

THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by
THE TENNESSEE
ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

MARCH
1960



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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. 31

MARCH 1960

NO. 1

ANNUAL AUTUMN HAWK COUNT 1959

By THOMAS W. FINUCANE

The Broad-wing migration in the fall of 1959 was sensational. We had four big weekends between Sept. 12 and Oct. 4. The total was 11,500 hawks, of which 11,000 were Broad-wings. Before Sept. 12, the count was only 5; between Sept. 12 and 15 it was 2200. During the weekend of Sept. 19 and 20, we had 4000, and on the following weekend, Jack Brumit estimated 3000 hawks flying past White Rock, about 10 miles southeast of Elizabethton, Sept. 27 during a period when stations to the north and to the south were cut off by heavy clouds. The count for Oct. 3 and 4 was 900 Broad-wings.

While the T.O.S. Hawk Count was compiling the highest total in the ten years of its history and four times its average annual total, groups engaged in the same activity in other parts of North America found relatively few hawks. The Hawk Mountain Sanctuary had their poorest flight since 1946, with a total of 5282 Broad-wings. They attribute this to high-pressure atmosphere and no winds, conditions which scatter the hawks instead of channeling them through their observation station. The **Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association News Letter to Members** No. 30, March, 1960 says:

"The same conditions were experienced wherever hawk-watchers gathered, at the Montclair Hawk Lookout Sanctuary in N. J., and in the Toronto area, for example."

Before explaining why our migration was so heavy, we should wait for the summary distributed every year by the Patuxent Research Refuge, which supplies Broad-winged Hawk totals for about 30 stations, from Ontario, Canada, to Texas, to all contributors. Nevertheless, some aspects of this interesting question can be explained on the basis of what we now know. Hawk Mountain and Montclair Lookouts function best when the wind is blowing; nevertheless, in this "dismally disappointing" year their total Broad-wing counts were probably not much below their ten-year average. The Clinch Mountain, on the other hand, is a long, nearly isolated ridge which provides good thermals. In the section of this ridge where the Mendota Fire Tower is located the Broad-winged Hawks continue down the Clinch when there is no wind, but when a favorable wind is blowing, the Broad-wings leave the ridge and fly southwest toward Kingsport. This fact may explain the large count this year at the Mendota Fire Tower, more than 4200, with a clear indication that at least as many passed over when the station was not manned.

On the basis of our experience, we can conclude that the number of Broad-wings this year was much higher than usual and that it took a different course. Fred Behrend stated that it was the queerest migration we

have studied. Evidently a large number of these Buteos went far to the east of their normal route and then went west through our territory. It is not difficult to accept the idea of a flight course which runs first southeast and then southwest. We know from our data that the pattern changes from year to year. It changes to conform with atmospheric conditions. The updrafts used by the Broad-wings as a means of propulsion are generated by interactions between the air and special features of the solid and liquid surface of the earth. But in addition to thermals and deflection winds, there are several kinds of updrafts in the atmosphere which persist in spite of the character of the terrain below. These are found, in particular, in discontinuities between air masses.

Early in September a cold front crossed North America with a strong northeast-southeast orientation, evidently distorted by the warm air mass which occupied eastern America. Such a front generates a northeast wind within itself, but when the front is moving rapidly east, its wind effectively blows from the northwest. There is also a strong updraft in a front of this kind. To utilize the wind and the updraft, soaring birds might find it economical of time and energy to allow themselves to be carried east of their normal course in exchange for a quick trip south.

Another very important feature of the 1959 T.O.S. hawk survey was that the number of hours of observation, 327, was a new record for the project. The number of observation stations was also high. Ten stations reported on Sept. 20. This was the effect of proper preparation—of giving everyone information on what was planned. To a large degree the success of this year's hawk project can be attributed to the energy and enthusiasm of T.O.S. President Paul Pardue.

NOTES

1. J. T. Mengel and Paul Pardue record the first Broad-wings of the season, rather late and not many.
2. The clouds were heavy and moved slowly. We saw 22 Turkey Vultures flying south over our house, in Kingsport, at 9 a.m., a most unusual sight.
3. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. when we were rained out not a single hawk was seen. We did see 10 Black Vultures.
4. These 12 Broad-wings were spotted flying over the Y-12 Plant.
7. Mrs. Crownover saw 3 Broad-wings fly over her house at 1:30 p.m., and this gave her the impetus to go to the fire tower, where she arrived at 2:30. The huge early-season flight was unexpected.
8. The Broad-wings were counted by the Wests in the Smoky Mt. Park and toward Cleveland, Tenn.
10. Mr. and Mrs. Nevius and Mrs. Darnell reached the Rogersville-Kyles Ford Fire Tower, on the Clinch Mt., at 7 a.m. and saw two Sparrow Hawks before 8:00. Of their 465 Broad-wings, they saw 375 before 11:00.
11. Only 14 of the 407 Broad-wings listed in this report appeared before noon. We arrived at the Mendota Fire Tower, on the Clinch Mt., at 10 a.m., too late for the big flight recorded in the preceding note, if it passed near our lookout.
13. Paul Pardue saw 22 Black Vultures riding the same thermal with these 13 Broad-wings.

14. Mrs. Switzer and her son, R. M. Switzer, Jr., spotted 507 Broad-wings between 11:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. Of these, 167 were seen during the first half hour and 234 during the final half hour, at the Mendota Fire Tower. Two days later they observed another large flight, important data between weekends.

17. Mrs. West says a front passed between 10 a.m. and noon. "Nearly all birds were very low. At least 3 groups of 3 to 25 Broad-wings were seen to rise not far from us, between the valley floor and the top of the mountain. Twelve Red-headed Woodpeckers flew SW to NE, over a period of about 5 to 10 min."

18. This report and item 9 are remarkable in showing only one Broad-wing each, at a time when really tremendous numbers of this species were migrating. The other stations manned by the Knoxville Chapter also had small flights. The biggest list among those from House Mt., Black Oak Ridge, Sharps Ridge, and the Clinch Mt. Fire Tower in Grainger County was topped by 16 lists from other stations. The Knoxville observers, however, persevered and provided a significant comparison between their stations and those on the main flight channel, which seems to have approached Knoxville from the east and passed it on the south.

19. Mr. Pardue and Mr. Highbaugh were at the Sharps Ridge Fire Tower at 7 a.m. They saw 59 Broad-wings before 8:30 and 29 more before 9:00. Only 3 were seen after 9:30.

21. James Finucane and I reached the Mendota Fire Tower at 8 a.m. The wind was so high we decided (according to our notes) to stay one hour only, on the lee side of the little shack near the tower. Later when we tried the windward side to get the warmth of the sun, we were amazed to see Broad-wings floating in the haze, at eye level, and not upset by the gale. They were crossing the Clinch from south to north. We counted 70 between 9:00 and 9:30 and regretted those that had passed unwatched between 8:00 and 9:00. We estimated the wind at 40-50 mph at 8 a.m., below 40 by 9:45, down to 30 at 10:00, down to 20 at 11:00, a slight breeze at noon, dead at 2:00, and still dead at 4:35. As the wind fell the hawks rose higher with the thermal.

The 1184 Broad-wings were counted, one by one, except for an estimate of 30 we made on a large group that slipped past us. It was our only large group, and it came in the middle of our only lull.

Between 3:00 and 3:20, we counted 40 Black Vultures sailing over, very high.

22. Sept. 20—Following a suggestion by Dr. Tanner, we selected this day for a combined operation. It was the Sunday closest to the average peak date in our Broad-wing migration. Ten stations reported. They are listed here roughly from west to east, a plan which is consistent with the order of listing dates—early birds first.

At the Elder Mt. Fire Tower, which has been one of our best sources of data, the following people assisted in the count of 842 Broad-wings: Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Crownover, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Fleming, Mr. J. E. Lawson, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Sliger, and Mr. and Mrs. E. M. West. Mrs. West noted that this was the largest single day's count made in Tennessee since the fall of 1957 when Richard Nevius watched 1000 Broad-wings cross the Clinch Mountain just ahead of a thunderstorm. The total of 1184 counted at the Mendota Fire Tower (item 21) was, of course, in Virginia. All but 100 of the 824 Broad-wings were seen between 12:30 and 2 p.m., at Elder Mt.

23. Bob Hamilton, Jessie Dempster, Tee Brichetto, and Paul Pardue counted 44 Broad-wings between 9 a.m. and noon. Not a single large bird was observed flying while the east wind blew. (8-10 mph between 7 and 9, from the east; 4 mph after 9, from the south).

24. J. B. Owen, David Highbaugh, Mary Enloe, Jane Brisco, Bill Gallagher, Holly Overton, and Harold and Kay Garlinghouse counted 22 Broad-wings from House Mt., 7:30 to 3:50. The flight started at 9 a.m., and continued piecemeal until 1:00, after which only one was seen, at about 3 p.m.

25. Dr. Tanner saw 70 hawks, including 62 Broad-wings, from his station at the fire tower on the Clinch Mt. in Grainger County, northeast of Knoxville. It is interesting that the total was so small compared to 478 at the Rogersville Fire Tower and 735 at the Mendota Fire Tower on the same day. The point is, that the Broad-wings were leaving the Clinch as they traveled west. This was the third day of continuous heavy migration of the Broad-winged Hawk along the Clinch Mountain; hence the progressively smaller numbers from east to west cannot be attributed to a time factor. Furthermore, Dr. Tanner's station was one which he has used for observation in previous years, with the result that it has been shown to be a point the Broad-wings sometimes fly by in large numbers. The explanation (or at least one which seems to work) is that the migration this year was from the east. In other words very few Broad-wings were approaching the Clinch from the north, and those which passed the Mendota Fire Tower were leaving the Clinch, to head southwest, in much greater numbers than those which were entering the Clinch from the north. Additional support for this interpretation was provided by Mrs. J. G. Smith, of Kingsport, who drove to Knoxville from Kingsport on Sept. 19 when the Broad-wing migration was very heavy. She saw large numbers of hawks crossing Highway 11-W, which runs parallel to, and not far from, the Clinch. She reported that the hawks were crossing the road, from north to south, in large numbers and rather low above the road, all the way from Kingsport to Knoxville, about 90 miles.

26. Mr. Alfred Bauerschmidt, Mr. and Mrs. Turner Clinard, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Darnell, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nevius, Carl and Dr. Royal B. Spees, and Mrs. J. B. White counted 499 hawks, including 478 Broad-wings and a Golden Eagle, at the fire tower located on the knob just west of the cut where the Trail of the Lonesome Pine crosses the Clinch Mountain between Rogersville and Kyles Ford. Although some of the people listed above enjoyed their first sight of the hawk migration on this occasion, this lookout has been covered by members of the Greeneville Chapter since the beginning of the T.O.S. hawk project. It is a beautiful place for hawk watching and has provided interesting results over the past ten years. In contrast with the Mendota Fire Tower Knob, 40 miles to the east, the lookout north of Rogersville seems to be a collection point for migrating hawks.

27. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur S. Smith, Thomas, Dan, and Tommy Finucane counted 735 Broad-wings, all but 10 of which were seen between 9:45, when we arrived, and 2:30. We stayed until 5:45. As on the day before, there were no large groups of hawks. When we arrived, there was a good breeze from the southeast and the Broad-wings were circling in little kettles at eye level, in the early morning mist. We counted 100 in the first 15 min. and wished we had started earlier. Toward noon the wind died and the Broad-wings flew by very high. Arthur Smith and Tommy Finucane were

able to count large numbers at the limit of vision, against a bright sky. To do this the observer lies on his back and keeps his eyes attached to a small patch of sky across which he expects the hawks to fly. When they come, they are tiny specks to the unaided eye. When the air is dead, the hawks fly almost exactly above the fire tower and head towards the next knob.

28. Judith Abbott and Thelma Kennedy, Bristol. Their lookout, McQueen's knob, is on the border of Sullivan and Johnson Counties, Tennessee, in the Cherokee National Forest. The birds were flying well overhead, about 5000 ft., except three, unidentified, falcons at about 4000 ft. The latter, extremely fast, appeared larger than Sparrow Hawks. All were flying east to west. It is interesting that the Broad-wing count, 48 in 8½ hrs., was at the same level as House Mt., Sharps Ridge, and the Grainger Co. Fire Tower on the Clinch. Mrs. Abbott saw 47 of her 48 Broad-wings between 9:30 and 11:30, with 34 between 11:00 and 11:30.

29. Tom Odom, Shannon Odom, and Garland Ruth, Kingsport, watched from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bays Mt. Fire Tower, situated on a cliff more than 1000 ft. above the Holston River. This previously untried post seems to be an Osprey flyway. We have had data in previous years from some of the other points on Bays Mountain. In not having better coverage there this year, we missed an opportunity to pin down the flight pattern even more securely. Several days of all-day observing from more than one post on Bays Mt. would have been very interesting; we would have managed it, somehow, if we had had advance knowledge of the big migration this year.

30. Edward Davidson saw 6 Broad-winged Hawks and one Red-shouldered Hawk at the Watauga Dam Overlook, between 1:30 and 3:00 but nothing for the next 90 min.

31. Fred Behrend reported 2 Broad-wings, from the Hump Mt. Bald (4700-5587) on the Carter Co., Tenn., and Avery Co., N. C. line. This is the first of 8 consecutive days of observation by Mr. Behrend along the southern border of Tennessee, a program carefully planned to include the peak of migration of Broad-wings. Comments on the results in this area will be given under Note 55.

This completes the reports from the 10 stations active on Sept. 20. Although no conclusions have been reached on the determination of flight times between stations, which was one of the objects of the combined-operation plan, the project was a success in many other ways, as shown by the notes given above. The original reports, or copies of them, are on file, available to anyone interested in writing for copies.

Careful analysis of the reports, which give data on a half-hour basis, would probably yield information on speed of travel between stations. This would often be much slower than actual flight speed, since the Broad-wings frequently encounter adverse flying conditions. We hope to make direct measurements of the speed of flight of Broad-wings travelling in the high thermals over the Mendota Fire Tower.

32. The 75 Broad-wings in this report are the first of a total of 142 observed in four visits to Brainerd Park, in the east part of Chattanooga, by Mrs. Crownover, who also took part in two expeditions to Elder Mt. (see Note 7).

33. This year we had 6 Bald Eagles and 3 Golden Eagles. Two of the Bald Eagles were reported from Elder Mt.; 4 Bald Eagles and 2 Golden Eagles were reported from the fire tower north of Rogersville. This is more

than we have reported in any previous year. In accounting for this fact, we must consider that we spent 327 hrs. observing, about three times our previous record. The eagles were reported from two of the three stations which witnessed the major Broad-wing migration, the exception being the Mendota Fire Tower. Mrs. Darnell reported that:

Three miles west of Greeneville, Tenn.—I saw an eagle flying fairly low with Cooper's Hawks. The huge bird had white spots under the wings and at the base of the tail. Feet and legs could clearly be seen stretched back across the white background. I described it to the Neviuses and studied descriptions in Peterson and Audubon. We concluded it was a young Golden Eagle. An occasional eagle has been reported in this area.

34. The 80 Broad-wings listed on this report, Sept. 21, at the Holston High Knob Fire Tower, was the best day's total in the 8 days of observations by Mr. Behrend. The Broad-wings seen on the other 7 days added up to 42. The date and the location of this report bring it relatively close to the migration pattern determined by reports from the Clinch Mt. The fire tower on Holston High Knob is visible in daylight, about 20 miles south of the Mendota Fire Tower. Mr. Behrend made the following comment:

"The Broad-wings, 55 between 3 p.m. and 4:30, came all from northern direction across Holston Lake, approaching apparently from Walker or Clinch Mt. on west side of Valley".

41. Sept. 24—Brainerd Park. Mrs. Crownover says, "The (52) hawks seemed to be coming from north to SW today. The 42 Broad-wings were rather low in a large soaring flock. They picked up a thermal and then straightened out so I was able to count them. The 9 unidentified were too high and flying rather fast".

45. The 226 hawks in this report were seen by Mrs. Bell and Miss Castles, Sept. 24 and 25, near Bon Air, 7 miles east of Sparta, Tenn. This station is 75 miles by air and 110 by car east of Nashville. The observers from the Nashville Chapter make it a two-day project and spend the night near Sparta. Miss Mary Frazer and Mrs. A. W. Ganier were there also on the 26th and 27th—two days with no hawks. Several groups were out the weekend of Sept. 19 and 20, but no hawks were seen.

Mrs. Bell and Dr. O. C. Ault also reported the following totals of 5 short trips to Murray Lane, near Nashville, Sept. 28 to Oct. 9: Broad-winged Hawk, 15; Red-tailed, 8; Osprey, 1; Sharp-shinned, 2; Marsh, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 3.

50. James and Thomas W. Finucane manned the post in the morning, and Lorraine, Vicki, and Garland Ruth in the afternoon. We made the same arrangement also on Oct. 4 (item 64). After the hawks passed our knob, they were targets for several gunners located on the knob west of ours. We found an immature Red-shoulder, dead but not yet cold, hanging by its feet from a bush beside the road down the mountain. We untied the shoe lace from the hawk's feet and hurled the bird into the valley. In falling, the dead hawk executed an interesting spinning motion.

52. Paul Pardue and Bob Hamilton saw these 4 Broad-wings west of Knoxville around noon, part of a 3:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m. bird census.

53. The clouds were very heavy and kept the Clinch in shadow. Ridges far to the north and south were yellow with sunshine. There was a heavy cloud low in the valley to the east. The hawks observed came during periods when this murk was temporarily thinner. After 5, the sky

cleared. We saw 16 unidentified birds, which were so far out, that we thought they might be Black Vultures. Tommy and I left the lookout and got to the place where the cars were parked just in time for a complete and delicious meal provided by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Faucette, of Bristol.

54. Jack Brumit and Paul Senter counted 3000 hawks between noon and 4:00 p.m. at the White Rock Fire Tower, Sept. 27. These observers happened to be at the location on a project connected with their responsibilities as Tennessee Game and Fish Officers. Mr. Brumit had been alerted previously by Mr. Behrend, on our interest in the hawk migration. White Rock is about 30 miles south of the Clinch and less than 10 miles south of Elizabethton. Mr. Brumit informed the writer that the weather was fair at White Rock, with scattered clouds.

55. Sept. 27—This was the last of 8 days of observation by Mr. Behrend. The weather was bad where he was. The Broad-wings were all flying through a region of fair weather to north, which included White Rock but did not extend much further north. In view of the murk shrouding the Clinch east of the Mendota Fire Tower, one can understand why the flight over White Rock was so large. Mr. Behrend said at this time that he believed that there would be a large migration of Broad-wings late in the season, and this proved correct, although the statement was made before the news of the Broad-wing flight over White Rock.

59. Oct. 3—The designation 88 refers to Cub Pack 88, Kingsport: Mrs. Finucane, Mrs. Gates, Larry and Ralph Coughenour, George Crawford, Billy Finucane, Darryl Gates, David Jones, Danny McDonnell, and Pat Tokarz. They made this expedition despite advice that the Broad-wing migration had ended, for we had not received Jack Brumit's report. The observers reached the Mendota Fire Tower at 10:30 and left at 1:20 after counting 446 Broad-wings. As on other days at this location, there were no huge flights. The hawks flew by in little groups. The season's total for this station was about 4400 Broad-winged Hawks, but we believe that more than 10,000 could have been counted with continuous coverage.

60. These 35 Broad-wings over Bristol, reported by Judith Abbott and the 37 reported by Paul Pardue from Black Oak Ridge, which finally produced a good flight, indicate the magnitude of the late migration, supplementing the data in the previous note. On the following day we alerted Mrs. West by telephone, and five stations were active on Oct. 4. The total for the Oct. 3-4 weekend was 908 Broad-wings.

66. A few other reports were received, but not worked into this summary. Of particular interest was one from Mrs. Thomas C. Swindell, Knoxville, with data for August, September, and October. On Sept. 16, 400 Broad-wings were counted just north of Castleberry, Alabama. They were swirling in an atmospheric disturbance where a warm body of air was meeting a cold body of air. The Swindells drove northeast most of the remainder of the day and also again on the 17th and continued:

"Weather conditions were virtually the same for both days, with fewer clouds the second day. During that time there was hardly a mile, in the country, that we did not see hawks and Turkey Vultures. I would not dare even estimate the number of these, nor the species of hawks. We had to get home, and just could not keep on stopping along the road, much to my regret!"

HAWK OBSERVATIONS FALL OF 1959

No.	Date	Ob.	h.	Lookout	Alt	Wind	F	Sky	Shrp	Coop	Rdtl	Rdsh	Brdw	Mrsh	Ospr	Prgr	Kstr	Eagl	Other
1	9/6	PM	5	House Mt.	2000	0-3 W	8-9	Cr.	...	1	4	...	5	...	...	...	1	.....	.....
2		F	6	Mendota FT	3000	4-5 SE	6-9	HC	3	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	.....	4
3	7	F	5	Mendota FT	...	4-6 SE	7-8	HC	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
4	12	P	-	Oak Ridge	950	1 W	7	SC	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
5		PH	2	Black Oak R	1500	1 W	8	CC	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
6		F	9	Mendota FT	...	7-0 NNE	6-9	Cy	2	4	...	...	353	...	1	...	...	.....	8
7	13	CL	3	Elder Mt.	1880	...	...	PC	...	...	1	...	412	...	2	...	...	1B	.....
8		W	-	see note	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
9		P	5	Black Oak R	...	1 W	8	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
10		ND	9	Rogrsvl FT	3000	3-4 NE	7	SC	...	1	8	...	465	...	...	...	2	1B	.....
11		F	8	Mendota FT	...	1-3 NE	7-8	PC	3	3	6	...	407	...	2	...	...	.....	3
12		E	-	Chestnut R	1500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
13	14	P	-	Kodak	920	1 W	8	SC	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	1	.....	.....
14	15	Sw	3	Mendota FT	...	0	7	...	...	...	1	...	507	...	...	1	...	.....	.....
15	17	Z	4	Mendota FT	...	1 NW	...	Cr	3	5	3	...	16	...	...	...	...	.....	2
16	18	Sw	5	Mendota FT	...	4-5	6-7	Cr	1	...	2	...	387	...	...	1	...	.....	.....
17	19	WCL	6	Elder Mt.	...	1-6 S	6-8	Cy	...	...	1	1	176	...	...	...	...	.....	5
18		P	4	Black Oak R	...	3 S	8	Cy	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
19		PH	5	Sharp R	1500	1 SSW	...	Cr	3	...	...	1	95	...	...	...	1	.....	.....
20		D	8	Rogrsvl FT	...	2-4 W	6-7	SC	...	9	7	...	208	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
21		FRU	9	Mendota FT	...	0-9 SE	6-8	Cr	...	4	4	...	1184	...	1	...	...	.....	11
22	20	w	8	Elder Mt.	...	0-6 E	7	Cr	...	...	...	...	842	...	3	...	...	1B	17
23		p	5	Sharp R	...	6 S	8	SC	...	1	1	1	44	4	1	...	...	.....	.....
24		o	8	House Mt	...	3 S	8	SC	...	4	1	...	22	...	...	1	...	.....	.....
25		T	7	Grngr Co. F	2100	0-3 SE	6-8	CC	3	1	3	1	62	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
26		n	8	Rogrsvl FT	...	1-4 SE	7-8	HH	...	6	9	...	478	...	1	...	...	1G1B	3
27		FS	8	Mendota FT	...	4-0 E	7-9	Cr	1	2	2	...	735	...	...	1	...	.....	.....
28		AK	9	McQueen FT	3885	4 E-W	7-8	Cy	...	...	...	...	48	...	...	...	2	.....	8
29		RU	2	Bays Mt. FT	2397	0-2 N	7	SC	...	5	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	.....	.....
30		V	3	Wat Dam Oik	2070	0-2 W	9	PC	...	...	...	1	6	...	...	...	...	.....	.....
31		B	7	Hump Mt Bld	5000	1-4 S	5-6	SC	1	1	4	...	2	2	...	...	...	.....	2

SKY CODE

Sky conditions in the language of the reports. CC—Cloudy to Clearing; CO—Complete Overcast; Cr—Clear; Cy—Cloudy; FR—Fog and Rain; HC—Heavy Clouds; HH—Heavy Haze; LC—Light Clouds; O—Overcast; PC—Partly Cloudy; SC—Scattered Clouds.

BEAUFORT WIND SCALE

0—Less than 1 knot; 1—1 to 3; 2—4 to 6; 3—7 to 10; 4—11 to 16; 5—17 to 21; 6—22 to 27; 7—28 to 33; 8—34 to 40; 9—41 to 47.

TEMPERATURE CODE

Figures given are degrees F. divided by 10 and rounded off to one figure.

KEY TO REPORTERS

A—Abbott, Bristol; B—Behrend, Elizabethton; C—Crownover, Chattanooga; D—Darnell, Greeneville; E—Grayson, Kingsport; F—Finucane, Kingsport; G—Garlinghouse, Knoxville; H—Highbaugh, Knoxville; J—Brumit, Elizabethton; K—Kennedy, Bristol; L—Lawson, Chattanooga; M—Mengel, Knoxville; P—Pardue, and Ph—Pardue and Hamilton, Knoxville; R—Ruth, Kingsport; S—Smith, Kingsport; Sw—Switzer, Kingsport; T—Tanner, Knoxville; U—Odom, Kingsport; V—Davidson, Elizabethton; W—West, Chattanooga; Z—Charlotte Finucane and Louise Weber, Kingsport; 88—Cub Scout Pack 88, Kingsport; X—Swindell. For b, n, o, p, and w, see "Notes."

THE SEASON

MEMPHIS.—An immature Bald Eagle was seen flying over Crump Stadium, during the UT-Ole Miss game, Nov. 14, by Mrs. Coffey and Mrs. Helen Dinkelspiel. Some of the late departures or stragglers were: Greater Yellowlegs, at the Penal Farm, 3 on Oct. 31 (Jim and Barbara Lovell, BC) and Nov. 3 (JLs); and 2 on Nov. 7 (BC); Least Sandpiper, 3, Dec. 4 (JLs); Dunlin or Red-backed, 1 on Oct. 31 (JLs, BC); and a Semipalmated Sandpiper on Nov. 7 (BC). The Lovells found a Spotted Sandpiper beyond West Junction, Dec. 17, 20, & 27 (Count); farther west (beyond "steam plant") were 43 Least on Dec. 13, 19, & 20 but none Dec. 27; 3 Least noted Nov. 22 (BC et al), US 72, at the Tenn.-Miss. line. Across the river in Crittenden County, Arkansas, 12 Least north of Marion, Jan. 31 (BC, Glynn Roehr), and 2 on Horseshoe Lake, Feb. 28 (TOS). This is more than the total of previous Least records at this season, disregarding Lonoke. The Spotted was the second (and second straight) winter record. A late Common Nighthawk passed over uptown, Oct. 15.

Small flocks only of Tree Swallows, noted except for the last date, Nov. 1, 1500 over Poplar Tree Lake in Shelby Forest S. P. (Alice Smith and Kathryn Paullus). On Dec. 17, at West Junction, the Lovells examined a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak closely for ten minutes; it was in summer plumage except for the buffy and streaked head and was our first winter record.

The unusual winter brought no unusual birds, reduced field work and results on those trips made. This was not a Red-breasted Nuthatch winter; the few seen were probably transients. However, one was seen Dec. 13, among Ark. Hwy 7 pines, Perry County, shortly before two Pine Siskins were recorded. At the Penal Farm there were the usual number of Western Meadowlarks (3 to 10) and occasional small flocks of Brewer's Blackbirds; Lapland Longspurs low except Dec. 20, 180. At Field 21 (now Mil-

lington municipal airfield but east of Woodstock) 100 Laplands seen Dec. 6; the species common only at Lonoke and abundant at Stuttgart air field. The Smith's Longspur only at the latter, 8 on Nov. 29 (BC, Earl Fuller), Hot Springs air field, 7 on Dec. 13, and 2, Lonoke area, Nov. 29, and again Dec. 26, but a mile farther north. The Sprague's similarly uncommon, one (different) Oct. 18 and Nov. 7 at the Penal Farm, Jan. 2, one at Yazoo City field and Jan. 3, 5 at Adams County Airport (Natchez); none at Tupelo or Clarksdale. In Arkansas, one, Dec. 26 near Lonoke and 9 at Hot Springs, Dec. 13.

For the first time since 1952, the Harris' Sparrow was missed on the Lonoke and the Memphis Counts. On Dec. 13, 8 at Hot Springs were my only ones of the winter, but Mrs. Charles Seahorn, Germantown, reports one or two at feeders on 5 dates, Dec. 4 thru Mar. 2. The Lovells, Germantown, had a male Dickcissel and two apparent females present Jan. 27-Feb. 2 (4th winter record at Memphis). The first Oregon Juncos recorded in our area were at Horseshoe Lake, Ark., Feb. 28 (BC, LC, AS, GR). Two males and a female, with about 50 Slate-colored, were repeatedly studied at 12 paces in bare cotton rows, from the car.

Spring arrivals: A Pectoral Sandpiper at the Penal Farm, Mar. 12, but no Golden Plovers to date there or across the river. A search for shorebirds at Reelfoot, Mar. 20, yielded only 3 Golden, at Cate's Landing, north of Tiptonville. Mr. and Mrs. John K. Speed reported a male Purple Martin, Mar. 16, at their box. The season continues late while we hope for an immediate change.

BEN B. COFFEY, JR., 672 North Belvedere, Memphis 7, Tenn.

NASHVILLE.—It is hard to remember fall migrants when one is eagerly awaiting signs of spring in the midst of snow and ice. Nashville, like the rest of Tennessee, has had an unusually severe winter. Beginning in December, but with some respite the last of January and early February, we have been assailed with cold and record-breaking snows. (According to the Weather Bureau, every day since the 11th of February has been below normal in temperature, and snow has fallen 43 days since our first on Jan. 5th). The subsequent shortage of natural foods, has forced a shift of habitat on much of our bird population, and has brought disaster to some individuals, probably many more than we realize.

However, the movement in search of food, has brought pleasure and increased knowledge to many bird lovers, with unusual species at their feeding stations, increased numbers of rare visitors and old standbys.

To go back to the fall, though, H.E.P. reports some unusually late dates for Shore Birds at Bush's Lake: 10-5&6, 1 Sanderling (second Nashville record); 10-8, 5 Golden Plovers; 10-10, 1 Common Gallinule; 11-6, 1 Pectoral Sandpiper; 11-20, 1 Least Sandpiper; 11-24, 2 Dunlin (Red-backed Sandpipers) (1 was reported on Nashv. Christmas Count of 1955); 11-6, 1 Semipalmated Sandpiper; 11-12, 1 Spotted Sandpiper. The following are new late fall dates for the Nashville area: 10-9, 1 Parula Warbler and 1 Yellow Warbler (dead at WSM TV Tower) (HEP); 10-14, Bush's Lake, 18 Tree Swallows and 2 Bank Swallows (HEP); 11-1, 2 Jays Sanctuary, 1 Redstart, (EB).

As was expected, fewer ducks arrived in the fall at both Bush's Lake and Radnor, but one or more of all species commonly found were recorded, a total of 19 species. 4 species with 96 birds were reported on the Christmas Count as compared with 10 species, 303 birds in 1958. Some few were

reported in January and February from Radnor (ARL) and Canvasbacks have wintered at Bush's Lake, 5-18 in number, but since 3-17 there seems to be a movement of migrants as additional species have been reported (JO, HEP).

During the heavy snows of February and March, Fox Sparrows, Purple Finches, Tree Sparrows, Red-breasted Nuthatches have been reported at feeders, in most cases being new experiences for the reporters: 1 Tree Sparrow 4 days in March (feeding on grain and a mixture of suet, peanut butter and corn meal (OCA); 2 Tree Sparrows 1 day (fed on grain) (BHA); ARL reports 1 Tree Sparrow 3-1, 4 on 3-13 and at least 3 daily through 3-21 (none has been seen at her home before since 1936 when she banded 3—she has also banded 11 this year. Reports of Tree Sparrows at feeding stations of P.H. 3-4 and H.H. 3-10, have also come in. Red-breasted Nuthatch reports are as follows: 1-1, 1 at her feeder (ARL); 2-8, 1 (MC); John Ellis reports one at his home since the last of November. There has been no day when he was aware of its absence, and the feeder is so near the window, identity is easy.

There have been reports of Purple Finches all the winter, since the first 3, 10-18, but they have been reported widely since the snow made foraging difficult for them. ARL reports that from 3-8 through 3-21 she banded 66 individuals, altho in 29 years of banding she had previously trapped only 2. The communal roost on Old Hickory Blvd. described by ARL in *Auk* 75:475-476, 1958, is again being used by Purple Finches. Her report is "the first apparently, in the literature". This roost was used from Dec. 1st 1957 to May 1, 1958, 192 birds of this species being counted 1-9-58. At least one Brown Thrasher has wintered in Nashville (PH to ARL). This bird is fond of cooked oatmeal, and will come close to the house or even inside for food. Robins have been very scarce, probably because there are no hackberries. The usual Jan. influx did not materialize.

Two early spring arrivals have been reported: Pectoral Sandpiper (2) at Bush's Lake 3-16 (HEP) and Louisiana Waterthrush (1) 3-20 (CH, EB). A flock of Water Pipits (HEP) was seen feeding along the water's edge at Bush's Lake, when the snow on the ground was so deep they could not find food in the usual place.

The Bluebird is probably the species which suffers greatest decimation in this area in severe winters. Mrs. Laskey reports the following: Bluebird population was below normal in Warner Park in the nesting season of 1959. The birds were on territory when the terrible March 1960 weather prevailed—8 were found dead from February to March 7—one pair was seen alive that day—none on the 14 and 15. Presumably, practically all died or left the area.

MRS. W. F. BELL, 1617 Harding Place, Nashville.

LEBANON.—What of our season? Just an echo, probably, from the rest of you across the state—snow and more snow, with prolonged low temperatures! In January buds were swelling, some shrubs showing tints of green, the winter aconite a carpet of gold, and the birds were beginning to tune their voices. Then the snow began to fly, the wise old ground-hog dived into his den and most of us became shut-ins. But one joy is multiplied by persistent snow—that of feeding the birds and seeing them grow more and more friendly as they learn to depend on us for their daily fare.

My own great thrill has been the two Fox Sparrows who dared to come so near the house, and the 45-50 gorgeous Cardinals who have spent the days, from dawn to deep dusk, just outside my windows. How brilliant and lovely against the snow!

Loula Mae Sellars has a flock of forty-fifty Horned Larks which come into her yard frequently. One of our coldest mornings early in March, with fresh deep snow on the ground, there was a lone and very miserable looking Robin hopping around my yard. I saw him several times till after 1 p.m. when he disappeared, I hope for warmer climes.

But others of our number have reported visitors more unusual. Early on the morning of March 12th, Martha and Margaret Campbell watched as he devoured their suet, a Northern Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*)* (Authenticated by Dixon Merritt). So far as I know this is the only one of this species ever seen here. On the same day, Dixon and Ruth Merritt had some early summer residents drop down onto their feeder. Some twenty Chipping Sparrows, evidently just arriving and plenty hungry, ate until near dusk. They were seen again on the two following days. Snow and ice were still covering the land.

Mary Wharton reports really **big** flocks of more than one hundred Cedar Waxwings among the berried shrubs in her yard, and several hundred noisy Redwings in a Chinquapin tree.

Even through the severe cold and snow the birds have not become discouraged. Very few days have gone by without my hearing notes from Chickadee, Titmouse, Cardinal, Mockingbird or Wren, which held the promise of Spring.

MRS. HENRY WATERS, Lebanon.

*Ed note: There is no other record for this species in the state. The 1957 A.O.U. Checklist gives the southern limit of its winter range, Southern Wisconsin, Michigan, Southern Ontario, Long Island and Massachusetts.

COOKEVILLE.—The simplest description for the season is snow, SNOW, S N O W!!! Forty-four inches, most of it since March 1, is the official record. (Crossville had 63, only 40 miles away.) This leads to a pre-snow, snow, and post-snow report.

Pre-snow was not so bad. Most of January, through Feb. 10, was about as usual, perhaps a trifle milder than last winter. During this period several "firsts" were recorded, i.e. firsts for the observers in question: 3 Purple Finches, 2 Myrtle Warblers, 1 Carolina Wren (SMcG.; P.H.) Other birds, except for Starlings, were the common winter residents. Starlings were much more numerous than last year and have remained so through the **two** later periods.

Snow was the worst on record, the heaviest single fall was eight inches on the level. This long-lasting cover drove many birds to hunt out even our less-frequented feeders. **Firsts** for each observer, for the winter at least, were: Sparrows, Song (BC), Field (PH), Fox (McG); Bobwhites, one covey reported dead, two coveys (CH and LS) were seen feeding during and after the snow; two (PH) doves and seven where only two (LS) are usually seen (Ten were seen in a nearby thicket, not at feeding stations.); Brown Thrashers rather consistent feeders after Mar. 8 (PH, SMcG); Brown Creepers and Nuthatches appeared consistently (SMcG); more woodpeckers, birds and species, than usual (McG); three pairs of Evening Grosbeak, **REAL FIRSTS**

(BC); Purple Finches, one as high as four pairs (McG, PH, GW, CH, LS). Several observers report seeing fewer House Sparrows, and more Cardinals than usual **during** and **after** the big snow.

Post-snow. It's really **after**, one rainy night (3-14) removed most of the snow. Since then many birds, habitual feeders during the snow, have not broken the habit. The White-throats, Thrashers, Cardinals, an occasional Mockingbird, Blue Jay or Robin, and a host of Starlings, get ahead of the Chickadees, IF we aren't on guard. Juncos (McG) were even more numerous after melting was well along. Very few Grackles were seen on the ground during the snow, but they are almost as numerous as Starlings after melting is well along (PH).

On Mar. 13, on a Sunday afternoon ramble, these were seen on Tech. Campus—1 Robin, 1 Meadowlark, 1 White-throat, 3 House Sparrows, 7 Starlings; in a thicket around a natural drain—50 Grackles and 10 Doves. One couple (McG) report a total of 23 species in their "back yard" since Jan. 1, 1960.

While on a trip south and west out of the state, but in "season", numerous Belted Kingfishers were seen along swamp drains and other water birds which were not identified so easily. The most abundant bird by far in north-central Texas was the Western Meadowlark. Next in number were the Doves, some of which kept dropping down in front of the car in snow ruts, the only bare places on which to alight. There were many firsts on this trip, but NOT in Tennessee.

P. L. HOLLISTER, Biol., Tenn. Tech.

CHATTANOOGA.—On the assumption that someone else has described the weather conditions over the area for the past season, and, particularly since February 13, I am refraining from summarizing weather information.

The big news in this area is the enormous number of ducks that arrived approximately March 8, estimated to be 5,000. Probably 75% are Redheads, the balance divided between American Widgeon, Ring-necked, Scaup, a few Canvasbacks, and at least 50 Common Goldeneyes. The Redheads in particular are busy eating shad. This is easy to see because many of the ducks are close to shore.

A flock of approximately 2,000 Coots are in the river just below the city where food conditions have apparently been favorable all winter. None are being seen on Chickamauga Lake above the city.

The first Pectoral Sandpiper (1) appeared on 3-13, 9 days earlier than previous early date. Least Sandpipers have continued to be winter residents since this fact was first established in 1957.

A Great Horned Owl was seen hunting in the daytime by a resident of Lookout Mountain.

Phoebe records are scarce again this winter. The first Purple Martin was reported on February 29 by G. C. Dykes, a nonmember who has a large, well-established colony in the city.

During heavy snow when only paved areas were clear, Hermit Thrushes, Fox Sparrows, and White-throats were frequently seen feeding in large open areas and roadsides. This was observed by Rock L. Comstock, Jr., in Chickamauga Park.

Cedar Waxwings landed on my feeding shelf, two stories above the ground, but left immediately because there was no appropriate food.

This has been a big year for Evening Grosbeaks here. There are 6 known locations on Signal Mountain, 2 on Lookout Mountain, and 2 in the White Oak section of the city. Undoubtedly, there are many other unreported. The first individual was seen by Mrs. A. P. Maness in Brainerd section in December. The next report came when they arrived in numbers at the home of Gladys Conner, a chapter member on 1-22. A detailed report will be submitted for publication at the end of the season when the last date has been established.

Everybody is covered up with Purple Finches. Although I have never had more than 30 at one time, it appears that the individuals comprising the flock are in a constant state of change. I have seen 1 female (?) with a band, 1 male with a band, 1 female (?) and 1 male with extensive white in the wings, but none of these has been seen more than once. Another member has reported two birds showing considerable yellow. At this date, 3-18, many are undergoing plumage changes.

A Pine-woods Sparrow has been seen several times since 3-9, at his home, by Nat Halverson. Previous earliest date is 3-30.

A Tree Sparrow seen on 2-28 by Carroll Barr (Mrs. T. S. Barr) is an addition to the area list. Details are in a separate article.

MRS. E. M. WEST, 2914 Haywood Ave., Apt. 1-D, Chattanooga, Tenn.

KNOXVILLE.—There were, in this area, only a few unusual records of birds during the late fall and early winter seasons. A Red-throated Loon seen on Loudon Lake by J. B. Owen and R. B. Hamilton on November 6, 1959, was the first recorded for Knox County; it apparently did not linger because it could not be found in the area on the following day. Unusually late migrants were two Double-crested Cormorants on Dec. 4 and again on Dec. 11 and two Common Egrets on Dec. 4. Contrarily, two Common Goldeneyes on Dec. 4 and again on Dec. 11 were the earliest we have recorded in this area. Ducks have been scarce all winter.

A Common Loon seen on March 5 by J. C. Howell was the earliest we have had in the spring. On March 16 a Woodcock was seen and heard performing its evening flight song a few miles south of Knoxville by J. T. Tanner; this bird is rarely seen in Knox County. A Tree Sparrow, the first recorded for Knox County, had visited a feeding station in the yard of Miss Beth Lacey for a few days before its identity was confirmed by J. T. Tanner on March 17.

The big events of the winter were the series of heavy snowfalls, surpassing all previous winter records with a total fall of about 55 inches by mid-March. The first heavy snow came on January 6, but this did not stay long on the ground. The next heavy fall came on March 2 and more followed to keep the ground covered in most places for more than ten days. The coldest night during this period was 5° F. Trees were covered with ice for from two to four days. Feeding stations were crowded, many people put out food who ordinarily do not, and in some places the supply of scratch feed was exhausted. Although it is now too early to be sure, it appears that the weather caused considerable mortality. Flocks appearing at some feeding stations dwindled during the period. Titmice especially seemed scarce. Reports of dead Robins were received from several people.

The most unusual birds appearing in Knoxville during the winter were Evening Grosbeaks. Mrs. R. A. Monroe had received reports of Grosbeaks

for several days before February 17 when the first one appeared at her feeder; now, March 15, she has seven, all females, coming there. In addition, she has heard from at least twelve different people of Grosbeaks visiting their yards. More Fox Sparrows have been reported than usual, probably because they are coming in to feeders.

Mrs. E. E. Overton saw a single Lapland Longspur at Oak Ridge on March 11, observing it at close range as it fed on the ground outside her office window. This may be the first record of this species for East Tennessee. Magpies, presumably Black-billed Magpies, have been seen in the Burlington and Sequoyah Hills sections of Knoxville. They are assumed to be birds that have escaped from captivity, but they have survived as free birds for some time.

JAMES T. TANNER, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

GREENEVILLE.—During the fall and winter this area received above normal rainfall and more snow than usual. Reported on Oct. 22 a Pine Warbler, and late in the afternoon a flight of 70 Turkey Vultures traveling fast. On Nov. 11 a Lesser Yellowlegs was heard. The season's first flock of Horned Larks were observed Nov. 22 and two pair of Winter Wrens, one individual singing, reported by the Neviuses.

During Nov. we had 5.35 in. rainfall—2.92 in. above normal, which may account for the unusual number of Snipes observed after Nov. 23 on the Nevius farm. On Feb. 15 three were feeding in the barnyard while the farm tractor was being used.

Noted Feb. 7 and again the 28th one Evening Grosbeak in the yard of the Spees' home. March 9, 10 and 11 Wilma Irvine reported three Evening Grosbeaks feeding in her yard.

During the months of Feb. and March large numbers of Purple Finches have been reported from several areas of Greene county. They have been so conspicuous they have attracted the attention of an increasing number of people—many of whom are usually counted among the "bird-watchers." Club members often receive inquiries about the "rosy-red birds, larger than a sparrow, and not a Cardinal." Feeding flocks of 37 and about 100 were reported by White and Clemens. Several Purple Finches make use of window feeder at Darnells. The Clinards report Purple Finches, Robins, large flocks of Cedar Waxwings, 12 Bluebirds in the snow, along with the regular winter residents. Two White-breasted Nuthatches feel at home on the Tusculum College campus. (D. Clinard)

Very large flocks of Robins helped other birds consume about a hundred lbs. of food in Clemens' yard during the recent severe snow storms. Also reported by the Clemens—2 Savannah Sparrows, 7 Kingfishers in a group, Sapsuckers, Meadowlarks, White-crowned Sparrows and Flickers in greater numbers than usual.

A pair of Myrtle Warblers were observed on the window feeder several times during the recent snows. (E.D.) A Fox Sparrow joined the White-crowned, White-throated, Song and Field Sparrows feeding in Darnells yard Feb. 13 and again on Mar. 11. (perhaps in between those dates and we just weren't at home to see it). Myrtle Warblers and a Fox Sparrow were feeding with other birds in Helen White's yard March 14 and 15.

Four Oregon Juncos were reported Mar. 10. More in Round Table Notes.

A bit on the unusual side—Mar. 3 a male House Sparrow with an icy straw in his mouth sitting a long time in the snow—finally dropped the straw—several days later one was seen carrying nesting material to a gutter at the Nevius home. Mar. 17—a Dove sitting on the nest—but no eggs as yet. Nevius.

Of special note—the Purple Martins have not returned yet and no Chipping Sparrows have been seen—both are late according to past dates.

MRS. CHESTER B. DARNELL, Route 4, Greeneville, Tenn.

KINGSPORT.—The winter of 1959-60 was not especially noteworthy until the snow which covered the ground most of the first three weeks of March. During this unusual time many Kingsport residents kept bird feeders. Kingsport Bird Club members reported Pileated Woodpeckers, Myrtle Warblers, Purple Finches, Chipping Sparrows, and Fox Sparrows as regular boarders. Fox Sparrows appear on our club records in very few years.

In general, the winter season was similar to that of 1957-58. Our fall migration of shore birds was a blank. We had very few records of water birds in contrast to last winter. No Red-throated Loons or Horned Grebe were reported. Pied-billed Grebe were scarce. Ducks were hard to find. As exceptions to the water bird scarcity, we had a very large colony of Great Blue Herons near Meredith's Boat Dock on Boone Lake, and Canvas-back ducks were abundant. We recorded a flock of one hundred early in November on Boone Lake, and over three hundred again on Boone early in March. Scarce species among land birds were Black Vultures, Nuthatches and Towhees. We recorded Brown Creepers and White-crowned Sparrows only on the Christmas census, and have no records of Phoebes from the first week of November through the middle of March.

Abundant were Robins which had wintered, and large flocks that came the last week of February just before the snows. Enormous flocks of Starlings and Grackles continued with us. They were augmented by Red-winged Blackbirds the last of February.

ANN HARNEY SWITZER.

ELIZABETHTON.—The winter was fairly mild until the morning of 2-13 when during the preceding night about 10" of snow had fallen. Snow has been visible at higher elevations ever since. Total snow fall for the winter in Elizabethton has been in excess of 45" while on top of Roan Mountain it has exceeded 60". For the past six weeks the temperature has averaged several degrees below normal. Birds patronizing feeding stations have been more numerous than any time during the past fifteen years. Some concrete idea of the birds visiting my yard can be had from the number of birds caught in my traps and banded (263) from 1-1 to 3-20-60. In addition to these there were large flocks of Cedar Waxwings and Grackles as well as several other species observed but which did not enter the traps. During the same period there were well over 100 repeats (birds banded within the past six months) and 15 returns (birds banded more than six months ago). The oldest return was a male White-throated Sparrow, banded 12-24-52 and recaptured last on 2-14-60, making the bird more than eight years old, because it was an adult when banded. An immature White-crowned Sparrow banded 1-15-55 returned on 2-14-60.

A rather close check has been made on Watauga and Boone Lakes during the winter. All records of waterfowl listed subsequently are for Watauga Lake unless otherwise indicated. Horned Grebe (25) 1-31 with smaller numbers almost every week since and one coming into spring plumage 3-20; Pied-billed Grebe (14) each 1-31 and 2-6, Boone (17) 2-6; Great Blue Heron (80) Boone 1-31, (10) 2-6, and (4) 3-20. Why so many in one flock so early? They must have moved on because a rather thorough check the following week and subsequently has turned up only a few. Canada Goose (14) 3-20; Mallards all winter (75 max.) 2-21, (60) 3-20; Black Duck (220 max.) 1-31, (100) 3-20; American Widgeon (6) 1-24, (30) 2-21, (18) 3-20; Pintail (5) 1-24 (earliest record by two weeks), (30) 2-21, (8) 3-20; Green-winged Teal (1) 3-20; Blue-winged Teal (1) County Farm 1-24 (earliest record by 17 days); Shoveler (4) 3-20; Wood Duck (1) 2-7 Wagner's Island, (7) 3-20; Redhead (8) 1-24, (180) 3-13, (220) 3-20 Boone (300) 3-13, (900) 3-20; Ring-necked Duck (11) 1-24, (52) 3-20; Canvasback (3) 3-6, (5) 3-20; Lesser Scaup (35) 1-24; (27) 3-20; Common Goldeneye (15) 1-24, (18) 3-20 Boone (50) 2-6, (15) 2-21, (20) 3-20; Bufflehead (17) Wilbur Lake—all winter; Hooded Merganser (5) 1-24, (12) 1-31, 2-7 and 2-21, (2) 3-20; Red-breasted Merganser (1) 1-24; Herring Gull (3) 3-6, (4) 3-20 Boone (5) 3-20; Ring-billed Gull (7) 3-6, (10) 3-12, (12) 3-20; Boone (12) 1-31, (20) 2-6, (45) 3-20.

Phoebes scarce, reported 1-24 and 2-7 only; White-breasted Nuthatch (1) 1-24; Red-breasted Nuthatch (1) 2-7 and (1) 2-21; Brown Creeper (1) 1-20 and (1) 2-21; Hermit Thrush (1) 2-16, the only report for this winter and none last; Bluebirds, scarce—little comeback from winter before last. Cedar Waxwing—fairly common in comparison to last winter. Myrtle Warbler—quite common—89 banded between 1-1 and 3-20; Redwinged Blackbird—first (4) 2-21; Common Grackles—a few wintered, first flock (20) 3-12; Cardinals—40 banded since 1-1; Evening Grosbeak—(9) 1-22, (4) 2-14, (11) 2-21 and (50) 3-22; Purple Finches—abundant in comparison to last winter—66 banded between 2-14 and 3-20.

LEE R. HERNDON, Elizabethton.

ROUND TABLE NOTES

SANDHILL CRANE WINTERING IN KNOX COUNTY.—Late in the afternoon of November 13, 1959, Bob Hamilton and I, while looking for waterfowl at Andrew Jackson (Dead Horse) Lake, found a Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) standing on a mud flat at the edge of the water. After we had examined it carefully with 8 x 40 binoculars, it flew away with its neck characteristically extended.

We revisited the lake at weekly intervals, at about the same time, and always found the crane there until late December. Apparently it had been spending the nights at the lake until the water level rose and covered the mud flat. I was not able to find it for the winter census.

Farmers in the area continued to see it and we learned that it was spending much of the time on a farm fronting on Kingston Pike, south of the lake. Knoxville Chapter members included the area in a field trip February 28 and found the crane quite near the highway.

The record amount of snow in recent weeks has made the crane most conspicuous as it probes the ground in easy view of passing cars. Fortunately, the landowners in the area recognize it as a rare bird and are protecting it from hunters.

J. F. Dooley, whose farm is the crane's favorite feeding ground, has agreed to keep watch and let me know the date it leaves. He believes it had been in the area two weeks or more when Hamilton and I first found it on November 13.

J. B. OWEN, 2722 Fairview St., Knoxville 17, Tenn.

SANDHILL CRANES NEAR CHATTANOOGA.—While studying the extraordinarily large numbers of ducks on Harrison Bay the afternoon of March 14, we noticed a good sized flock of very large birds flying with heavy wing beats over the ridge and across the lake. When we put our binoculars and scope on them, we could easily see their long outstretched neck and trailing legs. This plus their loud honking clatter made the identification as Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) a very simple matter. They were flying in a large V and the total number was sixty-seven.

On the following day near sunset, Benton Basham, and Nat Halverson were checking at Long Savannah when ten more cranes flew over. Up the road a ways they came upon another flock of thirty-seven flying very low making a total for the second day of forty-seven.

As different members of the Chattanooga Club were notified they went out to the area, but no more were reported.

JAMES A. TUCKER, Collegedale, Box 1019.

OREGON JUNCOS NEAR GREENEVILLE.—March 10, Mrs. White received a call from a friend stating that she had an oregon Junco (*Junco oreganus*) feeding with the Slate-colored Juncos in her yard. The Clinards and Mrs. White observed the bird at different times. They noted it was distinctly different from the Slate-colored—the sharp separation between the black head and the brownish back, the pinkish sides and the smaller size. About that same time a bird-lover, living near Baileyton, called Mrs. White saying that she had 3 Oregon Juncos feeding with the Slate-colored Juncos on her front walk where she puts out feed for the birds during snowy weather. They stayed several days, but were gone by the time the roads and opportunity made it possible to check on them.

MRS. CHESTER B. DARNELL, Route 4, Greeneville, Tenn.

IN MEMORIAM

JAMES A. ROBINS.—At the time of his death, on Sept. 29, 1959, Mr. Robins was the oldest member of the T.O.S., being well into his 92nd year. He was born at Guntown, in northeast Mississippi, on February 3, 1868 and as a young man attended and graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1892. He became a teacher and for many years was headmaster for McTyeire School for Boys at McKenzie, Tenn. With the close of that institution, in the early 1930s, he became a member of the Vanderbilt faculty, assigned to teaching Latin and Greek. On retiring from the faculty, in 1941, he gave time to tutoring members of the athletic teams to help them keep up with their studies. He joined the T.O.S. while at McKenzie in 1921, and was a vice-president a few years later. On coming to Nashville, he became a regular attendant at chapter meetings and was an ardent lister of the birds he observed afield. During these years he contributed several short notes to THE MIGRANT, and always assisted with the Christmas census. "Mister Jim", as he was called by his younger friends was remarkably well preserved even in his later years and attributed this to his habit of regularly taking bird-walks whenever the weather permitted.

A. F. GANIER, Curator.

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

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

GUEST EDITORIAL

ICH DIEN

This is an adjunct to Mrs. Adele H. West's excellent editorial in the December MIGRANT.

Everything that Mrs. West said is here endorsed. But T.O.S. members should make their interests known to and understood by not only those "in a position to be useful to us", but, also, those to whom we may be useful. This classification embraces the general public, particularly, that portion of it composed of readers of newspapers.

Most people are, if only passively, interested in birds and the larger part of those not now interested would be so if they were informed. Every chapter of the T.O.S. ought to make not merely its interests, but its doings, known to the newspapers of its area—and to correspondents, in that area, of the metropolitan press. This applies not so much to notices of time and place of meetings, speakers and the like. By publishing such notices the newspaper serves us, not we it. Newspapers are interested in most of the things that interest us in our roundtable discussions, and such things should be reported to the newspapers from every T.O.S. chapter.

True, not all of us are capable of writing in the style that the newspaper demands, but all of us are capable of giving the facts to the person on the newspaper staff who can write them—and then all of us can refrain from carping criticism if the facts are not presented with quite the scientific accuracy to which we are accustomed.

More of us should be capable of writing in popular style concerning things of popular interest. And, perhaps, that is a goal which we should set ourselves in all the chapters.

This is not an overly altruistic view. We need—and shall need—the newspapers at least as much as they need us. When the newspapers have learned to look to us for news and feature material of interest to their readers, they will be ready to help us when we have need—as we have had in the past and as we shall have again many times. And all the people whom we have informed through the newspapers will be ready to help us.

"I serve" is also "I am served".

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