still in the nest on July 7. However on July 4, 5 and 7, one nestling would hop out of the nest to a nearby twig at the approach of a parent. All had left the nest by July 8. On August 8 two of the left-banded young were perching on a wire near the nest site. Sometime during that summer, two of the young were killed on the road nearby probably by an automobile (bands were returned to me later, minus the exact recovery date).

The 1952 nest was found on April 15 about 8 feet up, but it was not occupied that day as Katherine Goodpasture and I drove slowly past it that morning and again in late afternoon. The following morning I examined the nest, finding 7 eggs and the bird incubating. Ruth White accompanied me later that day. She observed one adult feed the other in the tree before the incubating bird returned to the nest. On April 20 the bird was on the nest, but was absent all of the following day. On April 22, I examined the deserted nest, finding only 5 eggs, one of which was punctured.

The first nest of 1955 was found on March 17 about 10 feet from the ground, well protected by a dense mass of twigs. The incubating bird was first seen on the nest in early April. By means of a mirror on a stick I could discern small young on April 30; on May 13, four heads appeared above the nest rim and the young were off by the 19th. By June 11, the adult was in-

cubating 6 eggs in an elm across the road from the earlier nest about 10 feet from the ground. On June 27 I banded the 6 nestlings which were still in the nest June 30.

In addition, I have some data on three Shrike nests in other locations. On June 28, 1941, Arthur A. McMurray used my bands for 3 nestlings in North Nashville. The nest was also in a hackleberry tree, 15 feet above the ground. He found all of the nestlings (7 or 8 days old) bound by one leg to the nest by a single strand of string that had apparently been used in the nest lining which also contained horse hair.

On June 29, 1951, Mrs. Goodpasture and I found three fledglings, with tails nearly full length, along Highway 100 beyond Edwin Warner Park where we had frequently seen the adults in several seasons.

On May 14, 1952 I banded 6 well-developed nestlings (one appeared slightly younger) from a nest in a roadside tree in Williamson County which Ruth White had found previously. She saw at least one of the young after fledging.

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## HARRIS'S SPARROW IN THE MID-SOUTH

By BEN COFFEY, JR.

One of the most interesting of recent "westerners" wintering in our area is the Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). Records indicate either a temporary, periodic or climatic extension of range and hint at what additions to our knowledge of local bird distribution could be made if field work was carried out at other times as intensively as it is done on the Christmas Counts. Although recent emphasis here has been on "fields", much work in likely habitats by a very few of us, did not produce the records that the one-a-year event did. Most of our records were also on the counts. The Harris's Sparrow has the happy faculty of often presenting itself as a "first" record by entering a banding trap and the first two Tennessee records were no exception. On Dec. 10, 1933, Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey (1934, - *The Auk* LI (2): 245-246, and (*The Migrant* 5, 15, 1934) trapped an immature male at her home in Nashville. On Dec. 28, 1939 Joe Mason, Jr., noted an immature near his home east of (but now inside) Memphis, and on Jan. 2, 1940, found presumably the same one, in a banding trap. It was released the next morning after verification by the late Austin Burdick, Jr., and the writer.

Our recent chain of records began with the third Tennessee record, an immature seen on the Memphis Count, Dec. 21, 1952, by Luther Keeton and Edward King, who gave it close study. This was on the premises of a gravel pit, southeast of Raleigh and on Jan. 24, 1953, Mrs. Coffey and I found 9 there with 5 noted Feb. 28, none Mar. 22. The next season, none Nov. 28, but 3 on Jan. 24, 1954. White-crowned Sparrows, with which the Harris's are

often associated, numbered up to 28 (Nov. 28), but in subsequent seasons we were unable to find either species, despite relatively unchanged habitat.

Meanwhile, Charles McPherson, Jr. found *querula* at his home, a flock of about ten from Jan. 11, 1953, thru Mar. 3, with the last, a single, on Mar. 5. Six were banded. A mile south of there, the Charles Seahorns reported 3 at their feeders in late February with two last seen Apr. 28; two were banded. Both places are on Riverdale Road, Germantown and have had flocks of White-crowneds present, long before that restricted winter resident became fairly common. The Harris's returned in smaller numbers the next two seasons. Mrs. Seahorn saw one on Nov. 6 and 7, 1953, only; next the group were seen in mid-January (2 banded Jan. 23) and 5 on Mar. 6. McPherson's first report was for one or more Jan. 3. The third season Mrs. Seahorn reported the first seen, Nov. 10, 1954, and 6 on the Count, Dec. 26, with single bandings, Jan. 23 and Feb. 23. The only report from McPherson's was 2 on the Count by Mrs. Coffey. None was reported this past season from either of these Riverdale Road locations, although the White-crowneds were as regular as ever. The very intermittent banding totaled 13 individuals with no repeats or returns.

A fourth locality for the first season was near an Audubon Park dump, - 5, Mar. 27 to Apr. 16, 1953, by Reed Knight, David and Don Wilson. No further records there, but on the next Count, Dec. 27, 1953, Mrs. J. H. McWhorter, Miss Jennie May, and these young men (Southeast party) found 2 on Quince Road, with 5 there Mar. 6 (BC, RDS). The area was subsequently cleared for a city subdivision. Since none was seen at the four 1952 localities for this Count, a second new group (of 5) helped, I.C.R.R. and Mitchell, by R. Demett Smith, Jr., George Peyton Jr., and Richmond Gill, Jr. (Southwest party). Seven were seen Jan. 24 (BC, IC, GP) and three were here for the 1954 Count, Dec. 26 (RDS. and Dr. Harry Wilcox). Ed King and the Charles Wilmeths also reported 2 on Dec. 26, 1954, out east, a locality not visited since. Another single season record was by Thompson Bonner, east of Whitehaven... an immature at a gravel pit Nov. 27, 1953, but not a Harris had been seen this past season at the two Germantown homes, our Count hopes were on the Southwest spot of '54 where 2 were seen Nov. 12, 1955 (GP, Harry Landis, Jr., David Brown) for the third season. They were not found (Dec. 26) but fortunately Southeast again located a new group, 4, with large numbers of White-crowneds (Mrs. J. H. McW., EK, Mary Davant) and North (Chas. Marcus, Edwin Poole, BC) found it first, - 2, in a Whitecrowned yard at Woolstock.

Here, it thus seem the species will usually be found with White-crowned sparrows and will show for about three winters at a given location. I have not heard them sing or "chatter" here. The Shelby County records for four winters total ten localities, on the approximate periphery of 15 by 18 miles. Three were for three seasons and one for two seasons. Elsewhere Luther F. Keeton reports three seen Feb. 1, 1953, at Mason (40 miles northeast of

Memphis), the only time he could find them there. Kilian Roeber reported them at Hunterville on Feb. 21 and Mar. 6, 1954.

On the Nashville Count, Dec. 27, 1953, Mrs. Katherine A. Goodpasture found one (THE MIGRANT 24, 81, 1953) - the second record there. James T. Tanner (Ibid 26, 20, 1955) reports the first East Tennessee record, that of a single seen at a Maryville feeding station, Feb. 10 to 26, 1955.

Thomas D. Burliegh in his "The Bird Life of the Gulf Coast Region of Mississippi" (1944) gives the first report of the Harris's Sparrow for that state, a female collected Feb. 17, 1942, at Gulfport. The third report was given by Merritt G. Vaiden (The Migrant 24- 75-76, 1953) who collected two Apr. 18 and 19, 1953, in Rosedale from a group of five located by Bobby Collins. Among a few spots I have worked across the line for this species, is US Highway 51 towards Hernando, and a cross-road from Horn Lake west. On Feb. 14, 1953, (The Mid-South Bird Notes 1953:6) I found two, 6 miles north of Hernando and just west of US 51. The next season, six were seen Nov. 29 (BC, HL) but none on Feb. 27, 1954. On Dec. 18, 1954, one was found but none Feb. 27, 1955 or Dec. 4, 1955. On the latter date I tried the road west from Horn Lake a community 4 miles north. In Feb. 1953, I found several flocks of White-crowned Sparrows there, including one of 25. The following winter, road widening had ruined most cover, but this last season a few were in evidence,—including 20 at a ditch 0.7 mile west of the I.C.R.R. With the latter I found a single Harris's on Dec. 4 and Jan. 28 but missed it on two later trips. Elsewhere we have looked especially at Lakeview and in parts of Marshall and Benton Counties.

Locally common in extreme western Arkansas, recent observers in eastern Arkansas have recorded Harris's Sparrow to some extent at certain points. The late C. M. Owens banded one at Monticello within the few weeks previous to a letter of Dec. 14, 1935. Broowe Meanley and Johnson A. Neff. (Wilson Bulletin 1953, 65 (3):201) wrote of banding one near Stuttgart, Nov. 27, 1950, and collecting an immature male near Nady, Nov. 3, 1952. Brooke advises me that he saw over 30 near Pendleton Ferry Apr. 24, 1953. By intensive birding we have found it several times and places in the Lonoke area. Our first were 8 miles northeast of town, 1 on Nov. 16, 1952, 10 on the Count. Dec. 20, and 1 on Feb. 1; the next season, 3 there on Nov. 26, 1953, by the hardest, and none later. We couldn't even find the large number of White-crowneds there the third season but last winter some of these were back. A single was recorded at the hatchery on Counts, Jan. 1, 1955 and Dec. 24, 1955. Three other spots in the area produced 2 on Dec. 26, 1953, and 1 and 2 on Jan. 1, 1955. — On Dec. 20, 1953, we decided to try Crowley's Ridge for this species and found at our first stop on Ark. hwy. 1, 5 miles north of Forrest City, we found 10 (only time I've heard the song in the Memphis area). At 6 miles north we found 3 more but from there to Vannale, no others. At DeValls Bluff, Oct. 29, 1955, Mrs. Virginia G. Springer reported 3 (MSBN 1955:22).

## REPORT OF T. O. S. ANNUAL MEETING, 1956

On May 5 and 6, 1956, the Tennessee Ornithological Society held its annual meeting at Nashville with headquarters at Vanderbilt University. About 110 members attended. Successful field trips were held Saturday and Sunday mornings. Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Ganier entertained Friday night with a reception at their home for early arrivals.

The business of the Society was transacted at a meeting of the directors Saturday afternoon and of the members Sunday noon. Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr. was Mistress of Ceremonies at the dinner meeting, and Mr. E. D. Schreiber led the commemoration of the Society's 40th. anniversary, lauding the efforts of the three living founders, Mr. Albert F. Ganier, Dr. George R. Mayfield and Mr. Dixon Merritt. Entertainment consisted of a film, "The Prairie Chicken in Missouri," which showed the courting antics of several species of western game birds.

Dr. James T. Tanner, retiring Editor, was presented a bound volume of THE MIGRANT, and Dr. Lee R. Herndon, the new editor, was introduced. Mr. Thomas W. Finucane, 1434 Watauga St., Kingsport, agreed to coordinate hawk migration observations for the fall of 1956. The members authorized the purchase of T.O.S. shoulder patches for resale to members as a means of raising money and advertising the Society.

The dates of May 4 and 5 were set for the 1957 meeting, the place to be east of Nashville, and a committee was appointed to select the site.

The Society re-elected all of its officers: President, Lawrence C. Kent of Memphis; Vice-President for West Tennessee, Eugene Cypert, Jr. of Paris; for Middle Tennessee, C. E. Ruhr of Nashville; for East Tennessee, J. B. Owen of Knoxville; Treasurer, Reverend W. A. Hearn of Memphis; Secretary, Mrs. E. M. West of Chattanooga; Editor, Dr. Lee R. Herndon of Elizabethton; Curator, Albert F. Ganier of Nashville; Director for West Tennessee, L. D. Thomson of Paris; for Middle Tennessee, Dixon Merritt of Lebanon, and for East Tennessee, Mrs. E. E. Overton of Knoxville.

WILLETS AT SEWANEE—In the morning of April 24, 1956 four Willets (*Catoptrobhorus semipalmatus*) were observed at rest and in flight by Mr. Charles Baird on the newly impounded lake O'Donnel at nearby University Farm Pond. The large size and long bills indicate that these birds were the Western (*C. s. inornatus*) rather than the Eastern Willet (*C. s. semipalmatus*). —HARRY C. YEATMAN, Dept. of Biol., University of the South, Sewanee Tenn.

## NOTES ON COWBIRD BEHAVIOR

BY DIXON MERRITT

Cabincroft, Sunday June 24—Cowbirds were everywhere about the place this morning. Their presence was not unusual, only their numbers. I have seen cowbirds much more frequently this year than ever before, which may be at least partly due to the fact that my saddle mare has grazed in the yard all spring and summer and some of the birds have been almost constantly about her feet. When I got up at 5:30 this morning and took my first look around—the mare not in the yard at the time—not less than fifty Cowbirds

were in sight, in the yard and the adjacent pastures. They continued to mill about while I did my morning chores and through breakfast time, then disappeared.

When I drove out at 9 o'clock, I ran into the Cowbird flock 500 yards from the house. To the left of the road, at that point is a rather dense wooded hillside. To the right is open pasture of bluegrass, white and hop clover. Down from the woodsy hill and across the pasture runs a deep ravine that we call Crooked Root Gully. The Cowbirds, keeping up a constant chatter, were flying from the trees to the ground in the open pasture and back again, criss-crossing over my head.

Leaving my car on the bridge, I crept up the gully under cover of a tangle of dogwood, black gum and hickory. From a vantage point hardly to be excelled, I saw—

The branches over my head full of young Cowbirds, still scrawny-feathered and gawky and old Cowbirds bringing food and poking it into clamorous mouths!

As far as I could determine, about as many males as females participated in the feeding. A bird would drop an insect into an open mouth and immediately fly back to the pasture. I could not, of course, identify all of the insects that were brought but I know they were largely young grasshoppers. I was able to identify one Katy-did, still gray-green rather than clear green. (Our Katy-dids are not didding yet.)

I was not able to see nearly as much of this performance as I wanted to see. Unfortunately, I had an appointment that would not wait. When I got back, not a Cowbird to be seen or heard.

I am glad to be able to report something good about birds of which heretofore only evil has been spoken. Cowbirds do have at least some vestige of parental instinct. This gathering seemed rather a joyous reunion than a coming together of disowned children and disreputable parents who had never seen one another before.

#### EDITORIAL

##### *Hunt Birds With Camera In The Mid-South*

Memphis has a growing number of bird hunters who are not bothered by bag limits or hunting licenses. They do their hunting with notebooks and cameras.

Such hunters are Rev. and Mrs. William Hearn, Kirby Stringer and his wife, and Dr. Carroll Turner, who have all spoken out publicly about the pleasures of "bird watching".

Their only concern is for the conservation of birds and wildlife, and for the growth of population of human being that is crowding birds and animals farther and farther back into the corners of the diminishing wilderness.

Members of the Ornithological Society are a hardy lot—persistent and patient as any hunter with a gun, as ready to charge through marsh to identify and photograph a duck as a hunter is to shoot it. Moreover, wives,

## EDITORIAL

*Hunt Birds With Camera In The Mid-South*

children, even grandmothers go along—so that their kind of hunt becomes a wholesome family venture.

As wild game subject to hunting with guns grows more scarce these nature lovers will keep alive the great sport of hunting. They never kill, so every bird of every kind, and animals too, will remain in the wilderness for the pleasure of not just one hunter who gets a lucky shot, but for an unlimited number of hunters.

And the bird watcher who brings a picture back home for everybody to see need never tell a tale of his successes, for him that picture proves it always.

Bird watching and nature hiking is a good thing to promote in the Mid-South, which is blessed with so many miles of forest and river bottom wilderness. —Memphis Press-Scimitar.

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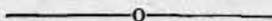
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