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THE MIGRANT

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ONE WEEWE HE PHOEBE

By DIXON and RUTH MERRITT

One Weebee He Poebe,
With the zeal of a Seabee,
Sought a site for his Shoebe to nest.

—o—

I don't know just how the verse ought to go from there but he found the site under the eaves of the kitchen roof, on a narrow ledge over a window. That site had everything. It was overshadowed by a young box-elder and a young hackberry and between the two was a wonderful perch—a scrubby bit of a hackberry bush that had been shrubbed off until almost killed. It had a rosette of contorted green twigs at the ground and above that, a foot and a half high, was a dead snag with a knob at the top. Two ponds were not far away and only ten feet away was a colony of red wasps under the weatherboarding at the end of the house.

Oh, Sister, see what a site!

—o—

That squeamy She Phoebe —
Perverse little Hebe —
Just riffled her ruff of a crest.

—o—

Anyhow, she did not like that site — or pretended not to like it. Weebee He Phoebe labored prodigiously for days to bring her around. Finally, he did so and they built their nest on that ledge. True to the tradition of the cliff-dwelling days, they covered it with green moss — which did harmonize with the roof but contrasted horribly with the wall. The eaves sloped down to a line almost even with the ledge, leaving sight clearance of hardly more than two inches, and we were never able to see anything of what went on in the nest. We did, however, learn a great deal from what went on around it:

How Hoebe takes over sometimes at brooding;

How always at deep dusk he flutters, Hummingbird-like, at the nest in a seeming good night caress;

How, when one is on the nest, the other is on the knob of the blasted bush, darting out from it and returning to it.

We learned that they feed the young on fluttering wing, poised in front of the nest like a Hummer at a flower. At least, we know that this pair did. Maybe it was made necessary by the narrow space between nest and shingle overhang.

We learned that Hoebe's call is not always querulous or irritated or angry, that sometimes it may be almost as sadly sweet as that of a Wood Pewee in the deep woods at dusk.

Once when we came home at twilight, we found Hoebe shut up in the screened porch, beating wildly at the wire. Opening the door to the un-screened part of the porch and working our way in through a bedroom, we shooed him out. But he could not realize that he was free. He lit on the back of a porch rocker, flitted to another, then to the cedar branch at the end, then out to the rim of the rock garden. Here the feeling of freedom came to him and he streaked it to his perch on the blasted bush. There, soft as a south breeze, he whispered, "Phoebe", and winged up for his good-night flutter in front of the nest.

We learned that Hoebe once in a while attempts, even if he does not quite have, a flight song. It somewhat resembles though, of course, it does not rival the flight song of his cousin the Acadian Flycatcher. He does not try it often. We never heard it except in the dim dawn or at deep dusk.

We learned that the wasps — but this requires some prefacing.

That colony of red wasps under the planking at the end of the house has been there for years and has defied all efforts at extermination. Last summer the wasps were very numerous and very waspish. They forced us to give up sitting on the porch, forced us even to go in and out of the house from the other side.

No wasps have pestered this year. Hoebe started on them early. His snapping bill cracked at their nesting hole millions of times. The knob of his blasted bush was only six feet from it.

Well, one twilight one young Phoebe perched on the rim of the nest and the heads of three others protruded over it. Next morning the nest was empty and we never saw the youngsters again.

Hoebe is still about. Querulous and sometimes angry, "from morn to noon, from noon to dewey eve a summer's day", he calls his Shoebe.

During the past few days, we have seen a couple or more of wasps about the old entrance hole back of the weatherboarding. And so we pray:

Now, hear ye, ye Phoebe,

Nest next time where woebe

And finish the job with that pest.

Cabincroft, Lebanon, Tenn.

THE 1957 SPRING FIELD DAYS

By T.O.S. MEMBERS

The 1957 spring field days were held from April 20 to May 12, with reports from nine localities from Memphis eastward to Elizabethton. The total of 179 species reported was identical with last year's count. The list was slightly above the average for the twelve years the results have been tabulated in THE MIGRANT. The first count in 1946, represented only three widely separated localities in the state, namely Memphis, Nashville and Elizabethton, with 156 species recorded. The lowest count was in 1948 (152 species) with six localities reporting and the highest was in 1954 (197 species) with twelve localities reporting.

A review of the species of warblers reported during these twelve years reveals a very constant condition. During all of these censuses the species of warblers have varied between 32 and 35. Thirty-two species have been recorded 5 times; 33, three times and 34 and 35 twice each. Three species which are usually reported in considerable numbers have been represented by a single bird on one or more censuses. They were Pine (2); Palm (2) and Canada (1). The eight species or subspecies occurring the fewest number of times and in the smallest numbers were: Orange-crowned (2) and Lawrence's (1) once each; Connecticut and Mourning three times each; Wilson's six times; Nashville and Swainson's seven times each and Northern Water-thrush nine times with a maximum number of 5 individuals. Of these eight Warblers only the Swainson's breeds within Tennessee. It may be found in two widely different habitats — in the canebrakes of our lowlands and in the rhododendron thickets at altitudes up to approximately 3000'. In addition to the Orange-crowned Warbler being rare, it is a very early migrant which probably accounts for its occurrence on only one count.

The number of each species 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 comments regarding birds marked with an asterisk (*). The designation "C" or "C+" refers to such common species as Starling, English Sparrow and Grackles where no attempt was made to count the individuals.

MEMPHIS — The area covered was Shelby Forest State Park, on May 12. The weather was fair with slight wind. Forty-three observers participated. Turkeys were observed by three different parties.

NASHVILLE — The areas covered were all in the vicinity of Nashville and were as follows: Warner Parks, Buena Vista Marsh, Radnor Lake, Bell's Bend of the Cumberland River and Old Hickory Lake. Bell's Bend is a foot and car trip, so in no way affects the Lake count.

LEBANON—off to a slow start under an overcast sky on the morning of April 20, we came in a little after midday having done not poorly — for us. The count was made immediately around Cabincroft — never more than an eighth of a mile from the house — over open pastures with scattered large trees, a wooded hillside and some thicket edges. A few species recorded were reported as seen on the way to the meeting — the Wood Duck, the Warbling Vireo, the Wood Thrush. The last named was reported by Judge Gilreath from his yard in Lebanon and I should wish this particularly to be of record because, in the 70 years that I have been cognizant of birds, no Wood Thrush has ever shown himself about Cabincroft. If one ever does, it will be an event.

Perhaps our most unusual find was the lingering Junco, here far beyond his due date for departure. A small flock — eight or ten — had been present up to about this time but we could find only the lone bird on this day.

Greatest interest was attracted by the flock of Goldfinches. They had been present all of the day before, in the tops of a row of old cedars, mostly in two or three trees near the middle of the row. This continued all day on the day of the count and all members of the party had ample opportunity to, and did, study the situation avidly. Though the calling of the birds continued incessantly and in chorus, we were never able to see more than a few birds at a time — as they flew out of and back into the trees. Nobody was ever able to see them at work in the trees. Never once did a single Goldfinch come to the ground, though all the area around was ideal feeding ground for them. No Goldfinches were present on any day after the count.

One of the three cedars in which the Goldfinches gathered now shows yellow throughout its entire height and is apparently dying. What insect was there to attract the Goldfinches and, their effort failing, to kill the tree? One would have suspected bagworms, then about emerging from the bags in which the eggs overwinter. But I can find no old bags and no indication of the presence of young worms.

Observers — Tressa Waters, Mary Franc Knight, Martha Campbell, Margaret Campbell, Mary Wharton, Margaret Bouton, Mildred Bouton, Jane Bouton, Sam B. Gilreath, Dixon Merritt.

—DIXON MERRITT

CHATTANOOGA—The same area was covered as on the Christmas count. Weather was clear, temperature was 58 degrees to 88 degrees F. Thirteen observers with Adele H. West as compiler. The Sora Rail was observed by the Wests and Mabel Norman as it climbed a willow from the ground level to about 15 feet.

KNOXVILLE—The usual area, a circle of 15 miles diameter centered on Sharp's Gap, was covered on April 28 by members of the Knoxville chapter. About 25 observers participated. The day was partly cloudy and hot, with temperatures between 65 and 90 degrees, winds varied from zero to 15 m.p.h. There was a notable scarcity of warblers and the total of 118 species was lower than for recent years.

The American Egret was seen early in the morning by Brockway Crouch and later what was probably the same bird was seen by Joseph Howell. The King and Sora Rails and the Long-billed Marsh Wren were observed by Joseph Howell, and the Golden-winged Warbler by Brockway Crouch. The House Wrens were reported nesting at the home of Louis Smith.—JAMES T. TANNER.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK—On the annual meeting of the T. O. S. in Gatlinburg, field trips were scheduled on May 4. One group of about fifty started at the Park Headquarters at 7:30 a. m., and went by the highway to Newfound Gap. About thirty-five of this group continued on to the end of the highway near Clingman's Dome and then hiked to Andrews Bald. Another small group started from Park Headquarters and went to Cade's Cove. On the following day there were shorter trips to Cade's Cove and to the Alum Cave Trail. No great effort was made to compile a complete list of all birds observed. The accompanying list was compiled by the leaders of some of the trips.

The Marsh Hawk, and also the Purple Martins, were seen flying high over Andrews Bald. The Chuck-Will's-Widow was heard calling in Cade's Cove about 10:00 a. m. on May 5 by Dr. Herndon and Mrs. Robert Dunbar. The Olive-sided Flycatcher was observed at 3900 feet on the Alum Cave Trail on May 5.—JAMES T. TANNER.

GREENEVILLE—The usual areas about Greeneville with Cold Spring Mountain and its Tennessee slopes. April 28, 1957, 5 a. m. to 7 p. m. Thirteen observers in 5 parties; Ruth Nevius, compiler.

KINGSPORT—The area covered was the western half of Sullivan County, more or less, including parts of Bay's Mountain, Patrick Henry Lake, the north and south forks of the Holston River, residential areas in and around Kingsport, and two fish hatcheries. Mr. Fowler's fish hatchery, which has been one of our favorite locations, has been forsaken by its owners, who have now established a new fish hatchery in a place where the supply of water is less uncertain. The 30 Pipits were observed early in the morning by Mrs. Switzer at the new fish hatchery. Two Pipits were observed there in the evening also. This is our second observation of Pipits on Spring-Census Day.

Our total species is lower this year than any previous year. Probably the major factor in this is that many migrants came late and left early. Consequently, our list, which is generally compiled two weeks later in the Spring than the others made in East Tennessee, was short. Nevertheless, we believe that our late list provides interesting information, and last year our total species was 116, compared to 111, the highest total from among the reports of our three neighboring Chapters.

The weather was ideal—cool and cloudy, with a few very light rains and not much wind. Observation started before 5:00 a. m. (Nighthawk) and continued to 9:00 p. m. (Whip-poor-will). Twelve people participated, for various periods of time, totalling less than usual for our Spring Census.

Neither the Wood Duck nor the Ruffed Grouse has appeared on our Spring Census before. The former was seen by Mr. and Mrs. Al Harris, who followed it in a power boat on Patrick Henry Lake. The Grouse was seen on Bay's Mountain by T. Finucane, compiler.

ELIZABETHTON—In addition to the usual area covered in the vicinity of Elizabethton, one party covered Cross and Iron Mountains for higher altitude observations. The day, April 27, was clear and the temperature ranged from the low sixties to the mid-eighties. Ten individuals participated in the count.

An unusual observation was that of a Common Loon flying over Cross Mountain very early in the morning. Hummingbirds were unusually scarce, only one being observed. Not a single Purple Finch was noted on the count in contrast to a year ago when they were abundant for several weeks before and remained for a week after the census. Only one bird of this species was recorded for this area this season and that on April 6.

TABULAR RECORD OF SPRING FIELD DAYS

SPECIES	Memphis 5-12	Nashville 4-27	Lebanon 4-20	Chattanooga 4-28	Knoxville 4-28	Great Smokies 5-4 & 5	Greeneville 4-28	Kingsport 5-11	Elizabethton 4-27
Common Loon	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Pied-billed Grebe	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Great Blue Heron	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	3	.....	.....
American Egret	.....	.....	.....	.....	1*	.....	.....	.....	.....
Green Heron	.....	9	2	.....	5	.....	17	8	9
Little Blue Heron	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Black-cr. Night Heron	.....	1	.....	.....	7	.....	.....	.....	.....
Yel.-cr. Night Heron	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
American Bittern	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Canada Goose	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....
Mallard Duck	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Black Duck	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Baldpate	.....	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Blue-winged Teal	.....	53	.....	2	.....	.....	15	5	8
Wood Duck	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	1	10
Ring-necked Duck	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
Lesser Scaup Duck	.....	12	.....	18	10	.....	2	.....	1
Ruddy Duck	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Turkey Vulture	2	12	2	1	3	5	32	4	20
Black Vulture	2	5	26	.....	2	1	6	.....	.....
Mississippi Kite	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sharp-shinned Hawk	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cooper's Hawk	.....	2	2	3	4	.....	6	.....	3
Red-tailed Hawk	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	.....	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Broad-winged Hawk	1	1	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	1
Marsh Hawk	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1*	.....	.....	.....
Osprey	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	5
Sparrow Hawk	1	14	3	1	12	.....	8	2	11
Ruffed Grouse	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	5	1	12
Bob-white	2	17	5	21	36	.....	10	5	18
Turkey	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
King Rail	.....	.....	.....	.....	1*	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sora Rail	.....	1	.....	1	1*	.....	.....	.....	.....
Coot	.....	88	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Killdeer	1	39	10	8	34	.....	40	15	19

Black-cd. Chickadee						8			
Carolina Chickadee	11	31	6	15	95	4	39	12	40
Tufted Titmouse	21	42	25	23	87	1	43	14	50
White-bd. Nuthatch		1	1	9	6		2		10
Red-bd. Nuthatch						4	1		
Brown Creeper				1					4
House Wren		1			2		5	12	4
Winter Wren						4	1		2
Bewick's Wren	1	20	9	1	3		16	3	4
Carolina Wren	15	43	6	18	140	2	73	26	68
Long-bd. Marsh Wren					1*				
Mockingbird	9	100	20	50	395		82	40	62
Catbird	1	12		8	20	2	28	3	40
Brown Thrasher	20	51	7	26	82		60	12	64
Robin	14	105	16	31	190	10	85	30	91
Wood Thrush	33	35	2	32	78	6	42	26	50
Olive-bd. Thrush	3	12			9			16	
Gray-cd. Thrush	3	1							
Veery		2				2	12		
Bluebird	6	75	20	33	105		47	14	29
Blue-g. Gnatcatcher	14	51	3	11	68	2	37	16	12
Golden-cd. Kinglet						6	1		
Ruby-cd. Kinglet				1	4		9		2
American Pipit								30	
Cedar Waxwing	5	97	12	41	205	8	17	70	132
Loggerhead Shrike	3	5	4		7		1		3
Starling	6	C+	27	80	615		200	C	200
White-eyed Vireo	13	35	1	16	47		26	24	33
Yellow-td. Vireo	4	2	1	2	15		4	4	6
Blue-headed Vireo	1	1				4	17		5
Red-eyed Vireo	16	32		19	79	17	39	80	36
Philadelphia Vireo		3							
Warbling Vireo		4	1		4			6	4
Bl. & Wh. Warbler		2		12	49	3	23	20	28
Prothonotary Warbler	30	16	1	3				2	
Worm-eating Warbler		3			7	1	12	15	
Golden-wd. Warbler		2			1*	1			
Blue-wd. Warbler		5							
Tennessee Warbler	21	32			5			8	
Nashville Warbler	2						1		
Parula Warbler	10						2	4	15
Yellow Warbler	8	10		5	47	4	28	26	83
Magnolia Warbler	7			1					
Cape May Warbler		3		3	10	1	1	1	5
Black-th. Bl. Warbler						6	54	1	21
Myrtle Warbler	5	149		27	105	50	10		28
Black-th. Gr. Warbler	1				3	5	22	4	3
Cerulean Warbler	10	16			5			10	

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS—Spring migration in the Memphis circuit continued much as in March, representatives of most species when expected but never any real waves of birds. Weather also continued — 43 inches of rain for 1957, through June. Shorebirds and kin in fair numbers with records of note: 6 Golden Plover (Ben Coffey), in Craighead County, Ark., and flocks totaling 280 in Poinsett County, Ark., on April 6; one April 12, at Lakeview, Miss., (G. Peyton). Black-bellied Plover (B. C.), one at Lakeview, April 20; Ringed Plover, 36 at Lakeview, May 4th, and 31 at Marion, Ark., May 5th (B. C.). Our third local record for Glossy Ibis was one at Lakeview, April 13 (B. C.). (Our first in Miss. THE MIGRANT, 3, 28, 1932 and first Tenn. record THE MIGRANT, 12, 58, 1941). Caspian Tern, 3 at McKellar Lake (Oliver Irwin), May 19 and 20. Late dates of westerners are Brewer's Blackbird (B. C.), 40 at Imboden, Ark., on April 6, and 6 at Penal Farm, April 14; Harris's Sparrow, one at Lakeview, April 20, (B. C.); and Sprague's Pipit, one at Penal Farm, April 21, (B. C.). Nesters and possible nesters include: 4th season at Penal Farm for Western Meadowlark (B. C.), April 21; Lakeview April 13; Crawfordsville, Ark., pair courting April 21; all dates conforming with previous nesting date. Lark Sparrow, rare at Memphis, at Tishomingo, N.E. Miss., on April 28 (B. C.) and Ashland, Miss., May 19, and June 2, (RDS). Blue Grosbeak, seldom at Memphis (6 casual records), pair at Penal Farm (B. C.), June 30; one at Whiteville, Tenn., June 15; Collinswood, Tenn., April 27; and (RDS) south of Grand Junction, Tenn.; and at Ashland, Miss., June 23. Cardinal (RDS), nest 4 eggs, Overton Park, April 11; Barn Swallow (B. C.) at Penal Farm, nest 5 eggs, May 4, with total of 47 birds—illustrating that at this latitude it is common to have individuals of same species both as breeders and as transients during months of April and May. Bewick's Wren, uncommon at Memphis was fairly common in and around Hardy, Ark. (B. C.) April 7; and is a fairly common permanent resident to east in hills of northern Miss., and West Tenn. Swainson's Warbler (B. C.) at Holcut, Miss., and 2 places at Ashland, Miss. (RDS). Wild Turkeys, hard to spot at Shelby Forest State Park, were seen by three parties on Spring Field Trip, May 12. Overton Park, as usual our best for land birds, furnished some arrival records of note: Green Heron, April 3; Wood Thrush (OI), Summer Tanager, Cerulean Warbler, April 5; Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird (GP), April 9; Baltimore Oriole (OI), Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Nashville Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, April 11; Gray-cheeked Thrush, April 15; and Blue-headed Vireo, April 19.

—DEMETT SMITH, 4441 Quince Rd., Memphis, Tenn.

BREEDING BIRD CENSUS—For the third consecutive year the writer has conducted a breeding bird census in acreage which included his home, and another area nearby. Both areas are located about four miles east of Elizabethton, Tennessee, near Hunter. The results of the 1957 season are reported here. From April 1 through May 28 daily rounds were made, in one or the other areas, from six to seven-thirty a. m., excluding the days on which the Elizabethton and Greeneville censuses were held. In the case of inclement weather, observations were delayed to later in the day.

Area one covering 4.3 acres was primarily fringe area with a residence and lawn. Of ninety-five trees over twelve inches in diameter at breast height, red oak (29) and poplar (16) were the most common. Dogwoods form most of the understory; however, many spicewood bushes grow in the more open areas. About 30% of this area was an overgrown pasturefield covered with poplar, pine and cedar saplings from six to ten feet high.

Area two, covering 9.2 acres, was a weed-covered field with a strip of mature oaks lining one side. A seasonal stream covered with brush, bushes and vines divided the field. One end of the field was overgrown with honeysuckle vines, young locusts and sumac trees. This year two acres of this area were plowed and sowed in grass.

The nests were found of the following birds in area one: Screech Owl, Phoebe, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee (2), Tufted Titmouse (2), Carolina Wren, Starling (abandoned), Red-eyed Vireo (6/8), Cardinal, Summer Tanager (7/7), Indigo Bunting (6/8), Towhee, and Field Sparrow.

Nests were found of the following birds in area two: Carolina Wren, Brown Thrasher, Bluebird, Red-eyed Vireo, Cardinal, Chipping Sparrow, and Field Sparrow.

Although no nest was found, singing and their continued presence, indicated the probable nesting of the following species in area one: Mourning Dove (2), Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Whip-poor-will, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Wood pewee, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Blue Gray Gnatcatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting and Field Sparrow.

Singing and the continued presence indicated probable nesting of the following species in area number two: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Wood Pewee (2), Carolina Wren (2), Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Blue Gray Gnatcatcher (2), Robin, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Towhee (2), Chipping Sparrow and Field Sparrow (3).

On July 7 a Red-eyed Vireo was observed feeding a young Cowbird in area one.

The population density for area one was 8.1 pairs per acre or two and one-half times that of area number two, which was 3.2 pairs per acre. The records of preceding years have not varied greatly from the current year, therefore only the summary for the current year is given. The study shows a decided preference for fringe areas and a varied habitat which provides a variety of foods and cover, over open, overgrown or cultivated fields. — H. P. LANGRIDGE, Rt. 7, Elizabethton,

ROUND TABLE

SIGHT RECORD OF A SAW-WHET OWL IN THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS—Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadica*) have been heard calling many times in the higher parts of the Great Smoky Mountains, and a few small owls have been seen in the semi-darkness that were assumed to be saw-whets. Arthur Stupka summarized his observation of this nature a few years ago (MIGRANT, 17, 60-62, 1946) and A. F. Ganier described a similar experience (MIGRANT, 17, 67-68, 1946).

Apparently the first positive sight record of a Saw-whet Owl in this area was made by Joe Manley at his home in Gatlinburg. On February 3, 1954, on a snowy afternoon, he saw one of these owls alight in a holly tree; he walked to within ten feet of the bird before it flew away and disappeared.

At the annual meeting of the T. O. S. in May 1957, several members drove at night to the higher parts of the Smokies and heard Saw-whet Owls calling near the highway between Newfound Gap and Clingman's Dome.

On May 29, 1957, I climbed Mount LeConte on the trail from Cherokee Orchard past Rainbow Falls. At about 10 a. m., when passing through a forest of spruce and birch at an elevation of 5400 feet, I heard a Saw-whet calling. It appeared to be only a few yards away, but its ventriloquial nature fooled me. I left the trail and started down through a thick tangle of rhododendron. Frequently I paused and whistled an imitation of the notes, and each time after a short delay the owl answered. It must have flown once because I had to double back through the thicket, but finally I crawled to a point underneath the owl. Unfortunately I did not know this until I heard it fly, but I saw it flutter through the rhododendron branches to a perch about twenty-five feet away. I moved closer and obtained a good view. The owl, an adult, seemed very alert and curious, constantly looking and peering, until I whistled its call or made small squeaks when it would focus its entire attention on me. It called while in plain view, and then its throat feathers rippled and fluttered. After several minutes of watching it, I returned to the trail and continued up the mountain. About 11 o'clock, when a switchback of the trail had brought me above the point where I had seen the owl, I heard it calling again.

Its call began with a low series of notes that did not carry far; these notes, all on the same pitch, were at first very slow, then they gradually accelerated and slowed again. This was followed by a much louder series of notes on about the same pitch and spaced regularly; this is what is usually heard from Saw-whet Owls. The entire call might be written as follows: a whistled "too.....too.....too.....too too.too.too.too...too.....too.....too.....
TOO.....TOO.....TOO.....", and so on.—JAMES T. TANNER, Department of Zoology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.

GREAT HORNED OWLS NESTING IN GREENE COUNTY—In the spring of 1955 we heard a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) calling from the woods not far behind our home. We were surprised and noted that we heard him several nights, but somehow, did not make any effort to see him.

Last January we heard one again in about the same area. Night after night we heard his ominous hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo, hoo. Efforts to see him were not too successful. During the middle of February we didn't hear him for about two weeks—so we presumed he was gone, but we were in for a surprise—I heard him calling again—this time about 6:00 o'clock in the morning. After hearing him regularly for several nights, our son, Dwayne and I started out Sunday morning, March 3, to really search for the nest, for by now we were sure there must be one. We had learned about what to look for, so, not finding any pellets in the vicinity, we began examining, through binoculars, all the Crow nests in the tall pine trees. We soon found it. Mrs. Bubo was watching us.

Since the nest tree was only 300 yards from our back door, we went often to observe developments. Less than three weeks later we could see a baby face looking at us with the same cold gaze as the mother gave us. Our interest increased and so did the number of trips made in that direction.

March 27 was a thrilling day for us. Mrs. Bubo was perched on a limb above the nest, and we could see two babies—they were growing fast. (I say Mrs. Bubo—we seldom saw the other member of the family, and I am just taking it for granted that the one we were watching was the Mrs.) By April 10 there was evidence that the young were getting out on limbs near the nest. Two things gave us a bit of concern—tree cutters were getting nearer—taking wood for pulp and Spring Count was two weeks in the future. We didn't want anything to happen to the cruel-looking owls and neither did we want them to leave before the "count". On April 20 we found they had destroyed the nest completely which, we understand is characteristic, and the fuzzy teddy-bear-looking babies were out on the limbs, where they remained for several days.

On April 27 we found them several yards farther up in the woods on limbs only about 20 or 25 feet above the ground—they were leaving us—it had been an interesting study and we were reluctant to give them up. A few days later Dwayne and I had an exciting experience of following one around in a grain field—getting within two feet of it while it snapped its beak and fluffed its large wings. They stayed around until the last of May and gave us the most thrilling experience we have yet had in bird watching.

The nest-tree has now been cut and Dwayne measured from the ground to the nest. It was 50 feet up, near the top of the pine tree.—MRS. M. DARNELL, Rt. 7, Greeneville, Tenn.

NOTES OF NESTING SCREECH OWLS — Throughout the winter Screech Owls (*Otus asio*) roosted frequently in bird boxes in my yard; so I was pleasantly surprised to find a Screech Owl partially covering two white eggs on April 7 in one of the boxes. Not until the bird was absent from the nest on April 24 did the complete set of four eggs become apparent. Two young were in the box with the adult on April 29, but four were counted on April 30. The adult's presence on the nest until April 15 made accurate observations of the number of eggs and young difficult.

This owl's nest afforded an opportunity to observe some eating habits of these nocturnal birds. Frequent observation of the nesting box revealed Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) feathers on April 7, a crayfish claw on April 24, the lower half of a Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla Mustelina*) on May 5, a headless house rat on May 10, and a bumblebee on May 13. As the young grew larger no uneaten food was found in the box.

The behavior of the fledglings after banding on May 23 proved to be interesting. At 6:00 p. m., all four young were banded by Dr. L. R. Herndon and were returned to the nest. At 9:00 p. m., although an adult owl swooped once, Glenn Eller checked the nest and found that two young had departed. The remaining two birds did not leave the nest until after May 26 but before June 4.—H. P. LANGRIDGE, Rt. 7, Elizabethton, Tenn.

LARK SPARROWS NEAR LEBANON—As noted in the report of the spring count of the Lebanon Chapter, two Lark Sparrows were found here at Cabincroft. They were undoubtedly a nesting pair, though the nest was not seen. One bird flushed from an area to which the other had been observed to make repeated trips. The site was in a rather featureless expanse of rye grass, fescue and white clover pasture with an overgrowth of weeds and the nest could not be located with the attention we were able to give it.

Nearly a month later, on May 18, we found three Lark Sparrows at the Chambers place on the lower reach of Spring Creek, four and a half miles north of Lebanon. They wandered rather widely and none appeared to be attached to a nest. Though we did not find a fourth bird, we think that two pairs had nested in that general area. There is the possibility that one or more of the birds we saw may have belonged to a brood of the present season.

The Cabincroft site is a mile and a half from the nest of last year on the Holloway place which we observed from egg laying to flight and which Ganier photographed. It is about five miles from the Gladeville area where Lark Sparrows have been observed at the nesting season for several years. The observation at the Chambers places is about nine and 15 miles respectively from the two old sites.

The observations of this spring strengthen our belief that the Lark Sparrow is becoming established as a nester throughout our area.—DIXON MERRITT, Lebanon, Tenn.

REUSED BIRD NESTS—Junior Members of the Lebanon chapter, John Couch and Bill Cook, fairly launched themselves on a career of nest collecting at our May meeting. Along with several worthwhile ones, they collected from a chink in a tobacco barn, a characteristically formless and rather messy nest of the English Sparrow. The nice nests remain merely nice. The messy one has become distinguished.

On his way home from the May meeting, John left all of his nests in the Bouton garage in Lebanon. Came on the June meeting and with it a chance to talk with a real expert on nests and nesting habits. John went by the garage to get his nests. The Sparrow nest contained five Bewick's Wren eggs. John brought it along, eggs and all, to the meeting—and the wonderment of everybody.

Another jolt to the theory generally accepted—hereabouts, at any rate—that Wrens do not lay eggs in old nests. It sort of props up my report of two years ago of a pair that raised two broods one year and one brood the next year in the same nest—and all without any apparent overhauling.—DIXON MERRITT, Lebanon, Tenn.

CASUALTIES AT "BLACKBIRD ROOST"—During January, February and March 1957 I made several visits to the Memphis "Blackbird Roost" which contained approximately 1,000 Bronzed Grackles, 50 Red-winged Blackbirds, 6 Rusty Blackbirds, 25 Cowbirds, 50 Starlings and 10 Robin casualties. Upon examination the following banded birds were found.

Species	Banded	Found	Location of Banding	Banded by
Bronzed Grackle	1-18-55	2- 7-57	Memphis, Tenn.	Oliver F. Irwin
Bronzed Grackle	2-14-54	2- 7-57	Memphis, Tenn.	Oliver F. Irwin
Bronzed Grackle	3- 4-54	2-22-57	Memphis, Tenn.	Oliver F. Irwin
Bronzed Grackle	7-22-56	2- 3-57	Memphis, Tenn.	Oliver F. Irwin
Starling	1-18-54	1-26-57	Memphis, Tenn.	Oliver F. Irwin
Starling	10-15-53	3- 9-57	Memphis, Tenn.	Oliver F. Irwin
Bronzed Grackle	7-10-56	1-20-57	Indianapolis, Ind.	Mrs. Byron Miller
Bronzed Grackle	8- 4-52	2-10-57	Blue Island, Ill.	A. H. Ruess
Bronzed Grackle	7-14-49	2-19-57	Zion, Ill.	Mrs. Louise M. Carsley
Bronzed Grackle	7-22-56	2-23-57	Horicon, Wis.	H. A. Mathiak
Bronzed Grackle	10- 7-55	3-15-57	Fargo, N. Dakota	W. W. Brentzel

—OLIVER F. IRWIN, 1789 Glenview Ave., Memphis 14, Tenn.

MOCKINGBIRD TRAPPED IN CHIMNEY—Our fireplace is merely ornamental. A piece of sheet metal blocks the entrance to keep out the cold. On May 9, I heard the calling of a Mockingbird and the patter of little feet on the metal inside the chimney. An adult Mockingbird was calling from the wire outside. I removed the metal and found a newly fledged Mockingbird. It was banded and placed in a forsythia bush outside. One of the adults called and it flew to another bush. It seemed strange that a bird which could fly so feebly could reach the top of the chimney and could not get out. About 5:30 p. m. I watched an immature Mockingbird hopping up the side of the chimney on the protruding bricks. Through binoculars, I saw the band and knew it was the same bird I had rescued from the chimney. Evidently this was the procedure followed in attaining the top of the chimney from whence it toppled earlier in the day.—MRS. CATHERINE E. GOODLETT, 636 Skyview Drive, Nashville 6, Tenn.

ORPHAN FINDS A HOME—On May 11, 1956 limbs were being removed from trees in our neighbor's back yard. A Robin's (*Turdus migratorius*) nest containing two naked young was destroyed. One survived on worms and bread soaked in milk until another Robin's nest was found containing three eggs. The orphan was banded and placed in the nest with the eggs while the mother bird watched at a safe distance. At 2:00 p. m., both adults fed alternately but had to peck the bill of the young before it opened. After ample feeding the mother brooded both eggs and orphan. On May 15 the orphan was dark and fuzzy; May 16 dark feathers could be seen and the eyes were open; May 17 the orphan and two other young were being fed; May 20 the orphan left the nest while two remained; May 25 the two remaining young left the nest but were caught on the ground and banded. It appears that Robins will accept and care for strangers while at the same time brooding their own eggs to hatching and safely fledging all.—MRS. CATHERINE E. GOODLETT, 636 Skyview Drive, Nashville 6, Tenn.

COOPERATIVE MIGRATION STUDY FALL OF 1957

Again a request has come from the Fish and Wildlife Service for more reports and more cooperators giving information on fall migrants. The list of species upon which data are desired is as follows: Canada Goose, Mallard, Broad-winged Hawk, Wilson's Snipe, Mourning Dove, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Crested Flycatcher, Catbird, Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Myrtle Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Purple Grackle, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak, Slate-colored Junco, American Tree Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Fox Sparrow.

The request runs as follows: "Thank you for your migration reports of the past seasons. We expect much greater coverage in 1957 than in past falls, and we shall appreciate your assistance in helping obtain new cooperators. There can **never be too many** reports even from one locality, as long as they are not duplicate reports on the same individual birds.

"As before, let us emphasize that a valuable report need include the arrival or departure dates of only a few of the species listed. Counts or estimates of the number of birds noted, and the dates of peak numbers are very helpful, but not essential. We ask only that you report just the birds which are believed to have arrived (or departed) on the date when seen or heard; but if in doubt, report anyway.

"The present list contains both nocturnal and diurnal migrants, early and late ones, solitary and flocking species, each one included for a specific purpose. In some cases the data will be used by research workers who are studying the movements of a particular species; in other cases they will be used to correlate bird migration with weather conditions.

"Please send your fall 1957 report, through your regional editor of Audubon Field Notes, or to Chandler S. Robbins, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland."

Forms may be secured from the above address or your Editor of THE MIGRANT has a supply on hand which he will be glad to supply upon request.—LEE R. HERNDON, 1533 Burgie Place, Elizabethton, Tenn.

T.O.S. ANNUAL MEETING, 1957

The Tennessee Ornithological Society held its annual meeting on May 3, 4, 5, 1957, at Gatlinburg, Tennessee and vicinity. Headquarters was at Mountain View Hotel. Upon arrival on Friday afternoon everyone was urged to go to Ak'n House, immediately back of the Mountain View, to register. Mrs. Monroe had made most attractive, bird-decorated name tags, no two of which were exactly alike. We were especially grateful for this beautiful work for Mrs. Monroe broke her wrist soon after finishing them. We hope she will have a speedy recovery and that her art work will continue to give us as much pleasure in the future as it has in the past.

After registration everyone stayed on for Open House, from 7-10 p.m., given by the Knoxville Chapter. Good bird talk and delicious refreshments were enjoyed with friends both old and new.

Field trips were scheduled to begin from Park Headquarters at 7:30 a. m., on Saturday. There were two choices of trips. The one to Cade's Cove had to offer: lowland birds, the possibility of seeing wild turkey and deer, and an unusually large patch of pink Ladies Slipper in full bloom, beside the old buildings and mill which were part of the early history of the Cove. The alternate trip was to the high mountains with stops along the way. This was led by Mr. Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist, as far as New Found Gap. From there Dr. Tanner took over to continue the trip to Clingman's Dome and Andrew's Bald for those who were interested. Mr. Stupka took both groups to a spot within walking distance of headquarters where there were singing Golden-winged Warblers. The first stop on the high altitude trip was to take the $\frac{1}{4}$ mile walk over a beautiful nature trail where one would like to spend a day rather than a mere half hour in learning all the well labeled trees and flowers. The star actor on this latter trip was a Blackburnian Warbler, not the least camera shy, which posed at a distance of about 10 feet to the delight of picture takers. At least one photographer got his exact likeness in color. Getting higher toward the territory of the Raven a few of the many attractions were: Carolina Juncos, seemingly unafraid of humans, Black-capped Chickadees, Blue-headed Vireos, Winter Wrens in full song, a Red-breasted Nuthatch at its nest, Black-throated Blue, Canada and Chestnut-sided Warblers and a Ruffed Grouse, among many other equally interesting species. No less delightful than the birds were the white flowers of the Silver Bell and Service Berry in full bloom.

The business of the Society was cared for at the meeting of the Directors, at Akin House, following the day's field trips and their suggestions were approved by the membership at a meeting following the evening program. A summary of their actions is given below. Both meetings were presided over by the President, Mr. Lawrence Kent.

Dr. Herndon reported on the state of the Migrant. He anticipates no further trouble in getting the Migrant out on schedule.

Mr. Kent gave the financial report in the absence of the Treasurer, Rev. Hearn. The bank balance as of April 23, 1957 was \$1,019.06. \$855.24 was taken in during the year just passed and the expenditures amounted to \$537.24. It was agreed that Life Membership dues be invested in Mass. Investors Trust, which has given good returns on other T.O.S. investments.

Mrs. West urged each chapter to get their membership paid up as soon as possible, preferably in Jan. at the latest. This would be a great help in getting the Migrant out to the proper persons.

It was decided that the 1958 annual meeting be held at Reelfoot Lake and that the time and arrangements be left up to the Memphis Chapter as host.

The following officers were elected:

President: Eugene Ruhr, Nashville.

Vice President for West Tenn.: Mrs. Arlo Smith, Memphis.

Vice President for Middle Tenn.: Dixon Merritt, Lebanon.

Vice President for East Tenn.: Mrs. E. M. West, Chattanooga.

Treasurer: Thomas W. Finucane, Kingsport.

Curator: A. F. Ganier, Nashville.

Editor: Dr. Lee R. Herndon, Elizabethton.

Director at large, West Tenn.: Mrs. B. B. Coffee, Jr.

Director at large, Middle Tenn.: Mrs. Henry Waters, Lebanon.

Director at large, East Tenn.: R. A. Dunbar, Oak Ridge.

The annual dinner was given in the main dining room of the Mountain View Hotel and the meeting afterwards was held at Huff House at 7:30 p. m. Mr. Arthur Stupka, the speaker for the evening, gave a most interesting lecture on The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, illustrated with colored slides. He had for exhibit a mounted Saw-whet Owl which was of special interest to those who had never seen that species.

Mr. Kent announced that there would be an organized trip to the high mountains led by Mr. Ganier for Sunday morning and that Cade's Cove was a possibility for those who had made the high altitude trip on Saturday.

After the night meeting had adjourned several of the stouter souls decided to go back to Clingman's Dome and listen for the Saw-whet Owl. They were amply rewarded for they heard a total of four.

The meeting as a whole was most enjoyable and we are grateful to the Knoxville Chapter especially for the large part they had in making it so successful.—RUTH CASTLES, Secretary, 7-B Forrest Hills Apt., Hillsboro Rd., Nashville, Tenn.

BOOK REVIEWS

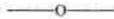
THE WARBLERS OF NORTH AMERICA, Edited by Ludlow Griscom and Alexander Sprunt, Jr. 464 p. 1957. The DEVIN-ADAIR COMPANY, New York 10, N. Y. \$15.00.

This is to tell you about a new and exciting book about birds—one that combines beautiful color plates and fine photography with ornithological information of a high order.

Some years ago, John Henry Dick, one of our most talented young painters, decided to paint the Warblers of North America and to do them in typical habitat during the breeding season. That he succeeded in sketching at first hand Colima and Kirtland's, is an indication of his determination to do a thorough job; that the quality of his work would prove to be as superior as it is, was a happy surprise to those unacquainted with his work. Ludlow Griscom—past president of both the American Ornithologists Union and the National Audubon Society, and Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Mr. Dick's South Carolina neighbor and co-author of "The Birds of South Carolina", liked the paintings so much that they volunteered to supply an Introduction and suitable text. Thus was born this much needed book, THE WARBLERS OF NORTH AMERICA.

This book exceeds in coverage any other treatment of the Wood Warbler family and will become a valuable and permanently useful addition to any birder's library. Printed in large readable type and designed by one of America's foremost topographers, it is also assured of becoming a collector's item.

In addition to the 33 excellent color plates, there are an equal number of black and white drawings plus breeding-range maps of all the species nesting north of the Mexican border. These useful maps are among the book's many unique features. Others consist of detailed analyses of the songs of 39 species, accomplished by play-backs of tape recordings of Drs. W. W. H. Gunn and Donald J. Borror; a table showing the foraging ranges—whether near the ground, part way up, or high up—in the trees—of 90 species; and a complete index of the entire Wood Warbler family, 118 species and 25 genera with both common and local names.—LEE R. HERNDON



COTTONTAIL RABBIT, By Elizabeth and Charles Schwartz. A Holiday House Life-Cycle Book. 40 to 50 p. Holiday House, 8 West 13th Street, New York 11, N. Y. \$2.50.

There is no wild animal that a child wishes so much to cuddle as the shy rabbit. It is one of the most preyed-upon of mammals, and its only defense is to run and hide.

In this story we see where the cottontail rabbit flees and hides. Through an eventful year we observe its ways intimately. We watch it feed, play, mate, make nests, bear young, nurse them, and elude its enemies or finally become food for some other animal. A vegetarian itself, the cottontail is an important link in the "food chain" of the wild life community.

All this is narrated with clarity, tact, and mounting interest by two field scientists who are the parents of young children ready for this very kind of book.



WILDLIFE CAMERAMAN, By Jim Kjelgaard, Holiday House, 8 West 13th Street, New York 11, N. Y. \$2.75.

Young Jase Mason's ambition was to be a wildlife photographer. To find out whether or not he had real ability, he spent a summer in the wilderness with his dog and his camera.

It was a summer filled with adventure. Living close to nature, boy and dog both learned a great deal about wilderness dwellers, from rabbits to bears and moose. They also became unexpectedly involved with game wardens and poachers. Through it all, Jase stubbornly stuck to his ambition to become a wildlife cameraman.

Author of a score of books about the outdoors, Jim Kjelgaard here combines his mastery of open-air adventure with a story of youthful determination and hard work in the face of obstacles. He also shows how nature maintains its own balance among living things, and how man can maintain or upset that balance by his attitude toward conservation.

COTTONTAIL RABBIT is printed in large type, with clear, detailed illustrations in color on nearly every page. Reading level, grades 3-4; interest level, grades 1-6.

WILDLIFE CAMERAMAN is intended primarily for teen-age readers.—LEE R. HERNDON

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have been honored by the confidence that you have placed in me by electing me your president for the coming year. It will be my desire to satisfy that confidence and to try to leave TOS just a bit stronger when I retire from office. I follow a long line of leaders that will be difficult to approach in ability. I feel that you will agree that our organization has had a wealth of competent leadership in ornithology. I am also indebted to you members for the fine people that you have selected to serve in office with me. It is only with such assistance that your president can hope to serve you effectively.

TOS has been well led in the past. I cannot therefore see it necessary to plan a new program for our organization. My aim will be to tend to details that have been vital in the past and are still vital today. We must maintain a strong membership of active bird students. We must remember that although our long-standing members are the strength of TOS, young people are the life of the organization, and we must find ways to attract and keep them. I feel that TOS was well planned by our founding members. Therefore, we should not forget that we have an obligation to science if we are to stand for "the scientific study of birds". Much of our service to science will be through our organ, THE MIGRANT. Lastly, I would like to point out that birds are not so much dependent upon preservation of the individual for survival of the species, but are in need of suitable natural food and cover for their existence. TOS should therefore make itself a part of any sound conservation movement that exists or arises.

Although I was elected to lead the administration of the organization, I would welcome your comments, either in support of our program or suggesting changes. It will be my duty, of course, to evaluate those comments and act according to the will of the majority and the good of the organization.

Again may I say that I appreciate your confidence. I will look forward to talking with each of you and meeting those I do not already know.

With kindest regards,
GENE RUHR, JR.

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