

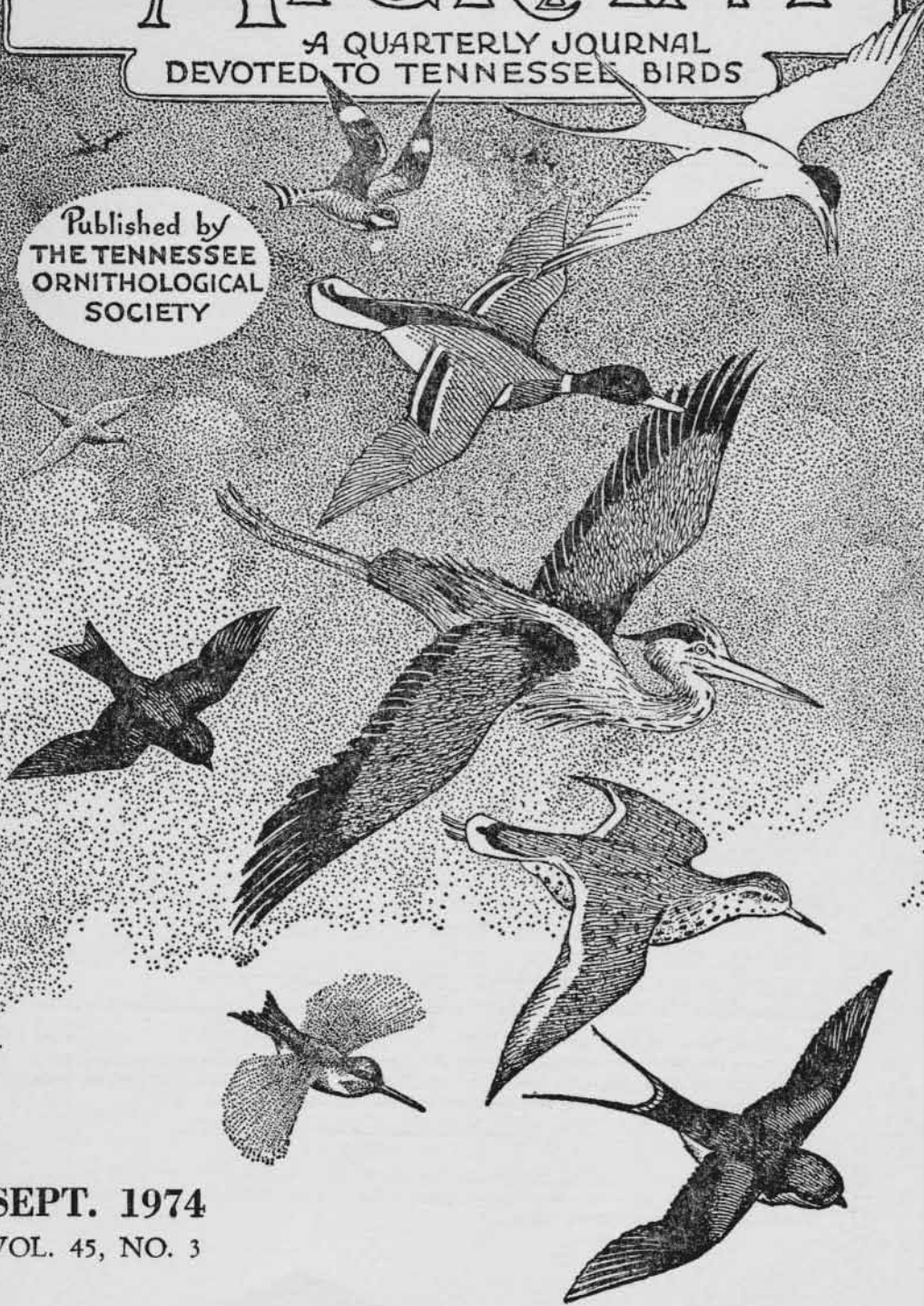
THE MIGRANT

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FALL 1973 TELEVISION TOWER CASUALTIES IN NASHVILLE

KATHERINE A. GOODPASTURE

The 1973 television tower casualty list of 165 birds from WSM and WSIX, Nashville, Tennessee is the shortest since systematic collections during September and October have been kept. In 1967, 349 casualties were collected (Laskey, *Migrant*, 39:25-26, 1968); there were 411 in 1961 (Laskey, *Migrant*, 33:7-8, 1962). The maximum collection was 5,734 in 1968 (Laskey, *Migrant*, 40:25-27, 1969).

In 1973 search for casualties was made early each morning at both WSM and WSIX towers 1 September through 31 October with the exception of three days (29 Sept., 20 and 26 Oct.) at WSIX. Two birds from WSM were added 6 November. Table I presents a complete record of collected casualties by species, date and tower. The total from WSIX was 109 of 35 species. Casualties at WSM numbered only 56 of 22 species. Combined species total stands at 42.

The weather for September and October was "even tempered" with mild fronts moving with minimum disturbance. Mr. Paul New kindly gave me the following notes from the U. S. Weather Bureau. Only two movements could be described as passing fronts. A cold front passed through Nashville at 18:00 on 17 September with a north wind at 25-30 mph accompanied by low clouds and light rain followed by clearing about 2:00 on 18 September. Four casualties were picked up on the morning of 18 September. On 16 October a dry cold front passed at 7:00 with north wind at 15 mph and gusts up to 20 mph with clearing at 13:00. There was one casualty on 16 October and two on 17 October.

A total of 40 casualties were picked up 7 September. Rain in the afternoon of 6 September was associated with fog, low clouds and light rain on the morning of 7 September. Forty-nine casualties (47 at WSIX), the highest daily count for the season, were picked up 6 October. The weather was clear on the night of 5-6 October. Maybe the fall migrants moved in as even a flow as the weather.

Michael Bierly, coordinator for collections at WSIX, notes that during the collection period WSIX was erecting a new tower beside the operating one—the new to eventually supplant the old. Erection proceeded gradually with the

TABLE I

TELEVISION TOWER CASUALTIES, FALL 1973, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Numbers in () indicate birds collected that day. Underlined numbers indicate birds collected at WSIX, not underlined collected at WSM. Asterisk * indicates an obviously old specimen.

SPECIES	WSM	WSIX	TOTAL	DATES
Pied-billed Grebe	2	0	2	Sept. 7 (2)
Great Bl. Heron	0	1	1	Oct. 6 (1)
Virginia Rail	2	0	2	Sept. 7 (1); 13 (1)
Rail sp.	0	1	1	Sept. 23 (1)
Mourning Dove	0	3	3	Sept. 7 (1); 30 (1); Oct. 6 (1)
Yel-billed Cuckoo	1	1	2	Oct. 6 (1); 14 (1)
Blk-billed Cuckoo	1	0	1	Sept. 17 (1)
Common Flicker	0	1	1	Oct. 15 (1)
Least Flycatcher	0	1	1	Sept. 11 (1)
Mockingbird	1	0	1	Sept. 19 (1)
Gray Catbird	0	6	6	Oct. 1 (1); 6 (4); 28 (1)*
Wood Thrush	0	2	2	Sept. 18 (1); Oct. 7 (1)
Swainson's Thrush	0	1	1	Oct. 6 (1)
Veery	1	0	1	Sept. 7 (1)
Thrush sp.	0	4	4	Oct. 1 (1); 6 (1); 14 (1)*; 28 (1)
Golden-cr. Kinglet	1	0	1	Oct. 14 (1)
Red-eyed Vireo	3	5	8	Sept. 7 (2, 4); 11 (1); 12 (1)
Philadelphia Vireo	1	1	2	Oct. 6 (1); 8 (1)
Black-and-white Warbler	7	7	14	Sept. 6 (2); 7 (3, 2); 8 (1); 16 (1)*; 30 (1); Oct. 1 (1); 5 (1); 6 (2)
Tennessee Warbler	4	14	18	Sept. 7 (1, 2); 11 (1); 24 (1)
Magnolia Warbler	3	8	11	Sept. 8 (1); 9 (1); 16 (1); 18 (2); Oct. 5 (1); 6 (5)
Black-tho. Blue Warbler	0	1	1	Sept. 20 (1)
Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	1	1	Oct. 28 (1)
Black-tho. Green Warbler	2	4	6	Oct. 5 (1); 6 (4); 7 (1)
Blackburnian Warbler	1	1	2	Sept. 7 (1, 1)
Chestnut-sided Warbler	0	2	2	Sept. 11 (1); Oct. 6 (1)
Palm Warbler	0	4	4	Oct. 6 (3); 15 (1)
Ovenbird	2	10	12	Sept. 7 (1, 1); 24 (1)*; Oct. 5 (1); Oct. 6 (6); 14 (1); 16 (1)
Northern Waterthrush	2	4	6	Sept. 7 (1, 2); 8 (1, 1); Oct. 6 (1)
Kentucky Warbler	2	2	4	Sept. 7 (2, 1); Oct. 3 (1)*
Mourning Warbler	0	1	1	Sept. 7 (1)
Common Yellowthroat	3	1	4	Oct. 7 (1); 8 (1); 14 (1); 21 (1)
Yellow-br. Chat	11	4	15	Sept. 7 (7, 3); 8 (1); 9 (2); 10 (1)*; 11 (1)
American Redstart	0	1	1	Oct. 6 (1)
Warbler species	0	1	1	Oct. 14 (1)*
Northern Oriole	1	0	1	Sept. 13 (1)
Scarlet Tanager	1	1	2	Oct. 6 (1); 8 (1)
Rose-br. Grosbeak	1	2	3	Sept. 18 (1); Oct. 6 (1); 15 (1)
Indigo Bunting	0	3	3	Oct. 6 (3)
Savannah Sparrow	0	2	2	Oct. 6 (2)
Vesper Sparrow	0	1	1	Oct. 27 (1)
Field Sparrow	1	0	1	Nov. 6 (1)
White-thro. Sparrow	0	1	1	Oct. 30 (1)
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	3	3	Oct. 6 (1); 17 (1); 23 (1)
Swamp Sparrow	0	1	1	Oct. 15 (1)
Unidentified	2	2	4	Oct. 7 (2); 14 (1); Nov. 6 (1)*
TOTAL	42	56	109	165

addition of guy wires from the low level upward thus increasing the hazard to night migrants as long as both towers stand. Upon completion the new tower including its thin antennae will stand 1.6' higher than the old but the body of the new tower will be shorter than the old tower and will be supported by fewer cables which in turn will have a slightly greater diameter than the old cables. At WSM the tower had been recently painted with bright orange paint and the guy lines with aluminum paint. It would be difficult to conclude that any of these factors influenced the light casualty list of 1973.

No new species was added to the master list. The Great Blue Heron, 6 October WSIX, was the second of that species to be collected, the first having fallen at WSIX 30 September 1959. A Virginia Rail picked up 7 September was 3 days earlier than the early fall date for the species.

We are again grateful for the continued interest of Amelia R. Laskey in tower casualty problems, to Mr. Paul New, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, and to the personnel at both WSM and WSIX towers for valuable help they have given. Regular assistance for scheduled collection at the towers was given by Frances Abernathy, Ann Arnett, Sue Bell, Michael Bierly, Clara Fentress, William Finch, Katherine Goodpasture, Portia MacMillan, Ann Nichols, Marjorie Patrick, Virginia Price, and Ann Tarbell.

3407 Hopkins Lane, Nashville 37215.

BOOK REVIEW

BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA. 1974. By Michael Morcombe. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, N. Y. 80 pp. 97 photos. \$7.95.—This book is a collection of the author's best photographs made over a twelve-year period of time. It does not cover all bird life in Australia but only has representative species of the major classes of bird life in the various regions of Australia.

The book is primarily a book of bird photographs with just enough text included to justify the pictures. However, the nearly 100 color photos are outstanding. They are printed on glossy paper and are mostly clear and sharp. Most important, perhaps, is that they portray birds in action: birds in flight, landing, feeding, and nest building. Their wing positions, color patterns, plumages, and total beauty are emphasized by the high speed electronic flash equipment that gave the author an action stopping 1/7000 second flash. A study of the photographs and their captions alone would make the book worthwhile.

The main topics covered by the author include: Birds of the Coastal Rainforest; Honeyeaters; Australian Robins; Birds of the Dry Inland; Parrots; Birds of Prey; Fairy Wrens; Birds of Rivers, Swamps, and Tropical Grasslands; Birds of Ocean, Seashore, and Lakes; Birds of Forests and Woodlands; Techniques for Bird Photography.

There is a brief introduction to the bird groups included in each chapter and captions which tell the story of the pictured birds. An information section is provided at the end of the book which includes a chart of Australian Bird Families and information and maps on bird distribution. There are ten chapters. No references are cited in the book but a short bibliography is included. There is an index of birds mentioned in the text but not of subject matter.

GARY O. WALLACE

MOCKINGBIRD MOVEMENTS DURING SUMMER

LEE R. HERNDON

The Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) is known to migrate short distances, however, over most of its breeding range it is considered a permanent resident. In northeast Tennessee it may be found in summer up to an elevation of 3,200 feet. The elevation under study in southwestern Elizabethton is about 1,600 feet. The area in which the Mockingbirds were trapped or netted was in my back yard. The area was about 50 ft. x 120 ft. with our ranch type house along one side, a multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) hedge on the opposite side, with an open golf course fairway immediately behind the hedge. The ends of the area were bordered by lawns, in which a few young fruit trees were established, and of approximately the same depth as the one under consideration. A garden plot occupied an area of about 20 ft. x 60 ft. On the side adjacent to the house and about midway the garden plot and about 10 ft. from it, was a pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) about 18 ft. tall, under which was a drip type bird bath, consisting of a garbage can lid at ground level, inside a cylinder of wire commonly used for reinforcing concrete and about 5 ft. in height. A garden hose attached near the top of the wire cylinder provided a continuous water drip. A patio 20 ft. in length extended 16 ft. toward the garden and a walk 4 ft. wide, consisting of large flat stones surrounded by marble chips extended to the garden and was flanked on both sides by two rows of hybrid tea roses. The remainder of the area was in lawn, in which some small fruit trees were set out in the spring of 1959. Several small shrubs and a small grape arbor were near the house.

In 1969 the garden was planted with vegetables and some sweet corn and sunflowers. A mist net was placed near the end of the garden near the center of the yard and a double S trap placed between the garden and the hedge. The mist net was kept furled when unattended. The double S trap was baited with cracked corn and chick scratch feed. The gathering cage was removed when not attended, so that birds entering the trap could leave through the opening at which the gathering cage was placed, when in operation.

During the periods, 17 June to 3 July; 25 July to 14 August and 25 August to 6 September, I was incapacitated or away from home, and the mist net and trap were inoperative during these periods. All Mockingbirds banded during 1969 (24) were netted or trapped between 7 June and 2 October, except three nestlings, which were banded on 12 June. The net and trap were not in operation 46 days during this period. The first Mockingbird banded (band No. 61-193707) 7 June 1969 was recaptured 9-14-69, 10-14-69 and 10-16-70. Another Mockingbird banded 7-14-69 was recaptured 9-15-69, 6-2-70 and 1-3-71 and was brought in to me on 4-13-71, dead of a back injury, by a next door neighbor boy. This bird, as were all the other birds banded during this season were birds of the year except three which were adult birds.

During 1970 the area was essentially the same except the garden was plowed in the spring and a few tomato plants were set out adjacent to the multiflora rose hedge. We were away from home from 5 June through 19 July,

44 days, two days less than in 1969. Upon our return home we found the garden area grown up with volunteer sunflower plants. Many of the weaker plants were removed and the remainder permitted to grow.

Immediately after our return the double S trap was placed on the border between the end of the sunflower patch and the lawn and a mist net placed as in 1969, on the lawn about 6 ft. from the double S trap and very near the gathering cage for the double S trap.

A 4-celled trap was placed along side the double S trap. Both traps were baited with cracked corn and chick scratch feed, neither of which was attractive to the Mockingbirds but was attractive to Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*) and Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). Mockingbirds took a special delight in harassing these birds when they were inside the trap or gathering cage.

On 22 July, when I was to be away for a few hours, the net was furled, the gathering cage placed on end beside the double S trap, thus leaving the trap open. The 4-celled trap was placed on top of the double S trap and left set but unbaited. Upon my return, a Mockingbird was caught in one of the cells of the 4-celled trap. For the remainder of the season the 4-celled trap was kept set and unbaited, on top of the double S trap, but the latter was baited and the gathering cage in the set position. During the period 22 July through 23 September 66 of the 69 Mockingbirds banded during the calendar year 1970, were captured in the unbaited 4-celled trap resting on top of the double S trap.

The period of greatest movement was between 25 August and 8 September. During this 14 day period 44 of the 69 birds banded during 1970, were banded constituting 64 percent of the Mockingbirds banded during this year. Only ten of these birds were retrapped and three of these were recaptured twice. The longest elapsed time between banding and recapture was 66 days. This could have been a locally reared bird since it was first captured 25 July, was a bird of the year and repeated 26 September 1970. Only two of these repeats were taken after the last bird was banded 23 September. Fifty-eight of the 69 birds, or 82.6 percent were birds of the year, which included two locally hatched birds, which were captured by hand, on 10 August.

At no time did there appear to be more than four or five Mockingbirds in the area at any one time. The maximum number of captures in one day was eight on 31 August and five on 29 August. Almost 25 percent of the birds (17) were captured during the last three days of August.

There has been no return of any of the Mockingbirds banded during 1970 nor during the succeeding four summer seasons. The small number of retraps indicates that the birds were migrating and remained in the area a relatively short time.

Such a small area certainly would not support such a large population of Mockingbirds, even if they would tolerate each other with such a high density.

Bandings of Mockingbirds by months for the years 1969 through 1972 are presented in Table I.

TABLE I

<i>Year</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>Totals</i>
1969	8	5	3	7	1	24
1970	1	8	37	23	—	69
1971	—	—	12	4	2	18
1972	—	—	1	7	2	10
TOTALS	9	13	53	41	5	121

After the 1970 season, the multiflora rose hedge was removed and replaced by a chain-link fence. The area has not been as attractive to Mockingbirds since removal of the hedge, which provided a refuge and food supply particularly in winter.

Three annual area counts are made which give some idea of Mockingbird seasonal populations. A spring count is made about 1 May; a fall count about 1 October and the Christmas count. Table II presents these counts for the years 1969 through 1973.

TABLE II

<i>Year</i>	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	<i>Average</i>
SPRING	78	77	86	62	65	73.6
FALL	86	77	74	40	63	68.0
CHRISTMAS	18	69	46	21	26	36.0

These counts are not comparable. Although the area for spring and fall counts are the same, the birds are more conspicuous in the spring because the birds are singing. In the fall the difference may be compensated for by the birds of the year. However, the data of Table I indicates that the birds of the year may have moved out of the area during August and September, leaving predominantly the resident population.

The Christmas counts are low because the area is limited to a circle of 7.5 mile radius, while spring and fall counts may extend to a circle of 25 mile radius.

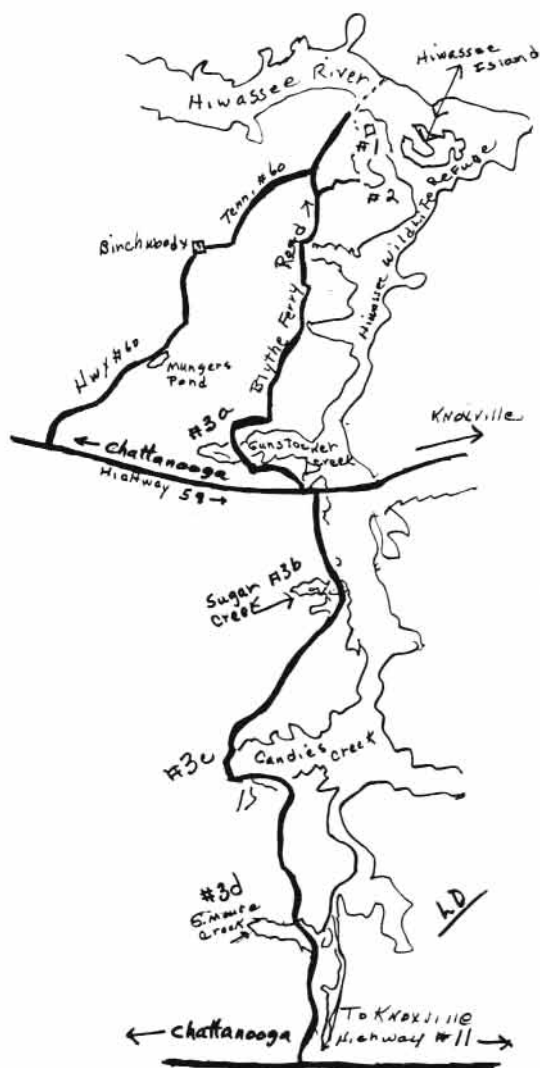
The Mockingbird population is fairly stable in this area except during August and September when relatively large numbers, mostly of birds of the year, pass through and are present for only short periods.

673 Golf Course Drive, Elizabethton 37643.

BIRD FINDING IN TENNESSEE

BIRDING IN THE CHATTANOOGA-HIWASSEE RIVER AREA

LIL DUBKE



One of the best areas for observing shorebirds during migration is along the lower Hiwassee River Area. During the latter part of July, the months of August, September and early October, a great variety can be seen (depending on the water level of Chickamauga Lake) feeding in the mud and shallow water along the extensive shoreline.

In the winter months, there is an abundance of wintering waterfowl. If at all possible, obtain a TVA Recreation map of Chickamauga Lake. This map can be easily followed to the "Hot Spots"!

Area 1: BLYTHE FERRY AND BLUFF—From Chattanooga, drive north on Highway 58 approximately 29 miles, turn left on Highway 60. There is a small private lake approximately 2.07 miles—stop and toot your horn for the Bufflehead to pop up. This is wintering quarters for 20 to 50 Buffleheads. Travel approximately 3 miles to BLYTHE FERRY, park and wait for the ferry. Wilford Caraway is usually present, and during the winter months, may be able to point out a favorite perching spot of the Bald Eagle—or perhaps a Golden. A walk

up the side of the bluff to the top is worth the effort. Be sure to take your scope to view the waterfowl feeding and resting on Hiwassee Island Wildlife Refuge. Thirty to 60 Great Blue Herons use this as their feeding and resting grounds.

Area 2: HIWASSEE HUNTING AREA—From the ferry, return 1.0 miles and turn on paved road to left (first paved road to left), continue to first dirt road to left, and turn left, continue to end of road, turn left, if gate is open to Hunting Area, park car after entering, and slowly approach the slough, or drive slowly through the area. Canada Geese, Blue Geese, even a White-Fronted Goose and Brant have been recorded, as well as a good variety of ducks. Wintering land birds are in the surrounding fields and hedgerows. Dickcissel sing lustily from perches during the months of May and June. Almost any visit could produce a Red-tailed Hawk. Bobolinks swoop through during migration in the spring.

Area 3: CREEK AREAS—Return to black top road (Blythe Ferry—Charleston Road) turn left and continue to Tennessee Highway 58 (you will pass Gunstocker Creek (3a), a brief pause may be all that is necessary at this spot—usually not very productive, but pays to check. Turn left on 58, continue to next paved road to the right. This is Lower River Road—turn right, continue to Sugar Creek (3b). Many fine shorebirds have been found at this spot. Continuing down Lower River Road, Candies Creek (3c), is approximately 2 miles. It is always good to check this spot. Next is the "Famous" South Mouse Creek (3d). When the water level is lowered, the finest mud-flats occur here. Just about any shorebird is a possibility during migration!

It is always an exciting adventure to explore the Hiwassee River Area! For further information contact Ken and Lil Dubke, Route 1, Box 134-D, Ooltewah, Tenn. 37363 or call 238-4969.

* * * * *

ROUND TABLE NOTES

WESTERN GREBE FOUND AT WOODS RESERVOIR—On a routine field trip to Woods Reservoir 18 November 1973, the writers observed a Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) as it leisurely swam with a group of Horned Grebes (*Podiceps auritus*) in the open water. The bird was observed at 100 yards, under excellent light conditions. It was readily apparent that it was a Western Grebe because of its larger size, extremely long slender swan-like neck, and light yellow bill. These features were pointed out to other members of the group: Frank Hixon, Jan Hawthorne, Bradley Cansler, Gertrude Fleming, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Baisden.

The word quickly spread and many competent observers had an opportunity to view the Western Grebe.

It was last observed in the area on 10 February 1974, by Lil Dubke and members of the new chapter of the TOS, Highland Rim. The Western Grebe is rarely found away from its normal wintering area in the west.

KENNETH H. AND LILLIAN H. DUBKE, Rt. 1, Box 134-D, Ooltewah 37363.

GOSHAWK IN LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES—The morning of 20 December 1972 I was observing wildlife around an old log barn or shed in Land Between the Lakes. The barn is located on a short ridge running northward down into a creek bottom and the north bay of Bards Lake, 7 miles northwest of Dover. On the sides of the ridge are heavily wooded ravines also leading northward down into the creek bottom and Bards Lake. On the ridge to the south of the barn is forest and to the north a small field of tall grass.

The sky was clear that morning, and there was little wind. Bobwhite Quail (*Colinus virginianus*) had often called from several places around the barn, and occasionally I heard and saw quail in a briar patch along the north edge of the barn. At about 09:00 (CST) as I stood just within the south door of the barn, a hawk glided about 7 feet high just in front of me. It landed about 15 feet high in the middle of a tree approximately 50 feet to the southwest. I was able to observe it in open view with 8 x 30 binoculars for a minute or two. Having collected an immature Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) in Michigan, and having handled specimens of adult Goshawks and other eastern hawks, I immediately saw that the bird was an adult Goshawk. I noted the distinct light superciliary stripes demarcated by the black crown and auriculars, the blue-gray back and wings, and the light underparts with faint gray barring and streaking. Immature Goshawks have brown upperparts and thick brown streaks on the breast and abdomen.

Other accipiters that occur in this area are the Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) and the Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*). The hawk was obviously not a Sharp-shinned Hawk, being nearly as large as a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). Unlike the Goshawk the adult Cooper's Hawk, as well as the adult Sharp-shinned Hawk, does not have distinct superciliary stripes demarcated by black, and has reddish-brown barring on the breast. The male Marsh Hawk (*Circus cyaneus*) has the same general coloration as the adult Goshawk, but has black wing tips and lacks barring on the breast and the black and white pattern on the head. Also the Marsh Hawk would not be expected to occur in such wooded habitats, although it probably frequents the cultivated and abandoned fields in the creek bottoms throughout Land Between the Lakes.

After a few minutes the bird flew low along the west edge of the barn toward the grassy field to the north, after which I could no longer observe it. About 5 minutes later, while still in the barn, I heard a commotion just to the north, including brief squealing and also the sound of much movement in brush. It's possible that the Goshawk captured one of the quail that I had seen earlier, although the commotion could have been an agonistic encounter between quail themselves. The coincidence of the commotion with the hawk's presence, however, indicates that it was responsible, since I heard no such commotion at any other time.

Although I frequented the same area on the following two days, I did not again see a Goshawk or any other accipiter. A Goshawk in this area is a rare occurrence. Apparently this year has been an invasion year for this northern species, with many reports from the eastern states including several in Tennessee (Fred Alsop, III, pers. comm.).

References used: Peterson, R. T. 1947. *A Field Guide to the Birds*. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston; Robbins, C. S., B. Bruun, H. S. Zim, and A. Singer. 1966. *Birds of North America*. Golden Press, Inc., New York; Roberts, R. T. 1955. *A Manual for the Identification of the Birds of Minnesota and Neighboring States*. Univ. of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.

ROGER L. KROODSMA, Dept. of Biology, Union University, Jackson 38301.

GOSHAWK IN TROUSDALE COUNTY—On Sunday morning 18 March 1973 my wife and I observed an adult Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) in Trousdale County. In view of the relatively few sightings of this species in middle Tennessee, and since this is the first record for the above mentioned county, the following details are submitted regarding the observation: Time—9:30 to 9:37 a.m.; Weather—sky clear, temperature 45 degrees Fahrenheit, wind from the west-northwest (a cold front had moved through the area the night before and temperatures dropped into the twenties after several weeks of readings in the sixties); Exact Location of Sighting—seven miles north of Lebanon, Tennessee at a point approximately three-hundred yards north of the Hunters Point Bridge (Hwy. 10 crossing the Cumberland River) in the Hunters Point Refuge Area, Trousdale County; Characteristics—the bird was startled from a deciduous-cedar thicket, whereupon it flew out into an open area and began a slow circular glide. The accipiter wing profile and long barred tail were easily noticeable at this time with the naked eye. Two Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) almost immediately made several passes at the bird and it was then that the large size of this accipiter was readily noticed (the Goshawk is larger than the Crow, whereas the Coopers Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) is smaller). The crows soon gave up their sport after the bird gave chase to one of their number. I watched this exhibition for several minutes through 7 x 50 Bauch and Lomb binoculars and could distinguish the dark eye stripe, find dark markings on the light gray underparts and the long tail. When last seen the bird was gliding back into the forested area of the refuge boundary; Observers—Jon E. and Nancy DeVore.

JON E. DEVORE, Apt. A-5, 1510 Huntington Dr., Murfreesboro 37130.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS NESTING AT SEWANEE—Although I had observed a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter striatus*) several times during July 1953, below the bluff at St. Mary's School, Sewanee, no nest could then be located. On 12 May 1973, Steve Harris, a student at The University of the South, found a nest of this hawk near the Sherwood Road opposite St. Mary's School, after he had heard the male giving his warning territorial cackle. The female was sitting on the nest. This nest was very typical of the species in Massachusetts, as described by A. C. Bent, *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey*, part one, Dover. It was placed 18 feet up, against the trunk of a medium-sized white pine (*Pinus strobus*), located in a dense planting of the same tree species. The nest was about one foot in diameter, made of small twigs, and shallow from top to bottom. It contained 3 eggs, whitish blotched with brown spots. Two of the birds' butcher blocks, containing remains of small birds, and a used nest were located a short distance from the active nest. On 15 May, the male again gave his warning cackle, when the nest was approached. The female was reluctant to leave the nest. Five eggs were present. On 25 May,

Margaret Ringland, a student; my wife, Jean; my son, Clay; and I joined Mr. Harris in the nest visit. As usual, the male warned and the female was reluctant to leave. Her square-tipped tail could be seen protruding from the nest. A rap with a stick on the tree made her depart for a short distance. Six eggs were found to be present. Miss Ringland, Clay and I assumed the nest observations after this date, when Mr. Harris returned home in Texas. On 17 June (24 days from the last egg-laying), four eggs hatched. On 1 July, wing and tail feathers of the 4 young were starting to erupt. There were no remains of the two unhatched eggs and the parents were not at the nest.

On each of the many visits to the nest, before and after the eggs hatched, potential songbird prey could be seen and heard in the close vicinity of the nest. Towhees, Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), Tufted Titmice (*Parus bicolor*), and Hooded Warblers (*Wilsonia citrina*) were recorded. Frank and John Craighead, in their *Hawks in the Hand* (Houghton Mifflin Co.), pp. 158-160, give a similar account of Sharp-shinned Hawks not molesting towhees and Whip-poor-wills (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) in the immediate vicinity of the hawk's nest, but catching prey afar.

On 3 July, wing and tail feathers were growing, but down covered the rest of their bodies. Two were small and obviously males and two much larger females. The parents were absent. One male and one female were removed from the nest, photographed, and kept in captivity for further study. I kept the male and Mr. Harris was sent the female. In two weeks, the captive young were fully-feathered, would eat chicken meat from one's fingers and could fly a short distance. My male liked to hunt and eat June beetles and other insects in our pasture, pursuing them on foot, before it could fly well. Even after fully feathered, the male was not as large as a female American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Shortly after maturing, the male escaped, when being removed from its pen and never returned. Mr. Harris' female also escaped, a few weeks later.

The Sharp-shinned Hawk is usually fairly common in migration in Tennessee, but is a rare permanent resident in any part of the state. The majority breed throughout the forested parts of Canada and the northern United States near Canada. Henry E. Parmer's *Birds of the Nashville Area* (second edition), lists it as a rare permanent resident in that region, with several nesting records at Basin Springs and Craggie Hope. Arthur Stupka's *Notes on the Birds of Great Smoky Mountains National Park* lists 4 June records, but no nesting records. At Sewanee, the white pine plantations for nesting sites, the abundance of small birds for prey, the great amount of wild, forested areas, and the cool mountain air are ideal for nesting Sharp-shinned Hawks. They have probably nested here for years.

HARRY C. YEATMAN, Biology Department, University of the South, Sewanee 37375.

AMERICAN AVOCETS AND SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS IN CARTER COUNTY—On the morning of 11 August 1973 at about 10:30 EDT while birding along Watauga River, I observed two very unusual looking birds for our area. They were in a small shallow bay where the river makes a sharp turn. They were at a distance of some 300 to 400 yards with an embank-

ment obscuring much of the birds bodies. I decided to drive around to the other side of the river to get a closer look. Arriving at this better viewpoint I was pleasantly surprised to find two American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) standing on the muddy edge of the far bank of the river some 100 feet away. They were feeding with seven Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) and one Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*). The two birds had extremely long, bluish legs with webbed feet. The overall body was white with black wings and a long horizontal white stripe in the center of the darker wings. The long neck was a light-brown, almost pinkish looking, fading into almost all "dirty" white color on the head. The long, thin, dark, upturned bill was unmistakable. The birds were very casually probing and feeding in the soft mud.

During my observation the birds gave a single-noted "kleep" call as described by Godfrey in *Birds Of Canada* several different times. The birds were observed with a pair of 7 x 35 binoculars and a Bausch and Lomb telescope. The weather was clear on 11 August, but there had been a big storm the night before with very high southwesterly winds accompanied with heavy rain.

After making on the spot notes and watching the birds for some thirty minutes, I decided to drive home and start our local TOS chapter "rare bird alert." After contacting several people I returned to the spot to meet Fred Behrend for the purpose of making photographs. While there several members of our chapter came by to see the birds. The avocets were under constant observation from 11:45 to 15:30 EDT and were also seen about 17:00 that afternoon. A check was made the next day but the birds could not be found. This was the first reported American Avocet for Carter County, with the only other upper East Tennessee report coming from Austin Springs in Washington County on 18 Sept., 1967 by Charles Smith and Wallace Coffey, *The Migrant*, Vol. 38(4):101.

On 25 August, John W. Gray and I were again checking the above described area. The river was down and along the muddy edge we found three Short-billed Dowitchers (*Limnodromus griseus*) feeding with several Killdeer. The first thing we noticed was the long bill and the short "bobbing" motion of the head while feeding. Two of the birds were changing to the greyish color of winter plumage, while the other bird was very reddish-brown in color, equivalent to spring plumage. All three birds had very light colored greenish legs. The white on the rump and upper parts of the back could be seen only when the birds were preening. The birds were not flushed, since dowitchers are so uncommon for our area, there would probably be several people interested in seeing the birds. We later returned with Dr. Gary O. Wallace and other members of the Elizabethton TOS and watched the birds for some 30 to 45 minutes.

There have been several reports of Short-billed Dowitchers for upper East Tennessee, but none from Carter County. Therefore both of the above mentioned birds were "firsts" for Carter County and both coming from the same location within two weeks of each other.

GLEN D. ELLER, Route #3, Grandview Terrace, Elizabethton 37643.

LARGEMOUTH BASS CAUGHT BY BARRED OWL—The Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) is seldom seen during daylight hours and even less frequently observed feeding during periods of strong light. Twilight appears to be the

most active time for the Barred Owl. It is therefore of particular interest when a Barred Owl is observed making a catch in broad daylight.

On 12 June 1973, Messrs. John N. Stockdale and Jerry B. Armstrong, both employees of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, observed a Barred Owl in the vicinity of Morgan Creek near the Interstate 40 bridge which crosses the Tennessee River on the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge. The owl was observed to swoop low over the water and catch a largemouth bass in the shallows with a single foot. The weight of the bass was estimated at 1½ pounds.

The Barred Owl then proceeded to fly to a nearby tree and perched on a limb. The fish was definitely alive when caught and seen to thrash about when in the grasp of the owl's talons. The owl pecked at the fish several times while perched on the limb and then flew off after several moments.

Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey* describes the diet of the Barred Owl as quite varied but primarily made up of mice and small rodents. However, fish is quite rare in his food intake which makes this daylight capture even more unique.

LEON RHODES, Assistant Refuge Manager, Tenn. Nat. Wildlife Refuge, Box 849, Paris 38242.

JUNE RECORDS OF A BREWSTER'S WARBLER AND RED CROSSBILLS IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY, TENNESSEE—On the morning of 11 June 1973, G. Ron Austing and I (FJA) visited the extensive pine-burn bisected by Interstate 40 in eastern Cumberland County in search of a nest of one of the many Golden-winged Warblers (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) that are common summer residents there. The area is located just west of the Westel Exit on I-40 a few miles north and west of Rockwood, and is reached by exiting south on the Westel road and proceeding approximately one mile to a dirt road running west into the pine planting. The birding habitat is accessible from this dirt road which, though rutted and not maintained, was passable for automobiles in June.

The burn is perhaps 10-15 years old and is densely covered by an extensive planting of pines which have reached a height of approximately 6-8 feet. Scattered throughout are individual mature pine trees 25 plus feet tall and the dead standing snags of burned deciduous trees, minus most of their branches, of heights mostly intermediate between those of the mature pines and the planted pines. The taller pines and dead snags are often used by the Golden-winged Warblers as singing, preening, and resting perches.

We had walked the dirt access road for approximately one mile and had located 5 singing male Golden-wings, all giving their typical "seee-buzz-buzz-buzz-buzz" song, when the song of a Blue-winged Warbler (*V. pinus*) was heard along the road ahead. The bird was easily located as it sang from the tops of several young pines and was seen to be not a Blue-winged Warbler, but a hybrid, Brewster's Warbler (*V. chrysoptera* X *V. pinus*). The bird had a yellow forehead and crown, gray upperparts and wings, white throat and underparts, black lores with the eyeline extending thru and behind the eye, two wide yellow wingbars, and a yellowish wash on the upper breast. The song was given in two forms; the "seee-buzz" typical of the Blue-wing and the

nesting song which is variable, consisting of a series of short notes and buzzes that change in pitch, i.e. "tsee, tsee, tsee, tsee, tsee, tsee, buzzz-see-see-buzzz" (A. C. Bent. 1953). *Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers*. U. S. Nat'l. Mus. Bull. 203) also given by Blue-wings on their breeding grounds (we had heard the latter song repeatedly a few days earlier while observing nesting Blue-winged Warblers near Hamilton, Ohio). At no time on the three different occasions during the morning hours that we heard this individual singing did we hear it sing the Golden-wing song that we were constantly hearing from the male Golden-wings in the adjacent territories. We were unable to follow the bird's movements when he left his singing perch (he used the same small pine and two nearby ones which were several feet taller than the surrounding ones on each of the three times we observed him) and, therefore, were unable to see if he was carrying food, or had a mate, or a nest.

I believe this to be the first reported observation of a territorial Brewster's Warbler in Tennessee.

During our slow search thru the pines I was surprised to hear the flight notes of crossbills ahead. Subsequently, we were able to detect four birds in undulating flight overhead, but too high to determine the identity of the species. Shortly, two more birds were heard and seen in flight. These were close enough to be sure they were Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*).

Within an hour of our initial contact with crossbills on the area we observed 10 Red Crossbills feeding in several of the mature pines from a distance of approximately 60 feet. This active group was comprised of at least two juvenile birds in brownish plumage heavily streaked below and seemingly equal numbers of adult males and females. While in the pines some birds were actively foraging for food, some were preening, and some males were frequently seen chasing females and other males in short, rapid circular flights which usually brought them back to the same trees they had just vacated. The flock was very vocal, not singing, but almost constantly emitting single notes which were sometimes rapidly repeated. The birds were easily approached to within 20 feet, and were seen to feed on the ground as well as in the smaller pines. We often saw and heard crossbills in twos and threes during the rest of the morning and early afternoon until we departed the area about 14:30 (CDT). It was impossible to establish if the latter were members of the single flock of 10, or if more birds were ranging the large pine-burn.

These birds most probably were individuals from the widespread southern invasion of this species during the preceding winter. After similar invasions in other states straying Red Crossbills which have lingered have bred or have been suspected of breeding (A. C. Bent. 1968. *Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows, and Allies*. U. S. Nat'l. Mus. Bull. 237). These erratic wanderers are also rather erratic in their nesting, breeding most often in January and February, but there are nesting records for the species for most months of the year. Though Red Crossbills are found in East Tennessee throughout the year, no nest has been reliably reported from the State.

DR. FRED J. ALSOP, III, Dept. of Biology, East Tennessee State University, Kingsport University Center, P. O. Box 9, Kingsport 37660.

NESTING FAILURE IN A COMMON GRACKLE COLONY—The presence of large numbers of Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) during the various bird counts indicates that this species is reproducing at a constant, if not increasing, rate. Of interest in this respect is the complete failure of a small colony of Common Grackles during the 1972 nesting season. The colony was located near a small pond of approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ acre surface area and in a nearby gully on a farm in Obion County. Thirteen nests were located in black willows (*Salix nigra*) at the margin of the pond. The willows varied in height above water varying from 2 to 10 feet. Six nests were located in a small brush covered gully approximately 100 feet uphill from the pond. These nests were located in elm (*Ulmus* sp.), ash (*Fraxinus* sp.), persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), oak (*Quercus* sp.), cherry (*Prunus* sp.), and sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) at heights of 8 to 12 feet. Pasture land seeded to lespedeza (*Lespedeza striata*) and fescue (*Festuca elatior*) surround both the pond and gully. Weekly or twice-weekly visits were made to the area beginning on 1 April 1972. Nests were observed being constructed on 1 April. Eggs were first seen on 17 April when one nest contained three. Young (with natal down) were first noted 8 May.

The time and possible cause of each nest failure were recorded as evidence permitted. Four nests either fell from the supporting branches, disintegrated, or tilted at such an angle that the contents fell. Three of these nests contained eggs and one was empty at the time of destruction. Faulty construction techniques and/or breakage of supporting branches are thought to have been the cause of destruction in each case, as some damage to the nest or its supports was noted prior to the final destruction. Predators are not thought to have destroyed any of these as depredated nests were left intact. An unknown predator took the eggs from four nests; this depredation occurred between 23 April and 14 May. A Black Racer (*Coluber constrictor*) was observed removing eggs from one nest on 14 May. Two nests with eggs were deserted between 14 and 24 May. Young were removed from eight nests by unknown predators between 1 and 21 May. Young birds died in one nest, apparently following desertion by their parents or the death of the parents. One nest is listed twice in the above account as it was depredated at least twice, once while containing eggs and once while containing young.

The observed egg depredation by the Black Racer occurred at 13:30 (CDT) on 14 May. The snake was observed swimming near the margin of the pond approximately 10 feet from a nest. The snake moved directly to the nest, which was located 15 inches above the water at the base of two willow trees. The nest had lost three eggs during the previous week and at the time of the observed depredation contained only two eggs. The snake apparently broke one egg while picking it up; the egg was discarded. The second egg was picked up and swallowed, after which the snake climbed about 10 feet further up into the tree.

SUMMARY

Nineteen Common Grackle nests failed to produce any fledglings. Four nests were lost due to faulty construction; predators took eggs from four nests; predators took eggs and young from one nest; predators took young from eight nests; and, three nests were deserted.

DAVID PITTS, Biology Dept., University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin 38237.

NORTHERN ORIOLES AT PICKWICK DAM—On 25 December 1967, a mild Christmas day, my husband and I were taking a drive along the Tennessee River below Pickwick Dam. The area is a well-kept park with the river on one side and a wild area on the other. The road is lined with a double planting of Sycamore trees. On a low drooping branch of one of the largest Sycamores we found a Northern Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) nest.

On reading that the Northern Oriole often builds in the same tree year after year, we determined to watch for this in the spring. On 18 April 1968 we observed a large number, perhaps one hundred, of Northern Orioles in the Sycamore trees, tearing the seed balls to pieces and feasting. We also saw among them fifteen or twenty Orchard Orioles (*Icterus spurius*).

Although I watched all summer for a nest, I did not find one until the leaves fell when my husband and I again found a Northern Oriole nest in the same tree, and three others in widely separated parts of the park. Since that time we have found a Northern Oriole nest each year.

On 6 May 1971 we observed an Orchard Oriole at her nest, and saw two male Northern Orioles perched in the treetops and singing. On 13 May 1972 we discovered a female Northern Oriole building her nest. I watched her closely for nine days. On 25 May the nest had been destroyed. On corresponding with David Patterson I learned that he considered a Northern Oriole nest this far south noteworthy. On 30 May 1973 my husband and I spotted a Northern Oriole building a nest. On 8 July David, Gloria, and Mike Patterson met us at Pickwick and we took them to see our birds. As we approached the nesting site the male bird flew and all of us saw his glorious color. He did not choose to return while we were there. We did observe the female on the nest, thus confirming the fact that the Northern Oriole does indeed nest at Pickwick Dam, Tennessee.

ELLEN WARRINER, 205 Linden Street, Corinth, Mississippi 38834.

REPORT ON BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK, MURFREESBORO—On 30 December 1973, Mrs. Preston Edwards called me about a bird which she identified as some sort of a grosbeak. She gave a fairly good but restrained color description which suggested tentative identification. I made four trips to her house that day failing to see the bird which would come back as soon as I left. Only the fact that I was expecting participants in our Christmas count of the day before at my home on that day kept me from staying until I saw the bird. The next morning, 31 December, I had better luck and saw the bird at a distance of less than 20 feet when it landed on a picnic table. It was a very handsome bird with a breast of glowing burnt orange, golden in the center. The shoulders were orange and brownish-black, the wings also brownish black with a pattern of white feathers. The head was not solid black but striped in the dark almost black-brown. The cheeks were grayish.

Fairly timid at first the bird would invariably fly to a bare branch on one of the large hackberry or wild cherry trees in the fence row at the back of the

lot and then to the table which was usually covered with Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*), Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), etc. As the days passed the bird became bolder and finally flew to the feeder about five feet from the observation point within the house. He remained on view, almost on demand, for ten days. On Wednesday, 9 January, five Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) appeared at the Edwards' and the next day both they and the Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) were gone. The bird was seen a few days later in the vicinity but has not been seen since.

On 1 January 1974 the bird was seen by Margaret Mann and Pat Stallings of Nashville and subsequently by Dr. Katherine Goodpasture, Mike Bierly, Ann Tarbell, Mrs. William Fentress, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Crawford of Nashville, Mr. and Mrs. Don Manning of McKenzie, Dr. and Mrs. Benton Basham of Dunlap and Morris Williams.

The bird remained hidden except when coming to the feeder and was never noted to eat anything but the sunflower seed. During the entire stay of the bird, with perhaps the exception of an hour or two, the sky was overcast and the weather cool and damp. The bird was first seen following some severe weather conditions that had prevailed.

ANNE HETTISH, 1018 Lawndale Drive, Murfreesboro 37130.

LONGEVITY AND MOVEMENTS OF BANDED PURPLE FINCHES—Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) have produced more outstanding records at my home banding station than any other migrant wintering species. However in the earlier years (1926-1959) there were few recorded although the feeders attracted many other species. Bird banding was conducted systematically from 1931, yet none was banded until November 1939 (2 individuals). The scarcity continued until 1960 when 387 were banded. Since then there have been intermittent population and banding years, as follows: 1966 (828); 1968 (26); 1969 (1,028); 1970 (1,423); 1971 (one on November 5); 1972 (542); 1973 (203). Usually none is trapped before January. In 1963 and 1964 when they were absent from my home, I banded 119 and 264 respectively at the home of Sue M. Bell about 1.5 miles southwest. In 1970, in addition to the 1,423 banded, I trapped 54 that had been banded by Katherine A. Goodpasture and she trapped 28 that I had banded. Our home stations are about a half mile apart, but Purple Finches are known to wander over a considerable area to other feeding and banding stations.

One individual which I banded 12 February 1972 was retaken on the following day by M. L. Bierly at the home of Roger Harshaw about 10 miles northeast (*Bird-Banding* 1972). As Purple Finches are gregarious in winter and occupy a communal roost (*Auk* 1958), this behavior may account for an individual following a different flock at the morning dispersal from a roost.

The total number banded is 4,954. I have had 50 individuals return in subsequent years and 15 recoveries outside of Tennessee: Minnesota (2); Wisconsin; New York; New Jersey; Massachusetts (2); Connecticut; Vermont; Maine (3); Alabama; North Carolina; Maryland. Of these only 5 were reported dead and 10 were trapped and released by banders.

Among the returns, No. 73-53582 was in his 9th year of age at least. He had been banded in 1966 as an adult male in raspberry red plumage, was retaken twice in 1970 and again in January and March 1973. As Purple Finches do not attain their adult plumage until the second year, he was hatched in 1964 or earlier.

Another individual, No. 79-42897, banded February 1972, age and sex unknown, was trapped twice and released in May 1972 in Connecticut by Gordon Loery. It was back at my home and trapped in January 1973 in the brown plumage of a female (*Bird-Banding* 1973).

In 1972 Bessie Walker operated for several months as my sub-permittee using my bands at her home in Mount Juliet. From 17 February through 9 April, 131 Purple Finches were banded. The following season, she had 13 returns (10 percent). The earliest was an adult male, banded 10 March 1972 which returned 6 December 1972.

She trapped and released a female in its 6th year of age that had been banded in Massachusetts. She also trapped a Canada-banded bird that had been banded 12 March 1970 in Edmonton, Alberta.

1958 *Auk* 75:475-476. A winter roost of Purple Finches.

1972 *Bird Banding* 43:287. One day or one night mileage of migrant birds.

1973 *Bird Banding* 44:227. A longevity and round trip records of banded Purple Finches.

AMELIA R. LASKEY: deceased (*The Migrant*, 44:106).

THE SIXTIETH ANNUAL SPRING TOS MEETING

COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE

2, 3, 4 MAY 1975

Headquarters will be at the Holiday Inn. For reservations write Holiday Inn, Columbia, Tennessee 38401, or call 615-388-2720. Additional information will be sent out well in advance by the host chapter Columbia. If further details are desired contact George R. Mayfield, Jr., Maury County Hospital, Columbia, Tennessee 38401.

THE SEASON

FRED J. ALSOP, III, *Editor*

SPRING SEASON: 16 MARCH - 15 MAY

If there is a singular characteristic of the following season report it is the lack of information submitted to the Regional Compilers by our birding membership who by their very natures should be *most active* during the spring season. However, there are many observations of note such as the Whistling Swan, Willets, Baird's Sandpipers, and Short-eared Owl reported from the Central Plateau and Basin Region. Red Crossbills were seen in the two central regions of the State, and a Harris Sparrow was found in Gallatin.

Many Shorebirds were reported in the Eastern Ridge and Valley Region. This region also reported a Snowy Egret and a bird which continues to become less frequent in Tennessee, the Bachman's Sparrow. Most noteworthy are the many nesting records of raptorial species in this region's data.

Lark Sparrows were observed in Bristol.

No great concentrations of migrating birds were reported, but perhaps this is more of a reflection of the scarcity of reports to the compilers than of a lack of birds. Seen a good bird lately? Write your *Season's* Regional Compiler about it.

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION—No report this season because of the noted absence of observations submitted to the Regional Compiler prior to his editor's deadline.

CENTRAL PLATEAU AND BASIN REGION—This report is hardly representative of the region since it includes records from only the Nashville Area and Lawrence County. Observers in Middle Tennessee are urged to report their findings to the regional compiler. Data from the spring counts has generally not been duplicated in this report.

One can only speculate as to the origin of the *BAND-TAILED PIGEON* reported at Old Hickory Lake by Bill and Sally Fintel.

Grebe-Sandpiper: Pied-billed Grebe: 5 May (2) BV (MLB); Green Heron: 6 Apr. (1) OHL (BF, SF); Little Blue Heron: 14 Apr. (2) BV (MLB); 5 May (3) FP (MDW); 15 May (5) G (SB, DC, PC, AN); Great Egret: 4 Apr. (1) NA (MPS); Cattle Egret: 27 Apr. (3) NA (MLB); 7 May (1) Lawrence Co. (Lloyd Clayton, MDW); Black-crowned Night Heron: 30 Mar.

(40) BH (MLM); Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 30 Mar. (1) BH (MLM); American Bittern: 5 May (1) BV (MLB); *WHISTLING SWAN*: 16 Mar. (5) Hunter's Point (William Vaughn); Black Duck: 17 Mar. (5) Ashland City Marsh (MLB); Gadwall: 30 Mar. (4) RL (MLB); Wood Duck: 5 May (1 female, 8 young) BV (MLB, Benton Basham); Bufflehead: 14 Apr. (10) RL (MLB); Red-breasted Merganser: 16 Apr. (7) OHL (MLM); *COOPER'S HAWK*: 27 Mar. (1) Fernvale (John Ellis); 23 Apr. (1) PWP (HR); Broad-winged Hawk; 5 Apr. (1) RL (MLB); Virginia Rail: 27 Apr. and 5 May (1) BV (MLB); Sora Rail: 27 Apr. (3) BV (MLB); Common Snipe: 31 Mar. (57) OHL (MPS); *WILLET*: 28 Apr. (7) OHL (Knauth Party); White-rumped Sandpiper: 15 May (1) G (SB, PC, AN); *BAIRD'S SANDPIPER*: 15 May (3) G (SB, DC, PC, AN); Least Sandpiper: 9 May (200) BV (MLB).

Tern-Sparrows: Caspian Tern: 15 May (3) G. Steam Plant (PC); *BAND-TAILED PIGEON*: 9 Apr. (1 carefully observed by BF, SF) OHL; *SHORT-EARED OWL*: 23 Mar. (4) Smyrna Airport (MLM); Whip-poor-will: 29 Mar. (1) NA (MLB); Common Nighthawk: 28 Mar. (1) NA (DC); Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 Apr. (1) NA (KAG); Eastern Kingbird: 12 Apr. (2) NA (JR, HR); Willow Flycatcher: 19 May (1) BV (MLB, Chap Percival); Least Flycatcher: 28 Apr. (2) RL (MLB); Tree Swallow: 16 Mar. (7) WL (MLM, MPS); Barn Swallow: 16 Mar. (3) WL (MLM, MPS); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 21 Mar. (1) FP (MDW); Warbling Vireo: 10 Apr. (1) NA (MLM); 6 May (2) FP (MDW); 7 May (2) Arrow Lake, Maury Co. (MDW); *ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER*: 21 Apr. (1) Ft. Negley (MLB); 22 Apr. (1) RL (MLB); Pine Warbler: 16 Mar. (2) FP (MDW); Louisiana Waterthrush: 16 Mar. (1) FP (MDW); Wilson's Warbler: 3 May (1-netted) 2JS (JR, HR); Rusty Blackbird: 20 Mar. (50) FP (MDW); 13 May (1, late) OHL (SF); Purple Finch: 12 May (1) NA (Pauline Miller); Pine Siskin: 7 May (1) OHL (BF, SF); *RED CROSSBILL*: 14 Apr. (7) Basin Springs (KAG); 14 Apr. (12) PWP (MLB); Vesper Sparrow: 21 Mar. (12) FP (MDW); *HARRIS' SPARROW*: 18 Mar. (1, adult) G (Mrs. Leland Scott); Lincoln's Sparrow: 4 May (7, banded) 2JS (HR, JR).

Locations: BH—Bordeaux Heronry, BV—Buena Vista, FP—Five Points, G—Gallatin, NA—Nashville Area, OHL—Old Hickory Lake, PWP—Percy Warner Park, RL—Radnor Lake, 2JS—Two Jays Sanctuary, WL—Wartrace Lake.

Observers: MLB—Mike Bierly, SB—Sue Bell, DC—Dot Crawford, PC—Paul Crawford, BF—Bill Fintel, SF—Sally Fintel, MLM—Margaret Mann, AN—Anne Nichols, HR—Heather Riggins, JR—John Riggins, MPS—Pat Stallings, MDW—Morris Williams.

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EASTERN RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION—The season started out with almost double the normal amount of rainfall in March. April and May weather was more normal.

Most wintering birds left on schedule and migrants passed through at normal times. Interesting nest records included a very early King Rail nest

at Amnicola Marsh, which had 8 eggs on 26 March. (Details will be published later). Barn Owls nested in a hollow tree at Amnicola Marsh and in an old water tower in Knox County. The Elizabethton area reported a very good shorebird migration.

Notable out-of-range or off-schedule species included a Common Gallinule at Amnicola Marsh and a Double-crested Cormorant at Austin Springs.

Loon-Merganser: Common Loon: 25 Mar. (3) ChL (KLD); 13 Apr. (5 calling) Watts Bar Lake (CN); 23 Apr. (1 calling) NL (KLD); 27 Apr. (1) BL (JD, SG); 12 May (1) Chilhowee Dam (JH); 15 May (1) Melton Hill Lake (CN); Horned Grebe: last 27 Apr. (7) BL (JD, SG); *DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT*: 13 May (1) AS (GE, LRH); Green Heron: first 30 Mar. (1) Erwin (GE, HF); Little Blue Heron: 20 Apr. (1 adult) AS (GE, HF, LRH); 28 Apr. (1) AM (GLB); 15 May (1) AM (KLD); Cattle Egret: 30 Mar. (1) SeV (LSF); 31 Mar. (1) AM (DJ, RW); 6-9 Apr. (1) AS (GE, HF, LRH); First Washington County Record; 7 and 20 Apr. (1) AM (GLB); 30 Apr. (1) Cleveland (KLD); *SNOWY EGRET*: 14 Apr. (1) WW (LS); Black-crowned Night Heron: 15 Apr. (1) ALM (MDW); 1 May (1) AS (GE, HF); Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 20 Apr. (1) AS (MD, SG, JW); 6 May (2 nests) AM (RW); Least Bittern: 22 Apr. (1) AM (KLD); 12 May (1) AS (GE), 14 May (1) ALM (MDW); American Bittern: thru 1 May (1-2) AM (KLD, DJ); thru period (1-2) ALM (MDW); Black Duck: 5 May (nest w/8 eggs) FLL (Doug Jett, CN, Bob Rountree); Greater Scaup: 25 Mar. (137) CHL and HRA (KLD); Canvasback: 22 Mar. (22) BL (MD, SG, JW); Red-breasted Merganser: last 2 May (2) CHL (KLD).

Vulture-Hawk: Turkey Vulture: 30 Mar. (70 at roost) Daus (LSF); 7 Apr. (85 at roost) Little T River (AM, CN); Black Vulture: 3 Apr. (nest, 2 eggs), 14 May (2 young) McL (Jay Clark, KLD, DJ, et al), same site as 1973 nest; Sharp-shinned Hawk: 21 Mar. (1) JC (MD, SG); 30 Mar. (2) AS (GE, HF); 2 Apr. (1) LHS (LD); 11 Apr. (1) Erwin (GW); *COOPER'S HAWK*: 7 Apr. (1) CL (JMC, JCH); 11 Apr. (1) AS (MD, SG); Red-shouldered Hawk: 4 nests in Chatt. area (DJ, et al); Broad-winged Hawk: 11 Apr. (29) K (JH); 15 Apr. (2 at nest) TRG (KLD); 30 Apr. (nest, 3 eggs) KC (CN, Boyd Sharp, MDW); Osprey: 7 Apr. (1) Little T near Chilhowee (AM, CN); 11 Apr. (1) K (JH); 13 Apr. (1) AS (DJL, GW); 12 Apr. (1) Loudon (CN); 21 Apr. (w at nest) Watts Bar Lake (KLD); 22 Apr. (1) Melton Hill Lake (CN); American Kestrel: 1 nest on UTK Campus (JH, AM, CN, MDW).

Rail-Sandpiper: King Rail: 26 Mar. (4, and nest with 8 eggs) AM (KLD, DJ) very early nest date; 23 Apr. (2) first at ALM (MDW); Virginia Rail: 26 Mar. (1) AM (DJ); Sora Rail: conspicuously absent during season, 10 Apr. (1) ALM (MDW); Common Gallinule: 7-15 May (1) AM (LD); Semipalmated Plover: 1 May (1) AS (GE, HF, DJL); American Woodcock: about 10 singing males during period in Knox Co. (MDW); Common Snipe: up to 100 birds during period at ALM (MDW); last reports 1 May (1) AS (GE, HF) and 2 May (7) AM (KLD); Upland Sandpiper: 5 Apr. (1), 6 Apr. (5), 7 Apr. (1) SeV (LD, DJ, LSF); Spotted Sandpiper: First 18 Apr. (1) AS (MD, SG, EO), thru end of period (1-2) at AM (KLD); Solitary Sandpiper: 3 Apr. (1) AS (GW); 22 Apr.-10 May (1-3) AM (KLD); 10 May (1)

ALM (CN, MDW); Greater Yellowlegs: 25 Mar. (1) HRA (KLD); 14 Apr. (1) CL (JMC, JCH); Lesser Yellowlegs: regular (1-13) at AM, SB, HRA (KLD); 14 Apr. (1) CL (JMC, JCH); Pectoral Sandpiper: 18 Mar. (16) HRA and SB (KLD); 23 Mar. (18), 25 Mar. (3) SB (KLD); 26 Mar. (21) AM (KLD); White-rumped Sandpiper: 13 May (1) AM (KLD); Least Sandpiper: 25 Mar. (36) HRA (KLD), present thru 12 May at AM (KLD); Dunlin: 25 Mar. (last wintering) (66) SB and HRA (KLD); 24 Apr. (1) AS (GW); 27 Apr. - 1 May (1-2) AS (GE, HF); Short-billed Dowitcher: 29 Apr. (1, by call note) AM (KLD, FW); Semipalmated Sandpiper: 12 and 13 May (1) AM (KLD); Western Sandpiper: 13 May (2) AS (GE).

Gull-Martin: Bonaparte's Gull: 30 Mar. (3) Chl (KLD); 5 Apr. (5) Chl (AG, LD); 6 Apr. (18) BL (GE, HF, LRH); 7 Apr. (5) NL (LSF); Caspian Tern: 28 Apr. (1) FLL (CN, MDW); Black Tern: 7 May (1) AM (LD); BARN OWL: 21 Apr. (nest, 1 young) AM (KLD, DJ); 2 NESTS Elizabethton area, 1 with 3 young, other unknown number of young (GE et al); NEST with 4 young, Eastern State Farm, KC, fledged 10 May (MDW); Screech Owl: 24 Apr. (nest, 3 eggs) KC (Doug Harned, CN); Chimney Swift: 2 Apr. (migrating flock of 50) K (John Elson); Willow Flycatcher: 11 May (2) first, ALM (MDW); 13 May (2) AS (GE, LRH); Trail's Flycatcher (species?): 15 May (1) AM (KLD); Tree Swallow: 24 Apr. (15) AM (KD); Purple Martin: numbers greatly reduced in Elizabethton area.

Jay-Sparrow: Blue Jay: 13 migrating flocks noted from 21 Apr. - 28 Apr. at Chat. area (KLD, et al); Red-breasted Nuthatch: 6 Apr. (2) Col (RW), thru 28 Apr. at K (CN, MDW, et al); House Wren: first report 14 Apr. (1) CC (JMC, JCH); BEWICK'S WREN: 23 Mar. (1) JC (SG); 21 Apr. (1) HRA (KLD, et al); Long-billed Marsh Wren: 31 Mar. (1) HRA (DJ); Short-billed Marsh Wren: 27 Apr. (1) JC (JD, SG); 1 May (1) AM (KLD); Cedar Waxwing: 27 Mar. (450) CH (DJ); Loggerhead Shrike: 6 May (nest, 4 young) Da (JBB); Warbling Vireo: 30 Apr. (1) K (JH); ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: 2 May (3) K (JH); Wilson's Warbler: 13 May (1) K (JH); Canada Warbler: 6 May (7) TRG (KLD); American Redstart: 23 Apr. (35) TRG (KLD); Bobolink: 7 May (10) HRA (KLD); Northern Oriole: 6 May (2) TRG (KLD); Rusty Blackbird: 31 Mar. (5) Lookout Valley (DJ); Brewer's Blackbird: 22 Mar. (4) JC (MD, SG); Pine Siskin: 17 Apr. (300+) Signal Mtn. (LS); 27 Apr. (25) K (CN); 7 and 8 May (1) Am (KLD); RED CROSSBILL: 15 Apr. (10) CH (AG); 20 Apr. (18) AS (GE, HF); 28 Apr. (4) K (CN, MDW); 9 May (10) JC (HD); BACHMANN'S SPARROW: 14 May (1) McL (DJ); White-Crowned Sparrow: 7 May (1) AM (KLD); White-throated Sparrow: last 14 May (3) K (JH).

Locations: ALM—Alcoa Marsh; AM—Amnicola Marsh; AS—Austin Springs; BL—Boone Lake; CC—Campbell County; CH—Chattanooga area; ChL—Chickamauga Lake; Col—Collegedale; CL—Cove Lake; Da—Daus; FLL—Fort Loudon Lake; HRA—Hiwassee River Area; JC—Johnson City; K—Knoxville; KC—Knox County; LHS—Long Hollow Swamp; McL—McLemore's Cove, Ga.; NL—Nickajack Lake; PHL—Patrick Henry Lake; SB—Savannah Bay; TRG—Tennessee River Gorge; SeV—Sequatchie Valley; WW—Wildwood, Ga.

Observers: GLB—Gary L. Bayne; JBB—J. Branson Black; JMC—James M. Campbell; JD—Joy Dillenbeck; MD—Martha Dillenbeck; LD—Lil Dubke; KLD—Ken and Lil Dubke; GE—Glen Eller; HF—Harry Farthing; AG—Anne Gibson; SG—Sally Goodin; LRH—Lee Herndon; JH—James Holt; JCH—J. C. Howell; DJ—Daniel Jacobson; DJL—Dick and Joyce Lura; AM—Andrew Morton; CN—Charles Nicholson; EO—Elizabeth Osborne; LS—Lee Shafer; LSF—Lee Shafer Family; GW—Gary Wallace; MDW—Morris D. Williams; RW—Roger Woodruff; JW—Jane Whitehead.

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION—This period's only reports came from the extreme upper corner of the area, therefore, this report will not be a true composite of the overall bird life of the entire region. *This reporter needs more material.* Would you please help out?

The weather for the last half of March continued very wet, with the entire month recording over twice the normal amount of rainfall. The months of April and May have been normal in all conditions. This factor perhaps will explain the "very average" migration we experienced.

The most unusual report was that of two Lark Sparrows in Bristol.

Loon-Osprey: Common Loon: last seen 27 April (2) Wat. L (LRH and JM). Great Blue Heron: last seen 27 April (1) H.S. (GW and DJL). *CATTLE EGRET:* 4 April (1) Wat. R (GE, LRH and HF). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 7 and 8 April (2) H.S. (GE and HF); 13 April (1) SmV (GE); 27 April (2) H.S. (GW and DJL). Green-winged Teal: last seen 4 April (5) Wag. I (GW and HF). Northern Shoveler: last seen 6 April (10) Wat. L (GW). Bufflehead: two have remained at Wil. L thru end of period (HF, et al). Ruddy Duck: 20 March (1) G.L.P. (GW). Hooded Merganser: last seen 21 March (6) Wat. L (GW and DJL). Red-breasted Merganser: 20 March (1) Wil. L (GE and JM). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 6 and 20 April (1) SmV (GE, HF and LRH); 11 May (1) RM (GE and GW). *COOPER'S HAWK:* 14 April (2) IMG (SG). Red-shouldered Hawk: 14 and 27 April (1) IMG (SG and JD). Broad-winged Hawk: first returned 7 April (2) H.C. (TMS). Osprey: first returned 5 April (1) Wag. I (GE).

Rail-Vireo: Sora Rail: 27 April (1) G.L.P. (GW and DJL). Woodcock: 14 May (2) Milligan (GE). Spotted Sandpiper: first returned 13 April (1) Wat. R (GE). Solitary Sandpiper: very early 20 March (1) SmV (GE and JM). Greater Yellowlegs: 2 and 20 April (1) SmV (HF and GW). Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 and 17 April (2) SmV (HF). Pectoral Sandpiper: early return 20 March (3) SmV (GW and LRH). Bonaparte's Gull: 13 April (4) Wat. L (GE). Barred Owl: 27 April (3) Holston Mtn. (GE, LRH and GW). Chuck-wills-widow: 13 May (1) Milligan (GW). Red-headed Woodpecker: 23 thru 27 April (1) Eliz. (W. C. Hardin). Crested Flycatcher: first returned 15 April (1) H.C. (TMS). Tree Swallow: 5 April (2) H.C. (TMS). Purple Martin: first returned 17 March (2) Eliz. (FWB), these birds are greatly reduced in our local population this spring. Cedar Waxwing: 1 May (100) near J.C. (SG and MD); 14 May (52) Bristol (DW). White-eyed Vireo: early return 2 April (1) H.C. (TMS). Solitary Vireo: early return 23 March

(1) R.M. (TMS and FWB). Warbling Vireo: 27 April (2) SmV (GW and DJL).

Warbler-Sparrow: Golden-winged Warbler: 11 May (2) R.M. (JM, LRH, GE and GW). Blue-winged Warbler: 27 April (2) SmV (GW and DJL). Nashville Warbler: 29 April (1) H.S. (GW). Cape May Warbler: early return 7 April (1) Bristol (DW). Cerulean Warbler: 13 May (1) H.S. (GW). Palm Warbler: 27 April (2) SmV (GW and DJL). Northern Waterthrush: 27 April (1) H.S. (GW and DJL); 11 May (2) SmV (GW and GE). Wilson's Warbler: 10 May (1) SmV (GW); 12 May (1) Bristol (Anna Cantwell). Brewer's Blackbird: 14 and 19 April (2) Wag. I (GE and FWB). Blue Grosbeak: early return 14 April (1) Eliz. (GE). Evening Grosbeak: smaller numbers this year but a few still remaining at various feeders thru end of period. Purple Finch: last seen 5 May (3) H.C. (TMS). Pine Siskin: last seen 11 May (50) R.M. (GE and GW). Vesper Sparrow: 5 and 6 April (6-12) SmV (GE and HF). *LARK SPARROW:* 13 May (2) Bristol (JA). White-crowned Sparrow: last seen 11 May (1) Eliz. (HF). White-throated Sparrow: last seen 14 May (2) Eliz. (GE). Fox Sparrow: 16 March (1) Eliz. (HF); 26 March (2) Bristol (JA); 13 April (1) R.M. (TMS).

Locations: Eliz.—Elizabethton, GLP—Great Lakes Pond (near Eliz.), H.C.—Heaton Creek (near R.M.), H.S.—Hunter Swamp (near Eliz.), IMG—Iron Mtn. Gap, J.C.—Johnson City, R.M.—Roan Mountain, SmV—Siam Valley (near Eliz.), Wag. I—Wagners Island (near Eliz.), Wat. L—Watauga Lake, Wat. R—Watauga River, Wil. L—Wilbur Lake.

Observers: JA—Judy Abbott, FWB—Fred Brehend, JD—Joy Dillenbeck, MD—Martha Dillenbeck, GE—Glen Eller, HF—Harry Farthing, SG—Sally Goodin, LRH—Lee Herndon, DJL—Dick and Joyce Lura, JM—John Martin, TMS—Tommy and Maxie Swindell, DW—Diane Wilson, GW—Gary Wallace.

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Illustration by *Fred J. Alsop, III*