

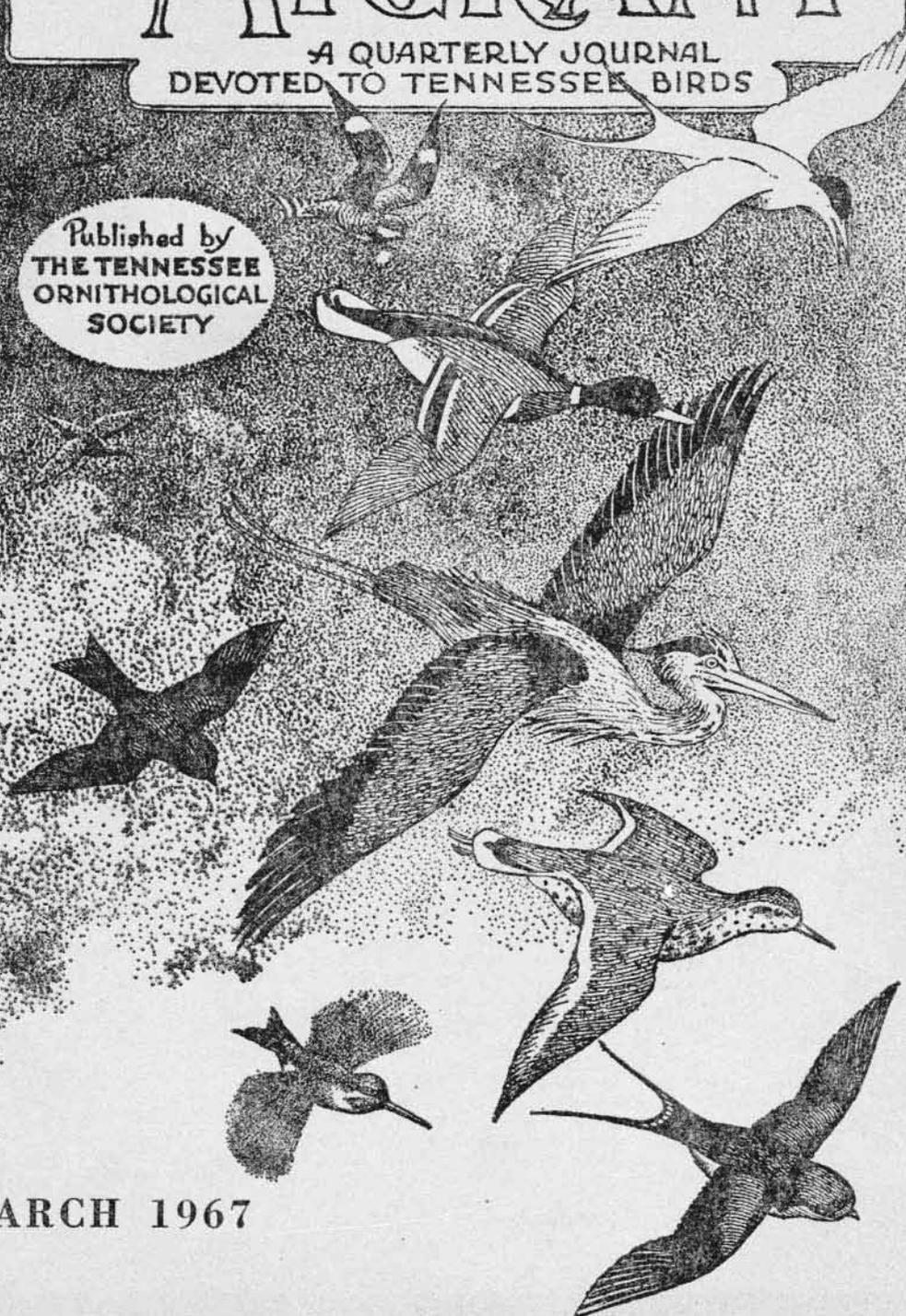
# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by  
THE TENNESSEE  
ORNITHOLOGICAL  
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MARCH 1967



# THE MIGRANT

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To encourage and record the study of Tennessee birds.

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### PREPARATION OF COPY FOR PUBLICATION

Most articles published in THE MIGRANT are written by T. O. S. members and comprise their major contribution toward carrying out the Society's purposes. The Editor, like other officers, receives no remuneration for the considerable work he does so the proper preparation of copy will help toward reducing his work. All manuscript should be typed on one side of 8½x11 paper, double spaced, and with good margins. Provide a concise, meaningful title and, where needed, subtitles within the text. Footnotes are not used. Bibliography, when used, should be brief. Examine past issues of THE MIGRANT and follow the style there used, noting that "main articles" and Round Table items are set up differently. Acceptable for inclusion are articles describing the habits of birds as noted from original observations in Tennessee or adjacent areas. Reports on occurrence of unusual species should give full data on the observation so that the record may be evaluated. The value of this publication depends upon the correctness of what it presents so accuracy of statement and identification are obvious requirements. In addition to such articles, are reports on our regularly scheduled projects, such as Spring Migration, Spring Field Counts, Breeding Bird Counts, Hawk Migration, and the Christmas Census. Each of these are reported upon by duly appointed leaders and it is their duty to see that questionable records are eliminated.

# THE MIGRANT

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## OBSERVATIONS AT A UNIQUE FARM IN KNOX COUNTY

BY FRED J. ALSOP, III

This paper is a record of the birds seen on an experimental plant science farm by members of the Knoxville Chapter of T. O. S. and the author. The period covered by the sightings extends from 18 September, 1966, to 3 December, 1966.

The farm itself, is a singular area in its attraction of birds. Both the topography and the variety of foods there extend a "welcome mat" to many different avian forms.

The farm, owned by The University of Tennessee and officially called the Plant Science Farm, is bounded on three sides by the waters of Fort Loudoun Lake, and on the fourth by the Alcoa highway.

Most of the farm's 212 acres consists of flat, river-bottom land only a few feet in elevation above the 812 foot level of the lake. This gradually rises into gently rolling hills as one travels from the lake to the highway. At the merger of flat land and hill, a marsh is formed by the convergence of several drainage ditches that carry the run-off water to a pumping area. Most of the area surrounding the farm is second growth deciduous forests with a scattering of coniferous trees. No livestock is raised, so the wildlife, for the most part, is unmolested.

In addition to the diversity of habitat, there is a menu that offers something for almost any Tennessee bird. This fall the marsh abounded in small fish. Turtles were present, as were several species of frogs. Grain feeders find wheat, barley, oats, rye and such large grains as corn, soy beans, grain sorghum, sudan grass and millet. Also to be found were tomatoes, sweet corn and strawberries.

My first visit to the area was made in a misty rain on 18 September, in the company of Mrs. E. E. Overton. As I walked through the grasses at one end of the marsh, a Sora (*Porzana carolina*) flushed and flew deeper into the cattails and willows. Another step produced a second Sora from the same clump of grass. It fluttered weakly away and joined the first. Determined to see the birds again, we criss-crossed the area and after several minutes of effort, the marsh produced a third bird. This individual seemed a little stronger of wing and had buff-colored wing patches. We watched it drop lightly into a clump of marsh grass and carefully marked the spot. A careful search revealed a

TABLE A

SPECIES (TOTAL 66)	18 Sept.	25 Sept.	2 Oct.	8 Oct.	15 Oct.	16 Oct.	5 Nov.	16 Nov.	26 Nov.	3 Dec.
Horned Grebe	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Great Blue Heron	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	1	.....
Green Heron	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Least Bittern	1	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mallard	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	15
Black Duck	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....
Pintail	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Green-winged Teal	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	.....	.....
Blue-winged Teal	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Shoveler	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Ring-necked Duck	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Cooper's Hawk	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Bobwhite	2	18	.....	5	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....
Sandhill Crane	.....	Nov. 15th		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sora	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
American Coot	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	6	.....	.....
Black-bellied Plover	.....	8	3	3	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Golden Plover	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	1	1	.....	.....
Killdeer	10	15	15	12	10	8	30*	30*	30*	1
Common Snipe	.....	2	12	10	.....	18	3	.....	8	8
Spotted Sandpiper	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pectoral Sandpiper	2	2	4	4	4	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Long-billed Dowitcher	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Herring Gull	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Ring-billed Gull	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	.....	.....
Rock Dove (Pigeon)	5	3	2	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Mourning Dove	2	3	8	4	3	3	15*	15*	30*	35*
Chimney Swift	15	30*	20*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Belted Kingfisher	1	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2	.....
Yellow-shafted Flicker	3	6	5	5	1	2	1	.....	1	.....
Downy Woodpecker	.....	1	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Red-bellied Woodpecker	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pileated Woodpecker	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wood Pewee	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Horned Lark	7	10	10	10	.....	8	.....	4	.....	3
Rough-winged Swallow	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Barn Swallow	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cliff Swallow	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Blue Jay	2	15	8	5	9	8	5	.....	.....	.....
Crow	40*	60*	50*	60*	100*	40*	70*	300*	50*	300*
Carolina Wren	3	2	5	3	2	1	1	.....	1	1
Mockingbird	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Brown Thrasher	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Robin	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Swainson's Thrush	1	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	1	1	.....
Starling	5	3	3	8	5	11	50*	40*	75*	150*
Yellow Warbler	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Magnolia Warbler	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Myrtle	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Palm Warbler	8	10	10	6	4	3	.....	.....	.....	.....
Yellowthroat	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
House Sparrow	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Eastern Meadow Lark	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	8	10
Red-winged Blackbird	50*	50*	30*	60*	120*	80*	40*	60*	80*	150*
Rusty Blackbird	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	30*	40*
Com. Grackle	15	15	10	30*	30*	15	.....	.....	3	.....
Brown-headed Cowbird	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100*
Cardinal	5	3	2	4	2	3	2	.....	4	3
Am. Goldfinch	.....	4	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....
Savannah Sparrow	5	35*	5	15	30*	14	10	10	3	.....
Vesper Sparrow	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	5	.....	.....	.....
Field Sparrow	3	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Swamp Sparrow	.....	.....	.....	10	5	5	.....	.....	.....	.....
Song Sparrow	12	20*	11	23	21*	29	15	18	9	10

\*Estimated

small statue peering up at us with yellowish eyes. Our first Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) froze in true bittern fashion and, though we stood within 18 inches of his upturned beak, he never blinked. We left him thus, believing I am sure, that he had never been seen.

A week later I visited the farm with Dr. James T. Tanner, zoology Professor at The University of Tennessee, as the local bird club made its annual fall count. We again found the Soras and the Least Bittern, and added eight Black-bellied Plovers (*Squatarola squatarola*). The latter, Dr. Tanner found in a strawberry patch.

On 2 October, I again was at the farm, this time with James M. Campbell and several other members of the local club. Once more we found the bittern and three Black-bellied Plovers. As we walked along the lake's edge, we discovered a shorebird sitting on a plank floating near the bank. The bird looked very much like a snipe in the early light and it was not until it flew that its voice and white rump identified it as a dowitcher. The question now was, "which one?" We found it again, feeding in a pool of run-off water and carefully noted all possible field marks from a distance of about 15 yards. Once again, we flushed the bird to gain further clues. The following week I spent several hours in the library of The University of Tennessee getting new information on the identification of dowitchers. The material I needed to confirm that our dowitcher was, indeed, a Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) came from a paper by J. C. Ogden, (THE MIGRANT 35:1-6) and another by I. C. T. Nisbet in *British Birds*, (1961). I made pictures of the same dowitcher a few days later to confirm the field marks we had noted, using a single-lens reflex, 35 m.m. camera and a 400 m.m. lens.

On 15 October, the farm turned in another unusual bird for our area, which proved to be a Knox County record. That morning I found an American Golden Plover (*Pulvialis dominica*) in the company of ten Killdeer (*Chondestes vociferus*). The next day, with Campbell to confirm my identification, I again found the bird, this time with a Black-bellied Plover. A better comparison of two plovers could not have been asked for. Not only did we see them on the ground, but flying together and calling as well. This bird was still present on 26 November.

Mrs. E. E. Overton found a Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) on the farm the afternoon of 15 November, but it apparently left during that night, for it could not be found the following day.

Table "A" contains a list of all the birds seen at the area during the period covered by this writing.

★ ★ ★

*“Conservationist of The Year”*



ALBERT F. GANIER HOLDS THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD

ALBERT F. GANIER —  
"CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR"

Mr. Albert F. Ganier has been honored as Tennessee's Conservationist of the Year for 1966. He was presented the Governor's Award statuette of a Bald Eagle at the Tennessee Conservation League's awards banquet held in Nashville on 3 December, 1966.

The award was presented to Mr. Ganier on behalf of the National Wildlife Federation and the Sears-Roebuck Foundation by James L. Bailey of the Department of Conservation, representing Gov. Frank Clement. The panel of judges making the selection included James F. Bailey, Fred Stanberry, director of the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission, and Ralph Sasser, a state soil conservationist.

Mr. Ganier needs no introduction to members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society as his contributions and accomplishments are well known. He is one of the two living founders of the T.O.S. and has served in numerous capacities. He is presently Curator.

Mr. Ganier was born at Vicksburg, Mississippi on 9 September, 1883. Having graduated in Civil Engineering from Purdue University in 1908, he accepted the position as Engineer of Design for the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railroad and remained with that company until his retirement in recent years. Mr. and Mrs. Ganier make their home at 2112 Woodlawn Drive, Nashville and are the parents of two sons and a daughter.

He has long been recognized for his avocations of ornithology, mammalogy, paleontology, archaeology and history. He has served as president of the T.O.S., Editor of THE MIGRANT and other offices, Curator of Birds, Nashville Children's Museum 1944-; secretary of the Wilson Ornithological Society, 1918-1923 and president, 1924-1926; charter member and past-president of the Engineering Association of Nashville; Central Southern representative of the American Engineering Council 1922-1924; member of the Tennessee Academy of Science since 1923, he became president in 1926 and inaugurated the journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science in that year.

Mr. Ganier's first published papers on birds bear the date of 1899 and since that time several hundred articles have appeared. He was instrumental in securing the Backbone Ridge Route for the Natchez Trace Parkway and has served as president of the Tennessee Historical Society. In addition he has been named a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science and holds membership in the Cooper Ornithological Society and the American Ornithologists' Union.

Upon presenting Mr. Ganier the Governor's Award, Mr. James Bailey stated, "The eagle symbolizes all that's great in America and this replica of our national bird symbolizes the greatness of your career."

## ANNUAL AUTUMN HAWK COUNT 1966

BY THOMAS W. FINUCANE

EDITOR'S NOTE: At the state T.O.S. meeting in 1955, Thomas W. Finucane, of Kingsport, Tennessee, volunteered to assemble the reports from the hawk counts to be published in THE MIGRANT. During the past twelve years, he has been busy accumulating data for each fall's migration. He has spent over 400 hours scanning the skies for Broad-winged Hawks and his annual climbs to the Mendota fire tower number more than 70 trips. He has been instrumental in publishing over sixty pages of reports on the hawk migrations in THE MIGRANT. Mr. Finucane has been employed as a research chemist at the Tennessee Eastman Company in Kingsport and became a member of the T.O.S. in 1945. He is a past officer of the organization.



FINUCANE

The total hawks recorded in fall migration over the T.O.S. hawk-count area was 7521, exceeded only three times in the 17 annual counts we have made. On the basis of species: 35 Sharp-shinned, 69 Red-tailed, 29 Red-shouldered, 7255 Broad-winged, a Rough-legged, 7 Marsh, and one Pigeon Hawk; also 2 Bald Eagles, 21 Ospreys, 2 Peregrines, 8 unidentified accipiters, 33 buteos, 6 falcons, and 14 others. The halfway point came two days late, 23 Sept. The two (adult) eagles were seen on the same day, 24 Sept., at the Rogersville fire tower (2:45) and, farther south, at the Camp Creek Bald fire tower (1:15 p.m.). Next day the Rogersville fire tower had 8 species, to make a total of 9 for the weekend. The Pigeon Hawk was seen, 25 Sept., at the Elder Mt. fire tower and the Rough-legged Hawk at the Rogersville fire tower, by Tom Odom. Of the 12 species we have listed over the years, only the Golden Eagle was absent from our 1966 data.

Clouds and rain dampened the hawk project. From 10 to 22 Sept., only Friday, 16 Sept., was clear; 1984 hawks were logged at the Mendota fire tower. No other lookout was manned. A cold front moved rapidly across Tennessee, probably on Thursday, when three days of good flights began. Rain fell on all stations all day Sunday. After 22 Sept., three days of fair weather came, and good migration was reported from all stations; then there were four more days of rain. At least one lookout, and usually two or more, were manned every day, 10 to 27 Sept., except during the three rainiest days. Some data were obtained on days with heavy clouds and rain; other watches on such days yielded nothing.

Eugene Scott participated in 9 counts, with a total of 4288 hawks. Of particular interest are his weekend data, 10 & 11 Sept., made near his house just north of Nickelsville, 98 and 105 hawks, on days when the corresponding counts at the Mendota fire tower, a few miles south, were 132 and 17. During the hours when Scott was counting his 105, no hawks at all were sighted from the Mendota lookout.

Another feature of the 1966 hawk watch was the great reduction in numbers of monarch butterflies, to less than 10% of the numbers usually seen flying by the Mendota tower in September. Also I saw no "gnat towers," which we expect to see drifting down the Clinch ridge on hot days and looking like towers of smoke scattered along the knobby range. On the other hand, we see a few ravens every time we observe at the Mendota fire tower, but these birds formerly appeared only now and then. Every year we see more Red-headed Woodpeckers; Wallace Coffey spotted 23 in a few hours, 23 Sept., at the Mendota lookout.

## HAWK OBSERVATIONS FALL OF 1966

Date	Obs.	h.	Station	Wind	Sky	Temp.	Bdwdg.	Total
9/4	Q	3	Mendota FT	3-4 NE	....	....	6	13
10	W	5	Elder Mt.	0-1 NE	2	74-82	33	39
10	O	8	Rogersville FT	0-3 E-vbl	2	60-80	81	84
10	BF	8	Mendota FT	0-3 S & SE	1	65-80	128	132
10	SL	3½	Nickelsville	3-5 NE	1	....	95	98
11	WP	4	Elder Mt.	0-1 N-SE	3	72-82	21	25
11	F7	6	Rogersville FT	0-2 SE	3	72	26	28
11	OB	8	Mendota FT	0-3 E	4	69-76	15	17
11	SL	2½	Nickelsville	2-3 NE	2	....	97	105
12	R	5	Mendota FT	0-3 SE	2	70-75	38	41
12	S	3½	Nickelsville	3-4 NE	2	....	10	12
14	I	3	Elder Mt.	....	2	72-79	0	0
15	S	4	Mendota FT	NW-SE	3	....	275	289
16	SFC	9	Mendota FT	0-1	0	50-60	1974	1981
16	S	½	Nickelsville	0	0	50	14	14
17	WIJ	4½	Elder Mt.	3-4 SE	5	62-73	0	0
17	O	7	Rogersville FT	3-1 S-SE	3	62-72	204	219
17	CBD	7	Mendota FT	3 E	4	....	354	356
17	F9	5	Hayters FT	....	5	....	0	0
20	I	3	Elder Mt.	....	4	73-72	0	0
20	X	1	Knoxville	1-2 S	4	....	21	21
21	X	2½	Knoxville	1-2 W	3	....	40	40
22	X	4	Knoxville	1-2 SE	3	65-75	112	122
22	SCH	6½	Mendota FT	6 SW-W	4	....	11	12
23	WI	4	Elder Mt.	0-1 W	0	72-78	6	17
23	AE	2	Meadow Crk	4 NE	1	55-70	14	17
23	KCS	8	Mendota FT	1 NW-NE	1	....	925	933
24	X	1	Look Rock	3-4 S	0	78	39	49
24	W	6	Elder Mt.	0-1 N-S-W	1	62-75	199	201
24	Y	8½	Camp Ck FT	4 NW	0	50-65	232	250
24	Z	8	Rogersville FT	0-2 WNW	1	60-70	184	197
24	T9G	8	Mendota FT	0	0	....	819	826
25	WU	6	Elder Mt.	0-3 SW-NW	1	58-82	758	767
25	EOV	8	Rogersville FT	0-4 SW	1	62	118	146
25	FHM	7	Mendota FT	1-3 S	3	62-70	313	316
26	R	2	Mendota FT	3-4 S	5	....	0	0
27	X	1½	Look Rock	3-4 S	4	....	34	41
27	CN	4	Mendota FT	1-3 W	3	65-70	34	38
10/2	F9	6½	Mendota FT	0-3 SE	1	50-52	25	29
8	F	2½	Mendota FT	1-2 S	1	mild	0	18
19	X	0	Knoxville	....	....	....	0	17
29	O	4	Mendota FT	1-2 SW	0	58-68	0	11
TOTALS		200					7255	7521

On 17 Sept., Patrick and the writer manned Hayters Gap Mt. but saw no hawks. This was our second experience with no hawks at this lookout, where large counts were made early in the history of the T.O.S. project. Maxie Swindell found a new lookout, Look Rock, 6.2 miles off Highway 73 between Maryville and Townsend. There is a fire tower and "an observation tower of sorts." Two brief stops there gave a count of 49 just before noon, as rain was starting, and three days later a count of 41, after 5 p.m. Maxie says this lookout would be ideal for non-hikers. Hayters Knob now has a road to the top but not for public use.

From the Rogersville fire tower, on the Clinch Mt., 24 Sept., Bill Finucane saw three groups of what looked like hawks flying over the Rogersville steam plant, too distant for verification. Several times in the past, hawks have been seen in kettles over Tennessee Eastman power-house stacks.

Fred Behrend found that high winds, clouds and rain resulted in poor hawk migration east of the Tennessee Valley, on the high mountains. In spite of this, we had one of our more interesting seasons. More than 65 people participated. Within a day or two of our expected migration peak, the count at the Mendota fire tower, 22 Sept., was only 12. Flight conditions were so poor that one Broad-winged Hawk flapping in was caught by David Haynes' moving-picture camera. The film shows the hawk landing in a dead tree and then taking off again, a large and clear picture of the first hawk we have seen perch in plain sight, of more than 20,000 that have been counted passing the lookout.

#### KEY TO REPORTERS

A—Mrs. Royal S. Spees, Greeneville; B—Bill Finucane; C—Charlotte Finucane; D—Mrs. John Mahoney, Kingsport; E—Mrs. Chester B. Darnell, Greeneville; F—Tom Finucane; G—Arthur and Elizabeth Smith, Kingsport; E. Scott and J. Smith, Nickelsville; Max Miller and Bob Faucette, Bristol; H—Mr. and Mrs. David Haynes, Blountville; J—Robert and Alberta Reid, Birmingham; K—Mr. Coffey, Bristol; Dr. Herndon, Elizabethton; Mr. Quillen, Bristol; Mrs. Weber, Kingsport; L—J. Fogl; M—Mr. and Mrs. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Bristol; Bill and Pat Finucane; Randy Moore and five friends; Mary and Carl Cunningham, Bernard E. Finucane; O—Tom Odom; P—Jon DeVore; I—Carl Gevers, Chattanooga; Q—Robert, Barbara, Sherrie and Jerrie Quillen; R—Holmes Rolston; S—Eugene Scott; T—E. Scott, T. Finucane, J. Smith; U—Douglas Fleming, Henry Sliger, Wm. Joyner, Theo Rogers, Chattanooga; V—Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nevius, Dr. and Mrs. Spees; W—Gene and Adele West; X—Maxie Swindell; Y—Mr. and Mrs. Darnell; Z—Tom Odom, Tom, III, Bill, Charlotte, and three young Finucanes, and a girl-scout troop (143); 7—Joe Finucane; 9—Pat Finucane.

## WINTER BIRDS IN SHADY VALLEY 1966-1967

During the period 1 December to 1 March of the winter 1966-67, the writer made almost weekly field trips to Shady Valley, Johnson County, Tennessee to survey the avian population present. There were fourteen counts made and about 42 species found present.

Shady Valley is a unique high mountain valley situated between Iron, Cross and Holston Mountains in Northeastern Tennessee. The general elevation of the valley floor is approximately 2800 feet. In former years, much of the valley was heavily timbered and extensive bogs and swamp areas were to be found. Most of the land has been cleared for agriculture and more recently (1965) the greater portion has been drained.

Significant field work has been carried out in the valley during summer months in the past forty years. Notably: Albert F. Ganier, Bruce P. Tyler (1934); Dr. Alexander Wetmore and the United States National Museum party (1937); Kenneth H. Dubke (1961-1964).

With the exception of one or more Christmas Counts, there has been no serious efforts, known to this writer, to study the winter birds.

The winter was mild in 1966-67 compared with previous years. There was little snow accumulation prior to mid-January. The low temperature was 3° F during late February. Snows were frequent but relatively light.

The Common Crow, Starling and House Sparrow were considered common. Nine species were determined fairly common, thirteen were scarce and only occasionally encountered, seventeen were judged to be rare (occurring only once and sometimes twice).

*Fairly Common:* Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Meadowlark, Cardinal, Slate-colored Junco and Song Sparrow.

*Scarce:* Red-shouldered Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Loggerhead Shrike, Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird and American Goldfinch.

*Rare:* Cooper's Hawk, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Woodcock, Belted Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Rufous-sided Towhee, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl and Turkey Vulture.

On 19 December, 1962, Fred W. Behrend made a Christmas Count in Shady Valley (THE MIGRANT 33:71). He recorded twenty-five species of which the following were not found there this winter: Yellow-shafted Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Brown Creeper and Brown-headed Cowbird.

The occurrence of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, Rufous-sided Towhee, Fox Sparrow and Turkey Vulture closely agree with population trends observed at the lower elevations west of the mountains during the same period. The scarcity of Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, American Goldfinch and the rarity

of the Bobwhite, Belted Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Field Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow were not in agreement.

Most of the remaining species occurred as one might expect with the possibility that the Sparrow Hawk, Mockingbird and Loggerhead Shrike are never found to be common in the valley and particularly so in summer.

Killdeer were found in unusual numbers with a high count of eight on 17 December. There were five Mockingbirds found on 17 December. Three species were present in fair numbers during the first half of December only to move out by mid-month. The Common Snipe demonstrated this movement. They were present until 17 December and none was found again until the last four were seen on 14 January. The Red-winged Blackbird count on 1 December was 76 and the number declined quickly by 10 December. There were four to ten Rusty Blackbirds until 17 December and none later. The Mourning Doves increased steadily after 27 December to a peak of 87 on 14 January.

John Shumate of Shady Valley and the writer made the bulk of the counts.

OTHER OBSERVERS: Bill Bridgforth, Carolyn Coffey, Tim Hawk, Jim Shepherd, Charles Smith.

Additional notations may be found in "The Season" under the heading "Bristol."

WALLACE COFFEY, 508 Spruce Street, Bristol 37620.

### T.O.S. MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Annual TOS membership cards are available for 1967 from your chapter secretary, if you have not already received one or for members at large a card may be obtained by writing our state secretary, Mrs. Thomas C. Swindell, 3021 Sullivan Road, Knoxville, Tenn. 37921.

## THE HOUSE WREN IN 1966 AT NASHVILLE

BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

For 1966, I have data on 4 nests of the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) in my home area in the south-west section of Nashville. This number equals that of 1965, but this year the nests were concentrated within a smaller area, 1.2 by .4 miles.

From 24 to 28 April, singing House Wrens appeared at three homes: 25 April one arrived at my home, remaining three days; 24 April J. P. Jones reported two carrying nest material at his home, a half mile north-west, but they left without establishing a nest; on 28 April one appeared at home of Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Hite.

In another area about 8 miles north-east of my home, Mrs. C. D. Anderson, McGavock Pike, reported a singing House Wren near her home in early



NEST NO. 3

for several years. NEST NO. 3: At the same time at the Hite home a pair was busy at a bluebird-type of nest box about three hundred feet away among fruit trees and grape vines. NEST NO. 4: On 17 June, I investigated a nest at the home of E. M. Haywood, Golf Club Lane, where young were being fed in a gourd hung under eaves of the garden house. The male sang nearby and scolded as I approached.

At the Hite home (Nest No. 3) the orchard pair started egg-laying during the last week of June. After the first 6 eggs were seen, no further check was made at the nest until late August when the boxes were taken down for cleaning and 10 eggs were found in the nest. Both boxes with contents intact were given to me for study. H. E. Parmer photographed the nest, showing that some of the eggs were lighter in color because less pigmented. All were about the same size. Candling indicated no development of embryos as the contents were dried in one end of the shell. W. E. C. Todd states that House Wren eggs vary somewhat in coloration (1940 *Birds of Western Penn.* p. 413). Forbush (1929 *Birds of Mass.* v. 3, p. 341) states 5 to 12 eggs in a set, as does Bent (1948 *Life Histories of North American Nuthatches, Wrens Thrashers, and Their Allies*, Bull. 195 p. 121) but the latter gives 6 to 8 as the usual number.

May where they had nested in 1965 in a cavity high in a tree. This year the singer moved farther away and disappeared, presumably without acquiring a mate.

NEST NO. 1: On 18 May Mrs. J. S. Lasley, Woodmont Blvd. near the Jones home, telephoned about a pair of birds nesting at her home which I identified as House Wrens. They were feeding young in a nest box hung high in a tree near the house. She said the same species had nested there in 1965 (not listed in my 1965 report). NEST NO. 2: On 12 June a brood fledged from a barrel-type nest hung in a tree at the Hite home where House Wrens have nested

The 10 egg set was in a box on a post about 5 ft. from the ground, 191 mm deep and 109 by 127 mm wide. It was completely filled with nest material with eggs in a depression 45 mm deep and 55 mm wide at the top. Underneath was a shallow nest of vegetal fibres, probably left from a previous occupancy of a different species. The nest was composed of 965 twigs (longest 140 mm), 22 grape stem clusters and tendrils, 278 feathers (the bird feathers mainly Bobwhite), 29 cocoons of the tent caterpillar, a nine-cell nest like a miniature paper wasp nest, plus 17 grams of soft material including snake scales, rootlets, plant fibres and bits of cellophane.

The keg-type nest box, 229 mm in diameter, contained a nearly-backless nest cup, about 70 mm. deep and 90 mm. across (widened doubtless by the growing broods). This nest contained 915 twigs, 85 feathers (bird feathers mainly of Starling), 13.6 grams of soft material, some spider silk and horse hair. Except for a narrow slit, the entrance was closed by twigs.

This season, the population of Bewick's Wrens (*Tbryomanes bewickii*) appeared to be lower than in 1965. I had none at my home. There were very few sight records and no nests reported in the area from my home into Percy Warner Park.

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1521 Graybar Lane, Nashville 37215.

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### CORRECTION

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The T. V. tower casualty report for 1966 lists an incorrect date for late departures (my typographical error) in THE MIGRANT, Dec. 1966, 37, page 62, line 12. It should read Oct. 24 (not Oct. 20) for White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo (4), Black-throated Blue Warbler Ad. male, Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

AMELIA R. LASKEY, 1521 Graybar Lane, Nashville 37215.

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## NASHVILLE NEST RECORD CARDS SENT TO CORNELL

Pursuant to the request from the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, members of the Nashville Chapter for the past two years have recorded on cards provided by Cornell the observations they have made of nesting birds. The following cards of birds nesting in the general Nashville area have been sent to Cornell:

<i>Species</i>	1965	1966	<i>Species</i>	1965	1966
Green Heron	3	....	Robin	33	6
Great Blue Heron	....	1	Wood Thrush	....	1
Blk-cr. Night Heron	42	...	East. Bluebird	8	43
Sparrow Hawk	....	1	Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	5	5
Killdeer	....	1	Loggerhead Shrike	....	4
Mourning Dove	10	5	Starling	1	3
Yel.-bill Cuckoo	....	1	White-eyed Vireo	1	1
Screech Owl	1	....	Yellow-thr. Vireo	....	1
R.-thr. Hummingbird	....	1	Red-eyed Vireo	....	1
Yel.-sh. Flicker	1	2	Prothonotary Warbler	1	2
Red-bel. Woodpecker	1	....	Parula Warbler	....	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	....	3	Louis. Waterthrush	2	3
Downy Woodpecker	....	5	Kentucky Warbler	1	....
Eastern Kingbird	2	....	Yellowthroat	1	....
Gr. Crest. Flycatcher	1	....	Hooded Warbler	....	1
Eastern Phoebe	8	6	House Sparrow	2	3
Acadian Flycatcher	....	5	East. Meadowlark	....	3
East. Wood Pewee	....	1	Red-winged Blackbird	4	5
Barn Swallow	1	....	Orchard Oriole	1	1
Purple Martin	(5 Nests) 1	(29 Nests) 5	Baltimore Oriole	....	1
Blue Jay	6	3	Common Grackle	14	2
Carolina Chickadee	3	8	Brown-headed Cowbird	....	2
Tufted Titmouse	3	4	Scarlet Tanager	1	....
White-br. Nuthatch	....	1	Summer Tanager	2	....
House Wren	2	1	Cardinal	18	9
Bewick's Wren	1	1	Indigo Bunting	1	1
Carolina Wren	2	3	American Goldfinch	....	1
Mockingbird	5	6	Rufous-sided Towhee	7	2
Catbird	1	2	Chipping Sparrow	2	2
Brown Thrasher	6	2	Field Sparrow	2	1

## SUMMARY

	<i>Nests*</i>	<i>Cards</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Participants</i>
1965	211	207	40	22
1966	197	173	49	20

\*NOTE—Only one card was used per Purple Martin colony.

Special buff colored cards similar to the Cornell cards were printed, and the information on the original cards were copied on these. The original cards have been sent to Cornell and the copies retained in Nashville as a permanent file for future study and analysis. In addition to the above a number of cards covering nests seen by members while on trips outside of Tennessee were also sent to Cornell.

Those participating in this program were: John Ellis '65, Steve Greenfield '65, Mrs. William Bell '65-'66, Miss Mary Wood '65-'66, Mrs. John Wood '65, Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey '65-'66, Miss Annella Creech '65-'66, Henry E. Parmer '65-'66, Mrs. Milbrey R. Dugger '65-'66, Miss Ruth Castles '65-'66, J. Don Geary '65, R. F. Demonbreum '65, Laurence Trabue '65-'66, Mrs. Robert Greenleaf '65, Alvin F. Vincent '65-'66, Miss Jenny Riggs '65, Mrs. F. K. Murphy '65-'66, Mrs. Erline C. Elmore '65, Mrs. Marvin Jenning '65, Jimmy Parrish '65, Mike Bierly '65-'66, Katherine A. Goodpasture '65-'66, Harry Monk '66, Rick Vincent '66, Larry Trabue, Jr. '66, Mrs. Henrietta McCary '66, John S. Herbert '66, Louis Farrell, Jr. '66, E. M. Haywood '66, Louise Jackson '66.

LAURENCE TRABUE, 3819 Harding Place, Nashville.

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### ———— MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION ————

In order to organize material for publication in THE MIGRANT the Editorial Staff attempts to meet a deadline for each issue as follows:

MARCH 15th

SEPTEMBER 15th

JUNE 15th

DECEMBER 15th

Your material is welcome at anytime. However, articles received after the above dates will appear in a subsequent issue.

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## ROUND TABLE NOTES

LONGEVITY OF A CAPTIVE, ABERRANT-PLUMAGED GREAT HORNED OWL. — A captive Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginiana*) lived at least twenty-two years. She had been trapped on a farm in Springfield, Tennessee several months before she was obtained by C. F. Pickering and brought to me on 24 December, 1944. She was in excellent condition but very hungry, grabbing the food immediately. Later she always waited until night to eat (THE MIGRANT 15:75 1944). She died 13 February, 1966.

Her plumage was normal in pattern, but it lacked the dark colors of this species. The usual tawny, dark and black were replaced by dull white and a color described as "smoke gray" in the Villalobos system (1962 *Handbook of North American Birds*, Vol. 1, Ed. R. S. Palmer). Her beak and toes were cream color; her eyes were yellow. She molted in a normal manner, starting usually in April, completing by September. Color and pattern did not vary in her lifetime. Her plumage remained in excellent condition.

Food consisted mainly of fresh bird casualties, collected at ceilometer, television towers and highways. Fresh chicken backs and necks were readily accepted as substitutes. Occasionally there was evidence that she has procured a half-grown opossum that had foraged in her large cage at night. Half of the mammal would be cached in a corner of the cage and eaten the following night. In an experiment, a full-grown opossum was released in the cage. She immediately jumped on its back, but flew to her perch when it snarled, paying no further attention to it.

She hooted at night, starting before dark on September evenings and at a later hour as the seasons advanced. Occasionally she gave a series of soft hoots when I disturbed her in cleaning her cage. Her night calls were considerably different from the normal resonant type. They were higher in pitch, shorter, and composed of several syllables. I often heard as many as seven short "hoots."

In five seasons, a visiting Great Horned Owl called at night near her cage although none lived within several miles of our home. It was easy to distinguish her answering calls. These visits occurred as follows: 1949—January and February; 1949—September and October; 1959—January through April; 1962—October through December; 1963—March.

She died after three days of fasting as she rested on a bed of straw instead of the perch which she usually occupied. The exact cause of death was not determined.

The specimen was preserved as a study skin in the collection of the Children's Museum in Nashville. Preparator of the museum, Alan R. Munro, gave me the following data: female, with ova in various stages of development and one soft-shell egg; total length, 21.5 inches. Other measurements in inches include wing (chord) 15; spread 42.5; tail 7.63.

I had never found any evidence of egg-laying.

Twice in the latter years, she was released by trespassers, but remained near her home (once all night). She was easily captured although she was seldom handled. She often flew to the door as I left her food; she was tolerant of the people that came to see or to photograph her. In late 1965, a vandal

poked a long stick through the slatted side of the locked cage, causing some injury that may have contributed to her death. She lost an eye from this encounter.

AMELIA R. LASKEY, 1521 Graybar Lane, Nashville 37215.

UNUSUAL WOODCOCK BEHAVIOR — On 5 March, 1967, at my home in Germantown, Tennessee (a suburb of Memphis), I was watching six towhees in a circle of about 3 feet diameter when a movement in the leaves caught my eye. An American Woodcock (*Philobela minor*) was feeding within 15 feet of my point of observation. This is a wooded area, predominantly oak, with underbrush and a good covering of dead leaves, as the area is left undisturbed.

My husband and I observed the bird from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. during which period it continued to feed in an area covering no more than 20 feet in diameter. The most striking and puzzling action took place between probings for food. The woodcock would stand still with its head completely motionless while at the same time its body would rock back and forth and up and down simultaneously. The odd tilting motion made the woodcock appear as if it were swaying on springs and the movement was repeated between each probing during the entire 45 minutes of observation.

No reference to this action was found in Arthur Cleveland Bent's *Life Histories of North American Shore Birds*, T. Gilbert Pearson's *Birds of America*, field guides or similar literature.

HELEN B. DINKELSPIEL, 6519 Massey Lane, Germantown 38038.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER IN FEBRUARY—On 18 February, 1967, about one mile south of Pickwick Dam, in Hardin County, I saw one Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*). This bird is entirely unexpected here in winter, and is a late spring migrant. It did not appear at all sick or exhausted.

The two-syllable note, the characteristic flight, the tilting walk, and the white shoulder mark of the winter plumage were all plainly evident during the half-hour that the bird was within easy watching distance. Since I often see Spotted Sandpipers here in the spring and fall I feel confident in the identification.

During the preceding week there were several days with strong south winds, but as far as I know no severe storms. On the afternoon I saw the bird the weather was wet and not much above freezing.

DAVID E. PATTERSON, Harbert Hills Academy, Olive Hill 38475.

SURF SCOTERS ON CHICKAMAUGA LAKE — On 30 October, 1966, the Knoxville Chapter of T.O.S. made its annual trip to Hiwassee Island on Chickamauga Lake in Rhea County, Tennessee. Present were more than eighty persons, including a few members of other East Tennessee chapters, all of whom were expecting to find at least one rare bird during the day, as is usually the case on this trip.

The group was not disappointed because a group of four ducks was spotted very near the boat landing on the island. I tentatively identified them as Ruddy Ducks (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) and called them to the attention of the people

farther back on the barge. As we moved to within fifty feet of the birds they flew and revealed the typical "broken nosed" profile of the scoter family. Our group was divided as to whether they were Surf Scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*) or Common Scoters (*Oidemia nigra*). The absence of the white wing patches eliminated the possibility of White-winged Scoters (*Melanitta deglandi*).

Upon landing on the island a few of our group decided to walk up the island in an attempt to find the spot to which the scoters flew. After a mile walk, we spotted the birds on the far side of the lake but even 20 power scopes and binoculars did not settle our debate. In desperation I hailed a passing cabin cruiser and the kind owner took Fred Alsop, Maurice Grigsby, Terry Satterfield and me to within fifteen feet of the birds and they were definitely Surf Scoters. All were females or immatures since the two light face patches were clearly visible and again the absence of the white wing patches proved conclusively that these were not White-winged Scoters.

A check of Knoxville and Chattanooga Chapter records indicated that only one other sighting of Surf Scoters had been reported in the areas of these two chapters. Six of these sea ducks were seen by many members of the Knoxville Chapter on 15 May, 1960, on Alcoa Lake in Blount County, Tennessee.

JAMES M. CAMPBELL, 15 Hedgewood Drive, Knoxville.

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## CORRECTIONS

The following corrections should be made to the table containing THE 1966 CHRISTMAS SEASON BIRD COUNTS. Under the column headed *Nashville* page 65, omitted from the list were: Hairy Woodpecker, 14; Downy Woodpecker, 88. Under the column headed *Old Hickory* pages 64 and 65 the following changes should be made: Marsh Hawk "25" should read "—"; Sparrow Hawk "—" should read "25;" Herring Gull "—" should read "3;" Winter Wren "2" should read "—" and Bewick's Wren "—" should read "2."

We apologize to Mr. Henry Parmer who submitted the records and called the errors to our attention. Ed.

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## THE SEASON

CHARLES R. SMITH, *Editor*

The winter season (December, January, February) across the state was generally drier and a bit colder than usual. Precipitation in the form of heavy snowfalls was limited during the period in contrast to the same period last year. Near the end of February, temperatures in some regions of the state became milder than usual, giving us a hint of spring in the air.

Seasonal coverage across the state was better than usual, with eight season correspondents reporting. Several good records were noted. Among the waterfowl, Oldsquaws were reported from Nashville, Chattanooga, and Bristol along with a White-winged Scoter from Chattanooga (a first for that area, according to correspondents). Birds of prey were well represented across the state, with Bald Eagles reported from Chattanooga and Bristol. A Virginia Rail and Spotted Sandpiper were recorded in the Savannah area. Nashville also recorded the Dunlin during the early part of the period. Some of the more unusual winter visitors (or very early spring migrants!) included a Tree Swallow and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak from the Nashville area and Brown Thrashers from Cookeville, Greenville, and Bristol. *Bona fide* records of wintering Brown Thrashers seem to be becoming more numerous. Northern visitors were either very rare or nonexistent. No areas reported Evening Grosbeaks, crossbills, or siskins (exclusive of the Christmas Counts). Only four areas reported scattered records of the Purple Finch. Occurrences of the Myrtle Warbler were also few in number.

SAVANNAH—*Looms-Sparrows*: Common Loon: last 14 Jan. (5) P. Common Goldeneye: 14 Jan. (30) P. Bufflehead: 21 Dec. (36) P. Virginia Rail: 20 Dec. (2), 21 Dec. (1) HC. Spotted Sandpiper: 18 Feb. (1) P, our only winter record. Pine Warbler: 13 Feb. (1). Fox Sparrow: unusually abundant all winter; 25 Feb. (41) at three locations.

*Locations*: HC—Horse Creek and U.S. 64, P—Pickwick Dam and Lake.

DAVID E. PATTERSON, Harbert Hills Academy, Olive Hill 38475.

NASHVILLE—*Grebes-Gulls*: Horned Grebe: (approx. 20) wintered OHL. Pied-billed Grebe: (2) RL (MCW) and (1) CP wintered, plus scattered records. Great Blue Heron: 20 Jan. (4) OHL, 31 Jan. (1) RL, both (MCW). Mallard: very scarce BL and RL. Black Duck: (approx. 20) wintered BL (HEP). Shoveler: (1-3) all winter BL (HEP). Redhead: 3 Jan. (3), 12 Jan. (4), 28 Feb. (7), all RL (MCW). Ring-necked Duck: very scarce all winter. Canvasback: 13 Jan. (37), 9 Feb. (36), 28 Feb. (40) BL (MCW). Lesser Scaup: (300 plus) BL during the period (HEP). Common Goldeneye: 16 Jan. (23) to 28 Feb. (33) RL (MCW), (2-20) BL for the period (HEP). Oldsquaw: (1) from 21 Jan. to 28 Feb. BL (HEP). Ruddy Duck: a few scattered records of (1-4) BL and RL. American Coot: (200) wintered RL (MCW); rarely over (100) OHL (HEP). American Woodcock: 1 Feb. (1) (REL), our earliest return; 19 Feb. (2) BS (KAG, HEP, HCM). Dunlin: (2) remained until 12 Dec. (MIGRANT 37:81). Herring Gull: below normal. Ring-billed Gull: 90% below normal OHL; almost absent BL except for (110) for a few days around 18 Dec. Bonaparte's Gull: far below normal all winter OHL.

*Swallows-Sparrows*: Tree Swallow: 18 Feb. (2) Woods Reservoir (far out of the Nashville area) (MCW, HMcC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: a few all winter. Brown Thrasher: (1) wintered (FM). Robin: a very few present. Hermit Thrush: 26 Feb. (1) BS (KAG). Starling: down perhaps 95%, with the only roosts being a few scattered areas downtown. Myrtle Warbler: very scarce. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (1) at home of (JC) last seen 6 Jan. (MIGRANT 37:67). Purple Finch: present, but in small numbers. Dickcissel: 28 Jan. (1) (HMcC).

*Locations*: BL—Bush Lake, BS—Basin Springs, CP—Centennial Park, OHL—Old Hickory Lake, RL—Radnor Lake.

*Observers*: JC—Mrs. Jack Clark, KAG—Katherine A. Goodpasture, REL—Mrs. R. E. Lynn, HMcC—Henrietta McCrary, HCM—Harry C. Monk, FM—Fanny Murphy, HEP—Henry E. Parmer, MCW—Mary C. Wood.

HENRY E. PARMER, 3800 Richland Ave., Nashville 37205.

COOKEVILLE—*Hérons-Kinglets*: Great Blue Heron: 14 Dec. (2) WGA (RH). Gadwall: 4 Feb. (3), 10 Feb. (2) WGA (RH). Cooper's Hawk: throughout Dec., Jan., Feb. (1). Red-tailed Hawk: throughout Dec., Jan., Feb. (1-2). Red-shouldered Hawk: 11 Feb. (1), 12 Feb. (2). Marsh Hawk: 2, 29 Jan. (1), 9, 19 Feb. (1). American Woodcock: 12 Feb. (1), 28 Feb. (2) RA (RH). Brown Thrasher: 9 Feb. (1) HP (AJ), 11 Feb. (1) RA (RH). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 21, 22 Feb. (1) RA (RH).

*Locations*: HP—Home Place, RA—Rickman Area, WGA—Willow Grove Area.

*Observers*: BC—Beulah Clark, RH—Roy Hinds, AJ—Amy Johnson, EK—Elizabeth Killeffer, MR—Miser Richmond.

MARIE WHITE, 1218 Byrne Avenue, Cookeville 38501.

CHATTANOOGA—*Loons-Ducks*: Common Loon: regular in small numbers, max. 29 Jan. (6) BTWP. Horned Grebe: regular in varying numbers, max. 29 Jan. (31) HB. Pied-billed Grebe: regular in varying numbers, max. 6 Feb. (27) HB. Great Blue Heron: regular in varying numbers, max. 29 Jan. (33) HI. Canada Goose: wintering population (approx. 2,500) at HI, rare elsewhere. Blue Goose: 23 Jan. (5) HI, 29 Jan. (2) WR. Snow Goose: 29 Jan. (2) WR. Mallard: regular, but way below usual numbers for the local area, max. 23 Jan. (375) HI and 29 Jan. (625) WR. Black Duck: regular, max. 22 Jan. (226) BTWP. Gadwall: wintered in larger than usual numbers, max. 25 Jan. (235) BTWP & HB. Pintail: first 23 Jan. (28) BTWP & HI, in small numbers to (12) since. Green-winged Teal: regular, usually in small numbers, max. 23 Jan. (57) BTWP & HI. Blue-winged Teal: first 27 Feb. (3) SB (KHD & RE). American Widgeon: regular, but below usual numbers, max. 6 Feb. (71) HB. Shoveler: 23 Jan. (8) BTWP & HI, 27 and 28 Feb. (2) SB. Wood Duck: scattered, in small numbers, usually never more than two. Redhead: 21 Jan. (5), 29 Jan. (11), 23 Feb. (7), 27 Feb. (48), and 28 Feb. (148) all at BTWP. Ring-necked Duck: uncommon, well below usual numbers, max. 28 Feb. (25) HCP. Canvasback: 21 Jan. (8) BTWP, 29 Jan. (1) WR. Scaup (Greater and Lesser): Round Table Note to follow. Common Goldeneye: regular in varying numbers, max. 21 Jan. (53) BTWP. Bufflehead: regular in small numbers, max. 4 Dec. (12) HCP. Oldsquaw: 28 Feb. (1) WB (BB, JD, KHD, RE, AW). White-winged Scoter: first local record 13 Feb.

(1) WB (KHD), 28 Feb. (2) WB (BB, JD, KHD, RE, AW). Ruddy Duck: 1 Jan. (5) BCD, 28 Feb. (4) BTWP. Hooded Merganser: regular, usually in numbers of 1 to 40, max. 23 Feb. (74) WT. Common Merganser: 25 Jan. (3), 6 Feb. (1) both at HB. Red-breasted Merganser: first 2 Jan. (1) BTWP, five records since, max. 22 Jan. (5) BTWP.

*Vultures-Owls*: Turkey Vulture: one to three at C; rare elsewhere. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 8 Jan. (1) WR (JD), 23 Jan. (1) BTWP (JD, KHD), 28 Jan. (1) HCP (JD). Cooper's Hawk: 28 Jan. (1) HCP. Red-tailed Hawk: regular in small numbers. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 to 2 sporadically. Bald Eagle: 15 Jan. (2) WBL (JD), 23 Jan. (1) HI (JD, KHD). Marsh Hawk: below usual numbers, never more than two. American Coot: wintering population at HB estimated at 6950 on 6 Feb. (KHD, RE). Killdeer: wintering population max. 19 Dec. (79) SB (KHD, RE), decreasing in Jan. and Feb. American Woodcock: 25 Jan. (3) CB (KHD, RE). Common Snipe: regular, max. 27 Feb. (97) SB. Least Sandpiper: wintering population at SB, max. 28 Feb. (13). Herring Gull: regular, counts up to 12. Ring-billed Gull: regular in varying numbers, max. 28 Feb. (390). Bonaparte's Gull: 22 Jan. (5) BTWP, 23 Jan. (13) BTWP, 28 Jan. (1) WT, 29 Jan. (50+) WT, 4 Feb. (5) WT. Barn Owl: 24 Jan. (2) MB, 9 Feb. (1) AM, 28 Feb. (1) Hwy 153 at Shal-lowford Road (all these were found dead on the road or in field).

*Phoebe-Sparrows*: Eastern Phoebe: 23 Jan. (2) HI & C. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 11 Feb. (4) BTWP (JD, AW); regular at C, max. 15 Jan. (7) (BB), no others reported. Winter Wren: reported only at C (BB). Water Pipit: regular at SB and appears more common than usual with numbers regular up to 35, max. 12 Feb. (50) CB (KHD, HEP). Cedar Waxwing: uncommon, below usual numbers, no more than 50 in one flock. Myrtle Warbler: below usual numbers, max. 27 & 28 Feb. (3). Pine Warbler: 20 Dec. (1) J (KHD), then none until 23 Jan. (1) BTWP, then regular with one to four singing individuals on warm days thru end of period. Palm Warbler: 28 Feb. (1) HCP (JD). Purple Finch: far below last years numbers, small flocks to eight. Savannah Sparrow: few reports at C (BB), none elsewhere except on Christmas Census 1 Jan. Vesper Sparrow: 12 Dec. (11), 27 Dec. (5), 17 Jan. (11) all at Pan-O-Ram Farm (KHD, RE, TLR), 23 Jan. (12) SB. Chipping Sparrow: 50 to 100 at C (BB), none reported elsewhere except one on Christmas Census. White-crowned Sparrow: 23 Jan. (1) HI. Fox Sparrow: scattered individuals reported from various areas.

*Locations*: AM—Amnicola Marsh, BTWP—Booker T. Washington State Park, C—Collegedale, BCD—Below Chickamauga Dam, CB—Chickamauga Battlefield, HB—Hales Bar Lake, HCP—Hamilton County Park, HI—Hiwassee Island, J—Jasper, MB—Mocassin Bend, SB—Savannah Bay, WB—Waconda Bay, WR—Woods Reservoir; WT—Wolftever area of Chickamauga Lake, WBL—Watts Bar Lake.

*Observers*: BB—Benton Basham, JD—Jon DeVore, KHD—Kenneth H. Dubke, RE—Roy Evenson, HEP—Henry E. Parmer, TLR—Theo L. Rogers, AW—Adele West.

JON E. DEVORE, 4922 Sarasota Drive, Hixson 37343.

KNOXVILLE—*Owls-Finches*: Barn Owl: 12 Feb. (1) by Susan Hoyle. Red-headed Woodpecker: all Jan. and Feb. (1). Purple Finch: few recorded all winter as compared with usual numbers. Pine Siskin: none.

JAMES T. TANNER, Route 10, Knoxville 37920.

GREENEVILLE—*Heron-Snipe*: Great Blue Heron: 11 Feb. (1) A. Canada Goose: 1 Dec. to 28 Feb. (2) GP. Snow Goose: 1 Dec. to 28 Feb. (1) SP. Egyptian Goose: 1 Dec. to 28 Feb. (2) SP. Mallard: 1 Dec. (500); max. 16 Dec. (1500) RFB. Black Duck: 16 Dec. (500) RFB. Red-tailed Hawk: 30 Dec. (1), 11 Feb. (1), 18 Feb. (1). Sparrow Hawk: 20 Jan. (1), 22 Feb. (2) A. Common Snipe: 22 Jan. (2), 18 Feb. (6) RFB.

*Woodpeckers-Srike*: Yellow-shafted Flicker: 22 Jan. (1). Pileated Woodpecker: 22 Jan. (1). Red-bellied Woodpeckers: regular since 1 Dec. Horned Lark: regular since 1 Dec. WGS. White-breasted Nuthatch: 30 Dec. (1), 21 Jan. (3) A. Winter Wren: 30 Dec. (1) A. Bewick's Wren: regular since 1 Dec. Brown Thrasher: 3 Jan. (1) TC. Loggerhead Shrike: regular since 1 Dec. A.

*Warbler-Sparrows*: Myrtle Warbler: 21 Jan. (1) A. Common Grackle: regular since 1 Dec. A. Brown-headed Cowbird: 25 Feb. (30) A. White-crowned Sparrow: regular since 1 Dec. A. Fox Sparrow: 26 Dec. (8) A.

*Locations*: A—Albany, GP—Guinn's Pond, RFB—Roaring Fork Bottoms, SP—Simpson's Pond, TC—Tusculum College, WGS—West Greene High School.

*Observers*: Richard or Ruth Nevius.

RICHARD NEVIUS, Route 3, Greeneville 37743.

BRISTOL—*Loons-Mergansers*: Common Loon: 7 Dec. (2) BL, 25 Dec. (1) SHL, 31 Dec. (5) SHL. Horned Grebe: 10 Dec. (3), 25 Dec. (1), 31 Dec. (5) SHL. Pied-billed Grebe: 10 Dec. (2), 31 Dec. (5) SHL. Great Blue Heron: regularly, max. 31 Dec. (9) SHL. Canada Goose: 31 Dec. (33) SHL (WC, JS, CS, HW). Mallard: at SHL 10 Dec. to 17 Jan., max. 31 Dec. (537) SHL (WC, CS). Black Duck: 7 Dec. (BL) to max. 31 Dec. (1031) SHL (WC, CS). Gadwall: 7 Dec. (18) PHL. American Widgeon: 7 Dec. (28) PHL, 25 Dec. (3) SHL. Ring-necked Duck: 19 Feb. (1) SHL. Common Goldeneye: 31 Dec. (8) SHL. Bufflehead: scarce, 31 Dec. (1) SHL. Oldsquaw: 23 Dec. (8) SHL (HH) an unusually large number. Three shot by hunter identified (WC, DM) same date. Hooded Merganser: 10 Dec. (1) SHL, 31 Dec. (4) SHR. Red-breasted Merganser: 7 Dec. (8) BL, 10 Dec. (1) SHL.

*Vultures-Hawks*: Turkey Vulture: regularly, max. 22 Jan. (15). Black Vulture: regularly, max. 22 Jan. (30) SHL (WC). Cooper's Hawk: five records Jan. and Feb., 27 Dec. (1) SV (WC, JS). Red-tailed Hawk: 16 Jan. (1) SHL, 18 Jan. (1) SHL. Red-shouldered Hawk: 17 Dec. (2) SV, 2 Jan. (1) SV, 4 Feb. (1) SV. Bald Eagle: 31 Dec. (1 adult) SHL (WC, JS, CS). Sparrow Hawk: numerous.

*Coot-Owls*: American Coot: 7 Dec. (3) BL-PHL, 31 Dec. (1) SHL. Killdeer: 1 Dec. to 4 Feb. SV, max. 4 Feb. (13) SV, 7 Dec. (1) SHL. American Woodcock: 22 Dec. (1) SV (JS), 15, 16, 19 Feb. (1) BT (EV). Common Snipe: 1 Dec. to 14 Jan. SV, max. 17 Dec. (6) SV, 4 Feb. (2) SHL. Herring Gull: 10 Dec. (3) SHL, 31 Dec. (2) SHL. Ring-billed Gull: 7 Dec. (2) BL, 10 Dec. (2) SHL, 31 Dec. (11) SHL. Great Horned Owl: nest with 2 birds present 18 Jan. SHL, Va. (WC), 21 Jan. one egg in nest (WC, HH, CS), 6 Feb. (two eggs) (HH), all records for same nest.

*Woodpeckers-Srikes:* Yellow-shafted Flicker: 7 Dec. (1), 31 Dec. (3). Red-bellied Woodpecker: regular and numerous. Red-headed Woodpecker: 11 Jan. (1) BT (WC), 12 Jan. (1) BT (WC). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 6 Dec. (1), 7 Dec. (1), 17 Dec. (1) SV. Eastern Phoebe: 31 Dec. (2). Horned Lark: 1 Dec. (7) SV, 17 Dec. (2) SV, 27 Dec. (2) SV, 31 Dec. (1) BT. Blue Jay: numerous reports. White-breasted Nuthatch: numerous reports. Red-breasted Nuthatch: scarce, 10 Dec. (2) SHL, 31 Dec. (1) SHL. Brown Creeper: scarce, 19 Feb. (2), 10 Dec. (2), 31 Dec. (1). Winter Wren: several SV, 3 Feb. (1) BCC. Brown Thrasher: 15 Dec. (1) BT, 12 Feb. (1) BT. Robin: numerous records in Dec. and Jan. until mid-February migration, max. 21 Jan. (120) SHL. Eastern Bluebird: no records until 24 Jan. (1) and then regularly but few, max. 4 Feb. (5). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 31 Dec. (21), 23 Jan. (3), 4 Feb. (1) SV, 3 Feb. (1). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: scarce, 10 Dec. (1) SHL. Loggerhead Shrike: numerous and well distributed.

*Blackbirds-Finches:* Red-winged Blackbird: several records SV, max. 1 Dec. (76) SV, all records for Dec. Rusty Blackbird: 1 Dec. (4) SV, 4 Dec. (10) SV, 17 Dec. (4) SV. Common Grackle: 23 Jan. (2) BT. Rufous-sided Towhee: several Dec. to Feb., 17 Jan. (4) SV. White-crowned Sparrow: 7 Dec. (2), 31 Feb. (6). White-throated Sparrow: a few regularly. Fox Sparrow: 14 Jan. (2) SV. Swamp Sparrow: 4 Dec. (1) SV, 17 Dec. (2) SV.

*Locations:* BCC—Bristol Country Club, Tenn., BL—Boone Lake, BT—Bristol, Tenn., PHL—Patrick Henry Lake, SHL—South Holston Lake, Tenn., SHL, Va.—South Holston Lake, Virginia. SHR—South Holston River, Tenn., SV—Shady Valley, Johnson County, Tenn.

*Observers:* JA—Judith Abbott, FB—Fletcher Bingham, BB—Bill Bridgforth, CC—Carolyn Coffey, WC—Wallace Coffey, HH—Harvey Hawk, LH—Lee R. Herndon, BQ—Bob Quillen, DM—David McPeak, JBS—Jim Shepherd, JS—John Shumate, CS—Charles Smith, EV—Enno vanGelder, RV—Roger vanGelder, HW—Hank Woodward.

WALLACE COFFEY, 508 Spruce Street, Bristol 37620.

ELIZABETHTON—*Loons-Snipe:* Common Loon: 7 Dec. (2). Horned Grebe: 8 Jan. (2), 26 Feb. (2). Pied-billed Grebe: max. 29 Jan. (14). Great Blue Heron: max. 3 Dec. (20) BL, PHL. Canada Goose: 3 Dec. (12) BL (CRS). Mallard: throughout the period in small numbers. Black Duck: max. 15 Feb. (147) WaL. Gadwall: present throughout the period in small numbers. American Widgeon: max. 3 Dec. (41). Wood Duck: 21 Jan. (1). Red-head: 11 Dec. (1) (FWB), 26 Feb. (13) BL, WaL. Ring-necked Duck: max. 15 Feb. (80). Lesser Scaup: max. 26 Feb. (221) BL, WaL. Common Golden-eye: max. 29 Jan. (146) BL. Bufflehead: 22 Jan. (1), 8 Feb. (22), 26 Feb. (24). Hooded Merganser: 15 Feb. (1), 26 Feb. (2). Red-breasted Merganser: 8 Feb. (1) WiL (LRH), 15 Feb. (6) WaL (LRH). Turkey Vulture: 23 Feb. (1). Red-tailed Hawk: 15 Dec. (1), 5 Feb. (1) RM. American Coot: first 18 Feb. (1). Common Snipe: 22 Jan. (3), 19 Feb. (1), 24 Feb. (4).

*Gulls-Sparrows:* Herring Gull: scarce, max. 22 Jan. (20) BL (WAB). Ring-billed Gull: scarce, max. 22 Jan. (12) BL (WAB). Great Horned Owl: 16, 22, 26 Dec. (1) MC (CRS). Red-headed Woodpecker: 19 Jan. (1) (LH). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 16 Feb. (1). Hairy Woodpecker: 4, 15, 27 Dec. (1). Horned Lark: present throughout the period in small numbers. Black-

capped Chickadee: 4 Dec. (1) BBM (FWB). Red-breasted Nuthatch: very scarce; 17 Dec. (4), 14 Jan. (1). Brown Creeper: 6 Jan. (1), 9 Jan. (2), 15 Jan. (2). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 15 Jan. (1), 19 Feb. (1). Cedar Waxwing: 8 Feb. (17). Myrtle Warbler: very scarce, 22 Jan. (1). Purple Finch: only 25 Dec. (1) (GD), 22 Jan. (1) (CRS). White-crowned Sparrow: 15 Feb. (13) RC. Swamp Sparrow: 15 Jan. (1), 22 Jan. (2), 8 Feb. (1).

*Locations:* BBM—Big Bald Mountain, BL—Boone Lake, MC—Milligan College, PHL—Patrick Henry Lake, RC—Roan Creek, RM—Roan Mountain, WaL—Watauga Lake, WiL—Wilbur Lake.

*Observers:* FWB—Fred W. Behrend, WAB—William A. Bridgforth, Jr., GD—Mrs. George Dove, LRH—Lee R. Herndon, LH—Lois Herndon, CRS—Charles R. Smith.

CHARLES R. SMITH, Route 2, Johnson City 37601.

## BOOK REVIEW

BIRDS IN OUR LIVES—A new publication, issued by the U. S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service, is a huge volume (561 pages: 8" x 11"). Edited by Alfred Steffrud and Arnold Nelson, and illustrated by the well-known wildlife artist, Bob Hines, and by hundreds of excellent photographs.

It is a comprehensive, enlightening and entertaining volume of interest to amateur and professional alike. The authors state that their aim is "to give a wide perspective of birds as they affect and are affected by people, other birds, and other forms of life, and activities." They do a good job. They stress that "the best way to achieve public support for sensitive management and conservation of birds is through a widening of public understanding of birds." They hope to influence the attitudes and actions of individuals, groups, councils, and communities.

The fifty-four chapters present a brilliant array of professional as well as amateur workers in various aspects of ornithology: Peterson, Pettingill, Cruckshank, Chandler Robbins, the Craigheads, Joseph Hickey, John Kieran, Ira Gabrielson, and many others. The chapters cover a wide range of topics: Birds in the Bible, Birds and Words, Birds and Fine Arts, the Christmas Count, Falconry, Raptors, Birds and Pesticides, Birds at Airports, Refuges and Sanctuaries, and many many more.

This volume will prove a happy hunting ground to any program chairman of a local chapter and will provide much thought-provoking material for any reader.

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