

# THE MIGRANT

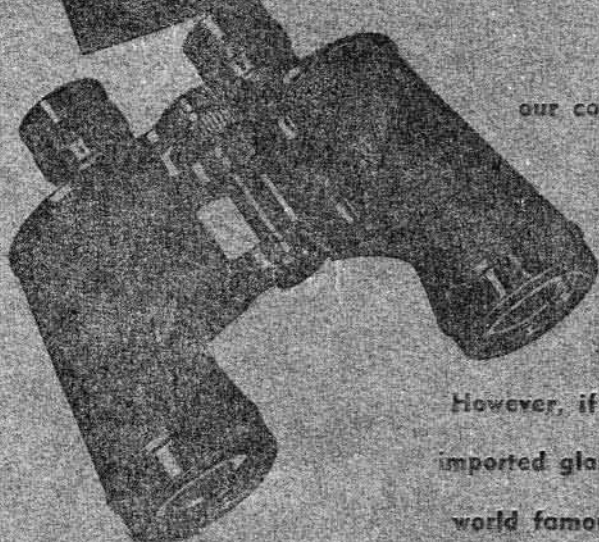
A QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by  
THE TENNESSEE  
ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY



DECEMBER  
1956

**BAUSCH & LOMB**  
*Binoculars*



Let us help you  
select the best glass  
for your purpose  
from  
our complete line of  
**Bausch & Lomb**  
Binoculars  
There are  
no finer

However, if you prefer fine  
imported glasses, we have the  
world famous Leitz or Zeiss  
line to choose from as well as  
many lower priced binoculars  
of good quality.

---

## PHOTO SUPPLIES

If it's photographic, and if it's good,  
WE HAVE IT

# SNAP SHOP

CAMERA SPECIALISTS

615 Gay Street

Knoxville, Tenn.

# THE MIGRANT

---

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

---

VOL. 27

DECEMBER 1956

No. 4

---

## WHIP-POOR-WILL IN THE MID-SOUTH IN SUMMER

By Ben B. Coffey, Jr.

Field work since 1947 but especially in recent summers, has shown the Whip-poor-will to be locally present, from singles to small pockets, in our area during summer. We have recorded it in twelve counties of West Tennessee, west from the Tennessee River to a line roughly from north of Dresden south to La Grange. Those nearest to Memphis are found from La Grange to near Somerville and Williston, as close as 32 miles from the city limits. In North Mississippi records are from ten counties. Curiously enough our early efforts there were unsuccessful as we kept looking in the northeast corner, with little success. At Woodall Mountain (800 feet) we have only three records (from 1935), but our largest group in the state was on the Fairview ridge just below Pickwick, Tenn. When B. B. Cooper reported Whip-poor-wills present at Hickory Flat (just south of town, in Union County), our attention was fortunately turned to the north central part of the state. From Hickory Flat north, and east into Tippah Hills, the species is in certain areas; also along the Tennessee River divide to the east. On June 24, 1955, B. B. Cooper again extended our known range when he heard one northwest of Winona, again there June 29, 1956, plus one at a second locality. We failed to find it there July 9, 1955, or May 19, 1956, but on the latter date Mrs. Coffey and I heard one northeast of Winona. This is 100 miles south of the Tennessee line. Intermediate pockets are about five miles east of Oxford and of Toccopola. Elevations have only been about 450 to 600 feet in either state. Along the Alabama line we tried the Greenwood Springs area twice without luck, and, even skipped to the high ground around Meridian.

Our Arkansas trips have been almost confined to the area of the Memphis summer camps, principally at Hardy, and including Mammoth Spring. Much farther north than the Mississippi localities, with elevations from 360 at Spring River to 700 feet on ridges, we hoped for it at the camp areas (variously since 1929) without success. An early trip on the highway to Ash Flat produced none, as it does now, about twenty-five years later. Recently a few have been spotted two miles southwest of Kamp Kia Kima and along Nine Mile Road (to the north in Sharp County). Others are scattered along the ridge from five miles south of Hardy to the Wirth area, and west and southwest of Mammoth Spring. One moonlight night we damaged a muffler driving up Salem Knob (1,092'), and heard one Whip and ten Chucks from the top. No Whips on other drives in the area.



June 9-10 of this year we worked high ground, including a long ridge at about 1,100 feet from near Batesville, Ark., to Heber Springs, and again Edgemont-Shirley-Mountain View (1,400' once), expecting to find many but only heard about four (near Mountain View). The Chucks were calling well, except about 9-10 p.m. (when we held up, awaiting more continuous activity). We hesitate to consider the results conclusive. It still appears, tho, that the map in "Birds of Arkansas" by Arthur H. Howell (1911) shows the summer range about as it is now, on the east. However, the similarly mountainous area south of the Arkansas River is not included and I would expect it to be present there. W. J. Baerg (1927) does not list it for Magazine Mountain while Wm. H. Deaderick (1938) in his Hot Springs list, calls it a fairly common summer resident there.

Even tho we worked selected areas (and only when Chuck-will's-widows were calling) we often would list only one Whip-poor-will per night or even none. Selecting two of the better trips, counts were: June 18, 1955, 7:31 pm - 12:37 am, Ashland, Miss. area, 148 Chuck-will's-widows, 12 Whip-poor-wills; July 2, 1955, 7:45 - 11:20 pm, Wirth, Ark. circuit and US 63 south to Hardy, 173 Chuck-will's-widows and 9 Whip-poor-wills. Our mileage this current season was about 5,000 miles which, of course, includes that required to reach the areas worked. Because of spring vacations, coverage on four previous seasons were necessarily not so intensive. The trips must be made from late May to early July for adequate results. More field work is planned for future seasons.—672 North Belvedere, Memphis.

---

## CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW IN UPPER EAST TENNESSEE

KINGSPORT — The T. O. S. Chapter records beginning in 1949 indicate that the Chuck-will's-widow is a fairly common summer resident in the Kingsport territory except on Bay's Mountain where only the Whip-poor-will occurs. In some areas, as the Dobyn's Addition of Kingsport, both species may be found during the breeding season. In general the Whip-poor-will will be found at the higher elevations along the wooded ridges, while the Chuck-will's-widows occur at the lower elevations near the larger streams and lake shores. The earliest date on record was April 27. First dates for the season occur the first week in May more frequently than the last week in April; therefore the average arrival date would be around the first of May. The birds continue singing into the third week of July, after which they sing infrequently; however, they probably remain in the area for several weeks but are neither seen nor heard. Their departure date is not known because they are so seldom seen and they stop singing soon after nesting activities are completed.

Most of the Whip-poor-will records are from Bay's Mountain. Because this area is somewhat inaccessible and infrequently visited by bird students, the chapter records are limited to a few records each year. The earliest records are during the last week of April. The birds undoubtedly arrive in the area several weeks in advance of this time, but because of the remoteness of the area they are not observed immediately after arrival. The latest record for this species was during the third week of June. Judging by the records for these two species, the Chuck-will's-widow is more abundant than the Whip-poor-will.—ANN H. SWITZER, 1620 Fairidge Place, Kingsport.

SULLIVAN COUNTY — Sometime prior to 1935 Robert B. Lyle and the writer visited Spurgeon's Island which is now inundated by the waters of Fort Patrick Henry Lake and situated in Sullivan County. We approached the head of Spurgeon's Island, by boat, as the sun was waning and the moon rising over the mountain. Our attention was drawn to the bird notes coming from the wooded island. Bob said: "Whip-poor-will" (*Antrostomus vociferus*). Bruce was quiet but soon came to when he had assured himself of the presence of Chuck-will's-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*). This was one of the scenes (though darkened) of birdland with which one meets once in a life time. Along the shores, amid the trees of Spurgeon's Island, and from the cliffs came "Chuck-will's-widow" in super-abundance. The birds appeared to cover the hills above the cliffs. At our distant approach we distinguished only the latter part of the call — "will's-widow" but when we were in the midst of them we heard plainly the initial call "Chuck" (emphasis on the "Chuck", a slight pause) then "will's-widow", repeated and repeated.

As to its occurrence, Bob's records show nesting, June 6, 1929. Ganier's "Birds of Tennessee" published in 1933 shows "rare summer resident in low lands".—BRUCE P. TYLER, 215 West Unaka Ave., Johnson City.



GREENEVILLE — The Chuck-will's-widow is a fairly common summer resident in Greene County in the woodlands attractive to this species. Locations in which its song has been heard during June 1956 are Bluff Mountain and surrounding woods; the ridge west of Mosheim; the hills north of Lick Creek at Albany; the Baileyton road out of Greeneville and the White-Irvine mill near Tusculum.

Chuck-will's widows were once common in a Roaring Fork woods where, since dense undergrowth followed cutting of mature trees, they no longer occur except on migration. On April 10, 1956 one sang but did not stay. Curiously, the only Whip-poor-wills we have heard on Roaring Fork sang on migration April 24, 25 and 26, 1956.

Alfred Irvine, familiar with the area immediately south of the Nolichucky River from Jones-Bridge through Camp Creek to River Hill, finds there instead of the Chuck-will's-widow the Whip-poor-will. At the river the elevation differs little from that of the Lick Creek valley, but the vegetation assumes some of the characteristics of the nearby Unakas, where the Whip-poor-will occurs.—RICHARD and RUTH NEVIUS, Route No. 1, Greeneville.



ELIZABETHTON — The only record we have for the Chuck-will's-widow in Carter County was in Elizabethton on the night of June 3, 1956 at about 8:00 p.m. when one sang briefly from the stone wall in our back yard. The elevation at this location is almost exactly 1,500 feet. Whip-poor-wills are quite common up to elevations of about 3,000 feet. They arrive early in April and depart about the middle of September.—LEE R. HERNDON, 1533 Burgie Place, Elizabethton.

## TELEVISION TOWERS AND NOCTURNAL BIRD MIGRATION

By Amelia R. Laskey

From October 5 to October 19, 1956, I examined 68 birds of 27 species that were gathered under a group of television and radio towers and wires in Nashville. Three towers, ranging in height from 300 to 1,000 feet, are built on a hill which is about a thousand feet above sea level, 7 miles south of my home.

As television towers are increasing in number and height over our land, they have become a serious hazard to night-migrating birds in both spring and autumn, particularly on foggy and overcast nights, but also on any night during the peak of migration. This problem differs from the one caused by ceilometer beams and other brilliantly-lighted structures where birds are attracted by the light, are blinded, fall, and are killed by striking hard substances. The red lights on television towers apparently are not brilliant enough to lure birds to them, but these widely-spaced lights do not serve as danger signals to the birds. Night migrants are not conditioned to avoid structures reaching several hundred to two thousand feet into their domain of sky. When such obstructions loom in their path, birds collide with enough force to be fatal. Some that we picked up showed external injuries, mainly gashes near wings and head.

Television towers are a fixture of modern America and there seems to be no way to alleviate this toll of bird life, so we should utilize these samples of nocturnal migration in the interest of ornithology. The field of investigation seems unlimited and scientific data of great value may be accumulated by systematically collecting the dead specimens for study.

We can obtain a record of species passing overhead in the darkness for comparison with daytime observations, we may obtain an extension of the migration period of a species by finding an earlier arrival or a later departure, we may learn that species rarely found in the field are passing over in great numbers in the night, we may discover a very rare or new species for our state or our area. There is a splendid opportunity to study plumages as an aid in our field work. Most of the casualties, if gathered early in the morning, are excellent material for museum and private collections as mounted specimens, study skins and skeletons, thus utilizing waste material and conserving our living birds.

Harrison B. Tordoff and Robert M. Mengel of the Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, have contributed an outstanding example of the valuable data that may be amassed and the problems that can be studied by using the birds killed at a Kansas television tower during the autumn migration in 1954. They took notes on molt, recorded weight, sex, age, fat condition, measurements and preserved many as study skins and skeletons. They made a theoretical computation of the number of migrants passing through a certain area; they discuss a differential migration of sex and age groups, and many other significant theories and problems. They say: "Repeated and thorough analysis of accidental kills should provide a mass of valuable data bearing on many questions and problems which thus far have been little studied." *Studies of Birds Killed in Nocturnal Migration*, 1956, University of Kansas Publication, V. 10, No. 1, pp. 1-44.

I am indebted to Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Fentress, Mrs. H. Goodlett and my husband for help in gathering the birds. The identification was my responsibility. The list follows: Sora Rail, 1; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 5; Black-billed Cuckoo, 2, (including one on Oct. 13, a new late date for Nashville); House Wren, 1, on Oct. 14; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1 on Oct. 6; Catbird, 8 (last one on Oct. 18); Brown Thrasher, 1; Wood Thrush, 2; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 1 on Oct. 7; Red-eyed Vireo, 2; Black and White Warbler, 2; Tennessee Warbler, 2; Parula Warbler, 1 on Oct. 5; Magnolia Warbler, 8; Myrtle Warbler, 2; Black-throated Green Warbler, 1; Blackburnian Warbler, 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 4; Bay-breasted Warbler, 6; Palm Warbler, 1; Ovenbird, 9; Northern Water-thrush, 1; Redstart, 1; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1; Indigo Bunting, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 1, (Oct. 6).

Although five additional trips were made after October 19, the last on November 1, no casualties were found. The greatest number was gathered on the mornings of October 5 and October 6 when observations started and the previous nights had been foggy. The night of October 31 - November 1 was very foggy, but by that time, migration of land birds was practically over for this area.—1521 Graybar Lane, Nashville 12, Tenn.

THE MEMPHIS SEASON — Activity and results were very low, especially compared with the almost continuous field work of spring and June which was reported, in part, in *Mid-South Bird Notes* (1956: 17-18). At this off season, Mud Lake, Tenn.-Miss., often compensates but this year dried up too early. My first chance to visit the lake was July 14 when I found 5 immature White Ibises there (3d Tenn. record), 45 Wood Ibises (overhead), 60 Am. Egrets, at least 12 Snowy Egrets, 200 immature, 100 adult, and 15 "pied" Little Blue Herons. About half the lake was dry. The only shorebirds were 2 Solitary Sandpipers and 60 Killdeers but on July 21, 6 Spotted, 10 Pectoral, and 60 Least Sandpipers were present, and about 60 Pectorals on July 28, near a room-sized puddle, soon gone. About 100 small herons were there July 21 plus 3 of the White Ibises. Oliver Irwin visited the northeast corner of President's Island practically every evening from Aug. 15 thru Sept. 30, the shoreline being under water 3 short periods in August. He reports about 30 "peeps" (to 75) and 5 (to 12) Pectorals on the average with Semipalmated Plovers from 8 on Aug. 30 down to one on Sept. 7. (The writer observed also, a Western Sandpiper on Aug. 4 and 5 on Sept. 1) Oliver logged a record migration (for this area) of Black Terns and Caspian Terns. On Aug. 18 he listed 17 and 14 Blacks and on Aug. 30, 31, and Sept. 1, about 100 each visit with the largest flock, 65 on the 31st.; 2 on Sept. 2 and 17 on Sept. 5 were his last. His first Caspians were 9 on Aug. 21 and last, 4 on Sept. 30. Of the 18 dates on which he saw them, those with over 10 were: Sept. 11,—25; Sept. 14,—70; Sept. 16,—17; Sept. 17,—100; Sept. 18,—40; Sept. 26,—13. His first Blue-winged Teal were 8 on Sept. 2, with about 1,500 on Sept. 17. Seen overhead but chiefly at nearby Riverside Park, were Broad-winged Hawks (1 or 2) and Mississippi Kites. Possibly a pair nested in Overton Park, (BC). Blackbirds began building up in the roost, normally thruout September. Oliver reported 1,000 Purple Martins here, July 21 and 29, Ellen Stringer 500 at the Hugh Tuckers' (Locke) on July 22, and at Hardy, Arkansas (Alice Smith, LC, BC) over 1,000 on July 7 and 2,000 on July 28. Mrs. Stringer also saw with the Martins about 2,000 other swallows, predominantly Trees but including Bank Swallows.

At Reelfoot Lake the Arlo Smiths found Tree Swallows and Rough-winged Swallows very common Sept. 1, and on Sept. 30, with the Memphis Chapter party of 21, the Tree still very common, along with the American Egret. All reported a very interesting time, especially out on the lake, viewing Soras, Coots, Blue-winged Teals, and 2 small flocks of Mallards. A fair number of transient warblers were seen, including a male Wilson's. Results at our Penal Farm were poor, — a handful of Upland Plovers, once only, — Sept. 2. No Blue Grosbeaks were found (four trips) east of there, where seen once last year. R. Demett Smith, Jr., reported Alder Flycatchers, Aug. 5: one south of Rogers Springs, Tenn., and two singles east of Ashland, Miss. Mrs. M. L. Torti had a Worm-eating Warbler in her yard, Sept. 17.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis.

## THE 1956 CHRISTMAS SEASON BIRD COUNTS

By T. O. S. Members

The count was appreciably lower this year than in the two immediately preceding years. In the 1954 and 1955 counts the total was 122 species each time, which are all time highs, while this year it was only 111 species, excluding subspecies. Ten localities reported those years also this year. Reelfoot Lake which had higher counts both years than any other locality is absent from the list this year. Only five counts have equaled or exceeded this one and they are the five successive years immediately preceding this one.

A comparison of the twenty-seven annual state wide counts published in THE MIGRANT reveals some interesting facts. The first two counts for 1930 and 1931 were of 70 and 77 species respectively. The next five were 90 or less, while for the next eleven years the counts were in the nineties except in 1942 the count was 107. Beginning with 1948 and including 1956 each count has exceeded 100 except in 1950 when the count was 95. For the first five years an average of 12 waterfowl were listed as compared with 25 for the last five, including 1956. This group included 5 species in the 1955 list which do not appear in the 1956 list. A similar comparison of passerine species, from House Sparrow through Snow Bunting reveals an average of 19 species for the first five years and 28 for the last five year period. From this group the 1954 list had 6 species and the 1955 list had 8 species which do not appear in the 1956 list. Five of these species occurred on both the 1954 and 1955 lists. Of these, three are considered northern species, as they do not breed here while the other two do.

Of outstanding significance is the absence of the following species from the 1956 list. The Red-breasted Nuthatch was absent for the first time since 1939. Pine Siskins were missed last in 1939. Red-crossbills were missed for the first time since 1944.

Three species occur on the list for the first time. They are: Bonaparte's Gull, Rock Wren and Baltimore Oriole. The number of new species is about average for the mid-winter lists.

In the table which follows the localities are listed from west to east. Under the heading "Information on the Counts" are given the locations and other pertinent data relative to the counts as supplied by the compilers. The species and numbers of individuals observed at each locality are listed in the table. The numbers listed are as accurate as could be ascertained,



except where numbers were so large that accurate counting was impossible, in which cases estimates were made. The number of species for each locality occurs at the end of the table. Additional information or comments regarding the observation marked with an asterisk (\*), in the table, will be found in the paragraph pertaining to the locality involved.

#### INFORMATION ON THE COUNTS

MEMPHIS, TENN. — (1953 areas generally; wooded bottomlands 25%, deciduous woods including city parks 20%, pastures, airfields, farms 25%, suburban roadsides 28%, river's edge 2%). — Dec. 23; 6:40 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., overcast & part cloudy; temp. 51 to 66; wind W, 0-12 mph. Seventeen observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 81 (57 on foot, 24 by car); total party-miles 168 (46 on foot, 122 by car). Total, 79 species; about 1,013,854 individuals. The Rock Wren, a 1st Tenn. record, was collected; the Greentailed Towhee (2nd. Tenn.) at 30 feet, good light (Mrs. Burford). Starlings and blackbirds estimated at Elmwood Cemetery roost; Starling 250,000, Redwing 350,000, Bronzed Grackle 250,000, Cowbird 150,000. The number of Robins were 6,334, White-throated Sparrows 1,278. Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., (compilers), John T. Bigham, Mrs. Floy Burford, Miss Mary Davant, Luther F. Keeton, Lawrence C. Kent, Edward M. King, Mrs. J. H. McWhorter, S. Jack Rini, Mrs. Henry A. Schiller, Miss Alice Smith, Mrs. Arlo I. Smith, Jerry Smith, R. Demett Smith, Jr., Mrs. M. L. Torti, Mrs. Rose N. Woolridge.

—o—

JOHNSONVILLE, TENN.—Dewatering Area of Tenn. Nat. Wildlife Refuge at confluence of Duck and Tennessee rivers, including complete circuit by road. River-bottom farm land 50%, marshes 10%, open water and shore line 10%, woods and brushy land 30%. January 1st, 1957. 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., partly cloudy, temp. 40-50 degrees; wind W. 5-10 m.p.h.; ground bare and wet. 10 observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 8.5 (5.5 on foot, 3.5 by car); total party miles 18 (3 on foot, 15 by car). 59 species. The number of species listed was below "par", for the reason that the observers remained in one party and concentrated on water birds. The immense aggregation of Mallards was the greatest number our observers has ever seen on this refuge. Some corn and maize fields in which they were feeding were literally green with the heads of Mallard drakes. Refuge personnel estimated that 100,000 Mallards and 2,500 Canada Geese were in the entire refuge. Other large flocks of ducks as well as geese were on the sloughs and on the open waters of adjacent Kentucky lake. Our list of Starlings, Redwings, Grackles, etc., did not include an immense flock seen converging at dusk to a roost in the refuge. The Fox Sparrows were in song. The 45 Amer. Egrets were considered a find. Many of the Great Blue Herons were using the heronry as headquarters and some of the 14 eagles seen were doing likewise. Two white-headed Bald Eagles sat close together for a long time on a cypress tree in the heronry and were apparently mated and ready to nest. Deep water in the cypress tree heronry prevented a search there for the nest.—A. F. GANIER.

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Same area as in past 6 years. Dec. 22; 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overcast, visibility poor after 2 p.m.; temp. 53-57 degrees; wind n-w, 5-8 m.p.h.; ground bare; sloughs dry. 22 observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 49 (40 on foot, 9 by car); total party-miles 96 (26 on foot, 70 by car). 76 species; about 20,500 individuals. The winter temperatures have been moderate and wild foods are abundant. The Robin-Starling figures were chiefly from a large roost on Golf Club lane. Robins have been present in numbers all thru December which is unusual. Most of the ducks were found on Radnor and Bush's lakes. The Brown Thrashers were at three locations. For notes on the Harris' Sparrow (collected) and Brewer's Blackbirds, see Round Table section.—ALBERT F. GANIER, compiler.

LEBANON — (area same as in previous years) Jan. 1, 1957; House Sparrows were noted as being common. 35 species, about 634 individuals—MILDRED BOUTON (compiler).

CHATTANOOGA — (area slightly changed from previous years, centering in Warner Park). Dec. 29, 1956; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 25 to 33 degrees; wind almost constant and up to 21 m.p.h. 5 observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 15 (10 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles 106 (7 on foot, 99 by car). 53 species, about 1,700 individuals. Mrs. Eugene M. West (compiler) 1625 S. Clayton Ave., S.E., Chattanooga 11. The Bonaparte's Gulls occur on the Christmas count for the first time this year and from another area in addition to this one.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK — (same area as 1937 and subsequent years). Dec. 23; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Rain, irregular, over  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch; temp. 50 to 69 degrees; wind variable, 5 to 20 m.p.h.; ground wet and bare. 22 observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours, 67 (47 on foot, 20 by car); total party-miles, 276 (37 on foot, 239 by car). Total, 53 species (1 additional subspecies); 1,742 individuals. The absence of northern finches is of interest—no red Crossbills, Pine Siskins, Purple Finches or Evening Grosbeaks. Also no Nuthatches were recorded. Dr. James Becker, Jane Briscoe, Mary Ruth Chiles, Claude Coile, Jr., Jessie Dempster, Mary Enloe, Elizabeth French, Vernon C. Gilbert, Jr., David Highbaugh, Philip A. Huff, Elsie Janson, Mr. and Mrs. H. Frank Leonhard, Dorothy J. MacLean, Joe F. Manley, Mrs. Alice D. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Monroe, Mrs. E. E. Overton, J. B. Owen, Paul S. Pardue, H. B. Reed, Jr., Arthur Stupka (compiler), Dr. James T. Tanner, Dr. and Mrs. Samuel R. Tipton. (Tennessee Ornithological Society, National Park Service and guests).

GREENEVILLE — (same area as in previous years). Jan. 6, 1957; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Heavy fog to occasional rain; temp. 32 to 35 degrees; wind 0 to 5 m.p.h. 10 observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 20, total party-miles 65 (10 on foot, 55 by car). 54 species, about 8,830 individuals—RUTH and RICHARD NEVIUS (compilers).

KINGSPORT — (same area as last year). Dec. 30; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cloudy to clear, light snow on ground, strong west wind; temp. 28 to 38 degrees. 10 observers in six parties. Total party-hours, 30. Total, 44 species, 2,950 individuals.—THOMAS W. FINUCANE (compiler), 1434 Watauga Street, Kingsport.







Winter Wren	25	.....	2	1	1	9	5	2	1	2
Bewick's Wren	1	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	1	.....
Carolina Wren	100	4	66	3	12	30	42	31	9	28
Rock Wren*	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mockingbird	170	3	123	20	17	3	57	26	11	36
Br. Thrasher	14	.....	4	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Robin	6,334	6	3,600	152	12	134	500	.....	3	6
Hermit Thrush	17	.....	9	.....	2	7	2	.....	.....	3
Bluebird	11	4	106	20	14	29	26	12	1	41
Gld-cr. Kinglet	13	.....	1	.....	3	46	4	1	1	10
Rub-cr. Kinglet	7	.....	.....	.....	4	5	2	1	.....	2
Amer. Pipit	19	.....	17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sprague's Pipit	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ced. Waxwing	14	1	13	.....	65	31	21	10	.....	14
Lgr.-hd Shrike	45	3	7	1	1	2	5	.....	.....	8
Starling	250,000	1,000	9,000	.....	480	180	2,000	2,000	53	495
Myr. Warbler	62	.....	38	1	9	6	41	16	7	31
Pine Warbler	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	1	.....	.....	.....	3
Palm Warbler	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....
House Sparrow	617	75	230	*	9	84	66	250	128	135
E. Meadowlark	517	60	160	106	80	23	38	8	.....	16
W. Meadowlark	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Red-winged	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Blackbird	350,000	3,000	30	.....	.....	6	5	.....	.....	.....
Balt. Oriole*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Ru. Blackbird	260	7	.....	.....	4	.....	30	.....	.....	.....
Brewer's Blkbird	.....	.....	110	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grackle	250,000	3,000	58	11	50	.....	10	.....	.....	.....
Cowbird	150,000	3	5	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cardinal	702	50	193	31	36	72	85	65	104	134
Purple Finch	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Goldfinch	228	35	295	28	35	43	63	27	1	41
Gr.-tld. Towhee*	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rd-ey. Towhee	35	1	63	4	29	9	25	19	5	12
Savan. Sparrow	42	7	25	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	1
Ves. Sparrow	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sl-col. Junco	503	15	135	114	80	182	46	84	42	100
Tree Sparrow	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Field Sparrow	114	.....	65	.....	13	139	65	32	.....	63
Harris's Spar.	4	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wh-cr. Sparrow	79	4	80	.....	.....	.....	39	8	12	16
Wh-th. Sparrow	1,278	60	140	10	83	189	113	39	70	86
Fox Sparrow	91	15	15	.....	6	2	2	.....	.....	1
Swamp Sparrow	96	35	72	.....	1	4	.....	.....	.....	7
Song Sparrow	265	40	102	.....	9	4	35	20	7	67
Lapl. Longspur	219	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Smith's Longspur	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Snow Bunting	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>55</b>

Total Individuals — 1,088,697.

## ROUND TABLE

**SNOWY OWL** — On the afternoon of Dec. 1, 1956, a group consisting of Mr. Stuart Maher, Mr. Herbert Tiedemann, Mr. Stephen Collins and I were returning to Knoxville from the Tennessee Academy of Science meeting in Murfreesboro via U.S. Highway 70-S. At a point approximately 1½ miles west of the White-Cumberland County line, a large white owl was noticed in the top of a dead tree about 50 yards north of the highway. Mr. Maher and I noticed it at about the same time and called it to the attention of the other two members of the party. The bird was perched with its back to the road and from that distance appeared to be entirely white with no other markings. The head was definitely round and did not have "ears" or tufts protruding. We estimated the height of the bird to be around two feet, but as the owl remained perched on the limb no estimate could be made of the wing-span. Both Mr. Maher and I identified the bird as a Snowy Owl, at the time. The area in which the owl was seen was about twenty to twenty-five miles from Center Hill Reservoir, the nearest large body of water. It was on top of the Cumberland Plateau and the average elevation in this vicinity is 2,000 feet. The approximate latitude and longitude of the locality is 36° 00' N and 85° 15' W.—JOHN M. KELLBERG, Geologist, T.V.A., 510 Union Building, Knoxville.

—o—

**UNUSUAL SPARROWS FOR CARTER COUNTY** — Drawn frequently into the field this fall by exceptional birding, TOS members found sparrows not usually recorded here. The Leconte's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus caudacutus*) was seen twice; the Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*), twice; and the Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammospiza caudacuta*), once. All of these sparrows, except the trapped specimen of the Lincoln's Sparrow, were seen at the County Farm four miles north of Elizabethton.

On the sunny windy afternoons of November 11 and 18, 1956, two separate groups of observers found our first and second Leconte's Sparrows.

Although Dr. Lee R. Herndon, Ed Davidson and the writer flushed this first sparrow several times, it was loath to leave its cover, an isolated strip of weeds. We finally drove the bird into the open and surrounded it. Our binoculars could only be used effectively part of the time, as most of our observing was done from six to ten feet from the bird. Presently, the sparrow approached within twelve inches of ED's feet, repeatedly cocking its head and surveying us in a curious and unalarmed manner, and actually passed through a three inch opening between my feet. After about fifteen minutes of note taking, checking with Peterson, and sketching, we allowed the bird to scurry away.

On November 18, after Mrs. Ruth D. Hughes and the writer flushed this second Leconte's Sparrow, it flew into brush formed by a wild cherry tree that had been felled into the weed field. The weeds had grown among the branches furnishing sparse cover for the sparrow. By keeping the bird between us and moving cautiously, we maneuvered it so that we had, in the following twenty-five minutes, many excellent views of the bird at distances ranging from four to fifteen feet. Although the bird seemed nervous because of our presence, it didn't fly but walked on the branches near the ground and moved away from whoever stepped toward it.

Because careful notes of the markings on both birds and both drawings were compared, I am certain that these birds were different. Below are some of the markings we noted.

On both birds we saw a narrow white line down the middle of the black crown, a gray patch under the eye, dark short streaks on the side following along the wing, a whitish throat, two white stripes on the back, black mark behind the eye, and a short sharp tail.

Although the breast, superciliary line, and sides were a buff color on both birds, the plumage of the second sparrow was much duller and less striking. The first bird had pink lines on a purplish collar, whereas the second bird had bright chestnut lines on a grayish collar. The dark line behind the eye of the second bird was not completely formed.

At her home on October 18 Mrs. Lee R. Herndon rescued a trapped Lincoln's Sparrow, our fourth record, from a cat, only to have it succumb later. The same night LRH brought the bird to the club meeting for everyone to identify.

On October 28, LRH and the writer, getting as close as ten feet several times, followed a Lincoln's Sparrow for about fifteen minutes along a bushy creek. We observed the buffy breast with the fine lines and stripes on the back, but of special interest to me was a distinctive light brown line starting near the bill and following below the auricular patch.

On October 27 a Sharp-tailed Sparrow briefly perched on top of a weed about twenty-five feet from LRH and eleven feet from me. Later in the day at the same location, Mrs. Ruth D. Hughes and the writer, cautiously following this sparrow, succeeded in getting five good views of it. The tall weeds were reasonably sparse in spots, allowing some observations on or near the ground.

Because of the extremely bright yellow-orange plumage and the faint indistinct streaks on the breast, we believe this bird to be a Nelson's. On some observations I was so close that a very thin black line separating the gray crown and the yellow-orange superciliary line could be seen. Streaks on the back, the distinctive facial pattern and a small gray patch under the eye were some of the other markings noted. This was only our second record of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Carter County.—H. P. LANGRIDGE, Rt. 7, Elizabethton, Tenn.

---

EASTERN WILD TURKEY — Eleven individuals of this species emerged at dusk from the willow-thicket "Blackbird" roost on President's Island on Dec. 10, 1956, to feed on waste grain in a ditch coming from the stock yards. After being flushed, they flew to Desoto Park one mile away. At this time the river had begun a rise of 15' and the various species of blackbirds were no longer using the roost.—OLIVER F. IRWIN, 1789 Glenview Ave., Memphis 6.

---

NESTS OF MISSISSIPPI KITE — On July 21, 1956, a nest containing a small nestling was found near No. 1 green on the golf course in Riverside Park at Memphis. This nest, resembling a crow's nest, was forty feet up near the top of a sweet gum tree growing on the roadside. On August 2, a nestling was teetering about the edge of the nest trying to reach a grasshopper held by an adult bird perched nearby. The young bird left the nest

on August 7 and was able to fly across the fairway on August 10. A second nest was found on August 12 one miles away near an east entrance sixty feet up near the top of a tulip poplar tree. A young bird able to fly was being fed in the nest. Activity at this nest was still evident on September 3. A third nest one mile further on in the extreme south end of the park was much earlier than the other two, as young birds were soaring in the air with adults on August 10. After arriving on April 21 at Riverside Park, the last kite was seen on September 4 prior to an electrical storm the following night and a drop to an unseasonable 55° at night on September 7.—OLIVER F. IRWIN, 1789 Glenview Ave., Memphis, Tenn.

—o—

ROCK WREN IN MEMPHIS — On the Count of December 23, 1956, Mrs. Floy Burford and I visited the northeast corner of President's Island, one stop being at the river bank, which had been protected by stones. These vary in size, up to 1½ feet, largest dimension. A grayish brown wren attracted our attention, as it perched on one of the rocks, in full view, giving a somewhat harsh "churring". Since neither of us had ever seen a Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) before, we identified it tentatively as such. Regretfully, it was thought necessary that the bird be collected, and the specimen, a female, is now in the collection of Albert F. Ganier, Nashville. Apparently there is but one race (*obsoletus*) in the United States and most of the range into Mexico, and this is the first record east of the Mississippi — by a few feet! The species does not seem to be a wanderer, like some other westerners. One casual record noted (**Aud. Fld. Notes** 1956: 266) was that of a Rock Wren at Laguna Atascosa Refuge, Texas, last winter, on Nov. 3, 1955. Mrs. Margaret Morse Nice, "The Birds of Oklahoma" (1931), reports it as a summer resident in western Oklahoma but Ben Coffey (**Mid-South Bird Notes** 1952: 16-17) found the species in the Wichitas at Ft. Sill, the year round, Feb. 21, 1943, - July 23, 1944.—R. DEMETT SMITH, JR., 4441 Quince Road, Memphis.

—o—

BREWER'S BLACKBIRDS AT NASHVILLE — On Dec. 22, 1956, while taking the Christmas bird census, I discovered a flock of these birds feeding in a cow lot in Bell's Bend. They were with a larger number of Starlings and a few Grackles. The birds were studied at 150 feet with binoculars by the six members of our party. At that distance they could be distinguished from the Grackles by their smaller size, shorter tails, overall black color and their tendency to segregate when flushed. The smaller size of Cowbirds together with the latter's tendency at this season to erect their tails, serves to differentiate at this distance. Two days later I returned to the place with John Ogden and we found a flock of 8 Brewer's by themselves in a pasture across the road. From the car we observed them leisurely with our glasses at 80 feet as they fed in a wet place and we were able to distinguish the purplish head from the otherwise greenish-black plumage of the males. The four slate-colored females were observed to have the characteristic dark eyes of this sex instead of yellow as in the males. Desiring to collect a specimen, I called at the farmhouse and after securing permission with some delay, I returned and found that a larger flock had come in but all had gone. In this flock, Ogden had counted 110 of the birds, no other species having been with them. An hour later, they had not returned.



On Dec. 26, I again sought them and found a flock of 7 or 8 in the cow lot. After some staking I finally ventured a long-range shot but all flew away and two hours later none had returned. This is the first Nashville record of this species although we have been on the lookout for them for years. The Rusty Blackbird is usually to be found in the Bell's Bend river-bottom sloughs but these have been dry the past two winters so this close cousin to the Brewer's has been absent during these two years.—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville 12, Tenn.

---

HARRIS'S SPARROW AT NASHVILLE — On December 22, 1956, the day of our Christmas Count here in Nashville, I observed an immature Harris's Sparrow at the edge of a small woods in Buena Vista marsh. This marsh is located in north Nashville along the end of Ninth Ave. North in the Cumberland River bottoms near Bush Lake. The woods where the sparrow was found border a field that is covered with many shallow deserted clay pits. Most of the field has grown up in tall grasses and bushes which supply plenty of food for the large flock of sparrows which winter there.

Our party, which was working the marsh for the count, was first drawn to the small woods by a singing bird. We followed it through the woods before we identified it as a Fox Sparrow. Our party later found several Fox Sparrows, eleven altogether in that area.

It was while I was standing in the edge of the woods that I saw the Harris's Sparrow. It flew up into some bushes with White-crowned and Field Sparrows. The Harris's Sparrow did not seem to be alarmed as I approached it. The first markings I noticed were the dark splotches on its breast, its forehead and around its bill and white throat. I called to the other members of the party, but before they could get to see the bird, it flew out over the field and landed in the high grass. We could not find the sparrow again that day.

On January 3, 1957, Mr. Albert F. Ganier found the Harris's Sparrow in the same area. He also noted that the sparrow was curious but not alarmed. Mr. Ganier collected the bird and prepared it as a study skin. He identified it as a female bird.

This record of the Harris's Sparrow is only the third for Nashville. The two previous records are December 10, 1933, by Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey (THE MIGRANT 5, 15, 1934) and on December 27, 1953 by Mrs. Katherine A. Goodpasture (THE MIGRANT 24, 81, 1953).—JOHN OGDEN, 515 Fairfax Ave., Nashville 12.

---

OLD SQUAWS IN BLOUNT COUNTY — On December 8, 1956, two male and two female Old Squaws (*Clangula hyemalis*) were observed on Alcoa Lake—a small lake maintained by the city of Alcoa as a fishing lake for small boys and elderly men. The four were so near the edge of the lake that they could be easily observed without binoculars. We were amazed at their lack of fear of people and cars near the lake. All four were very active and were diving constantly. All were in winter plumage. On the following day we again checked the lake and found the males had left. On the following week end all had departed.—MARY ENLOE, Riverside Drive, Route 6, Knoxville, Tenn. RALPH ZAENGLEIN 402 Willard Avenue, Maryville, Tenn.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER ANTICS — Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) have been coming to our home three years. I have fed them white bread, peanuts and peanut butter. This particular day, Sept. 8, 1956, I placed a large pile of potatoe chips on the back lawn. Perched on a dead elm were two mature and two immature Red-headed Woodpeckers. The first immature spied the chips and came down for a sample. At first he didn't like them, but after a few bites he seemed to relish them. As he perched contentedly, his twin attacked him from the rear, knocking him over. This angered him so that he spread his wings over the chips in an attempt to hide them. His parents and his twin constantly swooped down, grabbing chips, while he tried covering all of them with his body. The Starlings and Grackles also tried to steal from him, and despite his efforts the others would slip in at his side and grab a chip when he was looking the other way. Finally he jumped off the pile and proceeded to pick up dead leaves and toss them over his shoulder. Then the first adult came down and took a chip, but the first immature chased it away. While he was gone, the second immature came down and the second adult chased him. Around and around all of them flew, each time dropping for a chip and eating it in flight. An attempt was made to hold the pile by each bird. Soon it wasn't clear who was chasing whom. Finally one Grackle waddled over to the chips to feast and one immature dropped down to battle with him. While the immature was facing the Grackle and turning in circles with his back to the chips, the two adults and the other immature woodpeckers finished the entire pile.—MRS. CATHERINE E. GOODLETT, 636 Skyview Drive, Nashville 6, Tenn.

---

ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF SURF SCOTER IN TENNESSEE — In addition to the Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) records occurring in THE MIGRANT, 27, 57-58, 1956, Harry C. Monk has supplied other information regarding their occurrence in Tennessee. Birds of this species were observed on Radnor Lake near Nashville, 1 female November 17, 1929 (HCM and G. R. Mayfield); 1 October 26, 1930 (HCM and Compton Crook); 2 November 7, 8, 15, and 22, 1931 (HCM and CC). These records were published in The Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science 7, 222 and 229, 1932. Still another possible record of this species for Tennessee occurred in the December 7, 1952 issue of the Nashville Tennessean in a sportsmens column written by Bob Steber. The bird was reported as having been killed "on Elk River, near Fayetteville" presumably in Lincoln County about 70 miles south of Nashville. The exact date is not known but it was probably during the last week in November. Ed.

## MR. JOHN B. WHITE

Mr. J. B. White, a charter member of the Greeneville chapter of the T.O.S., died December 21, 1956, at Mountain Home Hospital.

Mr. White unassumingly provided leadership for the chapter, whether serving as president or as a member keenly interested in advancing bird study. He guided the compilation of an annotated list of Greene County birds, a project considered by the chapter suitable for its beginning efforts and desirable as a basis for future comparison. Forseeing an end to his participation in making the list, Mr. White prepared it for publication earlier than he had planned. He expressed his own appreciation at being able to see in THE MIGRANT his "Birds of Greene County, Tennessee" (THE MIGRANT 27, 3-8, 1956). To members of the chapter this list is a continuing example of the helpfulness and interest always shown by Mr. White.

The following biographical data are quoted from THE GREENEVILLE SUN, December 22, 1956, page 2:

"His boyhood was spent on the campus of Milligan College where he was graduated and where every member of his family got a degree.

"He also attended East Tennessee State College where he took courses in educational training and later taught school.

"He had an outstanding military record in World War I, having been one of two men in Greene County who received the Distinguished Service Cross citation. . . . He also received the Croix de Guerre citation.

"He was always vitally interested in young people and was enthusiastic about the Boy Scout Movement. He organized a scout troop here and was the first Scout Master in Greeneville. He never lost his enthusiasm for this work and through the years was the moving spirit of scouting here. He delighted in taking boys on hikes and camping trips and believed . . . that this agency was the most effective means of combating juvenile delinquency. He was awarded the Silver Beaver award for his 35 years of effort in this organization. . . .

"He was . . . a member of the V.F.W. . . . his primary interest was the Christian Church of which he was a member. . . . For 30 years he served as Chairman of the Board and Superintendent of the Sunday School. . . .

"Mr. White was a modest man who never allowed his achievements to be discussed, but he had a quiet strength that was a bulwark in any organization to which he gave his support."—RICHARD and RUTH NEVIUS, Route 1, Greeneville, Tenn.

## BOOK REVIEW

BIRD RINGING. By R. M. Lockley and Rosemary Russell. John de Graff, Inc. New York. \$2.50.

This little book, first published in 1953 in England, is an excellent description of the technique of trapping and banding birds. It is designed for members of the British Trust for Ornithology as the "Bander's Manual" is for American banders. The authors use as subtitle, "The Art of Bird Study by Individual Marking," and include chapters on the history and value of bird-ringing which make the book of interest to many birders even though they may not band birds. In the last two chapters, "Trapping Birds," and "Rings, Records, and Field Equipment," a wealth of detail and illustrations of traps are given which makes the American publication of this excellently written book very timely, since our "Bander's Manual" is now being revised.

The authors have considerable experience in banding methods, R. M. Lockley in England and Rosemary Russell in the United States. The joint result is almost indispensable for the serious bander.—SAMUEL R. TIPTON.

---

### CONTENTS OF THE MIGRANT FOR 1956 — VOLUME 27

	Page
<b>March, No. 1</b>	
Frontispiece, Nest and Eggs of Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bruce Tyler.....	2
"Birds of Greene County, Tennessee," John B. White, et al .....	3
"Bird Casualties at Smyrna and Nashville Ceilometers, 1955," Amelia R. Laskey .....	9
"1955 Fall Migration of Hawks," Thomas W. Finucane .....	10
THE ROUND TABLE—First Specimen of Sharp-tailed Sparrow for Tennessee, 13; Possibility of Harlan's Hawk near Chattanooga, 14; Red Crossbill in Chickamauga Park (Ga.), 14; A Dickcissel Visits Nashville in Winter, 15; Sharp-shinned Hawk's Nest with Six Eggs Found in Cedar Tree, 15	
THE SEASON .....	16
BOOK REVIEWS—Attracting Birds to Your Backyard	
Woodland Birds	
The Bird Book .....	21
Editorial .....	22
<b>June, No. 2</b>	
Frontispiece, House Wren, Robert Bullock .....	22
"The House Wren in Tennessee," Lee R. Herndon .....	23
"The 1956 Spring Field Days," T. O. S. Members .....	30
"Loggerhead Shrike Nesting Data at Nashville," Amelia Laskey.....	35
"Harris's Sparrow in the Mid-south," Ben Coffey, Jr. ....	37
"Report of T. O. S. Annual Meeting, 1956" .....	40
"Notes on Cowbird Behavior," Dixon Merritt .....	40
Editorial .....	41



**September, No. 3**

"Nesting of the Black-throated Blue and Chestnut-sided Warblers," Albert F. Ganier .....	43
"Tempora Non Mutantur," Dixon Merritt .....	46
THE SEASON .....	48
THE ROUND TABLE—Kirtland's Warbler, 53; Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Chattanooga Area, 53; Blue Grosbeaks in Elizabethton, 54; Lark Sparrow Nesting near Lebanon, 55; A Summer Resident House Wren at Nashville, 56; Report of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in North Chattanooga, 56; Connecticut Warbler near Elizabethton, 57; Surf Scoter, 57; Snake Grabs a Downy Woodpecker, 58; Birds Eating Bag Worms, 59; Baltimore Oriole near Greeneville, 59; Yellow-breasted Chat Visits Bird Bath, 59; Magnolias Undamaged by Roosting Starlings, 60; Lawrence's Warbler Reported near Chattanooga, 60.	
BOOK REVIEW—The Flamingos: Their Life History and Survival .....	60
Reichert Lectures on Binoculars .....	61
New Telescope Offered Bird Students and Conservationists .....	62

**December, No. 4**

"Whip-poor-will in the Mid-south," Ben B. Coffey, Jr. ....	63
"Chuck-will's-widow in upper East Tennessee", Kingsport, Ann M. Switzer, 64; Sullivan County, Bruce P. Tyler, 65; Greeneville, Richard and Ruth Nevius, 65; Elizabethton, Lee R. Herndon, 65.	
"Television Towers and Nocturnal Bird Migration," Amelia R. Laskey .....	66
THE MEMPHIS SEASON .....	67
The 1956 Christmas Bird Counts, by T.O.S. Members .....	68
THE ROUND TABLE—Snowy Owl, 74; Unusual Sparrows for Carter County, 74; Eastern Wild Turkey, 75; Nests of Mississippi Kites, 75; Rock Wren in Memphis, 76; Brewer's Blackbirds at Nashville, 76; Harris's Sparrow at Nashville, 77; Old Squaw in Blount County, 77; Red-headed Woodpecker Antics, 78; Additional Records of Surf Scoter in Tennessee, 78.	
John B. White (obituary) .....	79
BOOK REVIEW—Bird Ringing .....	80
Contents of THE MIGRANT for 1956 - Vol. 27 .....	80
Editorial .....	82

# THE MIGRANT

*A Quarterly Journal Devoted to the Study of Tennessee Birds Published by the  
Tennessee Ornithological Society*

Annual Dues, \$1.50, including subscription. Library and out-of-State  
Subscriptions, \$1.00

*Please Notify the Treasurer or Secretary of a Change in Address*

MRS. E. M. WEST, Secretary, 1625 S. Clayton Ave. .... Chattanooga 11

REV. W. A. HEARN, Treasurer, 2752 Barron ..... Memphis 14

All items for Publication should be sent to

LEE R. HERNDON, Editor, 1533 Burgie Place..... ELIZABETHTON, TENN.

## EDITORIAL

In this issue of THE MIGRANT occurs a summary of the information we were able to secure relative to the occurrence and distribution of the Chuck-will's-widow and Whip-poor-will throughout Tennessee. Both species are summer residents at certain locations. In some areas only one or the other occurs while in some areas their territories appear to overlap. If their territories do not overlap they approach each other so closely that both species have been reported from one listening post.

In west Tennessee Coffey has already started a study of this situation and has discovered some very interesting facts. The elevation of most of the territory he has sampled has been between 200 feet and 600 feet altitude. In some parts of middle and east Tennessee only one of these species occurs. As best we can determine, the Chuck-will's widow appears to occur up to about 1,500 feet. THE MIGRANT 19, 38, 1948. The Whip-poor-will occurs from about 500 feet to the tops of all the mountains except portions of the Blue Ridge Mountains above 4,100 feet. THE MIGRANT, 19, 38, 1943. The records reveal none above this altitude.

Your editor would like to propose an intensive state-wide study of this situation. Since it is impossible for any individual to collect adequate information on this subject, he would like to solicit the cooperation of all who will to participate in this study, beginning this spring and continuing as long as considered advisable. Information which should be collected would be: dates, particularly, first and last; location, with approximate altitude and any other information considered pertinent or of interest.

These birds sing mostly at dusk and dawn but sometimes all night on moonlight nights before and during the breeding season. Let me suggest that you cover as many likely locations as possible, from March through September, for first and last dates but during April, May and June for breeding locations. Several areas can be checked in a single evening by driving to a likely place, listening for a few minutes and moving on to another. Late afternoon picnics and over-night or week-end camping trips might reveal surprising results.

At the conclusion of the fall migration season, if you would forward your summary of findings to the editor, he will see that the results are coordinated and a condensed summary published.

Headquarters for  
**BIRD-ATTRACTING DEVICES**

**BIRD HOUSES — FEEDERS — FOUNTAINS**

**SUNFLOWER SEED**

**SCARLET'S MIXED BIRD SEED**

Hummingbird Feeders .....	\$1.95
Audubon Bird Calls .....	\$1.50
A Field Guide To The Birds (Peterson) .....	\$3.75
BIRDS, A Guide To The Most Familiar Birds .....	\$1.00

**PETS OF ALL KINDS AND BOOKS ON THEIR CARE**

**TROPICAL FISH AND AQUARIUMS**

**JONES PET SHOP**

1812 21st Ave., So., Nashville (12) Tenn. — Phone 7-5385

**BETTER BINOCULARS FOR  
BIRDING**

**WE OFFER YOU**



**SIX models especially adapted — by our Experts — for birding!**  
**THREE different grades of glasses—with unusual quality comparison!**  
**All binoculars on 30 day trial! All—irrespective of price—with our**  
**Famous 1-year Free-Service Guarantee.**

(Send for price list with full details)

**ALL MAKES precision repaired. If yours does not function**  
**perfectly, send it for FREE Collimator check and report**  
**FREE "Know Your Binoculars" booklet & "How to Check Alignment"**  
**leaflet**

**Reprints of our articles published in Audubon Magazine**  
**(Also read our NEW article in March-April 1957 Audubon Magazine)**  
**If you have a binocular problem, write us—we answer questions**  
**personally.**

**MIRAKEL OPTICAL CO.** *The Retcherts*  
Mount Vernon 10, N. Y.

# *DURY'S*

FIELD GLASSES

STERO PRISM BINOCULARS

STERO CAMERAS

KODAKS

CINE KODAKS

MOTION PICTURE EQUIPMENT

ARTIST'S SUPPLIES

DRAWING MATERIALS

EXPERT DEVELOPING, PRINTING

ENLARGING

---

Write for New Photographic Catalogue

**GEO. C. DURY CO.**

420 UNION STREET — NASHVILLE, TENN.

and

GREEN HILLS VILLAGE