

THE MIGRANT

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DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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THE MIGRANT

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FOSSIL BIRDS OF TENNESSEE

JAMES X. CORGAN

While the modern avifauna of Tennessee is reasonably well known, it has an inadequately documented geologic history. Of all the hundreds of articles on the birds of Tennessee, only one has focused on avian paleontology (Shufeldt, 1897). The present paper attempts to catalogue all known occurrences of fossil birds in Tennessee. It also calls attention to three correctable factors that limit knowledge of Tennessee's ancient avifaunas.

CATALOGUE

Fossils are the remains of truly ancient organisms. In terms of earth history, they date back at least as far as the Ice Ages, the Pleistocene Epoch. In Tennessee, the Pleistocene ended some 9,500 years ago.

Archaeological sites throughout the state yield a variety of bird remains that are too young to be classified as fossils but too old to be part of the historic fauna. These are termed subfossils and they vary widely in age. Some are the remains of organisms that barely postdate Pleistocene time. Others lived a few hundred years ago. Virtually all subfossil species are still living or were part of the historic fauna. In geologic terms, bones from archaeological sites are viewed as part of the modern fauna, the fauna of the Recent Epoch.

True fossils provide insight into the development of the modern fauna while subfossils yield data on the zoogeography of the Recent Epoch. Subfossils are not considered in this paper. The catalogue, given below, discusses four sets of true fossil collection.

1. *George Farm Local Fauna, Gassaway, Cannon County.* Whitlatch and Arden (1942) provide an exact description of this locality. The late Dr. R. Lee Collins, of the University of Tennessee, was describing this fauna when he died in 1959. His collection was donated to the Smithsonian Institution. Though the fauna was not fully described, enough is known to determine its geologic age. It represents some part of the late Wisconsin Stage of the Pleistocene, roughly 20,000 to 50,000 years before present. Bird remains occur but have not been identified. Any qualified ornithologist should be able to borrow this collection from the Smithsonian. Study of the avian fossils would require

both a considerable knowledge of osteology and access to an extensive collection of skeletons. Even a small collection might provide challenging material for a Master's Thesis.

2. *Robinson Cave Local Fauna, Okalona area, Overton County.* Parmalee (In Guilday, Hamilton, and McCrady, 1969) described a very diverse biota from this locality. The age is approximately the same as for the George Farm Local Fauna, discussed above. Robinson Cave yields at least twelve species of fossil birds. Only two have been identified: *Bonasa umbrellus* (Linnaeus), the Ruffed Grouse, and *Ectopistes migratorius* (Linnaeus), the Passenger Pigeon. Additional taxa include a Screech Owl (*Otus asio*) a grouse, a wood warbler, a jay, and at least six unassignable species of passerine birds.

While most species are now indeterminate, bird-oriented naturalists should view Robinson Cave as a great potential source of data. Anyone familiar with the work of Dr. Paul W. Parmalee can rest assured that the initial study was well done and there is little hope that all specimens can ever be fully identified. John Guilday, of the Carnegie Museum, warns that indeterminate specimens are very fragmentary. Yet, year-by-year knowledge of fossil birds improves. Specimens that were indeterminate in 1969 may be quite identifiable in 1979. Those who are expert in one of the groups present should acquaint themselves with this fauna.

3. *The Carnegie Collections, Sullivan County.* In the late 1960's and early 1970's, the Carnegie Museum, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, participated in two excavation programs involving vertebrate fossils from Sullivan County, Tennessee. In the first program, S. D. Dean and other amateur naturalists from Sullivan County excavated about ten caves that yielded vertebrate fossils. While the Carnegie museum was not involved in the excavation phase of this program, museum personnel did identify collections.

In the second program, the Carnegie Museum, itself, conducted paleontological investigation in two Sullivan County caves. Apparently none of the caves excavated by amateurs yielded bird remains. An extensive Pleistocene avifauna from one of the Museum's excavations is now being studied by Dr. Paul W. Parmalee, of the University of Tennessee.

4. *The Mercer Collections.* Between 1893 and 1896, Dr. Henry C. Mercer, of the University of Pennsylvania, directed several major excavations in Tennessee caves (Mercer 1894a; 1894b; 1896; 1897). Hay (1923) provides a summary of the paleontological aspects of Mercer's work. While the Mercer parties visited many caves, they focused on three. Nikajack Cave, in Marion County, yielded sub-fossil vertebrates from an archaeological site. Both archaeological and pre-archaeological horizons yielded vertebrate remains in Lookout Cave, Hamilton County, and Big Bone Cave, Van Buren County.

Bird remains collected by Mercer were described by Shufeldt (1897). A list of Shufeldt's identifications is reproduced in Table 1, using the original nomenclature. Shufeldt's text does not provide a collation of any sort. One can not learn which caves yielded which birds. Birds from Pleistocene horizons are not differentiated from those that occurred in association with human cultural remains.

TABLE 1
SHUFELDT'S PREHISTORIC BIRDS
OF TENNESSEE

<i>Colymbus auritus</i>	Grebe
Genus and species indet.	"Duck"
<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	Partridge
<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Ruffed Grouse
Genus uncertain species new?	"Grouse"
<i>Tympanuchus</i> sp.	Prairie Hen
<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Turkey
<i>Ectopistes migratorius</i>	Passenger Pigeon
<i>Megascops asio</i>	Screech Owl
<i>Ceophalaeus pileatus</i>	Pileated Woodpecker

Mammalian fossils from Big Bone and Lookout Caves clearly indicate that faunas of Pleistocene (Wisconsin) age occur. An exhaustive attempt to locate Shufeldt-Mercer avian fossils in the universities and museums of eastern North America was completely unsuccessful. Apparently there is no way to determine which birds, if any, occurred with the Pleistocene mammals. All records are thus lumped under the catch-all heading "Prehistoric (Table 1). Though this uncertainty limits the utility of Shufeldt's list, the list remains a prime source of information. For example, data in Brodtkorb ((1971, p. 264) suggest that Shufeldt provides the south-eastern most prehistoric record of the Pileated Woodpecker.

LIMITING FACTORS

Tennessee has been around a long time. The mountains of East Tennessee rose above sea level in the Appalachian Revolution of the Late Paleozoic and have been above sea level for some 275,000,000 years. Middle Tennessee was last influenced by marine waters some 65,000,000 years ago in the closing phases of the Cretaceous Period. West Tennessee has been dry land since some time in the Eocene Epoch, roughly 45,000,000 years before present. Thus, the mountains of East Tennessee were ancient when the earliest known birds appeared some 140,000,000 years ago, near the close of the Jurassic Period. All of Tennessee has, probably, been populated by birds for at least the last 45,000,000 years. If birds have been common in Tennessee for millions of years, why should their fossil record be so pathetically meager? One can identify at least three factors that are correctable and that currently limit our knowledge of Tennessee's ancient avifaunas:

1. Most paleontologists who work with vertebrates are relatively unskilled in avian paleontology. Thus, a site may yield an abundance of bird fossils which remain unidentified and, perhaps, undescribed when a faunal report is published.
2. People who are skilled in the osteology of birds rarely become involved with fossils.

3. Archaeologists, ornithologists, rock hounds, spelunkers, and other nature-buffs who discover fossils rarely know how to initiate a scientific study of their discoveries. Thus, most fossil finds that could contribute to knowledge of the life of the past never make an impact on the scientific world.

Perhaps the lack of an impressive avian fossil record in Tennessee is largely a matter of poor communications. What do *YOU* do if *you* know a place where vertebrate fossils, of any sort, have been collected? You write to Robert E. Hershey, State Geologist, G-5 State Office Building, Nashville, Tennessee 37219. What do *YOU* do if *you* want to contribute to knowledge of the ancient avifaunas of Tennessee? You arrange to borrow one of the fossil collections that is now gathering dust in some out-of-state museum.

Throughout the southeastern United States pre-Pleistocene avifaunas are rare (Wetmore, 1956). Pleistocene birds are far more numerous (Hubbard, 1971) but Tennessee remains a blank spot on Pleistocene bird distribution maps. A small investment of energy by Tennessee-oriented avian osteologists might considerably enhance present knowledge of the spacial and temporal distribution of bird life, and life in general, during the Ice Ages.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

No avian fossil older than the late Wisconsin Stage of the Pleistocene, about 50,000 years before present, is currently known from Tennessee. Only two species of birds have unequivocal Tennessee fossil records: the Ruffed Grouse and the Passenger Pigeon. Communication problems have, thus far, inhibited the development of avian paleontology in Tennessee. Unstudied and once studied collections of fossil birds gather dust in museums. The pathetic state of avian paleontology in Tennessee can eventually be corrected if two things are done. First, a general system of communicating about vertebrate fossils is required. Anyone who knows a vertebrate fossil locality and anyone who is studying fossils must communicate with the State Geologist. Secondly, bird-oriented naturalists must begin to focus some of their energies on the ancestral populations from which the modern avifauna of Tennessee was derived.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Knowledge of the George Farm Local Fauna and its present deposition comes largely from Dr. Robert E. McLaughlin, University of Tennessee. John E. Guilday, Carnegie Museum, provided data on Sullivan County collections. The following people kindly read a preliminary version of this manuscript: J. E. Guilday, Carnegie Museum, R. E. Hershey, Tennessee State Geologist, Dr. P. W. Parmalee, University of Tennessee, Dr. D. H. Snyder, Austin Peay State University, and Dr. A. Wetmore, Smithsonian Institution.

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- Tennessee Division of Geology, Nashville, Tennessee 37219 and Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee 37040.

ATTEND THE 1975 T.O.S. FORAY

23-25 MAY

LAUDERDALE COUNTY

The Memphis Chapter of T.O.S. will direct the activities. Information will be mailed out to each chapter. Headquarters will be in Covington, Tennessee. Check at office of Covington motels for location of registration. For additional information contact Ben and Lula Coffey, 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis 38107 or Noreen Smith, 3724 Oakley Ave., Memphis 38111.

LARK SPARROWS NESTING IN OBION COUNTY

DAVID PITTS

A pair of Lark Sparrows (*Chondestes grammacus*) successfully nested in Obion County, six miles west of Troy, in 1974. The Lark Sparrows nested in a 20 acre cattle pasture on rolling hills. The vegetation remained short during the spring and summer months. I observed Lark Sparrows in the area on ten occasions. A single Lark Sparrow flushed during heavy rain on 21 April. Two Lark Sparrows were together, and one individual was singing, on 5 and 6 May. The two individuals differed considerably in plumage. One showed the typical plumage of adult Lark Sparrows as illustrated in most field guides. The plumage of the other individual was much duller, especially on the head region, and the breast spot was barely distinguishable. I did not observe the duller individual singing, and I believe it to have been the female. Standard field guides (e.g., Peterson, 1947; Pough, 1949) and references (Bent, 1968; Chapman, 1966) state or imply that sexes are similar in all plumages throughout the year. However, Lawne (1946) and Williams (1971) also observed pairs of Lark Sparrows in Tennessee in which one individual was distinctly duller than the other.

On 11 May a male Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) and a Lark Sparrow chased a female Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). I found the Lark Sparrow nest on 24 May, just before dark. The nest was on the ground on a northwest facing slope and was almost completely covered by a clump of White Clover (*Trifolium repens*) and Fescue (*Festuca* sp.) approximately 10 inches high. The nest contained three large young; both adults closely approached me as I inspected the nest. The nest was empty when I visited it mid-morning of 25 May. Both adults were near the nest site and the male approached to within 10 feet of me. No young were observed. On 29 May the male Lark Sparrow was in trees southwest of the nest. On 5 June five Lark Sparrows, two adults and three juveniles, perched on a fence at the south edge of the pasture. The adults permitted me to approach to within 25 feet, but the young were more wary. Two Lark Sparrows were in the pasture on 9 June. One Lark Sparrow was in the pasture on 26 June; I saw no Lark Sparrows after this date despite my frequent visits to the area. Apparently a second nesting was not attempted.

Although several nests of Lark Sparrows have been found in Tennessee, most have been in Middle Tennessee. The only reference, to my knowledge, of Lark Sparrows nesting in West Tennessee is the observation by Coffey (1951) of adults and juveniles in Shelby County.

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Biology Department, University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin 38237.

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THE TENNESSEE RAPTOR NESTING SURVEY

Under the stimulation of the Tennessee Ornithological Society the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's Nongame Section is initiating a monitoring program to record the reproductive success of our birds of prey. The immediate effort for the 1975 season will be the recording on the Cornell Nest Card the results of any raptor reproduction observed.

Future goals of the program will include an intense literature search of what has been learned in the past with an eye to making the survey reflect accurately present trends in raptor breeding success. It is now a well known fact pesticides have played a key role in the near extinction of the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and that raptors play an important role as an effective early warning system on the health of our environment. This is the compelling reason for initiating the survey.

The overall Nongame Program is under the supervision of Mr. D. W. "Bill" Yambert with Mr. Adam Misztal in charge of the Raptor Nesting Survey. Mr. Yambert's address is P. O. Box 40747, Ellington Agricultural Center, Nashville 37204 and Mr. Misztal's is 603B, Mountain Trail, Hixson 37343. For those interested in participating in the survey they may contact either individual at their above listed addresses. More detailed information on the program will be forthcoming in a future issue of *The Migrant*.

TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Tennessee Ornithological Society met at 14:00 22 November 1974 at Paris Landing State Park. Thirty-six Directors were present or represented by proxies. An abbreviated form of the minutes of the Spring Meeting at Pickwick Landing in May 1974 were read. The approval of the complete minutes will be in May, 1975 after they have been printed in *The Migrant*.

Dr. Katherine Goodpasture presented the suggestions of change for an update fieldlist. Points to consider were: whether T.O.S. wanted a fieldlist or checklist, the size of the card, number of folds, use of English or Latin family names, and whether the birds would be listed in family order or alphabetical order. Mr. Bill Yambert will serve on the committee as well as someone from West Tennessee. This will allow a member from each section to be represented and who will be responsible for submitting birds from their area. Dr. Goodpasture asked that any one interested in making suggestions to please submit them to any member of the committee.

Mrs. Noreen Smith, President, presented the recommendation of the Briley Estate Committee. It was recommended that this money, the principal and the interest as it accumulates be retained in a special fund until a future date when its use will be decided by action of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. In this case, the Finance Committee will make the recommendation to the President in accordance with the State Constitution. Some of the recommendations made by the Finance Committee for future use were: (a) as seed money toward a book of Tennessee birds, (b) put it in an endowment and use the interest for future avifaunas, (c) use toward the Society's expenses, or (d) toward the publication of *The Migrant*.

Dr. Arlo Smith moved that the estate be put in an endowment fund and use the interest for the Society's expenses and for publication of *The Migrant*. Dr. James Tanner seconded the motion. The motion was moved tabled by Rev. Senter, and seconded by Dr. George Mayfield until the issue of dues could be discussed. The motion was passed and the question tabled.

Reverend William Senter presented the status of the Dixon Merritt Memorial. At present time the State has given "the highest priority to the establishment of a Dixon Merritt self-guiding Nature trail within the confines of the Cedars of Lebanon State Park." The following recommendations were made:

- (a) Thank the State Department of Conservation for its establishment of the Cedar Glade Study Area,
- (b) Urge that work begin as soon as possible on the Self-Guiding Dixon Merritt Nature Trail System,
- (c) Render whatever assistance may be requested by the State Park Naturalist,
- (d) Set aside a day in March or April 1975 for a mini-foray in the Cedars of Lebanon State Park and Forest to census air fauna and habitat,
- (e) Name one experienced in a foray as the leader on this day.

- (f) Request that the Nature and Interpretive Center be named in honor of Mr. Merritt and a marker be designed and provided by the State,
- (g) Invite the Lebanon Chapter of the TOS, the State of Tennessee and the family to join with it in providing appropriate memorial plaques commemorating Mr. Merritt's contribution,
- (h) Request the TOS Committee comprised of Reverend Senter and six others (names not given) to present to the May meeting the design of our plaque and the ideas of the other contributors for their plaques.
- (i) Move a preliminary allocation from the memorial fund and budget of the TOS for \$200 with which to commission this plaque.
- (j) Request that the state provide a film about Mr. Dixon Merritt and his activities for use in the Interpretive center and that there be some display in that center of Merritt memorabilia appropriate to its naming.
- (k) Propose that we all aim for a dedication of the Trail System, Interpretive Center, and memorial plaque by September 1975.

Reverend Senter moved that the resolution stated in the report be accepted excluding item (i). Mr. Ben B. Coffey, Jr. seconded, the motion carried.

Mr. Albert Ganier's Estate bequested \$1,000 to the Tennessee Ornithological Society. It was decided that this money be placed in an endowment as this was what Mr. Ganier always supported. A motion was made by Reverend Senter and seconded by Mr. Ben B. Coffey, Jr. The motion was passed.

The question concerning the increase in State dues was brought before the Board of Directors. Mr. Don Manning moved to accept the increase as presented: Sustaining \$7.50, Active 4.00, Family 5.00, Student 3.00, Subscription 4.00.

Dr. James Tanner seconded, the motion carried.

Reverend William Senter moved that a vote be taken at the May meeting to delete from Article II, Section 6 of the State Constitution the phrase College and University students. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bill Jones and passed. Reverend Senter moved that the Finance Committee report at the Spring Meeting the feasibility of an additional increase for 1976. Dr. George Mayfield seconded and the motion carried.

Dr. Gary Wallace asked that a committee be formed to rule as a group on new species sighted in the State. This committee would determine if that species would become part of the State record. Dr. George Mayfield suggested that the committee be composed of five members, one being the Editor of *The Migrant*, another being the State Curator and three other members, one from each section of the State. Such a committee was approved.

Mr. Bill Jones of Upper Cumberland Chapter, presented a resolution made by the Upper Cumberland Chapter to recommend that the State acquire the Icy Cove area for preservation in its natural state. Dr. George Mayfield moved that the Tennessee Ornithological Society should support the Upper Cumberland Chapter, this motion was seconded by Mrs. Louise Paige. The motion carried.

Dr. George Mayfield moved that the tabled motion be considered again. Reverend Senter seconded. The tabled motion was defeated. Mr. Don Manning moved that the estate be placed in a Briley Special Fund and the interest be used for the Society's expenses and *The Migrant*. Dr. Arlo Smith seconded. The motion carried.

The Spring meeting will be 2-4 May 1975 in Columbia. Headquarters will be at the Holiday Inn.

The Foray will be in Lauderdale County on Memorial Day weekend. The Memphis Chapter will direct the activities. Information will be mailed to the Chapters.

The Fall meeting will be at Fall Creek Falls in Mid-October, no later than 25 October.

MARTHA WALDRON, *Secretary*.

* * * * *

REELFOOT LAKE EAGLE WATCH

Under stimulation from the T.O.S., the first organized Eagle Watch was held at Reelfoot Lake 18-19, January, 1975.

The first approach to this type of event was mentioned to Reelfoot Refuge Manager, Wendell Crews at the 1973 Fall Meeting. The idea was discussed and approved at the 1974 Fall Meeting held at Paris Landing State Park.

Even though a weekend in February would have been more conducive to a larger concentration of eagles, the January date was chosen because the Memphis Chapter had already picked the date for a weekend field trip and could serve as expert guides. Full cooperation was received in the promotion of the weekend from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the Department of Conservation in widely distributed news releases.

The weekend began with registration on Friday evening at Ellington Hall, Reelfoot Lake State Park. Saturday morning at 9 a.m., the participants met and were separated into three groups for leisure auto tours to various vantage points to search for eagles. From noon until 2 p.m., the group was on their own for lunch. At 2 p.m. auto tours were assembled again for further observations.

The evening meeting began with a welcome by Park Superintendent Ralph Burris. Comments were made on the National Wildlife Refuge System and in particular the new Karl E. Mundt Refuge set aside exclusively for the large wintering population of Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) in South Dakota and Nebraska.

Bill Yambert, Wildlife Resources Agency, spoke on Tennessee Endangered Species and Natural Areas. The excellent film "Eagles of the Eastern United States" was shown, followed by a brief session of questions and answers. A count of 131 participants was made at the evening program, with probably well over 150 in attendance at all events.

The eagles were the main attraction, however, we are sure that all participants were made much more fully aware of the fragile condition of Reelfoot Lake and what must be done if this area is to be preserved as a wildlife haven. Typically the eagles were noted perched or leisurely flying over the water. An exhilarating sight was noted by one small group, five immature

eagles, soaring over the nearby hills, in the sharp, cold, blistery winter wind, performing what appeared to be the prenuptial courtship flight. The birds were observed for at least ten minutes. A conservative count for the weekend was 20 to 30 eagles, however before the season is over a count of upward to 200 eagles could be expected.

A special thanks should be given to Marilyn Williamson, Mack Prichard and Steve Pardue, Department of Conservation, State Parks Naturalists; Bill Yambert, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and others for coordinating events for the weekend.

The activities could probably best be summarized by the elderly, handicapped gentleman from Dresden that joined one of the groups in observing an eagle for the first time. He had heard about the weekend over the local radio station and determined to journey over with his wife and others to see one of the raptors. It was heartwarming to witness his reaction when looking through the telescope and more so when he excitedly called for his wife to hurry and look also before the bird moved from its perch.

This initial effort to publicize the plight of our national bird was well received by the public and plans are now under way for another weekend next year.

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

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FOR SALE

Tennessee Avifauna No. 3 by Albert F. Ganier can be purchased for \$1.25 from Ken and Lil Dubke. Patches (\$1.50 each) and decals (\$1.00 each) may be purchased through your local chapter or from Ken and Lil Dubke, Route 1, Box 134-D, Ooltewah 37363.

ROUND TABLE NOTES

NOTES ON A SUMMER LOON RECORD FOR RUTHERFORD COUNTY—Although the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) is known to occur regularly within the state of Tennessee during the winter months and both migration periods, records within the confines of Rutherford County, in middle Tennessee, are considered most unusual due to the scarcity of larger bodies of water. Consequently, an out-of-season sighting of this species (i.e. during the summer months) in this county must be regarded as an even rarer event. As circumstances would have it, though, such an occurrence did take place during the month of June, 1973. The following details are submitted concerning the course of this record.

On 25 June 1973 a student at Middle Tennessee State University found a live Common Loon near a small lake in the Toddington Heights section of Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, Tennessee. The bird appeared weak and readily ate, head first, a total of over fifty-five minnows offered as food. On the afternoon of the following day, 26 June, the loon was taken to the home of H. O. Todd, Jr. on Lascassas Road where it was released on a small pond about a half acre in size. The bird appeared active, both diving and preening itself. On the morning of 27 June the bird was not observed on the pond so an immediate search was begun of the surrounding vegetation. After some time the loon was located resting on small bulrush plants about two feet from the water's edge. It appeared ill and allowed approach within two feet before sliding into the water, whereupon it swam very slowly about. A check on the morning of 28 June again revealed the bird had left the water. Another search was instituted and in a short period the loon was found dead, its body resting on vegetation close to the water's edge. The following characteristics were noted when the specimen was examined: Weight—4 lbs. 7 ozs.; Total Length With Feathers—74.1 cm; Extent of Wings With Feathers—130.6 cm; Girth of Body—34.2 cm; Length of Exposed Culmen—80 mm; Length of Bill From Gape—115 mm; Greatest Length of Web Between Front Toes (Right Foot)—106 mm; Greatest Width of Web Between Front Toes (Right Foot)—61 mm; the webbing was completely missing from the left foot; the three front claws were badly worn on both feet; the claws of the hind toes appeared normal on both feet (the reader is referred to Baldwin, S. Prentiss, Oberholser, Harry C. and Worley, Leonard G. 1931. *Measurements of Birds*. Scientific Publications of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Volume II, Cleveland Ohio). An examination of the loon's plumage revealed that it matched the description given by Bent (Bent, Arthur Cleveland. 1919. *Life Histories of North American Diving Birds*. Dover Publications, Inc., New York) for the first winter bird. There may have been delay in the plumage change due to the physiological conditions which also brought about the bird's death.

The notes and measurements given above are submitted in substantiation of this record and in the hope that they will be of some value and encouragement to other field workers in the future in trying to establish and report the identity of any recovered loon specimens. The need for in-hand identification

seems especially acute considering the number of reported sightings of the similar, but much less common, Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*).

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

WHISTLING SWANS WINTER AT COLUMBIA—On 19 January 1974 Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) were first observed on the Ridley Farm 4 miles SW of Columbia by Evelyn Ridley. Dan Gray, Jr. later confirmed this report and saw Blue and Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) in the same place with the Swans. The location was a wet weather pond in a large plowed soybean field and a nearby wetweather area of water standing in and flowing through a ryefield. The maximum number was three in this location, but later only 2 were commonly observed here and another was found in a wet-weather pond very close to Pulaski Pike 2 miles South of Columbia. This bird was seen by many from the highway and a photo was taken and published by Jim Finney, Editor of our newspaper, The Daily Herald. The two remaining swans spent most of their time on the Ridley Farm but flew over the area and were absent on some days, being last seen on 16 March. Because our first recorded Whistling Swan was shot 2 years ago (*The Migrant*, 42:33) we were apprehensive about these three who stayed so long, but so far as we know they left the area safely. The Daily Herald was most helpful in urging local citizens not to harm these unusual birds and warning of their protected status. Barbara Finney mentioned the birds in her weekly column "Out Our Window," several times, but we purposely did not publicize their location in the newspaper.

GEORGE MAYFIELD JR., Sunnyside Drive, Columbia 38401.

BRANT (BRANTA BERNICLA) IN SHELBY COUNTY—On 2 March 1974 Jack Moore noted that a waterfowl was different from the usual ducks on the lake at Lakeland, a resort on Interstate 40, east of Shelby County, Tenn. He described it to Nelle Moore and they decided it was a Brant, our

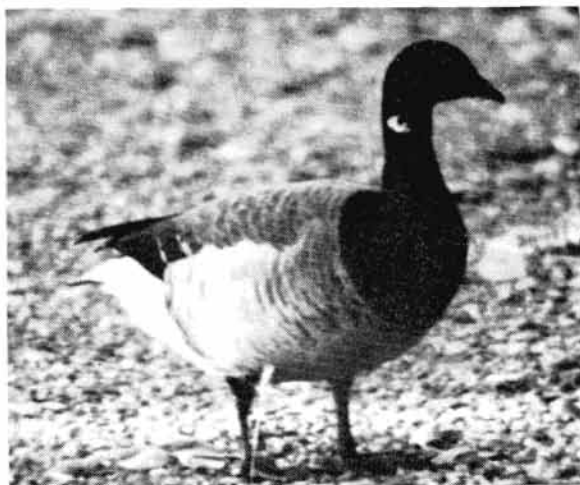


Photo by Paul Crawford

first record for the species. It was coming in, late each afternoon, feeding with the ducks, then flying off. Dr. Marion Moore reported that it apparently remained overnight, from the first week-end in April. The last date it was seen was 28 May. It fed on grasses at the lake's edge and on bread offered by birders who came frequently from Memphis and other parts of the state. Many photographed it. The T. O. McGlothlin's, adjacent to the Moore place, were very hospitable to the many birders crossing their yard for a close look. A T.O.S. party on 14 April was led by Nelle Moore and Helen Dinkelspiel. Lula Coffey and the writer viewed the Brant on 26 April. According to our editor this is apparently the fifth record of *Branta bernicla* for Tennessee.

BEN B. COFFEY, JR., 672 North Belvedere, Memphis 38107.

SECOND RECORD OF CINNAMON TEAL IN TENNESSEE.—An adult male Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) was seen at Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge near Dover in Stewart County on 26 March 1974. Members of the Ornithology class of Austin Peay State University found the bird, and viewed it at leisure under ideal lighting conditions and with the aid of spotting scopes from a distance of about 75 yards. The bird was in the company of about a dozen Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*), including both males and females. The females were not identifiable as being other than Blue-winged Teal. No female seemed to be keeping company preferentially with the male Cinnamon Teal. Also seen on the same flooded field pool were 3 or 4 shovelers (*Anas clypeata*) and 6 Green-winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis*). The Cinnamon Teal was immediately reported to Refuge Manager Sam Barton, who reports that the bird remained at Cross Creeks for approximately a month after its initial sighting.

The only previous published record of Cinnamon Teal in Tennessee is that of Rauber (*The Migrant*, 43:67) who found a single male on Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge on 10 April 1972, approximately 30 miles south of, and at the same season as, the present record.

DAVID H. SNYDER, Dept. of Biology, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville 37040.

PURPLE GALLINULE NESTING AT GOOSE POND, GRUNDY COUNTY—My first trip to Goose Pond was on 1 June, 1964. On this date my field companions were Ralph T. Bullard, Jr., Roy Evenson and one other young boy.

We worked the marsh over for suitable nesting species. In our search, Ralph was successful in flushing an incubating Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrula martinica*) from its nest of seven eggs. One egg was removed from the nest and was given to John Wallace Coffey, Bristol.

Since that first trip I have tried to make at least one and sometimes more visits during the nesting season, but have never found another Purple Gallinule since that first encounter some ten years ago.

I have also encouraged other field observers that have visited the area during the nesting season to stay alert for the species, however, they too have

never found the bird. The Purple Gallinule has nested at Goose Pond in the past, and there is no reason why they should not again in the future as long as the habitat remains the same.

Albert F. Ganier, in his article Goose Pond and its Marsh Birds, (*The Migrant*, Vol. VI, No. 2, page 22-24) reported the species to be nesting.

KENNETH H. DUBKE, Route 1, Box 134-D, Ooltewah 37363.

MARbled GODWIT AT SAVANNAH BAY, CHICKAMAUGA LAKE—In the Season Report of the December 1970 issue of *The Migrant*, page 88, is a brief notation on a Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) being reported from Savannah Bay, Chickamauga Lake. This article provides more details on that observation.

The bird was first observed in the evening of 2 September 1970 as it fed on the shallow mud flats, at the upper end of Savannah Bay, Chickamauga Lake. The bird was easy to identify because of its larger size, tawny color and up-turned bill. The writer is familiar with the species from the coast and out west.

With me on the occasion was my future wife, Lil Richards, and Mr. Hank Dulemba. Later on the Lee Shafer family had an opportunity to leisurely observe the bird at close range and observed all the field marks.

The bird was last observed by me on 6 September at 19:02 hours as it flew straight south in a clear sky.

KENNETH H. DUBKE, Route 1, Box 134-D, Ooltewah 37363.

SANDERLINGS AT THE GALLATIN STEAM PLANT—On 21 August 1971, Bill Sellars, Robert Justice and I were birding in the Gallatin area. At about 10:30 we checked the Gallatin Steam Plant to see if any shorebirds were present. At one of the smaller ash-settling ponds we noticed about a dozen Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusillus*) and six Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) and two black and white birds intermediate in size between the Killdeer and "peeps." The birds were observed at a distance of from 20 to 60 feet with binoculars and a Swift Telemaster 15x-60x scope for about 15 minutes. The birds immediately impressed us with their black and white pattern. They had black wings, legs and bill, a light grey back and head and a white eyestripe and underparts. The bill was short and had no curve. We consulted Peterson, Robbins, Collins and Chapman and concluded that we had two Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*) in winter plumage.

We flushed the birds and noticed the white stripe on black wings as depicted by Robbins. After flushing, the birds dropped in with the Semipalmated Sandpipers and the difference in size was readily apparent.

According to Parmer, *Birds of the Nashville Area*, there are only eight records of Sanderlings for the Nashville Area. The earliest date was 22 August 1910. Because of the early record I consulted Lawrence Trabue to see if San-

derlings would be in winter plumage at this date. He concurred that they probably would.

REV. WILLIAM SENTER, 827 Castle Heights Ext., Lebanon 37087.

NORTHERN PHALAROPE IN UPPER EAST TENNESSEE—While working the Austin Springs area in Washington County during the Elizabethton Chapter's Annual Fall Census on 29 Sept. 1973, a small bird was seen swimming around in short erratic circles in shallow water. The bird was recognized as a phalarope, but which one? It had white below, with a darker back and light head. The back was a very dark grey, almost black looking, with faint lighter looking grey streakings forming a large "X" pattern. The bird had a very thin solid black bill, which was a little longer than the head. There was a black dot on the light face under and behind the eye and the head had a dark stripe all the way down to the back. When the bird came out of the water and started to probe around in the mud, sandpiper style, I noticed the legs were dark colored.

Even though a sudden downpour of rain drenched me, it failed to upset the bird I had by then determined to be a Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes Lobatus*). I kept the bird under constant observation for some thirty minutes with a pair of 7 x 50 binoculars and a 30 x Bauscope Senior telescope. The bird came as close as 10 feet to me and was never more than thirty feet away.

On a pre-determined schedule another group of local birders came and agreed on the identity of this most unusual species for our area. The next day several other members of our chapter and I returned and again found the bird and this time it was observed under more favorable weather conditions.

This is only the second record of the Northern Phalarope for our area. The first bird was also found at Austin Springs on 18 May 1969 by Charles Smith and Pete Range (*Migrant* 41:66). Therefore this is the first fall record for the area.

GLEN D. ELLER, Rt. 3, Grandview Terrace, Elizabethton 37643.

HOUSE FINCHES AT KNOXVILLE—On 24 January 1973, at about 15:30, while watching Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) at a window feeder at my home, I observed a finch which was noticeably smaller than the Purple Finches yet lacked the sharply pointed bill and yellow patches of a Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*). The bird had a brick-red head, brown back, and prominently brown streaked flanks and abdomen. The shade of red differed greatly from that of the male Purple Finches present and was more restricted, being present only on the head, throat, and rump. After consulting *Birds of North America* by Robbins et al (1966), the bird in question was identified as a male adult House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*).

The male House Finch was again observed on 25, 27, and 31 January. On 1 February both a male and a female House Finch was present. The female was identified by its plain brown head, which lacked the white stripes present on the head of the larger female Purple Finch. On 2 February, one female



Photo by Chuck Nicholson

House Finch was present, and on 8 February, a male and female were observed with both Purple Finches and Pine Siskins. In addition to being marked differently from the Pine Siskins, the House Finches were noticeably larger and had a heavier bill. The House Finches were last seen on 8 March, when one male was present. The male was photographed by the author on 1 February.

This is the second known record for the House Finch in the state of Tennessee. For details of the first and information concerning this normally western species' distribution in the East, see *The Migrant* 43:87.

CHARLES P. NICHOLSON, 6806 Haverhill Drive, Knoxville 37919.

SOME OBSERVATIONS OF A SPARROW ROOST IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE—During the winter of 1972-1973 I had the opportunity to make some rather interesting observations of a sparrow roost located on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University at Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

My attention was first attracted to the roost on the morning of 14 October 1972. The night before a cold front had passed through the area and the temperature had fallen rather dramatically in a short period. On this morning I heard the chatter of numerous small birds coming from a row of Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) trees, approximately fifty feet in height, adjacent to the R.O.T.C. building. Over the years the trees had been trimmed and the outer foliage was very dense. After moving closer to the trees I immediately noticed that the birds in question were sparrows. I clapped my hands together several times and was amazed to see well over 500 birds emerge and fly in all di-

reactions, some to other trees and some to the ground. A quick check proved that most of the birds were House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) but that there were also other species present. After several minutes I was able to discern both Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella passerina*) and Lark Sparrows (*Chondestes grammacus*), both of which breed on this campus within several hundred yards of these trees. The final count that morning was: House Sparrow approximately 550, Chipping Sparrow 15-20 and Lark Sparrow 6-8. It might be expected that the Chipping Sparrows would go to roost in the trees with the House Sparrows but the Lark Sparrows, essentially ground birds, so doing was a great surprise. It should be noted that I have often seen this small population of Lark Sparrows on the elevated walks and steps around the campus and, occasionally, on the roofs of cars parked in the lots adjacent to the fields in which they nest. After several weeks of warm weather the roost broke up and I could no longer locate either large numbers of House Sparrows or any numbers of the other two species (they had apparently moved south by this time).

In late November and December 1972 I again was able to find a roost on the campus almost every evening that the temperatures dropped into the twenties, especially so when there was an accompanying wind. A favorite location for the roost was several large evergreen bushes growing in a protected corner of the New Science Building. When present the population of House Sparrows never appeared to be below 500 nor above 550 birds.

There appeared to be a general dispersal during the month of January (except during the one period of heavy snow which fell on 7 January 1973) and early February. However, on cold nights in late February I again found the House Sparrows roosting in the evergreens next to the New Science Building. Their numbers ranged from 250-300 and they were again joined by 5-10 Chipping Sparrows. Late March brought the return of the Lark Sparrows to the campus but they were never observed near the roost area which, by this time, was being utilized only by an occasional group of House Sparrows numbering 2-15 birds.

As the above sightings were of some interest to me I asked my friend H. O. Todd, Jr. if he had observed any similar roosts in this area before. He related only one instance, that being in the fall of 1951, during a period of extremely cold weather, when thousands of sparrows, mostly House Sparrows, roosted in the trees surrounding the country courthouse in downtown Murfreesboro.

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

NESTING RECORDS (1974) FROM LAWRENCE COUNTY—I was absent from Lawrence County during most of the nesting season. Most of these observations were made during weekends early in the season. All records are from Five Points unless otherwise indicated; all records are by Morris Williams. Following the date, the contents of the Nest(s) found on that date are given in parenthesis; a (/) separates the contents of nests found on the same date. Common names are taken from the Check-list of North American Birds (*Fifth Edition*) and its Thirty-second Supplement.

- Red-tailed Hawk: 6 nests—23 Mar. (2 eggs); 24 Mar. (2 eggs); 13 Apr. (2 eggs/1 egg/1 egg/2 young).
- Red-shouldered Hawk: 6 nests—17 Mar. (4 eggs/3 eggs); 24 Mar. (4 eggs/3 eggs); 25 Mar. (3 eggs); 6 May (1 young and 1 broken egg).
- American Kestrel: 2 nests—11 Apr. (5 eggs, Summertown); 5 May (5 eggs).
- Killdeer: 16 Mar. (nest with egg shells scattered about).
- Mourning Dove: 5 nests—16 Mar. (2 eggs); 13 Apr. (1 egg—very small 26 mm x 20.5 mm/2 eggs); 5 May (2 eggs in blue jay nest); 22 Sept. (2 just-hatched young).
- Screech Owl: 13 Apr. (3 eggs).
- Great Horned Owl: 3 nests—2 Jan (2 eggs); 16 Mar. (1 young); 20 Mar. (1 young).
- Downy Woodpecker: 2 nests—5 May (4 young/undetermined no. of young).
- Eastern Phoebe: 7 May (5 young, Notchez Trace Parkway).
- Rough-winged Swallow: 9 nests—6 May (6 eggs/6 eggs/5 eggs/5 eggs /4 eggs/3 eggs/3 eggs/4 young/1 young and 5 eggs).
- Common Crow: 7 nests—23 Mar. (5 eggs/1 egg); 14 Apr. (5 eggs/4 eggs/3 young and 1 egg/3 young and 1 dead young); 5 May (adults at nest with several young).
- Carolina Chickadee: 2 nests—6 May (5 young/6 young).
- Tufted Titmouse: 6 May (6 young).
- Carolina Wren: 2 nests—12 Apr. (5 eggs); 7 May (4 young and 1 egg, Laurel Hill Wildl. Manag. Area).
- Mockingbird: 5 May (4 eggs, nest under hood of a farm tractor).
- Eastern bluebird: 6 May (4 young).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 14 Apr. (adults building 30 ft. in willow).
- Loggerhead Shrike: 13 Apr. (5 eggs).
- Starling: 4 nests—5 May (4 young); 6 May (5 eggs; 4 young); 7 May (4 young) All eggs and young were destroyed.
- Prairie Warbler: 6 May (2 eggs).
- Redwinged Blackbird: 3 nests—7 May (4 eggs/2 eggs/1 egg, latter two nests at Laurel Hill Lake).

MORRIS D. WILLIAMS, Five Points, Tennessee 38457.

CORRECTIONS: Round Table Note "Dark-headed Juncos In Rutherford and Wilson Counties" (DeVore, *The Migrant* 45:54, 1974) lines 16 and 17 are reversed. Round Table Note "Additional Comment On The Genus *Junco*" (DeVore, *The Migrant* 45:55, 1974) in paragraph 1, lines 12 and 13 should be changed as follows: (2) the common name for the enlarged species designation *hyemalis* is changed to Dark-eyed Junco; line 17 should be changed as follows: *J. hyemalis hyemalis* Northern Slate-colored Junco) apparently remain unchanged; in paragraph 2, lines 7 and 8, the statement enclosed in parentheses should follow the word "sighted" in line 10.

THE SEASON

FRED J. ALSOP, III, *Editor*

NESTING SEASON: 16 MAY-31 JULY

There are many exciting events reported in the following pages and noteworthy records are to be found all across the State! A *Bald Eagle* in adult plumage spent the entire summer on the Duck River National Wildlife Refuge in Middle-west Tennessee. Michael Bierly reports two fifty foot poles with movable wire platforms have been constructed at the Duck River Unit for the purpose of feeding the eagles as a test project.

Bachman's Sparrow was found nesting in West Tenn. and was also reported from two locations in the Eastern Ridge and Valley Region. Every effort should be made to locate this bird in the State next breeding season—make it your personal project for the coming year!

Many shorebirds were reported including an early Ruddy Turnstone record from Kentucky Lake. The Nashville Metropolitan Airport was again searched for possible nesting Upland Sandpipers, but the first individual was not seen until 29 June. Since late June is thought to be the approximate arrival date of fall migrants of this species in the Nashville Area, the current opinion of the investigating party is that the birds seen in this and previous summers are migrants, and not nesting individuals.

Olive-sided Flycatchers were observed on the Cumberland Plateau in May and July at different locations (Morris Williams located the nest of this species—the first known in Tennessee—in Great Smoky Mountains National Park this summer. Details to be published later). Willow Flycatcher nests were again reported in Nashville.

The *Virginia Rail* has previously been known as a nesting bird from only one recorded nest site in the State, but this *Season* lists *five* new nests for the species, all in the Eastern Ridge and Valley Region.

Brown-headed Nuthatches were observed at Fall Creek Falls State Park adding a new location for these birds in Tennessee, and Pine Siskins were seen in mid-June on Roan Mountain in East Tennessee.

Add to these the many nesting records which follow and I think you will agree this has been one of the most interesting of birding seasons in Tennessee.

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION—*Grebe-Sparrow*: Horned Grebe: 23 May (1) DRU (JL). Little Blue Heron: 14 July (224) Lake Co. (MLB),

(80) Dyer Co. (MLB, of the 304 total 177 were adults, 117 were white immatures and 10 were pied, 23 June (366) AT (ANS, HHP, JMW). Cattle Egret: 23 June (8) AT (ANS, HHD, JMW). BRANT: last seen 28 May (1) Lakeland, East Shelby Co. (NM). *Mississippi Kite*: 23 June (26) AT (ANS, HHD, JMW). *Bald Eagle*: 31 July (1) adult, DRU (JL). Osprey: 31 July (1) DRU (JL). Golden Plover: 14 July (1) Dyer Co., Mississippi River Levee (MLB). *Ruddy Turnstone*: 28 July (1) earliest TN record Pace Point (MLB, GJ). Spotted Sandpiper: 7 June (1) HWR (JL). Pectoral Sandpiper: 17 July (20) DRU (JL). White-rumped Sandpiper: 23 May (1) DRU (JL). Short-billed Dowitcher: 31 July (3) DRU (JL). Least Tern: 23 June (2) northwest of AT, near Barr (ANS, HHD, JMW). Tree Swallow: 21 June (2) DRU (JL), 21 July (1) Birdsong Creek, Benton Co. (JL). Scarlet Tanager: 21 July (1) Benton Co. (JL). *Lark Sparrow*: 27 May (4) Madison Co. (JL). White-throated Sparrow: 24 May (1) mid-town M (JE). Bachman's Sparrow: 18 July (nest w/2 Y, 2 E), 24 July same nest w/4 Y, Fayette Co. (Charles Nicholson).

Locations: AT—Anderson Tully Wildlife Refuge, Lauderdale Co.; DRU—Duck River Unit, Tenn. Nat. Wildlife Refuge, Hutsburg; HWR—Hatchie Wildlife Refuge; M—Memphis; Pace Point, Big Sandy Unit, Tenn. Nat. Wildlife Refuge.

Observers: MLB—Michael L. Bierly; HHD—Helen and Henry Dinkelspiel; JE—Jack Embury; GJ—Greg Jackson; JL—Jerald Ledbetter; ANS—Arlo and Noreen Smith; JMW—James and Martha Waldron.

MARTHA WALDRON, 1626 Yorkshire Drive, Memphis 38117.

CENTRAL PLATEAU AND BASIN REGION—*Loon-Sandpiper*: Common Loon: 16 May (1) RL (MLM). Great Blue Heron: Approx. 95 nests and 200 adults during summer, DRU (CD). Little Blue Heron: 19 May (1) BV (MLB, CP); 23 July (1) BV (MLM, KAG). Great Egret: 27 May (1) BV (Pat Stallings). Black-crowned Night Heron: 22 June (100) BV (MLB, CP); 30 June (75) BV (MLB). After the nesting season, I visited the Bordeaux Heronry. I saw approximately fifteen skeletons lying on the ground. The cause of death was determined in one bird in which a pellet from a shot gun was found lodged in a hole in the skull—M. D. Williams. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 30 June and 7 July (1) BV (MLB). Blue-winged Teal: 23 May (1) BV (MLB). *Bald Eagle*: 1 adult all summer, DRU (CD). Semipalmated Plover: 29 May (3, last) BV (MLB). *Upland Sandpiper*: 29 June-31 July (1-2) NMA (MLM). Spotted Sandpiper: 24 May (1, last) NA (MLM). Lesser Yellowlegs: 17 May (1, last) G (DC, PC). Pectoral Sandpiper: 31 July (1) BV (MLB). White-rumped Sandpiper: 22 June (1) BV (MLB). *Baird's Sandpiper*: 16 May (3) G (DC, PC). Least Sandpiper: 7 July (1) BV (MLB, HCM). Dowitcher: 7 July (1) Ashland City Marsh (MLB, HCM). Stilt Sandpiper: 16 May (3) G (DC, PC). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 June (25) BV (MLB). Western Sandpiper: 29 May (1) BV (MLB).

Cuckoo-Sparrow: Black-billed Cuckoo: 18 May (1) RL (MLB); 19 May (1) BV (MLB, CP); 8 June (1) NA (KAG). *Willow Flycatcher*: 19 May (1, first) BV (MLB, CP); 30 June (3) BV (MLB); 27 July (2 adults, nest

with 3 young) BV (KAG). *Olive-sided Flycatcher*: 30 July (1, singing) Savage Gulf, Grundy Co. (TK); 19 May (1) Spring City, Rhea Co. (Fred Alsop—Chester Massey). Horned Lark: only report, 17 June (4) NMA (MLM). *Brown-beaded Nuthatch*: 29 July (5) Fall Creek Falls State Park (Don Psitzer, TK). Bobolink: 13 and 19 May (1) BV (MLB). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 18 May (1, last) Basin Springs (KAG), Dickcissel: 17 June (1) NA (TK); 28 July (5) Old Hickory Lake (Bill and Sally Fintel). *Bachman's Sparrow*: 10 June-July (at least 3, 2 singing males and 1 female) I-40 rest area just west of Crab Orchard exit (TK); 29 July (1, singing) Fall Creek Falls State Park (TK).

Locations: BV—Buena Vista; DRU—Duck River Unit, TNWR; (G—Gallatin; NA—Nashville Area; NMA—Nashville Metro Airport; RL—Radnor Lake.

Observers: MLB—Mike Bierly; DC—Dot Crawford; PC—Paul Crawford (Nashville Area Compiler); CD—Carl Dowdy; KAG—Katherine Goodpasture; TK—Tony Koella; MLM—Margaret Mann; HCM—Harry C. Monk; CP—Chap Percival.

MORRIS D. WILLIAMS, Five Points, Tennessee 38457.

EASTERN RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION—This was a normal season throughout the region. Of note was the *Sharp-shinned Hawk nesting in Campbell County* and a very late Common Loon. More than the usual number of Barn Owl nests were reported. Is this a population increase or is more time spent looking for the owls? The start of the fall shorebird migration was sounded by several reports from 19 July—23 July.

Loon-Kestrel: Common Loon: 28 May (1, winter plumage, injured in migratory accident) Chatt (KD); Pied-billed Grebe: 23 June (1) AM (DRJ); Great Blue Heron: 1-2 thru period at AS (MD, HD, SG); 30 Jun (1) CC (JMC, JCH); Green Heron: 3 nests, 9 young, AIM (MDW); Little Blue Heron: 19-30 May (1) AM (KLD); 5-10 July (1 im) Er. (GW, DL); 10 July (1) SB (KLD); 22 July (3) HRA (DRJ); 28 July (2) CC (JMC, JCH); Cattle Egret: 13 July (1) SeV (LSF); 23 July (3) SB (KLD); Great Egret: 18 and 22 July (3) AM (DRJ); 28 July (1) CC (JMC, JCH); 20 July (1) HRA (KLD); Black-cr. Night Heron: 4 July (1) AM (DRJ); Yellow-cr. Night Heron: 22 May (2 active nests) AM (KLD, RW); Least Bittern: 4 June (1) AM (DRJ); 30 June (1) AM (KD); 2 July (nest, 5 y) AIM (MDW); 4 July (2) AM (DRJ); Mallard: 9 July (14) AM (DRJ); Black Duck: nest, 9 eggs, AIM (MDW); Blue-winged Teal: 14 June (1 male) AM (GLB); American Wigeon: 21 July (1) CC (JMC, JCH); Hooded Merganser: 16 June (1 fresh road kill) near AM (LD); Black Vulture: 20 May (2), 4 June (1) WC near Telford (MD, SG); Sharp-shinned Hawk: 30 June (1); 21 June (1); 28 July (1 ad, 2 young) CC (JMC, JCH); *Cooper's Hawk*: 19 June (1) LV (DRJ) 13 July (2) LV (KLD); Red-shouldered Hawk: 27 May (nest, 1 y banded) MP (KLD, DRJ); Broad-winged Hawk: 25 June (nest, 3 y) TRG (KLD, DRJ); *Osprey*: one unsuccessful nest, Watts Bar Lake (KD); 6 Jul (1) LM (GLB); American Kestrel: 22 May (nest, 5 eggs) AIM (MDW); same nest held 4 young on 3 Jun (CPN); 29 May (3 y out of nest) SeV (LSF).

Rail-Tern: King Rail: 2 nests (8 eggs; 11 eggs) AIM (MDW); 9 July (3) AM (DRJ); Virginia Rail: nest, 9 eggs; nest 7 eggs; nest w/eggs destroyed by fire, Phipps Bend, Hawkins Co., (Fred Alsop, Alan Smith, Dick Lewis); nest, 66 eggs, AIM (MDW) 19 May, nest w/broken (hatched) eggshells, Kingsport (FA); American Coot: 14 June (1) AM (GLB); Semipalmated Plover: 26 May (1) AS (DJL); American Woodcock: 19 and 23 July (1) LM (GLB); Spotted Sandpiper: 21-23 May (1) AM (KLD); first fall 26 July (1) SB (KLD); Solitary Sandpiper: first 20 July (1) AS (GE, HF); 20 July (1) SB (KLD); 21 July (3) (JMC, JCH); Lesser Yellowlegs: 23 July (6) SB (KLD); Pectoral Sandpiper: 23 July (1) SB (KLD); Least Sandpiper: 21 May (3) AM (KLD); 21 July (5), 28 July (1) CC (JMC, JCH); Semipalmated Sandpiper: 19 May (4), 22 May (1) AM (KLD); 18 July (1) AM (DRJ); Forster's Tern: 27 July (3) SB (KLD); Black Tern: 27 July (2) SB (KLD).

Dove-Sparrow: Mourning Dove: nest with 2 dove and 3 grackle eggs, later 1 dove and 1 grackle young, Eliz. (GE); Black-billed Cuckoo: 19 May (1) CC (JMC, JCH); Barn Owl: 29 May (nest, 3 young) SeV (LSF); 3 nests, 12-15 young, K (MDW); 2 nests, JC (GE) Red-headed Woodpecker: 1-3 reg. near ETSU (SG); 1 nest with young, Lenoir City (WJ); Willow Flycatcher: 19 May (1) AM (KLD); 1-4 reg. at AS (GE); 5 nests, AIM (MDW); Horned Lark: 20 May (2) Er. (MD, HD, SG, EO); Cedar Waxwing: 20-21 May (10) Chatt (KD); 19 May (3), 9 June (1) CC (JMC, JCH); 14 and 17 June (2) K (BR); Bobolink: 18 May (1) AM (KLD); Red-winged Blackbird: 89 nests (100% mortality due to high water and other factors) AIM (MDW); Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 28 May (1) LM (GLB); *Bachman's Sparrow*: 17 and 21 July (2) McLemore's Cove, Walker Co., Ga. "seeming to feed young, but no nest or young found; had food in mouth." (GLB and DRJ).

Observers: FA—Fred Alsop; GLB—Gary L. Bayne; JMC—James M. Campbell; MD—Martha Dillenbeck; HD—Helenhill Dove; KD—Ken Dubke; LD—Lil Dubke; KLD—Ken and Lil Dubke; GE—Glen Eller; HF—Harry Farthing; SG—Sally Goodin; JCH—J. C. Howell; DRJ—Daniel R. Jacobson; WJ—Wesley James; DL—Dick Lura; DJL—Dick and Joyce Lura; CPN—Charles P. Nicholson; EO—Elizabeth Osbourn; BR—Bob Rountree; LSF—Lee Shafer Family; GW—Gary Wallace; JW—Jane Whitehead; MDW—Morris D. Williams; RW—Roger Woodruff.

Locations: AIM—Alcoa Marsh; AM—Amnicola Marsh; AS—Austin Springs; CC—Campbell County; Eliz—Elizabethton; Er—Erwin; HRA—Hixson River Area; JC—Johnson City; K—Knoxville; LM—Lookout Mountain, Ga.; LV—Lookout Valley; MP—Morse Pond, Ga.; SB—Savannah Bay; SeV—Sequatchie Valley; TRG—Tennessee River Gorge; WC—Washington County.

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION—The weather for the period was "very normal" in all aspects. Several of the more common species had at least two successful hatchings and in some cases a third brood was attempted with apparently good success.

Around the Elizabethton area we are still seeing signs of a Purple Martin decline. What few birds that did arrive and nest this year were very successful, but their overall population numbers are down considerably from past years. Is this trend being observed statewide?

We still need more reports from the lower half of this region in order to give an overall composite picture of the area. Are you really doing "YOUR PART" to help *The Migrant*?

Heron-Creeper: Black-crowned Night Heron: 23 July (1 imm) Wat.R (GE). Bufflehead: (last) 19 May (2) Wil.L (HF). *Wild Turkey*: 29 May (1) IM (SG) Am. Coot: (last) 19 May (1) Wil.L (HF). Solitary Sandpiper: (early return) 20 July (1) GLP (GW). Black-billed Cuckoo: (only spring report) 2 June (1) Wat.L (GE). Barn Owl: 13 June (1) E (GE). Barred Owl: 2 July (1) singing Hump Mtn. (FWB) 5 July (1) SM (DJ). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 6 July (1) SM (DJ). Raven: 16 June (1) RM (DW), 7 July (3) RM (FWB and TMS). Brown Creeper: 22 June (1) RM (DW); 6 July (1) BG (DJ); 7 July (1) WM (DJ).

Gnatcatcher-Sparrow: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 22 June (1) HS (GW). Cedar Waxwing: is this another bird on the decline? Cedar Waxwing: 6 July (1) SM (DJ). Prothonotary Warbler: 21 May (1) Milligan College (GW). Swainson's Warbler: 1 June (1) RCP (GE, LRH and HF), 30 June (1) IM (SG). Golden-winged Warbler: 25 May (3) RMSP (FWB and TMS). Black-poll Warbler: 24 May (1) HS (GW). Prairie Warbler: 16 May (1) E (GE). Northern Waterthrush: 24 May (2) HS (GW and GE). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 6 July (1) SM (DJ); 7 July (2) WM (DJ). Blue Grosbeak: 1 June (1) Powder Branch (GE, LRH and HF). Evening Grosbeak: (last date) 19 May (3) E (GE). *Pine Siskin*: 15 June (5) RM (FWB), 16 June (2) RM (DW), 7 July (3) RM (FWB). Vesper Sparrow: 10 July (2) RM (FWB).

Locations: BG—Beech Gap, Cherokee Nat'l Forest, E—Elizabethton area, GLP—Great Lakes Pond, HS—Hunter Swamp, IM—Iron Mtn., RCP—Rock Creek Park, RM—Roan Mtn., RMSP—Roan Mtn. State Park, SM—Stratton Meadows, Cherokee Nat'l. Forest, Wat.L—Watauga Lake, Wat.R—Watauga River, Wil.L—Wilbur Lake, WM—Whigg Meadows, Cherokee Nat'l. Forest.

Observers: FWB—Fred W. Brehend, GE—Glen Eller, HF—Harry Farthing, SG—Sally Goodin, LRH—Lee Herndon, DJ—Daniel Jacobson, TMS—Tommy and Maxie Swindell, DW—Diane Wilson, GW—Gary Wallace.

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