

# THE MIGRANT

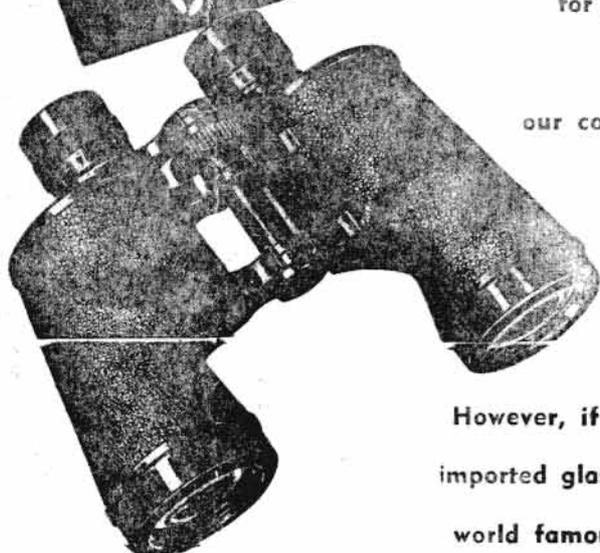
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# THE MIGRANT

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## NOTES ON A PIGEON HAWK, PINE SISKINS, RED AND WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS IN A CEMETERY

By JAMES M. CAMPBELL

Most every winter brings at least one rare bird sighting in virtually every general area in Tennessee, but when three rare species are found in a very small area and remain there for several weeks, enabling dozens of bird enthusiasts to view them at close range, it must be considered a banner winter season for even the most experienced and sophisticated birder.

The three rare birds were the White-Winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*), the Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) and the Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius*) along with the somewhat more common Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*). The site of these observations was Lynnhurst Cemetery, which is located five miles due north of downtown Knoxville.

Fred Behrend's report of eighty-eight White-Winged Crossbills seen on Roan Mountain in late December, 1963, captured the interest of the Knoxville Chapter of TOS in view of the impending Christmas bird count in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It was felt that the northern invaders could well have extended their range farther south along the mountain chain. Such was the case, since observations were made near Newfound Gap on 28 and 30 December by park personnel and on count day, 29 December, by Mr. & Mrs. George Wood of Knoxville.

Encouraged by these sightings, my wife and I made several trips to Newfound Gap and vicinity, but found no White-Winged Crossbills. During a trip to Cove Lake State Park on 4 January, 1964, to view ducks and geese, we were startled to see a female White-Winged Crossbill feeding in a pine tree. Trips made by other birders to this same location proved to be fruitless in spotting any crossbills. On 31 January Mrs. Campbell saw a male and female White-Winged Crossbill eating hemlock seeds in our yard in north Knoxville. This observation was possibly the first in Knox County history. One unconfirmed report was made a week earlier from a location which may have been in Anderson County.

A statement in Pough's *Audubon Land Bird Guide* that these birds frequent hemlock trees when they come south, plus the yard observation, started our thinking in terms of where was the largest nearby concentration of hemlocks. The obvious answer was Lynnhurst Cemetery, which is located one mile from our home. The next morning, 1 February, we found two females and one male White-Winged Crossbill within five minutes after entering the cemetery.

Members of the Knoxville Chapter of TOS were immediately notified and several persons made unsuccessful searches of the area for the crossbills during the weekend. One observer did manage a fleeting glimpse of one individual. Four of us were about to give up for the day (2 February) when a 'Sparrow Hawk' flew from out of nowhere into a hemlock tree directly over our heads. It soon flew into an adjacent tree and remained in

full view long enough to permit us to realize that our bird was not what we had supposed, but was in fact a Pigeon Hawk. The breast streakings, lack of facial 'sideburns', lack of rufous back and tail, plus the presence of tail banding and pointed wings when the bird flew, ruled out the Sparrow Hawk or the Sharp-Shinned Hawk. The finding of this bird, which was only the second report in Knox County history, was more than ample compensation for the failure of the group to locate the crossbills.

During the next week several members of the local club recorded the presence of the White-Winged Crossbills and the Pigeon Hawk in the cemetery; and on Saturday, 8 February, we located six or seven Red Crossbills feeding on hemlock seeds. Only five reports of Red Crossbills had been recorded in Knox County as of 1957, per **Birds of Knox County** by Howell and Monroe.

During the observation period at least thirty Knoxville TOS members and at least fifty other persons seen by the writer, visited the cemetery to see these birds. TOS member J. B. Owen's bird column in a Knoxville newspaper reported the crossbills. The column brought out many other observers not mentioned above, according to the cemetery owners, Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Baker. Without Mr. & Mrs. Baker's willing permission, we would not have been able to spend so much time in the cemetery during the winter.

The cemetery itself is generally square with each of the four boundary lines approximately one-half mile in length. The southern end is bounded by a creek and a small lake and the eastern by another stream. One-third to one-half of the area is characterized by rows of eastern hemlock trees (*Tsuga canadensis*) which were planted thirty to fifty feet apart in each direction. Most of these trees were planted in the 1920s and 1930s and have average heights of thirty feet and trunks of eight to twelve inches in diameter. Some of the rows were planted in the 1940s and 1950s and obviously are much smaller. Most of the other cemetery area is comprised of fields, and also sections with rows of other ornamental type trees.

The following is a listing of various observations made by the writer concerning behavior and feeding habits of the White-Winged Crossbills and Red Crossbills and the comments will apply to both species unless otherwise indicated. This information is based on sightings on eleven days between 1 February and 22 March, 1964, of the White-Winged Crossbills; and on seven days between 8 February and 15 March, 1964, of the Red Crossbills. All but one of these days were on weekends. At least one visit to the area was made on all but two weekend days during the period.

The crossbills were extremely difficult to locate except by hearing their call notes which usually were given at the exact moment they began flying. Only occasionally were the notes given while the birds were in a tree or on the ground. The notes were also given on the wing. When the birds were not eating they almost always were found inside near the hemlock trunks as opposed to most avian species' habit of perching on outside branches or twigs. This was the greatest factor in explaining the difficulty of finding the crossbills. I wonder if this practice was explainable by the Pigeon Hawk's presence or was typical of crossbill behavior.

Every person who discussed the crossbills with me agreed that the most interesting and enjoyable aspect of their behavior was their approachability. By moving slowly and quietly one could approach to within four to six feet of a crossbill which was busily engaged in extracting seeds from

the hemlock cones. Once I attempted to touch one by slowly moving my hand toward it and was within six inches of it before the bird flew. Crossbills which were not eating would not usually allow persons to get closer than fifteen or twenty feet. The Red Crossbills appeared to be the slightly less approachable of the two species. Neither species seemed to be bothered by the cemetery grave visitors.

On only two occasions were the two species of crossbills intermixed into one flock and only on seven instances were the White-wingeds in a Pine Siskin flock. Only a single mixture of Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins was seen. The White-winged flock numbers ranged from one to twenty with an average of approximately seven and the Reds from one to fifteen with an average of approximately six.

The crossbill flocks were invariably confined to one tree at a time and when they flew out of a tree they generally flew away at least a hundred yards or more rather than into adjacent trees. It could not often be determined where the birds stopped since they usually flew so far away, and/or the close trees obscured the viewer's vision. On the few occasions when the crossbills were seen flying into a tree they usually would alight about two-thirds of the way up. While feeding in the tree they systematically worked their way around the periphery of the tree and usually spiraled downward and then back upward. The flocks seemed to prefer staying in a fairly compact group as opposed to being spread out over the tree. The birds often dropped to the ground to eat hemlock seeds that had fallen out of the cones, but were much more often seen in the trees.

Since eastern hemlock cones are among the smallest of all tree cones, they grow on very small branches or twigs. This causes the crossbills to often hang upside down in Chickadee fashion in order to get to the seeds; otherwise the birds' weight would cause them to fall off the branch. As various writers have suggested, the crossbills resembled miniature parrots as they went about their feeding.

Anyone who has been interested in crossbills must have heard that their bills are crossed as a special adaptation to help them eat certain conifer seeds. I was particularly anxious to see what effect the crossed-bills had with the hemlock seeds and cones. As far as it could be determined the bill did not seem to help the birds at all. At least it appeared that the Pine Siskins could extract the seeds much more quickly; but everything the siskins did was in a faster manner, suggesting that they have a higher metabolic rate than the crossbills—so perhaps this comparison is not a valid one. In the final analysis it was not possible for me to really tell what effect the crossed-bills had in hemlock seed extraction and eating.

It was observed that the crossbills used their feet a great deal in holding the cones. One foot would usually be used to hold onto the twig and the other one to pull the cone to the proper position for the bill to enter. The Pine Siskins did this occasionally in a somewhat similar manner, but not nearly so often.

On every visit to the cemetery a couple of dozen cones were checked for seed availability—on a few random trees—and from about mid-February on the seeds began getting less and less plentiful. It seemed likely that the crossbills and siskins would have to leave the vicinity to find other food. This possibility seemed even more likely after reading in **Knowing Your Trees** by Collingwood and Brush that it takes 400,000 of these one-sixteenth of an inch long eastern hemlock seeds to weigh one

pound. The fact that the crossbills did remain for over another month indicates that they are certainly better seed finders than are humans (which didn't surprise me).

The night time roosting sites of the crossbills could not be determined, but the fact that on several mornings, at or near dawn, they were heard or seen flying in from Greenway Ridge at the south side of the cemetery; and that on two days, late in the afternoon, they were seen flying to the ridge, indicates that they might have spent at least several if not all of their nights there. The ridge would have offered more protection from the wind than the relatively level and open cemetery. There are a few dense evergreen trees on the ridge which could have been roosting sites.

The presence of the Pigeon Hawk in the cemetery not only was interesting and stimulating from the standpoint of its rare status in Knox County and East Tennessee, but also added an element of drama and suspense to each visit.

Bird writers have written that the Pigeon Hawk is a bold, fearless, and unsuspecting bird and that it is probably the most curious and inquisitive of all the raptors. These two groupings of adjectives appear to contradict each other, yet during the hawk's 2 February to 21 March period of observation (during which I saw it on eleven different weekend days) it exhibited nearly all of those characteristics. Several times other observers and the writer were within fifty feet of the Pigeon Hawk while it was perched and many times it flew within twenty-five feet or less while pursuing some quarry. On several other occasions it flew towards me to within a few feet and then veered away and landed in a tree two or three hundred feet away as if it were investigating the reason for my presence. Another time I was driving on a cemetery road and saw the bird on the ground about thirty feet from the pavement. I stopped the car and the Pigeon Hawk actually walked a few steps toward me before flying away. After about two weeks from the first time I saw the hawk it began to stay farther away from me except that it would still fly close by while chasing a bird. It would also permit my approach within one hundred and fifty feet, but only when it was in a favorite perch high up in a tall oak tree on the edge of the cemetery. The reason for the increasing shyness was not known, but it is possible that warmer weather was bringing more cemetery grave visitors or perhaps some individual might have shot at it. We all took special care not to advertise the hawk's presence to anyone whom we suspected might be likely to harm it or who might tell someone else who might dislike hawks and attempt to shoot it.

During the observation period at the cemetery I saw the falcon make over forty attempts to catch birds in the area. Seen were two attempts against Red Crossbills, five against White-Winged Crossbills and over thirty against Pine Siskins. Not a single attempt appeared to be successful. A few incidents occurred where trees blocked my vision at the critical moment, thus the result of the strike could not be determined. Some other strikes happened so rapidly that their results were not known.

I had previously thought that either the Peregrine Falcon or the Pigeon Hawk could catch most birds with consummate ease and was astounded at its apparent repeated failure to catch the cemetery birds. Not until I re-read some passages in Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey* did my amazement lessen. One passage reads "the flight of the pigeon hawk is swift and dashing, like that of the larger falcons. Its trim body is

propelled at tremendous speed by the rapid motion of its long pointed wings. Few, if any, birds can escape it in straightaway flight; even the black swift, one of our fastest flying birds has been captured by it. But the prowess of this and other falcons has been somewhat overestimated by admiring observers, it is not always successful, and it often fails to capture birds of much slower flight that are skillful at dodging." Another incident in Bent's work refers to a Pigeon Hawk attempting to capture one of a flock of Blue Jays, "in spite of his swift and spectacular dashes, the falcon always failed, as the jay always succeeded in dodging or dropping into a treetop, where the falcon did not attempt to catch it; a sharp-shinned hawk would have dashed in after it."

These two accounts, I believe, closely parallel the cemetery situation in that the siskins always darted very quickly one way or the other to dodge the hawk and then flew into a nearby hemlock. Every attack I witnessed occurred when the intended victims were either feeding on the ground or were in the air. The Pigeon Hawk rarely approached when the birds were feeding in a tree. The normal flight of the siskins was always in a rapid zig-zag pattern. Their flight reminded me of the 'roller coaster' flight of the goldfinch except that the siskin's 'roller coasting' was on a horizontal plane. This flight pattern alone would tend to make it difficult for any raptore to capture a siskin. The crossbills' habit of staying in the trees more and doing less dropping to the ground, as well as less flying from one tree to another, served to protect them somewhat from the hawk.

The Pigeon Hawk's attack pattern usually started with it leaving its perch, which was possibly within sight and presumably within hearing distance of the siskins, and then coming in at about tree top level until it approached within fifty feet of the siskins, it would dive suddenly toward the ground, by which time the siskins would usually be about a yard or so off the ground. Many attacks occurred so quickly that all I could see would be a whirl of wings going in all directions. This was particularly true when the hawk was coming from behind me. The falcon's usual habit of landing in a near-by tree immediately after an attack enabled me to determine that those particular attacks were not fruitful. The hawk's dives were invariably so fast and so zig-zagged as to preclude the use of binoculars.

Paul Pardue of Knoxville reported the only successful hawk attack. Mr. Pardue first watched the bird eat a Starling, but did not see the kill. About thirty minutes later the falcon came from behind Pardue and took a dive into the middle of a flock of ground feeding siskins. The dive was a success and the falcon made an abrupt turn a few feet after making its catch and flew back in the same direction from which it came. Pardue was able to see the bird as it flew away with the siskin held in its talons.

It is ironical that my only observation of a successful attack was that of one by a Sparrow Hawk. While sitting in the car watching a group of siskins eating seeds on the ground by the last row of hemlocks on the north-east cemetery corner, I was completely engrossed in the manner in which the siskins were 'leap frogging' each other and thereby had moved over a hundred feet. They reminded one of an incoming ocean wave in slow motion. When the 'wave' was within approximately twenty feet of the car a small hawk flew from behind the car, captured a siskin and flew straight to a beech tree one hundred and fifty feet away. A look through the binoculars showed that the hawk was not the Pigeon Hawk but a Spar-

row Hawk. The sideburns and rufous back were clearly visible. This was the only time I saw a Sparrow Hawk in the hemlock area during the entire months of February and March.

The very fact of the Pigeon Hawk's continued presence indicated that it was at least occasionally successful in siskin attacks, particularly in view of the report that their diet consists mainly of birds. The cemetery siskin population decreased from approximately 500 at the beginning of February to approximately 150 at the end of March. To what extent the Pigeon Hawk contributed to this decline is of course problematical. At least two Loggerhead Shrikes were usually in evidence in the area and, along with the Sparrow Hawk, may have taken a few siskins. It is perhaps most likely that the primary reason for the siskin decrease was the decline in hemlock seeds.

Not once did I hear the falcon's voice during the entire period nor did it ever hover (which it reportedly occasionally does) in Sparrow Hawk fashion. On one occasion I observed the bird soaring high in the sky in typical *buteo* style. The bird appeared so strange that it was difficult to identify until it got much lower.

The area was checked on 27, 28, and 29 March as well as 4, 5, 11 and 12 April with no crossbills or Pigeon Hawk sightings. The Pine Siskins remained in gradually diminishing numbers until only fifty were found on 25 April, the last day on which I made a thorough search of the area.

15 Hedgewood Drive, Knoxville 18, Tennessee.

## SOME FIELD NOTES FROM REELFOOT LAKE, TENN.

By ALBERT F. GANIER

Our TOS meetings at Reelfoot, the great earthquake lake of 1811, are always of particular interest because of the colorful territory and distinctive birds to be found on field trips. The lake's shorelines are fringed with picturesque old cypress trees surrounded by their myriad "knees," while others, standing off-shore in waist-deep water, are stopping and landing places for many local rarities.

Just a few miles westward lies the great mile-wide Mississippi river and alongside its levees we found the borrow-pits and sloughs to be a rendezvous for the herons and transient shorebirds. Here, among the many sandpipers and yellowlegs, we found a dozen Golden Plovers, some of which had already changed to their breeding plumage which included black bellies and white cheek lines. Other Golden's were found in cut-over hay and alfalfa fields, to the number of forty or more.

The viewing of a Mississippi Kite was the objective of many of our members who had as yet to record it for their life lists. The parties led by Ben B. Coffey were successful in this quest when he took them to the end of the Checking Station Road, where he had seen a pair in other years. Sure enough, two of the birds soon put in an appearance and were watched as they carried twigs to a nest built high in the branches of a large sycamore in the woods. Not far away, the rare Swainson's Warbler was heard singing and other parties heard and observed a total of twelve of these rare dwellers of the swamplands.

In the sloughs and flying over were seen both Great Blue and Little Blue Herons, Common Egrets, Night Herons and a single Snowy Heron.

The famous heronry or "Crane-town" at the head of Big Ronaldson arm, is said to have been deserted and the boat channel leading to it is now blocked. An old and smaller colony at the north end of the lake is again developing but lack of time and equipment prevented a wade-in investigation.

Those who followed the levee road northward, west of the lake, were treated to a view of a dozen Fish Crows which had been following a disc plow but which finally arose and circled at a great height while giving vent to their peculiar nasal calls. While viewing some herons feeding in a slough, the group was treated to a view of a fully mature Bald Eagle flying toward the lake, presumably from the Mississippi river. Fish and Game Department attaches at the lake informed us later than none of the several old nests known to them were occupied this season.

The bottom lands west of the lake are wonderfully fertile and closely cultivated. Along the roads thru this area, one is rarely out of sight or hearing of Dickcissels, while the clover and alfalfa fields produced many flocks of migrating Bobolinks. On Saturday afternoon, 2 May, a group drove twenty miles southward to visit the heronry located a short distance north of Dyersburg. (*Migrant*, 1960, 31:48-49). Although a housing development has encroached close to the small wooded area, the Little Blue Herons are still breeding there in numbers together with a few Great Blues and Common Egrets. Of greatest interest here was the observing of a Cattle Egret in the heronry. In a wet field a short distance away, a considerable flock of these birds were reported feeding, presumably nesters in the heronry.

On Sunday morning, field trips were taken to the north-east part of the lake area, radiating from Walnut Log. Those who followed the road southward from there into the Refuge Area compiled a good list of birds and found a nest of the Red-shouldered Hawk, fifty feet up in a cottonwood and west of the road. The old birds were feeding at least four young which appeared to be four or five weeks old. A Phoebe was "fussing" about the Biological Station building and is said to have nested there for several years.

Several of us went out into the lake with boats, particularly to see the Osprey nest previously described by John Ellis (*Migrant*, 1963, 34:21-23). We found one bird on the nest and its mate on a snag nearby. The latter visited its mate a few minutes later, carrying a twig. When flushed from the nest, the bird returned as soon as our boat moved away, from which we judged incubation was in progress.

Those who had quarters at the Edgewater Beach motor court, on the south side of the lake alongside "The Washout" channel, found birds all about the grounds including a Baltimore Oriole intent upon tearing threads from an old deck chair with which to build its nest. A small flock of Mallards, reared from eggs of wild Mallards, would feed trustingly at your feet until suddenly "the call of the wild" would cause them to take off for a mile flight over the lake before they would return to domesticity. With them was a Snow Goose, which had taken up with the flock and which also had to take off for a flight every now and then.

The new assembly hall and museum served well as headquarters for activities, as set forth in the Minutes, and with ample motor court accommodations, the meeting was one of the best we have had. The following is quoted from nearby Tiptonville's Lake County Banner: "Ralph Burrus,

Reelfoot parks manager, considers the T.O.S. among his favorite convention people, "They like Reelfoot and like what we do for them here. They are accommodating and they enjoy themselves a great deal. When they leave, they leave happy and have had a good time. I tell you, these are just the nicest people to have around." On behalf of the T.O.S., Mr. Burrus, we appreciate your comments.

2112 Woodlawn Dr., Nashville 12, Tenn.

### T. O. S. ANNUAL MEETING- 1964

The Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society was held on 1, 2 and 3 May at Reelfoot Lake, with the Memphis Chapter as hosts.

An informal reception was tendered the members and guests by the host chapter Friday evening at the American Legion Hall. Registration by those present took place, before the showing of some very lovely pictures by Dr. Arlo Smith of the Memphis Chapter.

Saturday and Sunday field trips were offered into the refuge beyond Walnut Log, along the levee, to the west side of the lake near Gray's Camp, along other roads in the vicinity and to the heronry near Dversburg. Boats were made available along the Bayou de Chien and from Gray's Camp, for all who wanted them.

Saturday afternoon, the officers and directors met at Ellington Assembly Hall and Museum, for consideration of the Society's business. Mrs. W. F. Bell, chairman of the board, presided. The report of the treasurer showed that the finances of the organization were in excellent condition. The Auditing Committee, Mr. John Ellis, Chairman, reported that the treasurer's report was in good order, and that the Society's holding of 258 shares of M. T. T. stock had been substantiated. The value of this stock is \$1250.00, and represents the Society's endowment. It was moved that the report of the treasurer and auditor be accepted. Motion carried.

Reports from the various committees were heard; Mr. John Conder, successor to Mr. Will Hon in carrying on our work of "Birds on the Protected List" was unable to be present, but reported by proxy that his work was going on:

Mrs. E. M. West reported that a new supply of T.O.S. arm badges were available at \$1.25 each. These may be obtained by order from Mrs. West, 5511 Dayton Blvd., Chattanooga 17, Tennessee. She urged that all members have at least one of these badges;

In the absence of Dr. Lee Herndon, Mr. Henry Parmer reported that Mr. Ken Dubke would arrange for the issuance of the June **MIGRANT** and probably the September issue. Mr. Ganier mentioned that more Round Table notes as well as regular articles were needed for **THE MIGRANT**, and suggested that they be sent in form suitable for the printer, i.e., typed, double spaced etc.;

A letter of resignation as Editor of the Newsletter was read from Mr. Kirby Stringer. Much discussion followed, with suggestions as to how the work of the editor could be lightened. Motion was made that the Newsletter be issued only once a year, with a second issue in the spring at the discretion of the editor, and that Mr. Stringer be asked to continue in that capacity;

Mrs. E. M. West reported that the committee considering the advantages of affiliation with The National Audubon Society had reached no

decision, other than to make a recommendation that TOS send a \$25.00 donation to that organization to be used as it sees fit. On motion of Mr. Fletcher Bingham, this recommendation was carried;

Mrs. E. M. West made a motion that a membership list of names and addresses be published in **THE MIGRANT** every three years, at or near the end of the block, beginning in 1964. Motion carried;

Mr. John Ellis made a motion that Life Membership Certificates be sent to present and future Life Members. Motion carried;

Motion was made by Mr. Dixon Merritt that a complimentary membership be given to Dr. Cynthia Counce, Princeton, Kentucky, in appreciation for her gift of a complete set of **THE MIGRANT**. Motion carried. Mr. Ganier requested that members send him copies of **THE MIGRANT** which they no longer need, to replenish our stock. Postage will be paid;

Mr. Fletcher Bingham made a motion that leaflets of information on TOS with application for membership be made available to all chapters. Motion carried. These leaflets are available from the Treasurer;

The matter of making a Summer Count by TOS was brought up for discussion. A motion favoring such a count received a favorable vote and the following committee was appointed to draw up rules and regulations: Mrs. E. W. Goodpasture, Chairman, Mrs. E. M. West, Mr. Henry Parmer, Mr. Albert Ganier;

According to Notice of Amendments sent to all chapters previous to the Annual Meeting, the following amendments to the Constitution and additions to the By-Laws were read, discussed and on motion, approved: (revisions or additions are in parenthesis)

### ARTICLE III

**Sec. 10.** The Treasurer shall collect the dues from all members and receive any other funds that may come to the Society. He shall give attention to maintaining and increasing the membership. He shall pay all bills upon their approval by the President and shall present to the Society an annual statement, as of December 31st (as of May 1st), of all receipts and expenditures. Upon audit by a committee, this shall be filed with the Secretary.

### ARTICLE V

**Sec. 1.** The Society shall hold an annual meeting, each spring, (each May), and the officers shall be elected at this meeting, to assume their duties July 1 (to assume their duties at the end of the business meeting, at which they are elected. The Treasurer and Secretary shall prepare and turn over their records to their successors within thirty days). A fall meeting may also be arranged at such time and place as the Board of Directors may decide.

### BY-LAWS

**DUES.** A member may become a life Member by a single payment of \$50.00 to the Society's endowment fund. (Addition: This may be in four consecutive annual payments of \$12.50 each). (In case of an advance in Life Membership, a member is to pay only the amount due at the time of first payment.) (Addition: No member who has failed to pay his dues by April 1, shall receive any issue of **THE MIGRANT** beyond the March issue, until such dues are paid).

The preceding to be substituted for the resolution printed on page 34 of **THE MIGRANT**, June 1950, and to be included in the BY-LAWS. (It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep the Secretary up-to-date on the

membership in good standing).

(Addition: A chapter to be recognized as such, must maintain a membership of ten or more, in good standing).

Mrs. William Puryear, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers for 1964-65:

Mrs. William F. Bell .....	President
Mr. Laurence O. Trabue .....	V. President, Middle Tenn.
Mrs. Rose Wooldridge .....	West
Mr. Eugene M. West .....	East
Miss Marguerite McKinney .....	Secretary
Mr. C. E. Wilmeth .....	Treasurer
Mr. Albert F. Ganier .....	Curator
Dr. Lee R. Herndon .....	Editor
Directors at Large:	
Dr. James Tanner .....	East
Mrs. James Haile .....	Middle
Mrs. John S. Lamb .....	West

The Annual Business Meeting, consisting of Directors and Active members, convened at Ellington Hall following the banquet Saturday night, with the President, Mrs. William F. Bell, presiding.

The minutes of the 1963 meeting were read and approved.

The Secretary reported the business transacted by the Board of Directors, as outlined above. The recommendations of changes in the Constitution and BY-LAWS were read, and on motion approved. The slate of officers recommended by the Board of Directors was read and on motion was likewise approved.

On behalf of the Nashville Chapter, Mr. Albert Ganier extended invitation for the 50th Anniversary Meeting of TOS to be held in or near Nashville in 1965. Mr. John Elson made motion, seconded by Mr. Dixon Merritt that the invitation be accepted by acclamation. Motion carried.

Mr. Ben B. Coffey introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. Edward J. Meeman, Conservation Editor of Scripps-Howard Newspapers, whose subject was "What TOS can do in the Conservation Movement."

The following resolutions were presented by Mr. Albert Ganier, Chmn. of the Resolutions Committee:

Whereas, the Tennessee Ornithological Society is about to conclude its 49th Annual Meeting of 1-3 May, 1964 at Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee; now, therefore be it resolved that its members here assembled wish to express their thanks and appreciation to the following:

To our President, our Editor, our Secretary and other officers of the Society, who have served us faithfully through the past year and who have been re-elected to serve us during the year to come; to our retiring Treasurer, Henry E. Parmer for having so efficiently served TOS during the past three years and for the excellent report he has placed in our hands showing our finances to be in good condition; to Kirby Stringer for editing and producing the Newsletter, which has accompanied each issue of **THE MIGRANT**, and to Kenneth Dubke for publishing **THE MIGRANT** during the editor's absence; to Ben Coffey, Mrs. Arlo Smith and Wendell Whittemore for planning and leading the several field trips in this unique territory; to Mr. Edward J. Meeman, Editor-emeritus of the Memphis Press-Scimitar, for the inspiring and instructive talk he made at the Annual Dinner, and to Dr. Arlo I. Smith for his excellent pictures and talk on Reelfoot

Lake given on Friday night; to the interested officials of the State of Tennessee who have caused to be erected here, the Ellington Assembly Hall and its attached museum, in which we have held our meetings, and for the acquisition of additional lands along the south shore of the lake and beautification of same for use of the public; to the local committee on arrangements, for sending out the letter of information to our chapters and for so efficiently arranging for this fine Reelfoot Lake meeting, including the Annual Dinner, this committee being composed of Mrs. Ben Coffey, Miss Mary Devant, Earl Fuller, Ed King, Mrs. J. H. McWhorter, Mrs. Henry A. Schiller, Mrs. Arlo I. Smith, Miss Alice Smith and Mrs. Rose Wooldridge, Chairman, all of Memphis—and also Mrs. John S. Lamb of Dyersburg, Mrs. Jean Markham and Mrs. Betty Sue Summara, both of Tiptonville.

Marguerite McKinney  
Secretary

## THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA—A Cattle Egret was seen at Lakeview, Miss., 19 April, Alice Smith. White-rumped Sandpipers, 22 on 12 May at the Tupelo, Miss. hatchery (Mrs. Lula Coffey, Mrs. Helen Dinkelspiel, Mrs. Ed Carpenter) and 40 at Anderson's, Lonoke Ark., 17 May (BC, LC, AS) where the Halbergs (Ark. Aud. Soc.) were finding them. Red-backed Sandpiper, spring plumage, 3 at Tupelo and 3 at Lonoke, same trips. Dwight Partee reported Cliff Swallows at Norfolk Dam Powerhouse, Ark.—5 on 31 Mar. and 50 on 7 Apr. T. O. S. hike at Wall Doxey (Spring Lake) State Park, Miss., 22 Mar., yielded: 4 Tree Swallows, 6 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 3 White-eyed Vireos, 3 Black-and-White Warblers, 9 Pine Warblers, and 4 Yellow-throated Warblers. 30 Pine Siskins were in our yard, 30 April.

BEN B. COFFEY, JR., 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis 7, Tennessee.

NASHVILLE—Following a bitter cold winter, spring seemed normal weather-wise, except that leaves on our trees seemed about 5 to 7 days behind in their development. They were only about half out on 25 April, giving us our best chance to see birds on a Spring Count in many years. Contrary to expectations, most of our transients and summer arrivals were several days ahead of their normal schedule. The period of this report is from March 1st through 31 May.

Common Loon were scarce with only two reports, one on Bush lake 7 April (HEP), and two on Old Hickory lake 22 April (LOT). Grebes left early with the last reported being two Horned on Old Hickory 10 April (LOT) and three Pied-billed on Bush 9 April (HEP). No Little Blue Heron or Common Egret were reported. Black-crowned Night Heron are now scarce and may have moved from their heronry. Three Yellow-crowned Night Heron on 29 April at Buena Vista (JP) were later than usual, but could have been easily overlooked. No Bittern were reported. Wintering Gadwall remained until 15 April with six on Bush lake (HEP). The last Pintail were two on Old Hickory 21 March (LOT). American Widgeon stayed late with two on Bush 24 April (HEP). Wintering Redhead at Bush stayed later than normal with one there on 3 April and four were found on Radnor lake on 5 April (HCM and HEP). Lesser Scaup left much earlier than usual, the last being 30 on Bush lake on 14 April (HEP). Also leaving

early was Common Goldeneye, the last being one on Bush 11 March (HEP). After wintering, two Bufflehead were still on Bush 9 April (HEP). Seven Ruddy Duck on Bush 15 April were later than normal (HEP). No rails were reported other than American Coot. A dozen were still at Bush 31 May. Shore birds were very scarce as was suitable habitat for them. Killdeer seem far below their normal numbers. A Spotted Sandpiper at Bush 4 April was earliest ever by 5 days (HEP). Twenty seven Least Sandpipers were at Colman's lake on 23 May and one 29 May, both dates later than usual (LOT). Two Semipalmated Sandpipers at Bush on 7 April were about 15 days earliest ever (HEP).

The last Red-breasted Nuthatch was one at Basin Springs on 15 March (KAG). A pair of House Wrens returned to their previous nesting area on Estes Road on 23 April (**vide** ARL). Bewick's Wrens certainly are getting more scarce here each year. We know of only one nesting pair of House Wrens so apparently it can't be that the House Wrens are running the Bewick's out of our area. An early Catbird was at the home of KAG on 11 April. Also early was a Wood Thrush at ARL's home on 7 April. These seem to be getting more scarce in our residential areas. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrush were both normal in their arrival time and numbers. A Veery at the home of ARL was earlier than usual. Bluebirds are still scarce in our County and very few nests were reported. Both Kinglets were scarce during the period as were Waxwings.

Most Vireos and Warblers arrived several days earlier than normal. A Worm-eating Warbler was at Basin Springs on 12 April (KAG). A Cerulean at Radnor on 10 April was very early (ARL and SB). Also early was a Chestnut-sided 21 April at ARL's home. Both Bay-breasted and Ovenbirds were late and scarce. Only one Bobolink was reported, a male at Bush on 12 April (HEP). The arrival of Baltimore Orioles was normal but an Orchard in South Harpeth Valley on 12 April was several days earlier than usual (KAG). A Scarlet Tanager on 9 April was our earliest ever. It was at the home of Mrs. McCarver (**vide** KAG). A Summer Tanager at ARL's home 13 April was several days earlier than normal. Several days early was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on 18 April at Two Jays and an Indigo Bunting in South Harpeth Valley on 12 April, both by KAG.

A Dickcissel reported at the Hodgson home on 28 Feb. was still there on 7 and 8 March. The last of our many wintering Pine Siskins was one at J. P. Jones home on 16 April. A Lark Sparrow was found on Murray Lane on 25 April (JR), and an apparent nesting pair were found near Fernald on 9 April (AFG et al). The wintering Harris' Sparrow remained near the Hodgson home until 27 April. Also there, was our latest ever spring record for the White-Crowned Sparrow, one being near there on both 28 May and 1 June. A late Fox Sparrow was at the SB home on 14 April.

Contributors: Sue Bell, Katherine Goodpasture, Amelia Laskey, Harry Monk, Jennie Riggs, Lawrence Trabue, H. E. Parmer.

HENRY E. PARMER, 3800 Richland Ave., Nashville 5, Tenn.

COLUMBIA—Our most successful Spring Count to date (143 Species) is attributed to several factors. As has been our good fortune during each of the last three years a cold front moved thru the area just before the count day rendering the conditions good for bird activity and making it possible to cover abundant territory on foot without the exhaustion which would have occurred on warmer humid days. Some members of two of

our three parties spent almost the entire twenty-four hours in the field except for the hours of sleeping on the scene of late evening and early morning observations (Gray family at their camp near Swan Creek and Mayfields in the forest at Primm Springs as is their annual custom). Our field day generally falls on the Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning between the last week-end of April and the first week-end of May so as not to conflict with Nashville and TOS counts. This year our 29-30 April dates were just about ideal for the peak of the migration and even a few late lingering winter residents. We also had some good luck on hawks and waterbirds.

Some Warbler arrivals: Louisiana Waterthrush, 18 Mar.; Black and White Warbler, 5 Apr.; American Redstart, Yellowthroat, Blue-winged, 11 Apr.; Parula, Yellow-throated, Hooded, 12 Apr.

Ducks on Godwin Reservoir 4 April: Gadwall (3), Green-winged Teal (1), Blue-winged Teal (60), American Widgeon (3), Wood Duck (2), Ring-necked (20), Lesser Scaup (60), Bufflehead (2), Pied-billed Grebe (5) and American Coot (50).

The Common Loon on Godwin Reservoir on 29 April is much later than any we have recorded in recent years.

GEORGE R. MAYFIELD JR., Maury County Hospital, Columbia, Tenn.

CHATTANOOGA—Late date on the Pine Siskin this year was 8 May when six were observed feeding among 15 Goldfinch atop Lookout Mountain at Point Park (RTB Jr.). Late date recorded in Chattanooga for the Pine Siskin is 16 May. Two Red Crossbills (RE & RTB Jr.) which were seen feeding at the Park were an added treat to several members of the Chattanooga Chapter when one was trapped and banded. See **Round Table Notes** for the details.

Carol and Stanley Barr, two of the local Chapter's most regular and consistent feeding station operators recorded two Fox Sparrows on 23 April at their station. Their date was considered the latest on record, previous Chattanooga record 3 April, until two others were seen on Spring Count (BB).

Birding activities at Chickamauga Park, Georgia have been in "full swing" for the last month with the local Chapter making a trip on 19 April. On that day, a pair of Woodcock were flushed from a small hill in the "South Post" area. A little later the Red-cockaded Woodpecker was spotted near Brock field. Benton Basham reported a Brewster's Warbler, 19 April, on the same trip. See **Round Table Notes** for details. Two Blue-winged Warblers were observed in separate locations about 1½ miles apart in the Park on 30 May (KHD & RTB Jr.). This record brings to mind the breeding record established for the Park by Leo Acuff. Yellow-throated Vireo records at the Park 30 May (KHD & RTB Jr.), 7 June (BB). this season have added to the volume of records compiled by Rock Comstock from 1959-1962 on this specie. Two Pine Warblers were reported at Chickamauga Park on 31 May (KHD & RTB Jr.).

A check on Chapman Pond, at Shallowford Road, 31 May yielded a single Blue-winged Teal, (KHD & RTB Jr.), previous late date was 21 May. On 1 June, Benton Basham returned to the pond where three Sandpipers were seen. These were Semipalmated Sandpipers which have been recorded at brief intervals in the past from 21 May to 25 May. Two were caught using mist nets.

A late Lincoln's Sparrow, 26 April (BB), was recorded as being 12 days later than previous late Spring date of 14 April. An Osprey was seen on 15 May and another 22 May from Point Lookout (RTB Jr.). Both birds were flying to the northeast along the Tennessee River. Scarlet Tanagers have been reported several times this season at the higher elevations on Lookout Mountain, 27 May (TR), and Walden's Ridge (Signal Mountain), 7 June (RTB Jr.).

Banding activities for the Chapter have been rather slow with the exception of Cliff Swallow banding at the Nickajack culvert on 31 May and 8 June. A total of 337 birds, 333 adults and 4 immatures, were banded by 15 members. This year there were 550 nests, more than ever before recorded for the site. Another Cliff Swallow colony has been located under a new "Interstate" highway bridge on Shallowford Road at the Chattanooga Industrial Park. It is assumed that this colony, with about 30 nests under construction at present, moved from the bridge about 1½ miles away over the Chickamauga Creek on Shallowford. For the last three summers, humans have destroyed the nests above the latter site. When a check was made to ascertain the exact numbers of birds that remained at the Chickamauga Creek site, six nests were found.

Contributors: Carol & Stanly Barr, Benton Basham, Ralph T. Bullard Jr., K. H. Dubke, Roy Evenson, T. L. Rodgers.

RALPH T. BULLARD JR., 3302 Nava'o Drive, Chattanooga 11, Tenn.

KNOXVILLE—Three of the rare winter visitors of this year were last reported on about the same date: the Pigeon Hawk on 21 March, one White-winged Crossbill on 23 March (J. Campbell) and the Baltimore Oriole on 23 March (Mrs. Hash). A flock of seven Sandhill Cranes, apparently migrating, was seen on 11 March by Hollie Overton. On 27 March James Campbell found a nest of a Great Horned Owl in a white pine in Greenwood Cemetery; the two young left the nest on 9 April.

Spring migration was unusual in that there were a number of unusually early arrivals and a few unusually late departures. Some of the early dates can be attributed to a warm spell during the second week of April. The following were from 3 to 15 days earlier than their average arrival date, with the earliest date on which they were recorded this spring: Osprey, 18 March; Barn Swallow, 22 March; Wood Thrush, 3 April; Hooded Warbler, 9 April; Parula Warbler, 12 April; Redstart, 12 April; Orchard Oriole, 12 April; Ruby-throated Hummingbird (4 observers of different birds), 15 April; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 19 April; Nighthawk, 21 April. Several of these arrivals were reported by Beth Lacy. Four species reported on the Spring Field Day, 26 April, were up to 15 days behind their average spring departure; they were: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Rusty Blackbird, and Pine Siskin; the latter have been reported as late as 12 May this year (Joseph Howell). Two other late migrants were Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers seen on 18 May at the Sterchi bait farms by Maxie Swindell.

One or more Orange-crowned Warblers seen on 23 and 26 April by J. B. Owen and James Campbell was a rare spring migrant. Another was the Upland Plover seen on 26 April by James Tanner; this was the second record of this species for Knox County. It was flushed several times from plowed fields and grassy pasture in the new University farm bordering Loudon Lake.

JAMES T. TANNER, Route 10, Knoxville 20, Tenn.

GREENEVILLE—We will start our spring season report by saying so far as we know Greene County had no invasion by Crossbills or Pine Siskins, as did other communities in East Tennessee, during the winter.

March started with the melting of a snow that fell the last of February. At this date, Mourning Doves had already started nests. Common Snipe were coming to the bottoms in ever increasing numbers. On 3 Mar. E. Phoebes arrived and on 4 Mar. large flocks of male Redwinged Blackbirds started passing through. Louisiana Waterthrushes were on the smaller creeks by 23 Mar. and by 25 Mar. Greater Yellowlegs were calling over the wet bottoms. On 26 Mar. the first Yellow-crowned Night Heron had come back. Purple Martins came to the northwest part of the county 27 Mar. but had been in the south part of the county three weeks earlier. Two Green Herons 28 Mar. and 29 Mar. Purple Finch, Goldfinch, and Brown Thrashers. On 30 Mar. Vesper Sparrows were around the feed lots. By 2 Apr. the first Rough-winged Swallows and on 5 Apr. Barn Swallows. On 11 Apr. the single Yellow-crowned Night Heron was augmented by three more going and coming to the feeding grounds. On the same date White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows were still present in considerable numbers with Common Snipe and Lesser Yellowlegs still on the bottoms.

On 12 Apr. the warblers started to come through and take the show away from the shore and water birds with the arrival of a Black and White on this date, then on the 14th a Yellow and on the 15th a Yellowthroat, 16 Apr., a Catbird and on 18 Apr. Hummingbirds. On 19 Apr. we found what other communities had been having all winter, Pine Siskins in great numbers. Also, 19 Apr. on a trip to Davy Crockett Lake and Paint Creek we found Pied-billed Grebes, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Ducks (3 in a flock of 200 Lesser Scaup), Virginia Rail, American Coot, Chimney Swifts, Olive-sided and Acadian Flycatchers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Cedar Waxwings, Yellow-throated Vireo, Worm-eating, Parula, Black-throated Green, Yellow-throated, Pine and Hooded Warblers, Ovenbird, Orchard Oriole, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers plus a Chipping Sparrow (Clark, Darnell & Nevius). Also on 19 Apr. one Ruby-crowned Kinglet. 20 Apr. Great Horned Owl and Prairie Warbler were noted. On 22 Apr. Indigo Bunting, Solitary Sandpiper and the Pine Siskins were still present in large numbers (Nevius), with Cedar Waxwings, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and the first Evening Grosbeaks which we usually have all winter. On the same date, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, Grasshopper Sparrow, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows were noted (Clark & Spees). Eastern Kingbird, Blue-winged Teal and Great Blue Heron on 23 April. After a quick rain on 24 Apr.—one and one half inches in 20 minutes—we found standing around among the cattle four Cattle Egrets. They were still present the next day (Nevius). 25 Apr. found Wood Pewee, Parula, Myrtle, Chestnut-sided and Kentucky Warblers present (Clark & Darnell). On spring count day, 26 Apr., we added one Snow Goose, one Common Tern, Philadelphia and Warbling Vireos. One Bachman's Sparrow was found singing on 30 April. White-throated Sparrows were still around 1 May. In the alfalfa fields, 14 May, Redwings had nests with eggs in them and Ring-necked Pheasants had about half their eggs laid. Eastern Bluebirds seem to be as abundant, or possibly a few more, than in 1963. During May we had 5.6 inches of rain, the early part of the month was cold, the latter part hot. During April six inches of rain.

RICHARD NEVIUS, Route 3, Greeneville, Tennessee.

KINGSFORT—Although our spring count half way through the quarter on which we are now reporting was unspectacular we had an interesting spring migration. Most of our unusual records were contributed by Thomas W. Finucane. On 4 April he saw Water Pipits of which we have only four previous records, Jan. '49, May '52, '53 and '57. Undoubtedly his most colorful observation was a Purple Gallinule on Chimney Top 18 April, a first for our records. Unusual, too, were 5 Red-breasted Nuthatches on our Spring Count. Mr. Finucane had also observed Red-breasted Nuthatches on 4 and 11 April. Late and unexpected were 3 Northern Waterthrushes on Bays Mountain 16 and 17 May. Two observations of water birds augment our variants. I saw one Bonaparte's Gull on Patrick Henry 12 April in a mixed flock of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, and on 19 April one Bonaparte's appeared at the fish hatchery. On 14 May a wounded Canada Goose was seen by Arthur and Elizabeth Smith on the Holston River near Eastman. Thomas Finucane saw a Swamp Sparrow near the reservoir on Bays Mountain 25 April, another first in our record.

The late winter and early spring were notable for the absence of several species of water birds we have come to expect. We recorded no observations of either the Common or Red-throated Loon, no Western or Horned Grebe, no Double-crested Cormorant, no Black-crowned Night Heron. Between ten and fifteen years ago we listed Black-crowned Night Herons every April. In 1956 we had two observations, and no more until a single record in '62. American Widgeon were fewer this year than in recent years. During April we had regular weekly records of a goodly number of seven species of water birds not visible for our Spring Count, Great Blue Heron, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Common, and Red-breasted Mergansers. The Blue-winged Teal returned early on 28 March. Hawks continue very scarce, but after no observations during the winter we did record during this past quarter an occasional Sharp-shinned Cooper's, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Sparrow Hawk. Osprey appeared early on 28 March. Our records show very few sandpipers. Killdeer continue very scarce, especially in areas sprayed for white-fringed beetles.

A few species of wintering birds lingered longer than usual, Lesser Scaup through 28 May, Evening Grosbeaks until 13 March and Fox Sparrows, 4 April. A few spring migrants other than those previously mentioned appeared early, such as Purple Martins, 7 March; Eastern Kingbirds, 8 April; and Blackpoll Warblers, 25 April.

Notable during the nesting season are the Blue Grosbeaks nesting near the Athur Smith's property for the second year, and the Baltimore Oriole a few hundred feet from the property of Fred Kays. A Baltimore Oriole has spent two winters near the feeding station of Mrs. Fred Kays. Now a hanging nest is plainly visible about twenty feet above a paved road. On 14 June four nestlings were found dead on the pavement.

MRS. ROBERT M. SWITZER, 1620 Fairidge Place, Kingsport, Tenn.

BRISTOL—For the most part observations in Bristol were limited during the spring months and as a result most of the migration passed unobserved. As spring made its way to this part of our state a few scattered records were collected for winter and migrant waterfowl. Last dates for several species were as follows: Horned Grebe 7 April (1); Pied-billed Grebe 2 May (1); Canada Goose 9 March (12) (WIQ); Blue-winged Teal

7 & 11 April (6 & 7 respectively); Ring-necked Duck 22 March (1) at King's Spring; Bufflehead 9 March (1).

A single Cooper's Hawk was seen flying over the South Holston River near the Bristol waterworks on 5 May (RS-WC). A single Red-tailed Hawk was observed on two occasions at Smalling's Curve on 16 March (WC) and 9 April (RS-WC). A Red-shouldered Hawk was found in the wooded bogs of Shady Valley on 30 April (GC-WC) and 3 May (RS-WC). No nest could be found. Ospreys were reported from South Holston River (1) 7 April (RS-WC), near Damascus, Va. 12 April (1) (GC), and a single bird fishing on South Holston Lake 27 April (WC).

A Woodcock flushed in Shady Valley on 18 April leaving behind three flightless young birds (KD-WC). Interesting records along South Holston Lake shores were: Bonaparte's Gull 5 Apr. (2) (WC) and our last record for a Ring-billed Gull 27 April. These birds were not recorded in the great numbers (50 to 100) that they usually are present with during the early spring. One Forster's Tern flew at close range on 25 May (FB-WC).

The Barn Owls which have nested in past years near Piney Flats, were again seen on 6 & 7 March (WIQ) but only one bird each time. Two flew over Viedea Drive on the night of 17 April (BQ).

H. W. Nunley again reports the presence of a Chuck-wills-widow near his home on South Holston River. The nesting area has evidently been moved from the location reported in **The Migrant** during the past few years.

Roger Stone found an unusual heron near the Bristol waterworks on 5 May and with the writer was able to determine its identification as an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron on 6 May.

Some last date records for winter residents were: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 11 April; Red-breasted Nuthatch 22 March; Brown Creeper 9 April; Cedar Waxwings present until June; Myrtle Warbler 3 May; Rusty Blackbird 20 March (20); Purple Finch 9 April; Pine Siskin 10 May (10) at Mendota, Va. (WC); Red Crossbill 22 March (20) on Cloudland Drive (DR-WC); Slate-colored Junco 7 April; White-crowned Sparrow 3 May; and White-throated Sparrow 6 May.

First date spring records for migrants and summer residents were: Common Nighthawk 19 April; Chimney Swift 4 April; Ruby-throated Hummingbird 27 April; Red-headed Woodpecker reached peak breeding population by 24 April (one or two individuals wintered); Eastern Kingbird 17 March; Tree Swallow 2 May; Bank Swallow 2 May; Rough-winged Swallow 13 April; Barn Swallow 7 April; Cliff Swallows 2 May; House Wren 12 April; a single Short-billed Marsh Wren was observed near Painter Creek Dock on 23 May (FB-WC).

Other first date spring records were: Catbird 19 April; Brown Thrasher 20 March (RS)—this observation exceeds previous early records for this species by two days; Wood Thrush 14 April; Blue-grey Gnatcatcher 5 April; White-eyed Vireo 5 May; Black and White Warbler 14 April; Prairie Warbler 11 May; Ovenbird 14 April; La. Waterthrush 1 April; Kentucky Warbler 13 May; Yellowthroat 27 April; Yellow-breasted Chat 27 April; Hooded Warbler 2 May; Wilson's Warbler 2 May; Canada Warbler 2 May.

A flock of Redwinged Blackbirds near South Holston Lake numbered about 400 on 20 March. On that same date some 200 Cowbirds were seen at Goose Pimple Junction near Bristol but were not present the next day. The peak migration for the Common Grackle was determined as about 7

March when thousands covered the trees and fields near the Bristol Country Club.

Our first records for the following were: Orchard Oriole 19 April; Baltimore Oriole 20 April; Scarlet Tanager 24 April; Summer Tanager 22 April; Rose-breasted Grosbeak 3 May; Blue Grosbeak 24 May (1) (DR); Indigo Bunting 24 April; Savannah Sparrow 5 April; Grasshopper Sparrow 24 April; and Vesper Sparrow 16 March.

CONTRIBUTORS: Fletcher Bingham, Wallace Coffey, George Craig, Ken Dubke, H. W. Nunley, Bob Quillen, Mrs. W. I. Quillen, Dick Raybun, Roger Stone, Enno vanGelder.

WALLACE COFFEY, 508 Spruce Street, Bristol, Tennessee.

ELIZABETHTON—Bird migration through here has been rather routine this past season. We had only one record of the Common Loon (1) on 5 April. Horned Grebe (10) were noted on area lakes till 5 April, while a Pied-billed Grebe was present to 10 May. The last Great Blue Herons (3) were observed on 22 March. The first Green Heron of the season on 9 April. One American Bittern was noted at Milligan College on 5 April (CS).

At the Roan Creek area of Watauga Lake eighty Mallards were noted on 1 Mar. then the last (1) on 3 May. Also, at the same area Black Duck (510) were present in good numbers at the same time. The Black Duck then dropped sharply to only two on 28 March. The usual number of Gadwall (20) were present on Patrick Henry till 5 April then dropped to two on 19 April. Few American Widgeon were noted this season with the last (6) found 19 April. Green-winged Teal (1) on Boone Lake 22 March. Blue-winged Teal (4) only on 26 Mar., (9) 5 April, and (1) 11 April. Wood Duck (1) was first observed on 7 Mar. and Redhead (6) only on 15 Mar. and (4) 22 March. Ring-necked Duck (50) were located on 7 Mar. and (69) 15 Mar. with a drop, then the last record on (1) 3 May. Canvasback (8) were noted on 1 Mar., (4) 15 Mar. and (1) 23 March. Greater Scaup (4) were identified on 15 Mar. and singles on 21, 23 and 29 March. On Boone Lake 1 Mar. Common Goldeneye (47) were still plentiful and also at the Roan Creek area (66), then a sharp drop to nine on 15 March. A single female Common Goldeneye has been noticed on Wilbur Lake to 26 May. Bufflehead numbers have fluctuated this season with a high count (65) on 23 Mar. and good numbers (60) on Wilbur Lake 11 Apr. then a drop with a single still present 10 May. Single records of an Oldsquaw and a Ruddy Duck on Boone Lake 5 April. On 15 Mar. five White-winged Scoters (KHD) were noted on Boone Lake. The largest number of Hooded Mergansers (8) were noted on 29 Mar. and last record of one on 3 May. Common Merganser records are as follows: (7) 1 Mar., (3) 8 Mar., and (5) 23 Mar. Red-breasted Mergansers were recorded on the following dates: (15) 23 Mar., (17) 5 Apr., (12) 11 Apr., (15) 3 May and six at the Roan Creek area on 17 May.

Black Vultures are seldom seen in our area so the following records are of interest: (15) 8 Mar., (15) 29 Mar., and (2) 12 April.

Only a single record of a Cooper's Hawk on 2 Apr. and one of a Red-tailed Hawk on 5 April. Broad-winged Hawks were first noted on 12 April. Scattered single records of Osprey from 5 Apr. to 12 April. Our first positive evidence of the Ring-necked Pheasant reproducing in Shady Valley was of a female and five or six chicks flushed on 21 May Roby McQueen *vide* KHD. Single Sora Rail noted regularly from 27 Mar. to 8 May and two on 2 Apr. (CS). American Coot records ranged from (6) 15 Mar. to a

high on (15) 11 Apr. with the last noted on (1) 17 May. Semipalmated Plover (2) on 17 May. Common Snipe seemed to reach peak numbers (27) on 5 Apr. and the last noted (2) on 29 April.

Spotted Sandpipers were first noticed on 19 Apr. with single scattered records to 27 May. Solitary Sandpipers (3) on 29 Apr., (8) 3 May, (3) 6 May and (1) 9 May. Greater Yellowlegs (1) on 5 Apr., (2) 8 Apr. and (1) 9 May. Lesser Yellowlegs (1) only 5 Apr., (1) 3 May, and (3) 9 May. A single Least Sandpiper on 9 May and two Semipalmated Sandpipers on 27 May.

Gulls didn't seem to be so common this season. Herring Gulls on the following dates: (1) 15 Mar., (2) 23 Mar., and (16) 5 April. Largest number of Ring-billed Gulls (189) noted were on 15 March then a decline to only one at the Roan Creek area on 18 May. Bonaparte's Gulls (10) at Boone Lake 5 Apr. and (4) 11 April. A single Forster's Tern was observed at the Roan Creek area on 27 May (KHD).

Some first dates: Chuck-wills-widow 16 Apr.; Whip-poor-will 16 Apr.; Nighthawk 21 Apr.; Chimney Swift 7 Apr. and Hummingbird 20 April. The last observation of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was noted on 12 April. The first Eastern Kingbird on 13 Apr.; Great Crested Flycatcher 22 Apr.; Eastern Phoebe 7 Mar.; Acadian Flycatcher 3 May; Traill's, 17 May; Least, 16 Apr.; E. Wood Pewee, 17 Apr. Tree Swallows (1) on 8 Apr., (13) 3 May, and (1) 24 May. Rough-winged Swallow, 29 Apr.; Barn Swallow, 8 Apr.; and Purple Martins at the Blair Shannon residence near Johnson City 4 March. Mrs. Shannon has been keeping first arrival dates for many years and this is her earliest. Her previous early date was 15 March.

The last Brown Creeper noted was on 15 April. The first House Wren 19 April; Winter Wren noted on Roan Mountain at 5800 feet elevation on 5 April. Bewick's Wren, 15 Apr. First Catbird on 19 Apr. and the first Brown Thrasher in Johnson City, 20 Mar. (HD). Only one Swainson's Thrush on 3 May. Veery, on 26 Apr.; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 2 Apr. Single Ruby-crowned Kinglets only on 29 Mar., 12 Apr. and 3 May. Cedar Waxwings (17) reappeared on 24 Mar. and common remainder of the season. White-eyed Vireo on 11 Apr.; Yellow-throated Vireo only found (3) on 3 May. Solitary Vireo, 12 Apr.; Red-eyed Vireo, 25 Apr. and Warbling Vireo 3 May.

First dates and migration dates include the following: Black and White, 11 Apr.; Swainson's, 26 Apr.; Worm-eating, 18 Apr.; Golden-winged, 3 May; Parula, 18 Apr.; Yellow, 14 Apr.; Magnolia only on 3 May; Black-throated Green, 12 Apr.; Cerulean (3) only on 3 May; Blackburnian, 18 Apr.; Yellow-throated (1) only on 3 May; Chestnut-sided, 16 Apr.; Blackpoll (1) only on 3 May; Pine (1) only found 29 Mar.; Prairie, 19 Apr.; Palm from (1) 19 Apr. to (2) 3 May; Ovenbird, 16 Apr.; Northern Waterthrush (1) only on 3 May. Louisiana Waterthrush, 5 Apr.; Kentucky, 24 Apr.; Yellowthroat, 16 Apr.; Yellow-breasted Chat, 18 Apr.; Hooded, 19 Apr.; Wilson's only (2) on 3 May and (1) 17 May; Canada, 3 May and American Redstart, 19 April. Bobolink (6) only on 25 Apr., (3) 8 May and (1) 13 May. Redwinged Blackbirds, 1 Mar.; Orchard Oriole, 18 Apr.; Baltimore Oriole, 20 Apr.; Rusty Blackbirds (4) 8 Mar., (6) 23 Mar., (2) 5 Apr., (6) 18 Apr. and (1) 3 May. A Brewer's Blackbird was carefully identified in Siam on 5 April (ED). Scarlet Tanager, 25 Apr.; a single Blue Grosbeak was found on 3 May.

Evening Grosbeaks were noted regularly in flocks up to 36 birds with their last date on 3 May when 59 were found. Indigo Buntings first noted on 19 April. Very few Purple Finch during the entire period with only

these records: (3) 8 Mar., (1) 15 Mar., (60) 28 Mar. and (1) 26 April. Pine Siskins were observed regularly with the last ones (2) on 13 May. On 12 Apr. 300 were recorded and 800 on 26 April. Several White-winged Crossbills were noted at Mountain Home 8 Mar. and about 15 to 20 on 11 Mar. For our last dates a male and two females on 7 April (RLJ). The last Red Crossbills of the season were five on 3 May.

The largest number of Savannah Sparrows (50) were noted on 8 Mar. with scattered numbers to 3 May when two were found. Sparrow first and last dates: Grasshopper, 19 Apr.; Vesper, 8 Mar.; Chipping, 15 Mar.; White-crowned, 3 May; White-throated, 11 May; Fox (2), 5 Apr. and Swamp, 3 May.

Contributors: John Barnitz, Fred W. Behrend, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Browning, Ed Davidson, Helen Daywitt, Kenneth Dubke, Dr. and Mrs. Lee R. Herndon, R. L. James, Mrs. Betty King, Roby D. May, Roby McQueen and Charles Smith.

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

## THE 1964 SPRING FIELD DAYS

By T.O.S. MEMBERS

Counts were again submitted from a total of ten areas, the same as last year. This is the second highest Spring Count ever achieved across the state with a total of 202 species being reported. No doubt, one of the single most all important factors contributing to this is the larger number of well trained observers actively participating.

In studying the counts it is of interest to note the remnants of the northern species that invaded the state this past winter. Pine Siskins showed up in a total of six areas and Red-breasted Nuthatches in seven of the ten areas reporting. In addition, Red Crossbills were found in Elizabethton and Evening Grosbeaks in Greeneville. Apparently the White-winged Crossbills moved out earlier as reported in this issue.

### INFORMATION ON THE COUNTS

Information on the counts and in the table are given progressively from west to east. All other pertinent information will be found under area titles.

REELFOOT LAKE—The TOS state meeting held on 1, 2 and 3 May with coverage of Lake and the westside of Obion Counties. Some species were so common that no attempt was made to count them, but were assigned to these categories: FC, fairly common; C, common. The Snow Goose appeared at the Washout 14 October 1963 and remained through the season. It was reported shot about two weeks after the meeting. Ben B. Coffey, Jr. (compiler).

COLUMBIA—The Spring Count was held from noon 29 April to noon 30 April in the Columbia area including Arrow Lake, the Gray's Camp and forest, Primm Springs, the Reservoir South of Franklin, the Godwin Reservoir and intermediate points along the way extending up to 25 miles to the north and west and 15 miles to the south, with virtually no coverage to the east. Weather was clear and cool (36 degrees at night to 70 degrees maximum) with winds up to 15 MPH westerly, on 29 April only, following passage of a cold front. Nine observers, three parties, (George and Cleo Mayfield, Dan, Gaither, Dan III, and Daws Gray, William and Mary Lucy Fuqua, and Delton Porter). A total of 60 hours were spent in the field. George Mayfield, compiler.

## TABULAR RECORD OF SPRING FIELD DAYS

	Reelfoot Lake	Columbia	Cooksville	Nashville	Chattanooga	Knoxville	Greeneville	Kingsport	Elizabethton	Bristol
Common Loon		1			9					
Pied-billed Grebe		1		3	1	1		1	1	3
Great Blue Heron	7	1		1		2	8			
Common Egret	50									
Green Heron	9	6	1	13	9	7	6	3	2	3
Little Blue Heron	18	1								
Snowy Egret	1									
Bl.-cr. Night Heron	1	1		2						
Yel.-cr. Night Heron	1	2					2			
Least Bittern	1				2					
American Bittern	2				1	1				
Canada Goose							8			
Snow Goose	1						1			
Mallard	5	1		3	6		10		6	1
Black Duck						1				
Gadwall	2									
Blue-winged Teal	34	28		5	14	5	25			
Wood Duck	FC	4	2	11	5	11	2	13		3
Redhead	1									
Ring-necked Duck					6	2				1
Lesser Scaup				11	5	1		1		1
Common Goldeneye										1
Bufflehead	3	2								3
Ruddy Duck		1								
Hooded Merganser						2				1
Red-br. Merganser	1									15
Turkey Vulture	10	5	2	27		8	10	4	3	4
Black Vulture	16	5		7	1	8	5	3		
Mississippi Kite	2									
Sharp-shinned Hawk						2				
Cooper's Hawk		2		3			1			
Red-tailed Hawk	1	1		14	3		1			
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	1		1		1				1
Broad-winged Hawk		2		5						1
Bald Eagle	1 Ad									
Marsh Hawk	1			1	1					
Osprey	2			2	2	2	1			
Sparrow Hawk	2	3	2	7	2	3	4		2	1
Ruffed Grouse						2		1		2
Bobwhite	17	18	24	38	36	100	14	9	26	27
Ring-necked Pheasant										2
King Rail					2					
Sora Rail		2			5					1

Common Gallinule	1									
American Coot	150	4		1	8	2	2	1		
Semipalmated Plover	14									
Killdeer	18	2	1	17	15	31	13	3	6	8
Am. Golden Plover	110									
American Woodcock		6								1
Common Snipe	3	2		3	34	23	12			5
Upland Plover						1				
Spotted Sandpiper	15	1		4	6	10	2	2	3	10
Solitary Sandpiper	8	4		13	16	7	6	2		8
Greater Yellowlegs	14	18			1		2	1		
Lesser Yellowlegs	14			2	11		5	5		1
Pectoral Sandpiper	50				2					
Least Sandpiper	30	2			4					
Ring-billed Gull						15				2
Forster's Tern		3								
Common Tern							1			
Mourning Dove	FC	48	102	96	83	322	77	24	75	33
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	17	2	2	17	2	6		9	1	2
Black-billed Cuckoo		3				8	1	2	1	8
Barn Owl		1		2						
Screech Owl				2		4	3			
Great Horned Owl	1	2				10	1			
Barred Owl	7	4		8		2				
Chuck-will's-Widow	1	5	4		12	18	3		1	2
Whip-poor-will		20	1	9	25	9	1			8
Common Nighthawk	5	1	7	4		4	7	13		
Chimney Swift	45	108	128	241	161	472	1136	13	92	237
Ruby-th. Hummingbird	20	3	6	14	3	10	3	1	3	1
Belted Kingfisher	5	3	1	9	3	6	4	2	2	11
Yel.-shafted Flicker	18	5	18	22	36	117	33	25	53	50
Pileated Woodpecker	11	8	9	22	2	28	15	9		9
Red-bel. Woodpecker	FC	20	12	75	12	40	5	3	2	7
Red-hd. Woodpecker	35	3	2	7	2	21	5	3	8	1
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	2	2	1	2	2	2	3			
Hairy Woodpecker	11	1	5	9		1		1	1	
Downy Woodpecker	27	12	17	41	14	39	18	7	16	14
Eastern Kingbird	40	22	6	25	4	32	7	16	13	6
Grt.-Cr. Flycatcher	FC	10	13	46	8	62	11	14	5	18
Eastern Phoebe	5	13	2	15	11	20	18	3	16	26
Yellow-bel. Flycatcher		1		1						
Acadian Flycatcher	27	16		24	1			8		5
Least Flycatcher										22
Eastern Wood Pewee	FC	21	3	25	3	6	13	15	1	13
Horned Lark	21	6		1	2	9	16	1	14	5
Tree Swallow	C	1			200	8	101		20	13
Bank Swallow	C	4		2	5	2	2		50	25
Rough-wing. Swallow	FC	16		2	9	70	65	10	30	58
Barn Swallow	FC	45	6	70	35	172	182	34	28	116
Cliff Swallow	5			156	165	10			75	32
Purple Martin	22	16	6	48	324	285	7	32	20	1
Blue Jay	FC	33	95	196	109	478	105	81	110	87

Common Raven										1
Common Crow	FC	34	51	77	72	263	74	50	53	68
Fish Crow		40								
Carolina Chickadee	FC	38	18	80	18	115	49	22	35	38
Tufted Titmouse	FC	10	44	86	40	143	33	36	42	50
White-br. Nuthatch		14	3	8	6	6		1	6	3
Red-br. Nuthatch		2	1			1	8	3	4	5
Brown Creeper				2			1			
House Wren		1					1	2	4	8
Winter Wren				2						11
Bewick's Wren		1		4	6	8	4	1	1	
Carolina Wren		32	9	17	29	23	145	35	24	13
Mockingbird		20	26	28	139	73	315	139	37	49
Catbird		35	31	47	55	14	58	36	11	33
Brown Thrasher		16	14	33	40	46	157	71	25	33
Robin		9	30	42	140	114	390	144	82	91
Wood Thrush	FC	11	12	61	44		127	9	40	24
Hermit Thrush			1				5			
Swainson's Thrush		20	13		24	1	15	1	12	1
Gray-cheeked Thrush		7	6		1		1			2
Veery		6	5		1	2	18			11
E. Bluebird		14	11	23	41	65	38	18	6	19
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	FC	44	10	84			40	16	12	14
Golden-cr. Kinglet				1						4
Ruby-cr. Kinglet		1				2	5	2		1
Water Pipit							2			
Cedar Waxwing		70	10	4	24	110	122	115		38
Loggerhead Shrike		26	10	3	22	3	6	3		2
Starling	FC	500	98	652	324		855	353	98	229
White-eyed Vireo	FC	20	6	61	13		57	7	7	1
Yel.-throated Vireo		15	5	1	11	2	16	3	3	3
Solitary Vireo		8	1		1			1		9
Red-eyed Vireo	FC	26	11	60	43		185	15	26	22
Philadelphia Vireo						1		1		
Warbling Vireo	FC	3			1	4	3	1		9
Black & Wh. Warbler		2	12	4	28	16	63	10	11	1
Prothonotary Warbler	FC	4			61	3	2	1	1	
Swainson's Warbler		12						1		3
Worm-eating Warbler		1	5		6	1	3	11	18	8
Golden-wing. Warbler		8	1		3		2			3
Blue-winged Warbler		1	21		18	1	3			
Tennessee Warbler	C	17	10	57			14		6	2
Orange-cr. Warbler							1			
Nashville Warbler		4	4	2	11		4			
Parula Warbler		22	7		13		3		5	11
Yellow Warbler		3	14	3	19	16	38	16	15	4
Magnolia Warbler		10	2	5	2	3	6	51		5
Cape May Warbler		4	2			8	1			3
Bl.-th. Blue Warbler						1	7	2		35
Myrtle Warbler		27	28	6	92	91	119	37	3	7
Bl.th. Green Warbler		17	8		28	5	70		2	18
Cerulean Warbler	FC	47			37		6		9	3

Blackburnian Warbler	2	2	.....	.....	1	30	.....	4	.....	5
Yellow-th. Warbler	15	4	.....	29	.....	9	.....	2	.....	1
Chestnut-sid. Warbler	8	10	.....	2	3	18	20	.....	.....	40
Bay-breasted Warbler	4	12	.....	.....	7	1	.....	2	.....	.....
Blackpoll Warbler	FC	1	.....	6	15	10	.....	10	.....	1
Pine Warbler	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	18	.....	1	.....
Prairie Warbler	.....	10	.....	33	4	53	1	4	.....	3
Palm Warbler	FC	39	.....	17	19	23	11	.....	.....	2
Ovenbird	5	13	2	4	2	6	17	15	1	48
Northern Waterthrush	7	2	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
La. Waterthrush	4	9	3	25	.....	4	6	6	1	18
Kentucky Warbler	FC	14	.....	40	5	27	2	13	.....	4
Yellowthroat	FC	15	8	75	9	89	19	7	2	41
Yel.-breasted Chat	FC	17	12	79	18	88	8	16	5	36
Hooded Warbler	11	6	1	6	5	13	7	7	1	24
Wilson's Warbler	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2	2
Canada Warbler	.....	.....	.....	1	1	3	1	4	1	15
American Redstart	C	12	.....	16	.....	1	1	4	.....	4
House Sparrow	.....	23	108	94	106	210	105	102	99	364
Bobolink	350	44	38	.....	6	18	.....	.....	.....	.....
Eastern Meadowlark	FC	66	81	244	149	583	321	62	104	100
Redwinged Blackbird	C	95	37	142	148	460	115	82	18	156
Orchard Oriole	FC	19	6	93	28	35	13	10	8	14
Baltimore Oriole	FC	6	5	36	20	14	2	5	6	14
Rusty Blackbird	.....	.....	2	.....	6	8	.....	.....	.....	.....
Common Grackle	C	300	112	662	128	583	425	109	292	489
Br-headed Cowbird	FC	32	19	76	47	169	50	24	29	22
Scarlet Tanager	9	10	5	46	10	27	7	15	6	25
Summer Tanager	22	12	19	67	23	41	9	22	11	4
Cardinal	C	49	102	236	157	515	245	94	108	126
Rose-br. Grosbeak	24	48	3	94	25	70	7	10	1	27
Blue Grosbeak	.....	2	7	2	9	7	.....	2	.....	1
Indigo Bunting	C	57	46	240	35	226	70	94	13	59
Dickcissel	C	22	2	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Evening Grosbeak	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	.....	.....	.....
Purple Finch	.....	.....	.....	5	40	115	38	2	.....	.....
Pine Siskin	20	8	.....	.....	4	198	265	.....	.....	87
American Goldfinch	FC	52	258	450	332	357	177	19	91	120
Red Crossbill	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Rufus-sided Towhee	6	17	51	67	86	242	31	21	23	110
Savannah Sparrow	10	18	.....	40	2	17	5	.....	.....	2
Grasshopper Sparrow	.....	8	.....	13	11	10	4	5	1	12
Vesper Sparrow	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Lark Sparrow	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bachman's Sparrow	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Slate-colored Junco	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	5	4	.....	6	41
Chipping Sparrow	15	23	17	59	30	89	15	9	20	38
Field Sparrow	FC	30	27	100	42	190	45	12	11	62
Harris' Sparrow	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
White-cr. Sparrow	4	11	5	7	.....	37	26	.....	10	14
White-thr. Sparrow	27	28	55	170	133	488	25	4	22	23
Fox Sparrow	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....



& Mrs. E. M. West, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Meadors, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Ranger, Mrs. Hugh W. Crownover, Miss Catherine Kellerman, Mr. Jerry Linderman, Mr. Benton Basham, Mr. (compiler) & Mrs. Ralph T. Bullard Jr.

KNOXVILLE—Sunday 26 April. The count area included all of Knox County as in recent years, with 37 members in 18 parties taking part. In spite of light rain 147 species were counted. An upland plover found by James T. Tanner appears in a count for the first time. The Orange-crowned Warbler by James Campbell and J. B. Owen. A surprising number of waterfowl helped in reaching the high count. J. B. OWEN, compiler.

GREENEVILLE—The area around Greeneville, Tusculum, Nolichucky River, Horse Creek, Paint Creek, Bluff Mountain, and Roaring Fork Creek were covered; woodland 60%, open fields 35%, towns 5%. 26 Apr., 5:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. cloudy to raining; temp. 45 to 55 degrees; 16 observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours, 51 (36 on foot, 15 by car); total party-miles, 216 (12 on foot, 204 by car). Mr. and Mrs. Willis Clemens, Mrs. Turner Clinard, Mrs. Ben Clark, Mrs. Chester Darnell, Mrs. Marion Edens, Mr. and Mrs. King Gaut, Ann and Bill Gaut, Mr. and Mrs. William Hollomon, Mrs. Richard Nevius, Richard Nevius (compiler), Dr. and Karl Spees.

KINGSPORT—The count was held 9 May from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The weather was overcast and coverage was of the usual area. Participants were the following: Thomas W. Finucane, Edgar Gift, Mrs. David Hedberg, Mrs. Fred Kays, Mrs. W. C. McHorris, Mrs. Virgil Peek, Mrs. Lucile Smith and Mrs. Ann Switzer (compiler).

BRISTOL—All points within a fifteen mile diameter circle of downtown Bristol, Tennessee-Virginia, to include South Holston Lake, South Holston River and in general, areas of Sullivan County, Tennessee and Washington County, Virginia in and around Bristol.

Participants selected between 2 May and 3 May for their count days and temperatures ranged between 60 and 70 degrees on all reports. Skies were clear and sunny for 2 May but the early hours until noon were overcast with light showers in the morning hours on 3 May with the afternoon clear, warm and sunny. There were seventeen participants in nine parties: Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Reynolds, Judge and Mrs. J. L. Cantwell, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Rockwell Bingham, Mr. H. W. Nunley, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Miller, Miss Loyless, Miss Hiltons, Miss Clark, Miss Pflug, Mrs. Earl Francisco, George Craig, Roger Stone and Wallace Coffey (compiler).

ELIZABETHTON—The second largest number of bird species ever listed here were recorded on our Spring Count from 6:00 p.m. 2 May to 6:00 p.m. 3 May. Members of the chapter reported a total of 138 species of birds on the count which covered a wide area of Carter County and in addition Shady Valley and Cove Ridge near Butler in Johnson County as well as part of Unaka Mountain in Unicoi County. Included in the Carter County area were the hills behind Milligan College, golf course vicinity, the Doe River banks from Elizabethton to Valley Forge, Lynn Mountain, Watauga River bottom, Fitzsimmons Hill, Stoney Creek and Siam areas, Wilbur and Watauga lakes, and Roan Mountain.

Participating in the count were Dr. and Mrs. L. R. Herndon, Mr. and

Mrs. J. C. Browning, Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Behrend, Mrs. Betty King, Roby D. May, Ed Davidson, Charles Smith, John Barnitz and Kenneth Dubke (compiler).

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## ROUND TABLE NOTES

**A TENNESSEE NESTING OF THE TREE SWALLOW.**—A nest of this species (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) was found by the writer, on 22 May, 1918, on Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee and this, so far as I know, is the first and only record for the State. The nest contained 4 fresh eggs, which were collected along with the male bird. The location was directly across from Walnut Log and a quarter mile from the west shore. It was constructed in an old woodpecker hole in a slim, limbless, dead cypress tree, which stood in water about 10 feet deep. This and other dead cypress trees near were of the original forest that sunk with the land when the lake was formed by the earthquake of 1811-1812. The nesting cavity was about 40 feet above the water and at a point where the trunk was only 5 inches in diameter. Tying my boat to the tree base, I found the wood still sound enough to support the spurs of my climbing irons. By the time I reached the nest, the tree had leaned ominously from its support in the muddy bottom but luckily did not go down. The nest was composed of shreds of cypress bark and was well lined with feathers of wild ducks and herons. During the several days spent there on this trip, 7 individuals were noted flying about over the water. On this and on subsequent trips, other nests were looked for but none was found. Many Tree Swallows rendezvous on Reelfoot during October and some stay into November. In the northern states, this swallow is a common breeding bird and will use nesting boxes put up for its convenience.

ALBERT F. GANIER, 2112 Woodlawn Drive, Nashville 12, Tenn.

**ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW NESTING IN THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS.**—Until very recently the Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) was not known to breed above 2500 feet in the Smokies, although summer sightings at high elevations were not unusual (Stupka, NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, 1963).

On 22 May 1963, I observed a Rough-winged Swallow enter a cavity in a road cut several hundred yards from Indian Gap at approximately 5300 feet. The location of this nest was a considerable distance from any known stream. Hatching had not occurred by 30 May. Three young were in the nest on 24 June and had left by 11 July when one young swallow was being fed in a conifer at Indian Gap. (On 9 July, a single swallow was seen to leave the nest on my approach and move further back in the nest cavity. The other two were not in the cavity.)

THOMAS SAVAGE, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

CLIFF SWALLOW COLONIES - 1963 NOTES.—On River Road out of Nashville, 29 June, nests at two bridges probably less than in 1960 (1960:45, John C. Ogden) and at a third, no birds, apparently because of evident nest destruction previous season. No stops at Sycamore Creek, Tenn. hwy. 12 bridge (ten Cliffs in air) or Dover US 79 bridge (none seen); 4 there 27 April. On our first visit in several years we were glad to see, for the first time, Cliff Swallow nests on the bridge at Paris Landing. At least 120 nests on the west approach and 60 on the east, seen from the shore only, 28 April. On Tenn. hwy. 100 (no stops): still a good colony at Beech River, none at old site Perryville bridge; Buffalo River, 1 seen 26 April and 35 Cliffs in air 28 June; new site, Cane Creek bridge, Pleasantville, 45 birds seen 28 June. White River bridge, Cotter, Ark. over 400 nests (usual), activity unknown, only 3 Cliffs remaining 28 July; moderate numbers over fields south of Calico Rock bluff and near Sylamore. Still none at Memphis or several Arkansas R. bridges checked.

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

BREWSTER'S WARBLER IN CHICKAMAUGA PARK, GEORGIA—On the morning of 19 April 1964, members of our Chattanooga Chapter were engaged in one of our monthly field trips, this one in Chickamauga National Military Park, Georgia. We were looking for new migrants as well as seeing some of our wintering species. By midmorning the group of birders had split up into smaller groups. It was one of these smaller groups that found a large concentration of birds, most of which were migrants. One rather interesting bird gave us just a glimpse before it flew. None of us saw the bird well enough to identify it, however, after carefully searching the area we relocated it. The bird was seen well by three observers—Jerry Linderman, Merlin Wittenberg and Benton Basham. The yellow crown, black eyeline, yellow wingbars and white underparts made it very obvious that it was a Brewster's Warbler (*Vermivora leucobronchialis*). Other birds in the same area were the Blue-winged Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cape May Warbler and many other migrants.

Other groups came to the spot where the Brewster's Warbler was seen but it could not be relocated again.

Other interesting birds seen the same day were two Woodcocks and a Red-cockaded Woodpecker near a live pine with a cavity which could have been its nest.

BENTON BASHAM, Box 426, Collegedale, Tennessee.

OREGON JUNCO IN MEMPHIS—On 22 Jan., 1964 when my 14 year old son, Ed, who does not claim to be a "birder" proclaimed, "Mama, there's a bird in our back yard which I cannot find in your bird book (Peterson's Eastern)", I decided I had to get busy and identify the Junco I had been seeing for the past week. Ed had spent the day birding with Helen Dinkelspiel and myself at Lakeview and hence found things so interesting that he had spent the last hour at the kitchen window with "book and glasses."

Our Junco appeared to be an Oregon Junco (*Junco oreganus mearnsi*) (pink-sided form). Rosy pink sides with the pink reaching up toward the back in front of the wings, gray hood sharply separated from a rusty back. I talked by telephone with Lula Coffey and examined the Junco skins at the Memphis Museum. Our bird's markings were more pronounced and richer in color than any there. Perhaps because they had faded some and the rays of sunlight and life itself gave more color to our live friend.

Our Junco was most accommodating as he stayed until 13 March. Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coffey Jr., Mrs. Helen Dinkelspiel, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Seahorn; all members of Memphis TOS came by to see and verify the identity of our friend. Only one member was disappointed, as Henry Dinkelspiel only stayed about 15 minutes. Usually a 30 minute to 1 hour wait was ample time any time during the day as our friend would feed as close as 6 feet to our windows.

MRS. EDW. L. CARPENTER, 553 Sharon Drive, Memphis, Tenn.

RED CROSSBILLS FEEDING ON DANDELIONS — National Park Service Ranger Roy Evenson while on duty at Point Park, Chattanooga, observed a "dark chocolate brown crossbill" feeding within thirty-five feet of the entrance station on 12 May. It was reported that more than fifty people had passed while the female bird sat calmly within three feet of the main walk. To gain a better and closer look at the non-descript bird, Evenson approached to watch the Crossbill pull and eat seeds from the dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale*) which grow over the lawn. The feeding process continued for fifteen minutes as Evenson watched the Crossbill move from dandelion to dandelion as each plant was cleaned of its seeds. When reported that evening, Evenson said that he could have easily thrown a mist net over the bird. On 13 May, the female did not appear. However, that afternoon, he had an opportunity to capture a male Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostris*) in the first pre-nuptial plumage by tossing one of the mist nets across the bird. After banding the bird it was taken to Collegedale to be photographed and released the next day after having been viewed by science students at Southern Missionary College.

RALPH T. BULLARD JR., 3302 Navajo Drive, Chattanooga 11, Tenn.

TWO BIRD KILLS AT WMC-TV, MEMPHIS — Fortunately weather conditions at times of heavy migration seem to have been more favorable to the birds at Memphis. A very few casualties were reported (1954:11-13) for October, 1953. Two spring kills at the WMC-TV tower just east of the city came to light thru the cooperation of personnel there. Mr. Eugene D. Calhoun, failing to reach me, collected the following from the ground, the morning of 7 May, 1961: Philadelphia Vireo 2, and Warblers—Tennessee 1, Magnolia 4, Black-throated Green 2, Blackburnian 2, Chestnut-sided 2, Bay-breasted 2, Blackpoll 1, Ovenbird 1, Canada 1. On the morning of 8 May, a still warm Red-eyed Vireo was found. That evening I picked up the birds and made the identification. On 11 May 1964, Mr. Jos. H. Gresham called us, then assisted Mrs. Coffey and Mrs. Ed Carpenter in finding the bodies. He also inquired of other local stations which advised that they saw no evidence of a kill. The list of those collected, verified by the writer, follows: Empidonax (sp. ?) 1, Wood Thrush 1, Swainson's Thrush 1, Yellow-throated Vireo 2, Red-eyed Vireo 55, Philadelphia Vireo 5, and Warblers,—Tennessee 1, Yellow 1, Magnolia 4, Blackburnian 7, Chestnut-sided 2, Bay-breasted 4, Blackpoll 1, Ovenbird 2, Kentucky 1, Hooded 1, Wilson's 1, Canada 4, plus Baltimore Oriole 1, Indigo Bunting 1. A stunned but still alive American Redstart was released later in a park, but two additional Red-eyed Vireos subsequently died.

BEN B. COFFEY JR., 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis 7, Tennessee.

**CATTLE EGRET NESTING AT THE DYERSBURG HERONRY**—Albert F. Ganier reported a heronry just northeast of Dyersburg (1960:48-49) and since then many of our members have visited this interesting colony on field trips from the Reelfoot state meetings. On 2 May, 1964, I took a few members down from this year's meeting. As we approached the heronry we counted 8 Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) flying in and out of the nesting area, along with Little Blue Herons, Common Egrets, and one Black-crowned Night Heron. While cattle were in the adjacent pasture only Little Blue Herons and Common Egrets were with them. We watched the flight of the Cattle Egrets and followed, by auto, about one and one-half miles in an easterly direction. Here we found a pasture where 4 Cattle Egrets were feeding with the cows. Dr. Wendell Whittemore, Dan Schreiber and others walked across the pasture and located a group of 45 of the birds. The next day my husband, Ben Coffey, and I visited the heronry again. We worked the western edge and located Cattle Egrets at 3 nests. Sticks were being carried to one nest, at another a Cattle Egret was sitting, and at the third a pair was copulating.

On 14 June, we again visited the heronry, accompanied by Alice Smith. We entered the nesting area and estimated a total of about 2500 nests (some could have been abandoned nests from previous years). About four-fifths of the nests were those of the Little Blue Heron the remainder Common Egrets with the exception of 8 Cattle Egret nests, including those located earlier. Three nests contained young approximately 5-10 days old. At other nests the birds were sitting.

The Cattle Egret nests were located well into the center of the heronry, in close proximity to nests of the other species. Two were in a dead tree some 40 feet above ground, and not more than 10-15 feet from two nests of Common Egrets and three Little Blue Heron nests. All others were in live deciduous trees about 30-40 feet up. The nests were bulky, many leaves in addition to sticks were used. They appeared deeper, resembling somewhat the nests of the Anhinga.

MRS. BEN B. COFFEY JR., 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis 7, Tennessee.

**LATE SONG SPARROW AT COLUMBIA**—Because of the close proximity of Middle Tennessee to areas in which the Song Sparrow nests, we have always marveled at the rather early complete disappearance of this bird from the Columbia area usually by 10 April or before, even though other non-nesting sparrows linger several weeks longer. Only the Fox Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow tend to disappear sooner (last Fox Sparrow seen 22 March; last Vesper, 4 April this year) among our regular Sparrow visitors. This year our Song Sparrows generally disappeared between 3 and 10 April.

It was therefore with considerable interest and caution that we included a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) on our Spring Count 29 April. This bird was both seen and heard by Dan and Daws Gray who reported it to their father who discussed the identification with them at length. It was felt that the song could not be easily confused with any other Sparrow singing then in this area and both boys have heard it repeatedly on month-long annual trips to Cape Cod. The sight identification was also thought valid.

GEORGE R. MAYFIELD JR., Maury County Hospital, Columbia, Tenn.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER NEAR MEMPHIS—On Sunday 26 April, 1964 about 1 p.m. while riding the levee at Lakeview and Mud Lake which is just south of the Tenn. line on Hwy. 61 with my husband, Ed, and sons, Ed and Claude, I had the wonderful pleasure and thrill of seeing my first Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Tennessee. We had had much rain for the last few days and the flycatcher was with many Bobolinks, Dickcissels and Kingbirds on the levee which was planted in lespedeza and clover, it being about a foot high. We were about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile across the Miss.-Tenn. line into Tenn. Although you begin riding the levee in Miss., it soon winds back across the state line and we were just west of the Harris farm.

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) was about 15 feet from the edge of the road when first sighted. The bird would lift and fly a short distance so that we enjoyed seeing both with and without field glasses the beautiful salmon-pink on the sides and under the wings and of course the scissored tail. I came out and called other TOS members. Helen Dinkelspiel and Alice Smith joined me and we walked and rode the levee in vain. It had begun to rain quite hard by this time and most of the birds were seeking shelter. I have observed many of these birds in the South-west and since I have always believed that it was my favorite bird, my cup surely ran over that day.

MRS. EDW. L. CARPENTER, 553 Sharon Drive, Memphis, Tennessee.

ALBINO REDWINGED BLACKBIRDS (?) — While driving idly on country roads between Chickamauga Lake and Dayton, Tenn. on 16 Feb. 1964, several large flocks of blackbirds were seen, including Grackles, Rusty Blackbirds, Cowbirds, and Redwings. Each species was more or less segregated from the others. A search was being made for Brewer's Blackbirds, but because of unfavorable light, none could be identified.

In two fields adjoining each other, were two flocks of Redwinged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), each with an albino bird. Both birds looked white when on the ground but, as they turned in flight, were seen to be a creamy white. The back of one was deeper in color—nearer a pale tan. So far as could be seen, neither bird had a black feather. Size and shape indicated that they, too, were Redwings.

To see one albino bird at any time always comes as a surprise, but to see two within a minute's time seems extraordinary. It is probable that the two flocks of Redwings, only a field apart, frequently blend together and are actually part of one large wintering population that roost together.

This seems an appropriate time to mention another adult male found by a student in the Collegedale area on 26 February, 1961. The skin is now in the collection of Southern Missionary College and bears a tag which shows it was collected by E. O. Grundset of the faculty, who is also a member of the Chattanooga Chapter. This specimen has a white head, bill, and rump patch. The throat is pinkish, the legs light, and the body, generally, is blotched black and white. The shoulder epaulets are a paler-than-normal red and yellow. The tag also bears the usual measurements which are not described here.

MRS. E. M. WEST, 5511 Dayton Blvd., Chattanooga, Tenn. 37415.

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### LEO M. ACUFF

The Chattanooga Chapter recently lost its third member by death during its eleven years of existence. It is with regret that we report the death of Leo M. Acuff. Although physically handicapped for extensive walking, Leo frequently birded from his car, attended meetings with regularity, and served as chapter treasurer so efficiently as to earn special commendation.

A long time member of the chapter, it was Leo who made the first observation of the Blue-winged Warbler breeding in Chickamauga Park, the only location so far noted in the area. He was also known for his talent as a poet and reader of poetry.

MRS. E. M. WEST, 5511 Dayton Blvd., Chattanooga, Tenn.

The Peregrine Falcon search, for Tennessee and adjacent areas, was carried out during May, 1964, by Daniel D. Berger and Charles Sindelar, under the general direction of Prof. Joseph Hickey of the University of Wisconsin. On arrival at Nashville, Mr. Ganier gave them a marked map and written descriptions of about 15 eyries known to have been at one time occupied. Also, description of a dozen potentially good sites worthy of investigation. After several weeks of careful searching they reported, after working northward into Virginia, that they had not as yet sighted a single falcon. This could have been the result of a chain of ill luck, or else verification of theory that the species is in danger of extermination from eating prey infected with poisons emanating from sprays used in the government forestry program and elsewhere. Such sprays infect the food animals on which they live. The searchers continued their work northward to Maine and we hope to report later on the results of their census.

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