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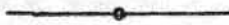
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THE MIGRANT

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MARCH 1963

NO. 1

ANNUAL AUTUMN HAWK COUNT 1962

By THOMAS W. FINUCANE

Seven major contributions were made to the T.O.S. Hawk Project in the fall of 1962, as follows: Fred Behrend, in the high mountains along the Tenn.-N.C. border; the Greeneville Chapter, mainly on the Rogersville-Kyles Ford Fire Tower; Tom Odom, on the River (Bays) Mt. Fire Tower; the Chattanooga group, especially on Elder Mt.; Oliver Irwin, Memphis; Maxie Swindell, Knoxville; Holmes Rolston, plus Abingdon and Kingsport watchers, on the Mendota Fire Tower. In addition, particularly interesting reports came in from Enno van Gelder, Bristol, and James Tanner, Knoxville.

The total count was about 6300, with 5915 Broad-winged Hawks, equal to the 1961 count of this species. The peak day for Broadwings was Sept. 22. On this day 2379 hawks were counted from the Mendota Fire Tower Knob, a new record for this lookout, and 489 were counted from Elder Mt. Even without these large counts Sept. 22 was the center of the hawk data this year and remains the average peak date, accumulated since 1949. The count of Red-tailed Hawks was about 190 last fall, a little above the 1961 count. The increase was from a contribution by Maxie Swindell, who saw flights of 23, 35, and 36. Oliver Irwin is listed as having seen 63 Redtails, fewer than in 1961, but he started observing earlier in the season and recorded 284 Broadwings. The counts of accipiters seem to be declining, especially the Sharp-shin count. The count of eagles was about normal; no immatures were noted, but five unidentified large birds were reported.

Except for the Mendota Fire Tower count, the Greeneville Chapter had the largest total, highlighted by 607 counted by Mrs. Christiansen and Mrs. Darnell, Sept. 19, on the Rogersville-Kyles Ford Knob. Next came the Knoxville reports. Besides the Red-tails, Maxie Swindell reported several large flights of Broadwings in the same location where 639 and 729 had been seen in 1960 and 1961. Jim Tanner and Bill Gallagher reported 156 from the Rockwood Fire Tower, Sept. 23, a new Lookout. Elder Mt. fell below the high standard of 1959-60-61. At the same time, Fred Behrend had at least five good days of hawk migration in the high mountains, after four lean years.

There were two periods of clouds and rain in our territory during the Broadwing migration and even more rain in areas from which we might expect our migrants to come. There were five cold fronts, mostly accompanied by rain. October was abnormally warm, according to Oliver Irwin; this is his explanation for his relatively poor count of Red-tailed Hawks this year. On the whole, it can be said that 1962 was an interesting year for the T.O.S. Hawk project.

NOTES

(The item numbers are from the left-hand column in the table).

2. Aug. 25—Bald Eagles migrate early. These two were whirling around each other and slowly drifting SW over the valley south of Holston Mt.

9-15. Sept. 15 & 16 were blanketed by clouds, fog, and rain. Conditions were worse on Sunday, Sept. 16, and on both days worse in the north and east. Tommy and Dan Finucane camped on the Mendota Fire Tower Knob from Saturday morning to Sunday morning but saw only a few vultures. Tom Odom saw 8 Broadwings in 9 hr., 23 miles southwest, and Mr. & Mrs. West counted 35 (and a Bald Eagle) on Elder Mt., near Chattanooga. On Sunday, however, no counts were made. On Monday, Sept. 17, a front moved across the State, from west to east and left fair weather behind it, although clouds and rain continued one more day northeast of our territory, in areas which feed migrants into the Mendota Fire Tower area, and rain lingered in the neighborhood of Bristol, Sept. 17.

17. Sept. 17—The total so far was 123 Broadwings, until Mrs. Swindell added 480 and Oliver Irwin 22 in coincidence with the Sept. 17 frontal movement. Oliver Irwin commented as follows: "12 plus, over uptown crowded streets at 12:23—moving SW, directly over 90 deg. meridian marker at post office. A major flight possible 11:00 to 12:15, but I was occupied keeping business appointments and eating. The wave of activity occurred at the moment of dry-air front's passage."

20. Sept. 18—"The early morning was rather cold and very clear after three days of rain; winds were rather strong, NW. I expected that the Broadwings would be flying. By mid-day, winds had died down noticeably and temperatures were up some." From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Mr. Rolston tabulated only 22 Broadwings.

21. Charlotte Finucane was parked in her automobile while Tommy was recovering some camping gear left on the Mendota Knob two days before. At 5:00 p.m. she saw 21 Broadwings, which combined with Mr. Rolston's 22, made the score 43 for the Mendota Fire Tower Lookout for Sept. 18.

23. Sept. 19—Mrs. Darnell and Mrs. Christiansen reached the Rogersville Fire Tower gap before 9:00 a.m. and made the second largest count of the 1962 project, 607 hawks. Mrs. Darnell commented: "The first 105 were counted flying low over the parking area; we got out of the car counting hawks and wishing we could have gotten there sooner, but I didn't get off duty until 7:15. The day was ideal—good overcasting of thin, white clouds. No doubt we missed many hawks, for they were flying low, high, and up from the valleys near us. We needed more counters. We had a wonderful time! The Osprey was flying low near the tower when we arrived."

29. Sept. 22—This was the best day's count of hawks for Elder Mt. for 1962. All but 2 of the 489 hawks were counted between 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.; the observers left at 2:30. Best day's counts for this lookout in '59, '60, and '61 were 863, 4985, and 1814.

31. Sept. 22—The Golden Eagle was a beautiful adult bird; it made three large circles below the observer. The gold on its head and neck flashed in the morning sun (about 11:15 a.m.). Four counts at this lookout by Tom Odom gave a total of 69 hawks, in 30 hr. of observing, but because of bad weather and other odd features of the season, we decided the lookout had not been given a fair test. On dead days the Broadwings seem to

stay above the Clinch and do not head south toward Bays Mt. (from the Mendota Fire Tower).

32. Sept. 22 gave the Mendota Fire Tower Lookout its record of 2379, exceeded only twice in the history of the T.O.S. Hawk Count. The day started cool, with a light south breeze. Holmes Rolston counted only 30 Broadwings, 9:00 a.m. to noon, a steady flight of 3 to 7 hawks per half hour. By noon it was hot and the breeze had died. At 2:30 the count reached 220, and during the next half hour two Ospreys were sighted, but no Broadwings. The sky was clear except for small clouds repeatedly forming and dissolving over the knobs. The sky, the date, and the absence of wind were ideal for the Mendota Fire Tower Lookout; we said that 222 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. was not enough.

Then the Broadwings came, and we compiled four consecutive half-hour totals as follows: 416, 394, 870, 469. Mr. Rolston gave complete details on the report form, front and back, showing the method used in the count, which he and Charlotte Finucane kept separately, with good agreement. In contrast to large flights recorded in other places, these hawks were very high. The 870 Broadwings (4:00 to 4:30 p.m.) included a formation of 800, as I counted it, plus two or three stragglers. It was long and thin, but compact, averaging about three hawks in width. I spotted it through my binocular and dropped down on my back to count. There was no wing movement, no circling, and I can remember no changes in position, lateral or front and back. Wings were not fully extended. The flight passed right over the zenith and could not have been counted from the tower. Mr. Rolston estimated it was a mile or more in length.

Of the 469 counted between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m., Mr. Rolston wrote: "These were still high but not quite so high as before, and they flew in a wider pattern, both over the tower and in the sky to the south, making counting more difficult."

33. Sept. 22—From a station 15 mi. ENE of the Mendota Fire Tower Knob and 1223 ft. higher, Enno and Roger van Gelder had a total of 72 hawks. After 2½ hr. of no count at all, he had 67 between 2:30 and 3:00 p.m. "The three groups seen between 2:30 and 3:00 p.m. spiraled and milled upward to very high altitude, where they appeared mere specks in the sky, before heading over Clinch Mt., the Ridge which leads to Mendota Fire Tower." They could have dropped 100 ft./mi. and still be mere specks over the Mendota Fire Tower. We should have compared group numbers. Mr. Rolston recorded three consecutive groups passing over the Mendota Fire Tower between 3:00 & 3:30 p.m. The interesting feature of this report is that it shows that the whole large flight over the Mendota Fire Tower may have come from some other direction. Between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. no hawks passed the tower on Old Brumley.

34. This is a summary of observations by Oliver Irwin on days when the count was small. It is interesting to note that the flights over Memphis are large enough to give significant response to the factors which are important in migration study, particularly since a daily record is kept. The reports include a complete description of the weather and some interesting miscellaneous observations. The Red-tailed Hawks in this item were seen scattered through October. Mr. Irwin's total hawks for the season was 375, which was used as a basis for calculating the number of Red-tails.

In this report the season started with the departure of the Miss. Kite: "A few small flocks of migrating Mississippi Kites were noticed over woodlands in late August, but by Sept. 5, after a drop to 55 deg., the last

HAWK OBSERVATIONS FALL OF 1962

THE MIGRANT																		
MARCH																		
No.	Date	Ob.	h.	Lookout	Alt.	Wind	F	Sky	Shrp	Coop	Rdhl	Rdsh	Brdw	Mrsh	Ospr	SpH	Egl	Uni-
																		deni
1	8/19	BD	9	Round Bald	5800	3 SW	6	PC	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
2	25	FE	3	Holston Mt FT	4350	.....	.....	SC	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	.....	.....	.....	2B	3
3	9/2	BD	9	Hump Mt	4700	2-3 NW	7	PC	3	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	4
4	3	B	6½	Holston Mt FT	4350	2-3 NW-N	7	PC	2	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
5	8	FDk	7	Mendota FT	3000	6-8 SE	6	F	.....	.....	.....	.....	17	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
6	9	B	2	Roan Mt	4400	2-3 S	6-7	LC	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
7	9	N	5	Rogrsvl FT	3000	5 SE-N	7	CS	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
8	12	R	5	Mendota FT	3000	0-3 N	hot	EC	.....	.....	.....	.....	31	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
9	15	W	4	Elder Mt FT	1880	..... SE	.....	C	.....	.....	.....	.....	35	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
10	15	O	9	River Mt FT	2395	2-3 SE	7-8	CS	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
11	15	N	—	9 mi NW Grnvl	1100	.....	8	C	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
12	15	DT	8	Mendota FT	3000	.....	.....	CR	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
13	16	B	7½	Holston Mt FT	4350	3-4 S	6	CR	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
14	16	N	—	Rogrsvl FT	3000	.....	.....	HR	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
15	16	O	5	River Mt FT	2395	2-3 SE	6	HF	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
16	17	I	—	Memphis	.....	3 NE	7-9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
17	17	MS	3	Knox Co	900	3 NW	7-8	PC	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
18	17	B	5½	Holston Mt FT	4350	3-4 NW-W	6	FC	.....	.....	.....	.....	480	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
19	18	B	7½	Jane Bald	5800	2-6 NW-N	4-5	CC	1	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
20	18	R	6	Mendota FT	3000	4 NW	6-7	F	.....	.....	.....	.....	48	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
21	18	FE	—	Mend FT Gap	2700	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
22	19	MS	—	Knox Co	900	0-2 WNW	5-8	F	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
23	19	DC	5	Rogrsvl FT	3000	2 S	6-7	F	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
24	19	B	7	Jane Bald	5800	1-3 SSE	5	CC	.....	.....	.....	.....	604	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
25	20	MS	—	Knox Co	900	0-2 NNE	5-8	F	.....	.....	.....	.....	66	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
26	20	B	6	Beech Mt	5520	5 NW	5	TC	.....	.....	.....	.....	103	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
27	21	I	—	Memphis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
28	21	B	6	Hump Mt Top	5587	4-5 S	4-5	CC	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
29	22	W	5	Elder Mt FT	1880	..... ENE	.....	PC	.....	.....	.....	.....	486	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
30	22	BB	—	Eliz-Res Hill	1500	2 SW	6	F	.....	.....	.....	.....	25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
31	22	O	7	River Mt FT	2395	2-3 SE	5-7	F	.....	.....	.....	.....	16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
32	22	R-F	8	Mendota FT	3000	0 S	c-w	CC	.....	.....	.....	.....	2369	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

33	22	V	4½	Hansvl Aero T	4223	5 SW	6	F	...	...	71	...	...	...	1
34	—	I	—	Memphis					1		44	1	2	6	...
35	23	I	—	Memphis		2 SE	6-8	PC		63	24	...	...	...	...
36	23	Ch	7	Elder Mt FT	1880	NE		SC			104	1	1	...	2
37	23	TG	5	Rockwood FT	2100	1-3 E		CC	1	2	145	...	1	2	3
38	23	Gr	7½	Rogrsvl FT	3000	3 NE	7-8	F			105	...	...	...	...
39	23	O	9	River Mt FT	2395	3-6 NE	5-7	F		1	32	...	1	...	...
40	23	BL	8	Holston Mt FT	4350	3-4 NE-E	5-6	PC			14	...	...	...	...
41	23	FT	4½	Mendota FT	3000	5-6 NE	6	SC		2	86	1	...	...	...
42	23	VCB	1½	McQueens Kn	3885	4-5 NW		F	...	1	8	...	...	...	1
43	24	L	1	Elder Mt FT	1880						23	...	...	...	...
44	24	B-F	6	Temple Hill FT		3 S	5-6	HC	1	1	2	...	...	...	1
45	25	B	6	Rich Mt FT		1-3 S	5	CR				...	...	...	...
46	26	I	3½	Memphis		3-5 NE	8	CT			134	...	...	...	...
47	26	B	2	Camp Cr Bld FT		3-4 S		HC				...	...	...	...
48	27	I	—	Memphis							25	...	...	...	...
49	27	B	6½	Camp Cr Bld FT		3-5 W-SW	4	C		1	110	...	1	...	2
50	28	B	7	Rich Mt		3-4 NW	4	C	1		4	...	1	...	1
51	29	W	2	Elder Mt FT	1880			F	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
52	29	FDn	9	Mendota FT	3000	0-2 W	4	F	2	2	179	...	1	...	6
53	30	B	7	Roan Hi Bluff	6250	2-3 SE	4	F		1	44	...	...	...	6
54	30	NL	5	Meadow Cr FT		2 NE	7	CM	2		105	...	1	2	2
55	30	F	7	Mendota FT	3000	3 SE	hot	F	2	1	106	...	1	2	2
56	30	J	—	Iron Mt, Va.							12	...	...	...	...
57	—	MS	—	Knox Co	900				1	2	5	...	1	5	...
58	10/1	R	4	Mendota FT	3000	1 S	wrm	F	...	3	38	...	1	...	3
59	3	CT	—	Chattanooga	900						34	...	...	...	...
60	5	C	—	Chattanooga	900						13	...	...	...	4
61	8	I	—	Memphis			6-8				14	...	...	...	...
62	23	MS	—	Knox Co.	900	3 S-NW	5-6	F	1		23	...	...	...	...
63	31	MS	2	Knox Co.	900	0-2 NW	5-6	PC			35	...	...	...	...
64	11/4	MS	—	Knox Co.	900	0-2 WNW	5				36	...	...	...	...

TOTALS 252

21 20 190 14 5915 7 19 30 6 64 5

No. 39, 1 Peregrine, 1 Pigeon Hawk; No. 52, 1 Peregrine; No. 54, 1 Rough-legged Hawk.

straggler had left. Also, it is possible that Broad-winged Hawk arrivals displaced them, judging by battles high in the air. These two species often hunt large insects together on the wing in summer."

35-42. Sept. 23—Eight stations were active, with a total of 42½ hr., plus one duration unspecified. Everyone had hawks but not as many as expected. The highest count was at the fire tower near Rockwood—154. The 2369 Broadwings seen over the Mendota Fire Tower the day before seems to have eluded all other stations. This is interesting but makes a dull day in the field. The weather was good, although the wind was too high for the Mendota Fire Tower Lookout. Tom Odom had one Peregrine, before 8:30 a.m., and about an hour later a Pigeon Hawk tried to get into the tower with him. It was his best day, with 33 before 10:00 a.m. but only 4 during the remaining 7 hrs.

46. Sept. 26—Oliver Irwin wrote: "Sept. 26 was my best day in 1961, and in 1962 it was the best day I have experienced with hawk watching. At 9:30 a.m. the sky changed from layers of scattered overcast, some light showers, fog, ceiling 12,000, visibility 2 mi.; to broken, scattered unlimited ceiling, smoke and haze, visibility 5 mi. The wind changed from 8 mph N to 10 mph NNE. Suddenly, at 9:30 a.m., there were so many hawks in the air that I had difficulty counting them all. They descended in formation overhead, through the light, misty clouds, two large flocks joining beneath a large thermal cloud formed by a column of warm air rising over the extensively paved area of the army depot. This open site is situated on the west end of a high ridge. These were Broad-winged Hawks pausing at 1800 ft. to soar beautifully in the sunlight. I counted 80 as they gathered into formation slowly and began to glide off swiftly SSW. Large thunderheads dotted the sky after 1:00 p.m."

53. These hawks were flying high. Besides five or more good days of observing in the high mountains, Mr. Behrend's program was hampered by clouds and rain, Sept. 24-28.

57. This is a presentation of the largest single day's totals of the various species from a report by Maxie Swindell with 29 entries, Sept. 17 to Dec. 21, excluding data already in the table. The original data give a complete account of the hawks close to the center of the Knox Co. census circle, and not far from where the Swindells live. The data, plus extensive observation by Pardue and others in past years at other stations around Knoxville, suggest that this station is far better than any other in the Knoxville area.

SKY CODE

C—Cloudy; CC—Clear with cumulus; CM—Cirrus to cirrocumulus; CR—Clouds and rain; CS—Cirrus to stratus; CT—Cold-front thunderheads; EC—Exceptionally clear; F—Fair; HC—Heavy, low cloudiness; HF—Heavy fog; HR—Hard rain; LC—Low clouds; PC—Partly cloudy; SC—Scattered clouds; TC—Tremendous cumuli.

KEY TO REPORTERS

B—Fred Behrend, Elizabethton; with BB, Mrs. Behrend; BD, Ken Dubke; BL, Linda Behrend. C—Mrs. Crownover, Chattanooga; with CT, Mrs. Tunsberg. Ch—Mr. & Mrs. Barr, Mrs. Crownover, O. P. Pitts, Theo Rogers, Mr. & Mrs. West, Chattanooga. DC—Mrs. Darnell and Mrs. Christiansen, Greeneville. F—Thomas Finucane, Kingsport; with FDn, Dan; FDk, Dick; FE, Charlotte, Bill, Joe, Bernard Emmet; FT, Tommy. Gr—Dr. Royal Spees, Mrs. Spees, Lynn, Karl, David, Wade Spees, Mrs. Darnell, Harry Roberts, Mrs. Nevius, Richard Nevius, Greeneville. I—Oliver Irwin,

Memphis. J—John Tamblin, Kingsport. L—Mr. Lawson, Chattanooga. N—Richard Nevius, Greeneville; with NL, W. A. Lauderdale. MS—Maxie Swindell, Knoxville. O—Tom Odom, Kingsport. R—Holmes Rolston, Bristol. TG—Jim Tanner and Bill Gallagher, Knoxville. V—Enno van Gelder and Roger; with VCB, Wallace Coffey, Fletcher Bingham, Rockwell Bingham, Mr. & Mrs. Gibson P. Vance, Bristol. W—Gene and Adele West, Chattanooga.

Temperatures are given in degrees F, divided by 10, and rounded off to one figure. Wind speeds are according to the Beaufort Wind Scale (THE MIGRANT 31, 10, 1960).

THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA. — The Penal Farm had nothing of interest last fall and little this winter. For several autumns, migrating Tree Swallows have avoided it (being across the river), no shorebirds, and not a wintering Lapland Longspur noted. Twelve Golden Plovers seen, Oct. 6, near Booker, Ark., one on Nov. 10 at Horseshoe Lake nearby, and at Lonoke, 1 to 3 on trips up to Dec. 2 (one left). Returning Golden-couldn't be found, Marion-Booker-Craft, Mar. 2 & 9, nor in the Slovak-Lonoke areas, Mar. 10, but the Henry Halbergs found 3 late on the 10th, at the Lonoke hatchery, after our two visits that day. 3 Greater Yellowlegs (HHs), a Lesser (BCs) and a flock of Pectorals also came in. 5 Least Sandpipers wintered at a drained reservoir near Marion, Ark.; a Greater Yellowlegs was there Dec. 8, and a Dowitcher (sp?), Dec. 1. Up to 40 of the latter at Lonoke, dwindling to 12 there on Dec. 2. Common Snipe common in East Arkansas spots and, Nov. 18, a total of 1200 in Lonoke area.

The only Short-eared Owl seen was one north of Slovak, dusk, Nov. 18. I'm still looking for the Burrowing Owl in Tennessee but stumbled on the species in Arkansas with Mrs. Coffey, Alice Smith, Franklin and Ginny McCamey. I found 2, NE of Lonoke, and 1 NW of Carlisle, Ark, Oct. 28. The two fields, former Sprague's and Smith's sites are only four miles apart, and burrows (of several weeks possibly) were found in 3 small, low hillocks or "pimple mounds" at each field. Alternate checks were made thru Dec. 2 when 2 were seen at the second field. Only one on the Christmas Count, at field 2. Little Rock observers checked subsequently; 2 at Field 2, Feb. 24 (Dr. W. P. Scarlett) were the last recorded. None found Mar. 10 (BCs, HHs, WPS, AS). The only previous state record was a banding recovery at nearby England, Feb. 15, 1937. Mrs. Coffey and I worked various further areas, without success.

Tree Swallow fall migration across the river, as usual, thru October. Nov. 10, 2 at Bruin's (Porter Lake-Horseshoe area); a flock of 250 plus over Moon Lake, Miss., Nov. 25, our latest flock, but 2 days short of Burdick's 3 at Old River, Hughes, Ark. in 1938. Soras and Short-billed Marsh Wrens uncommon during rice combining, the wren later, to Dec. 2. My first fall Bobolinks in the area were 15 at Booker, Sept. 23 (none there Sept. 30, or Banks-Tunica, Miss., Sept. 29). Ziegler reported the species just south, Oct. 16 & 18, 1952. — Individual Orange-crowned Warblers were found by 3 observers on our Memphis Christmas Count but not a one in SW Miss., Dec. 30 (BCs). Helen Dinkelspiel had one in Overton Park, Oct. 31. The Western Meadowlark down from last year, Brewer's Blackbird in usual small numbers, including 11, west of Jonesboro, Ark., Mar. 3.

Dennis Carter (Boulder, Colo.) found 8 Chipping Sparrows in Tishomingo State Park, Miss., Dec. 17. A banded Harris' Sparrow was seen from January (no dates) at the Charles Seahorns, Germantown, Tenn.; the species continues almost rare. My favorite "airfield" species have almost quit appearing this far east in recent years. Two Sprague's Pipits on the Texarkana, Ark. airport, Nov. 24 (none on bottom pastures to eastward), and Smith's Longspurs, 5 on Grenada, Miss., airfield, Feb. 24, and 21 on Jonesboro, Ark., airfield Mar. 3, were my only records. The Memphis Penal Farm and Lonoke area covered at intervals. Hot Springs airfield, Nov. 22, and El Dorado airfield, on Nov. 24. The Lapland Longspur down.—none at Penal Farm or Booker, low at Lonoke; we missed Stuttgart airfield (usually good flocks) until Mar. 10,—none but probably had recently left. First fall record was one, Nov. 4, drained pond, Lonoke. Large flocks, Prairie County, NNW of Stuttgart, Dec. 2; 1800 and 800.

The first Purple Martin was seen here, Feb. 28 (Oliver Irwin).

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

COLUMBIA AREA. — Our fall bird count was made on the afternoon of Sept. 27, 1962 and the morning of Sept. 29. Doctors Mavfield, Gray, and Fuqua and families as usual were the participants. The weather was cool in early Sept. and some of the earlier migrating Warblers appeared to have passed on. Our total list included 90 birds of which only 13 were Warblers. Interesting species were 5 Canada Geese, 8 Nighthawks, 1 early Sapsucker, 20 Hummingbirds in the Arrow Lake Marsh feeding on fall flowers, both Long-billed and Short-billed Marsh Wrens, 1 fairly late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 3 Warbling Vireos, 1 Kentucky, and 3 Wilson's Warblers.

Other interesting findings thru the fall included American Bittern, Oct. 20, Snowgeese in flight Oct. 25, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs and Least Sandpiper, Nov. 10. Large numbers of Hummingbirds until about Oct. 10, 2 Short-billed Marsh Wrens who remained thru the fall and winter months in this area, Black-Throated-green Warbler until Oct. 18, the first White-throat, Fox, Lincoln, Swamp, Song Sparrows, Oct. 20, Blue Goose on Arrow Lake, Nov. 11, large flocks of Nighthawks until Oct. 10.

The Harris Sparrow first observed Dec. 26 by G.R.M. on our Christmas count was seen off and on until about March 10. At one time the Gray family felt that an immature bird was present at their feeder along with the mature bird originally observed. A huge Blackbird roost was present on the southern border of Columbia on the north side of Rainey's hill. Estimates ranged from 500,000 to 1,000,000 birds with large numbers of Grackles, Starlings, Cowbirds, Red-Wings and Rustys. Robins were generally absent. Myrtle Warblers were rare to absent from mid Dec. until late Feb. Horned Grebes were seen Mar. 23 to Apr. 1. La.-Water Thrush arrived Mar. 23. Palm Warbler arrived Mar. 27 and also Black and White and Sycamore, arrived by Mar. 31.

We were pleased that Mrs. Goodpasture from Nashville could spend Sunday, Mar. 17 banding birds in the area. 63 birds were banded including 13 species but unfortunately we did not catch the Harris Sparrow.

GEORGE R. MAYFIELD, JR.

NASHVILLE AREA. — When one is just emerging from snow and ice, with the promise of spring in the air, it is easy to overlook the happenings of Fall. It is good to have record-keeping members to remind us that there was a Fall, and some good records.

H. E. Parmer reports that Bush's Lake was drained in September, and not completely filled until 11 November, and was frozen most of the winter from 13 December until late February. There were several records of Golden Plovers at Bush's from 19 September (2) until 16 October (3) with a peak of 20 birds 26 September; a flock of Lesser Yellowlegs 25 September; flocks of Pectoral Sandpipers from 25 September (64) through 2 November (1) with a peak of 110 on 26 September (HEP). Also at Bush's Lake, 1 to 4 Stilt Sandpipers 14 to 28 September, 2 Sanderlings 14 September, 1 Forster's Tern 14 & 15 September, 1 Semi-palmated Plover and 3 Common Terns 15 September (HEP).

Ducks were very scarce on both Bush's Lake and Old Hickory Lake in December and January (HEP) (LOT), but have become more plentiful since the first of February, particularly at Old Hickory (LOT). Only 5 species of ducks were counted on our Christmas Count, with a total of 105 birds. This doesn't include the Old Hickory population as that is not in our Count area. Mallards and Black Ducks have been at Bush's all the winter, (HEP), and Horned Grebes and Pied-billed Grebes have been at Old Hickory all the winter (LOT), and a total of 14 species of ducks have been at this location at intervals through the winter. (LOT) reports that the duck population at Old Hickory has been about the same as last year, with no appreciable reduction in numbers noticeable.

Ten species have been reported from Bush's, but in reduced numbers, with nothing of especial note except 1 mature male Surf Scoter 20 November (HEP). Lesser Scaup which are usually at Bush's through the winter have been almost non-existent. Radnor Lake has had almost no ducks, probably because the water has been very low, and completely frozen a good bit of the winter. The Herring Gull was late arriving 21 November, but has been about as usual in numbers 25-30 (HEP) (LOT). The Ring-billed population has been about as usual 250-300 (HEP) (LOT). Several noteworthy late dates were reported last fall: a Wood Thrush was seen drinking at a pool in the William Bells' yard 3, 4 & 6 November (on the 6th the temperature was 25). This is two weeks later than latest recorded date for 10 years, insofar as is known by this writer, and three weeks later than average; 1 Solitary Vireo was found dead at WSM Tower 22 October (HEP); 1 Ruby-throated Hummingbird 25 Oct., (JPJ); 8 Lark Sparrows 22 Sept. (RW). Lark Sparrows are thought to be in Nashville area in summer, but sight records are rare; 1 Grasshopper Sparrow dead at WSIX tower 18 Oct. (ARL), and 1 Chipping Sparrow 6 Nov. (ARL).

Our arrival dates for wintering birds were about average, with one exception: a Brown Creeper was seen by HH 24 Sept., a date which is from two to three weeks earlier than previously reported dates for ten years. Our winter, with the coldest weather on record (15.2 below zero on 24 Jan., followed by -6, 25 Jan.) began 5 November when the mercury dipped to 29, followed by a reading of 25 on 6 November Nashville bird watchers thought this would be the winter when we might have most anything visit us, but only one rare winter visitor has been reported: 1 Pine Siskin, 3 January (CMF). Not one Evening Grosbeak was reported, whereas last winter we had three records, (2 singles and one record of 3). We have had no report of Red-breasted Nuthatches, but last year there were sev-

eral. Purple Finches have been around all the winter, since our first record of 1 on 10 November, (SB). The roost on Old Hickory Blvd. which this species has used for several years in winter, is active again, but apparently not as many birds are using it as during some winters in the past few years (ARL). 33 were reported on our Christmas Count, but in recent weeks the number is believed to have increased considerably. One observer reported a possible 100 in a flock about her yard.

We cannot make any accurate estimate of damage to our Bluebird population by the severe cold suffered and the coat of ice which was on the ground over a week the middle of January. There are signs which seem to indicate depletion, but we get reports of an abundance of Bluebirds in the country, so we have to wait and see.

There has been a feeling with some of our Nashville observers that some species of land birds have been more scarce than usual: Song Sparrows, Juncos, White Throats, Myrtle Warblers. The numbers on our Christmas Count seem to indicate this but our Count was taken on a rainy, cold and windy day, so we cannot judge by that alone.

Only two spring arrival dates have been established: 5 Blue-winged Teal 9 March (HEP) and 1 Chipping Sparrow 12 March (MP). We are eagerly awaiting other arrivals.

SUE M. BALL, 1617 Harding Place, Nashville.

COOKEVILLE AREA. — This report is more prosaic than usual. Spring has not yet (3-13) awakened the muse to do more. Weather-wise the season started here with a bang (10-24) with frost and a light freeze. The first ground-covering snow (12-6) brought the first large flocks of Starlings into town. After this real winter, as evidenced by this summary:

Third snow, 4-5 inches, Dec. 12

Dec. 11-12 nine below 0, plus 12, highest for the day.

Fourth snow, 4-5 inches, Dec. 24. (Bird count, Dec. 28, light freeze, but sunny).

Jan. 12, thirteen below 0.

Jan. 23-4, fifteen below 0.

Jan. 25, more snow, then slush and clearing.

Jan. 28, one below 0.

Feb. 12, more than 3 inches of snow.

While much bird feeding was done by the local enthusiasts, only a few observations were reported. At a football game, two club members (C. P. and C. W.) saw some 130 wild geese in two flocks headed south over the stadium, Oct. 13. The same ones heard the first White-Throat song of the season on Oct. 17. Two days later, small flocks of these sparrows were in the same area. These two birders heard notes of the Song Sparrow as late as Oct. 14—a late record for our chapter. (My first for White-Throats was Nov. 10). Mrs. C. Peterson, who is making a hobby of "bird-song shorthand," reports 7 variations of the song of local Song Sparrows.

On the morning of Dec. 12, the first, and only, Brown Thrasher fed on sunflower seed in my back yard—the first bird of this species to visit this yard in the winter. A. Ballinger reported that he heard the first calls of the Mourning Dove on Feb. 9. By Mar. 10 these birds were beginning to pair off. A few White-Throats are around although the last two days (3-10 to 13) have been very mild.

Two members (C. Peterson and M. Richmond) have investigated bird

food, and prices, available at local feed stores. These data have been duplicated and given to members of the Upper Cumberland Chapter. The Tech Times, a weekly news bulletin for the Tech faculty, included this information in a recent issue. Along with this went an appeal for the humanitarians among us to take pity on the hungry birds.

Perhaps as an outgrowth of this clearly local publicity, two feature articles have appeared in the local press which circulates widely in this county. These articles were not solicited by the birders, but they seem to reflect an increasing awareness of birds and their problems.

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

GREENEVILLE AREA. — The fall and early winter were dry; the later winter and early spring have been very cold and wet. The cold lasted longer than usual this year, beginning in January the cold with snow several times continued through February.

The general census seems to be that there was a shortage of Purple Finches, Evening Grosbeaks, Robins, and Bluebirds this winter. Purple Finches were seen toward the end of February none before (Spees, Clinard). Very few Purple Finches all season (Darnell). With the temperature down to 6 degrees on Feb. 27 Purple Finches were singing and again on Mar. 10 (Nevius). No Evening Grosbeaks were seen this winter (Spees).

Robins came toward the end of Feb. (Spees). Robins were present the first week in Mar. (Nevius). No Bluebirds since the Christmas count until Mar. 8 (Darnell). Bluebirds came the last week in Feb. and seem to be about the same in number as last year. On Mar. 10 three pairs were singing (Nevius).

During the fall and winter a covey of Bobwhites were seen regularly in a soybean field. More Grouse than usual were seen in the mountains this fall and winter (Nevius). The only Nuthatches seen were in the mountains in Jan. and again in Mar. (Spees, Nevius). One Red-headed Woodpecker has been present at the Mosheim school since last fall (Nevius). In the middle of Feb. during one of the colder times of the past winter all open water was iced over and 35 Canada Geese had to locate an open stretch of fast moving creek in order to land and reach the bank to rest. Mar. 7 twenty more Canada Geese were seen (Nevius).

One Brown Thrasher has stayed all winter and one Ruby-crowned Kinglet since the middle of Dec. (Clinard). Last winter (1961) only two White-crowned Sparrows (first time) were seen, this winter three were present all winter (Darnell). Other places the usual numbers of White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows were present (Nevius). Feb. 24 25 Mallards were seen on the puddles of a creek bottom. Feb. 25 Song Sparrows, Towhees, and Goldfinches were singing one Blue-winged Teal and one Red-tailed Hawk were seen. Mar. 12 one pair of Wood Ducks was seen on an overflow pond. Mar. 13 one Sparrow Hawk (Nevius). Field Sparrows were singing Mar. 1, Juncos were singing and Redwings were present on Mar. 8 (Darnell). The first Phoebe came Mar. 12, the first Sparrow Hawk Mar. 13, the second Phoebe Mar. 14. One large flock of Field Sparrows (100) spent the winter on the sheep pasture. One large flock of Horned Larks (75-100) spent all winter around the feed racks. Downy Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Titmice, Chickadees, Wrens (Carolina, Bewicks, Winter) and Mockingbirds have been steady visitors at the feeders (Nevius).

Last spring a Grackle with white feathers in the wings and tail stayed with other Grackles for several weeks, this spring Mar. 8 a white-winged and white-tailed Grackle appeared again and is still present Mar. 15 (Nevius).

RICHARD NEVIUS, Greeneville.

KINGSPORT AREA. — The winter just ended was marked by prolonged cold weather. Below zero temperatures came during the second week of December and prevailed during the last two weeks of January. Record cold weather continued as late as the third week of February. During this period we recorded eighteen species of ducks, a better than usual representation, although the numbers of each were rather low. No hawks and no White-crowned Sparrows appear on our records for the winter months. The number of individuals in at least six species were noticeably low, Turkey and Black Vultures, Coot, Killdeer, Flickers, Meadowlarks, and Field Sparrows. We saw larger numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Ring-billed Gulls than have been seen for a number of years. At three scattered locations Brown Thrashers spent the winter. A Baltimore Oriole, first seen on December twelfth, survived in and near the yard of Mrs. Fred Kays.

For the record we think we should report that during the first week of October, Dieldrin was sprayed from a small plane up and down Reedy Creek Valley along the new Bristol highway, and along Holston River and the Sluice.

Also, because of possible interest to professional ornithologists, we mention a number of observations of orange-colored tumor-like growths on the eyelids of Mockingbirds and House Sparrows with resulting blindness when the eyes were eventually covered.

As spring begins we record an unusually early date, March 15, for the arrival of Purple Martins at the gourd colonies of M. C. Hargrave and Guy Isenberg.

ANN HARNEY SWITZER.

ELIZABETHTON AREA. — Our checks on the migrant and winter water birds of Watauga Lake, Boone Lake and the upper reaches of Patrick Henry Lake below Boone Dam have not been as intense this year, but interesting observations have been recorded. Common Loon were only recorded on 28 Oct. (4), 4 Nov. (1) & 11 Nov. (3); Horned Grebe 28 Oct. (2), 11 Nov. (13), 9 Dec. (1), with the most noted on 10 Feb. (15); Pied-billed Grebe 28 Oct. (3), 4 Nov. (3), 11 Nov. (1), 9 Dec. (6), with the most being recorded on 10 Feb. (13). Our first records of Great Blue Herons begin 28 Oct. (9) with them being recorded regularly below Boone Dam around the islands in the upper area of Patrick Henry Lake. It appears we had a wintering population of 10-15 herons this past season. The last Green Heron departed 10 Dec. (CS).

A single Canada Goose flew over Roan Mt. 19 Sept. (FWB). An immature Blue Goose was first recorded on a small pond with domestic ducks in Johnson City 9 Dec. and has remained throughout the winter.

Mallards first appeared 28 Oct. (7) and remained through the season with the largest number recorded 24 Feb. (140); Black Ducks recorded first on 28 Oct. (9) with largest number of 400 counted on 10 Feb.; Gadwell re-

ported: 4 Nov. (6), 11 Nov. (6), with maximum of 15 on 27 Jan. First Widgeon on 4 Nov. (15), with other scattered numbers through the winter; Pintail: 9 Dec. (4), 6 Feb. (3), 17 Feb. (5); Blue-winged Teal: 3 Sept. (5); Shovler: 17 & 30 Sept. (1); Wood Duck normally do not winter in our area, but a flock of 11 were noted 1 Jan. (JB), while our last autumn date was 11 Nov. (2); only one record of Redhead 3 Feb. (1); few records of Canvasback: 20 Jan. (2), 3 Feb. (4) & 24 Feb. (3); Scaup were uncommon in the fall with the first one reported 3 Nov. and very few till 20 Jan. (97) when they became more abundant for the remainder of the season with numbers of about 140 each week in Feb. Common Goldeneye were also uncommon in the fall with 1 on 30 Sept. being the first. Their largest numbers were in Feb. with 125 being the high on 24 Feb.; Bufflehead continue to winter on Wilbur Lake with the first birds showing up on 3 Nov. (2) and the highest number counted on 15 Dec. (46); A single female Oldsquaw was recorded on Boone Lake 10 Feb. & 10 Mar.; 9 Ruddy Ducks on 11 Nov. at Watauga Lake were unusual for our area; Hooded Mergansers first recorded 11 Nov. (3) with 38 on 9 Dec. and 2 to 6 usually found each week-end the remainder of the season; Common Merganser 11 Nov. (9), 3 Feb. (1) & 10 Feb. (4); Red-breasted Merganser: 11 Nov. (2), with one also on 20 & 27 Jan.

Turkey Vultures were noted occasionally except during Dec. and Jan. One Black Vulture was observed 30 Jan. Except for migration, very few hawks have been noted. An immature Bald Eagle was on Boone Lake 20 Jan. (KD). Ring-billed Gulls continue to outnumber Herring Gulls by a wide margin here.

It appears that very few northern birds spent the winter in our area. An occasional Sapsucker was noted, while the Brown Creeper was recorded only twice. Single Winter Wrens were observed in Feb. as well as a Bewick's coming to a feeder for two days. Hermit Thrush were observed 14 Sept. and 17 Feb. A few Bluebirds were noted throughout the winter. Unusual winter records of the Brown Thrasher were one each on 3 Feb. and 26 Feb. (KD). Golden- & Ruby-crowned Kinglets were extremely scarce. No Cedar Waxwings were noted since the end of Sept. Evening Grosbeaks did not show up this year, while Purple Finch were not observed from 28 Sept. to 10 Feb. Seven Pine Siskins on the Fall Count 30 Sept. and 2 on Roan Mt. at 5800 feet 11 Nov. were the only birds recorded. The Red Crossbills were not observed on Roan Mt. after 11 Nov. (FWB).

The usual sparrows were recorded during the winter except for the Swamp which has not been seen since the middle of November. Five Snow Buntings were located on Roan Mt. 11 Nov. and 2 on 10 Dec. (FWB).

Late were 2 Tree Swallows on 28 Oct. (KD).

KENNETH H. DUBKE, 918 State Line Road, Elizabethton, Tenn.

ERRATA. — The Christmas census list published in last issue, shows 2 Golden Eagles and 1 Rough-legged Hawk credited to the Nashville list. The figures for these two species should be transferred to the adjoining column which is for Reelfoot Lake. Also, the Harris Sparrow record, credited to the Chattanooga list, should be transferred to the Columbia column.—Editor.

ROUND TABLE NOTES

DECEMBER WOODCOCK AT KNOXVILLE. — On December 28, at 5:50 p.m., I was surprised to hear the nasal "beezp" notes of an American Woodcock. He uttered seven "beezp" notes. The following day I began listening for him shortly after sunset, but it was 5:50 before I heard him and he again uttered seven "beezp" notes. The temperature was balmy both days.

On December 30 we participated in the Smoky Mountain Christmas bird count and I was not home to check on him. But on December 31 through January 4 there was no sound from him. The temperature was rather low during that time. On January 5 the temperature rose to 43 degrees and he "beezped" twelve times. Although I checked on him every day, he was silent through the very cold weather of January 6, 7 and 8, but at 6:00 p.m. on January 9, sixteen "beezps" were heard, and the weather was warm and clear. January 10 and 11 were also warm days but I was away from home until after dark and do not know what he did on those nights. On January 12, with temperature at 43 degrees and the weather cloudy, he began "beezping" at 5:50 p.m. and continued with fifty-five "beezps." From January 13 through 18, with snow and extremely cold weather, there was no sound from him but on the 18th the temperature rose to 41 degrees and, although he did not "beezp", he gave a brief chippering, chucking sound, similar to the flight song, but did not appear to rise from the ground. Up to this time he had only "beezped." On January 19, with temperature of 43 degrees and cold rain and heavy fog, I heard three "beezps" above the pattering of rain on my raincoat, the first note starting at 5:55 p.m.. On January 20 and 21 there was snow and extremely cold temperature and he did not perform. On January 22, with temperature at 41 degrees, there was no "beezping" but he again gave a few "chucking" notes, lasting but a second or two, but as he did so it appeared that he flew quite low over the ground for about twenty-five feet.

This was the last heard from him. The following day most of the State was covered with ice, followed by snow and zero temperatures. The extremely cold weather which lasted throughout January was probably more than he could take and he either departed from the area, or perished. Since he did not "beezp" except when the temperature was above 40 degrees, and his pattern of behavior was haphazard, it seems logical to assume he was a lone male with no incentive to perform the courtship flight song. This is based on the fact that Woodcocks in the same vicinity on February 18, 1961, both "beezped" and sang the courtship flight song after a snow, when the temperature was below 30 degrees.

Temperatures stayed below 40 degrees until February 4. On February 5, although 63 degrees during the day, there was no "beezping" and I concluded it was useless to check further on this bird.

On March 2, at least five American Woodcocks were heard "beezping" and performing the aerial courtship song in the same area, but these were probably new arrivals. Weather conditions could also have influenced these, since temperatures had been below normal during the last two weeks of February. I checked the area during this time and did not hear them.

MARY ENLOE, 2705 Riverside Drive, Knoxville 14, Tennessee

CASUALTIES AT WSIX TV TOWER IN AUTUMN, 1962

At WSIX television tower in Nashville, 243 migrating birds of 46 species were killed in 1962 from the night of 5-6 September into November. The area was searched early each morning from 6 Sept. through 11 November, although no casualties were found after 6 Nov.

For the first few days of September, temperatures were above normal, with southerly winds, but on the 5th, wind shifted to the north, mean temperature fell below normal; overcast skies and a light rain produced the type of weather for tower casualties. Mrs. Clara Fentress and I gathered 25 dead birds of 15 species 6 Sept. and found remains of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo and a desiccated small warbler that had been killed previously. On the following night, there were 10 casualties of 7 species.

A period of south and east winds or fair weather with north winds produced only a few dead birds (none to 3 per night) until the night of 25-26 Sept. North wind, light rain, fog and complete overcast resulted in 8 casualties (6 of them were thrushes of 3 species). The following night there were 6 casualties.

Another period of light kills ended in early Oct. On the 4th, north-west winds were followed by rain on 5 and 6 Oct. Although the wind had shifted to south, there must have been a heavy migration in progress, for on the night of 5-6 Oct. we had the largest kill of this season, 76 birds of 17 species. Tennessee Warblers led in numbers with 22 (29% of the night's total), Ovenbird 10 and Magnolia Warbler 7.

Only a few were found until the morning of 17 Oct. after rain and north wind: 48 birds of 12 species were killed including 14 Palm Warblers (29% of the total) and 8 Myrtle Warblers. The following night 17-18 Oct. there were 18 birds of 12 species, including 4 additional Palm Warblers, a Yellow-billed and a Black-billed Cuckoo.

The largest casualty list of November migrants occurred on the night of 3-4 Nov., 7 birds of 5 species: Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Song Sparrows.

This year there were a few extreme dates for 1962 and two all-time extremes: latest departure, Black-billed Cuckoo on 18 Oct. and a Veery on 6 Sept. which tied a previous early arrival date.

Almost all of the dead birds were utilized by workers for various types of scientific studies.

The complete list of species collected at WSIX TV tower follows: Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo (2); Black-billed Cuckoo; Flicker; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher; Least Flycatcher; Wood Pewee; Brown Creeper; Winter Wren; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Catbird (2); Wood Thrush (5); Swainson's Thrush (6); Veery (2); Golden-crowned Kinglet (6); Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Yellow-throated Vireo; Red-eyed Vireo (13); Philadelphia Vireo; Black-and-white Warbler (5); Tennessee Warbler (37); Nashville Warbler; Magnolia Warbler (17); Myrtle Warbler (11); Black-throated Green Warbler (8); Blackburnian Warbler (5); Chestnut-sided Warbler (5); Bay-breasted Warbler (13); Palm Warbler (30); Ovenbird (23); Northern Water-thrush (5); Kentucky Warbler (3); Yellowthroat (4); Yellow-breasted Chat (3); Wilson's Warbler; Canada Warbler (2); Redstart (2); Indigo Bunting (4); Savannah Sparrow (2); Grasshopper Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco; Chipping Sparrow; Field Sparrow; White-throated Sparrow (2); Swamp Sparrow (6); Song Sparrow (2).

AMELIA R. LASKEY, 1521 Graybar Lane, Nashville.

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OREGON JUNCOS IN EAST TENNESSEE. — Early in 1963 Miss Marge Wilson, Ten-Mile, Tenn., wrote J. B. Owen, Knoxville, describing a junco which was visiting her feeding station. She had noticed it first on December 11, 1962. The description fitted that of an Oregon Junco. So on January 20, 1963, the Knoxville Chapter of the T. O. S. diverged from its planned field trip to visit Miss Wilson's home, which is on the eastern side of Watts Bar Lake, about ten miles south of Kingston. Only a few of the party were able to watch the feeding station from inside the house, which was unfortunate because the others were too distant to get a good look at the bird. It came to the feed on the ground with a small flock of Slate-colored Juncos, but it did not stay closely with them and several times was chased away from the feed. From about fifteen feet away, we were able to see the distinct demarcation between the gray hood and the tan sides, confirming that it was an Oregon Junco, *Junco oreganus*. Those who saw it, besides myself, were J. B. Owen, Julia Moore, Mr. and Mrs. James Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Merritt C. Farrar.

The following day Mrs. James Campbell observed another Oregon Junco in her yard in northern Knoxville; her identification was later confirmed by Mr. and Mrs. Farrar. This bird was more strongly colored than the one observed at Watts Bar Lake. A few days later Miss Mary Enloe found an Oregon Junco coming to her feeding station; it was still present on January 27.

Oregon Juncos were reported near Greeneville, Tennessee, in March of 1960 (MIGRANT, 31: 10. 1960). I know of no other records for Tennessee.

JAMES T. TANNER, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.

EVENING GROSBEAKS IN HOUSTON COUNTY.—A flock of Evening Grosbeaks arrived at our home in Stewart (near Waverly) in late autumn of 1961. They fed on seeds of box elder trees. In February, 1962, there were about 75 in the flock; on Mar. 28, there were about 50 which dwindled to 30 by Apr. 5. Our last record, 3 females, was made Apr. 10.

J. D. Lewis, County Agent for Houston County, reported 20 at his home in Erin about mid-April.

MRS. B. N. STOKER, Rt. 1, Stewart.

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