

THE MIGRANT

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THE MIGRANT

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EDITORIAL STAFF

- EDITOR GARY O. WALLACE
Rt. 7, Box 338, Sunrise Dr., Elizabethton, Tenn. 37643
- "THE SEASON" EDITOR FRED J. ALSOP, III
Rt. 6, 302 Evergreen St., Church Hill, Tenn. 37642
- "STATE COUNT COMPILER" MORRIS D. WILLIAMS
Box 25, Five Points, Tenn. 38457
-

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5037 Montclair Dr., Nashville, Tenn. 37211
- TREASURER KENNETH H. DUBKE
Rt. 1, Box 134-D, Ooltewah, Tenn. 37363
-

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INCIDENT OF NEST-SITE RELATED AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR IN THE FLICKER, *COLAPTES AURATUS*

PHILIP M. MATHIS

Several reports describing the keen competition between Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) and Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) for nest sites have been recorded (A. C. Bent. 1965. *Life Histories of North American Wagtails, Srikes, Vireos, and Their Allies*. U. S. Nat'l Mus. Bull. 197). These reports emphasize the aggressiveness and competitive success of the Starlings. Apparently, Flickers often excavate holes to be used for nesting only to be driven away by Starlings—sometimes repeatedly. Despite the fact that aggressive behavior is often exhibited, success for the Flicker is normally achieved through the avoidance of Starling-infested areas rather than through any type of aggressive behavior. Apparently, my actions of 21 May 1975 triggered the display of aggressive behavior described in the following narrative.

Activities related to the 21 May incident began in early April when I observed a male Flicker excavating a hole in the dead branch of a silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) while its mate foraged nearby. The maple stands on the vacant lot west of my residence which is just north of Murfreesboro. Late one afternoon two or three days afterward, Dr. Clarence Greever and I observed a Flicker peeking from the hole situated approximately 25 feet above the ground. The pair of Flickers had apparently chosen the newly excavated hole as a nest site. Later when I decided to check on the Flickers' progress, they were not to be found. However, I noted some straw protruding from the nest opening. This subsequently proved to be part of a shabbily constructed Starling nest.

At approximately 11:00 CDT on 21 May, I shot four Starlings on the vacant lot adjacent to my home. Included among the dead was the male member of the pair occupying the hole previously excavated by the Flickers. Later that day around 18:00 CDT, my attention was drawn to a noisy commotion caused by the arrival of a pair of Flickers. I presumed they were the original Flickers.

The female Starling circled the vicinity surrounding the nest site emitting harsh hissing sounds. Occasionally, she would swoop within a few feet of the Flickers, but never physically attacked them. The Flickers gave no evidence of fear, although they watched the Starlings constantly and the female Flicker moved alongside the nest opening each time the Starling approached the nest site. While this action was taking place outside the nest, the young Starlings inside clamoured loudly.

Next, the male Flicker entered the nest and a few minutes later managed to force out of the hole an almost fully feathered young Starling; the first of four which he would eventually eject. The young Starlings apparently offered considerable resistance to ejection. The removal of all four nestings required about an hour. One nesting was particularly difficult to remove. As the Flicker attempted to push the young bird from the nest opening, the two of them became entangled and both birds tumbled to within perhaps four or five feet of the ground before the Flicker broke free. The following day, I collected and disposed of all four nestings.

Following the expulsion of the young Starlings, the male Flicker commenced to remove, billful at a time, straw and other nest material. Nest cleaning was still in progress at nightfall and continued intermittently all of the following day. The female Flicker did not participate in the nest cleaning, but entered the nest during brief absences of her mate.

As the nest cleaning of 22 May progressed, several adult Starlings arrived and perched on branches near the nest. The number of Starlings varied from hour to hour, but three to five were consistently present. The Starlings showed no hostility, but rather seemed to be biding their time waiting for the Flickers to leave so they could occupy the nest. The Flickers, however, were cautious not to let such an event occur. Each time the male left the nest, the female waited by the nest opening and immediately replaced the male in the nest and remained there until the male returned. By 18:00 CDT the Starlings had moved out of the immediate area, ending the day's siege.

At approximately 19:00 CDT 22 May, I watched the Flickers copulate on a branch near the nest and considered the pleasant prospect of having a brood of young Yellow Shafts so near my home. The following day, though, the Starlings were back and the Flickers were again cautiously guarding their nest. On 24 May I did not see the Flickers and have not seen them since. On 25 May I observed a Starling carrying straw into the nest opening and later a pair of Starlings occupied the nest site again.

During the nesting season, pair bonds among avian species are sometimes abruptly broken through natural mortality. Following such breaks, the surviving mate may be unable to successfully defend the nest. The results of my actions of 21 May suggest that the loss of one member of nesting pair of Starlings may reduce nest defending capacity by an amount sufficient to permit competing Flickers to regain control of a previously lost nest site. Control of the nest site by Flickers, however, appears likely to be short-lived since new pairs of Starlings will probably arrive and contest the ownership of the nest.

Department of Biology, Middle Tennessee State University, P. O. Box 578, Murfreesboro 37132.

RED-NECKED GREBE SIGHTED ON CHICKAMAUGA LAKE

KENNETH H. AND LILLIAN H. DUBKE

Upon returning from a trip to Chattanooga on 18 February, 1975, it was decided to drive by Booker T. Washington State Park and observe the waterfowl on Chickamauga Lake. Upon arriving, we turned into the boat ramp to make our observations. In driving down the incline, Lil noted, at a distance of approximately 25 meters, what appeared to be an unusual grebe. She called this to my attention and I casually noted the grebe's somewhat larger body, longer, thicker neck, larger head and bill, however, upon stopping the car, I picked up my 7 x 35 wide-angle binoculars and started panning for waterfowl to the left. In the meantime, Lil immediately picked up her 7 x 35 binoculars and noted details of the grebe, which was on the right. In addition to the above characteristics, she observed an obvious crescent shaped whitish mark on the head that extended from the throat around the back of the cheek to the upper nape, and the overall grayish appearance, especially on the neck and side of body. There was a lack of white on the face, neck and breast that could be expected in the similar Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*). Upon the obvious identification of the Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*), Lil alerted me to look quickly, however, the bird suddenly submerged. We kept scanning the lake and the grebe surfaced in a burst of labored energy, only a short distance away. As the grebe paddled over the water, it took flight, flying only a few meters above the water across the lake. Two conspicuous white patches on each wing were noted. Its neck was held down in typical grebe fashion. We were both able to observe these field marks through our binoculars.

The light conditions at the time of observation would not be described as perfect, however, very suitable for the above noted field observation. The time of observation was 16:00 hours. The day had been generally rainy, misty and overcast, with low hanging clouds. The bird was followed from view as it flew from only a few meters, to completely across the lake and out of sight. As we did not have a telescope with us, we immediately drove home and returned to survey the entire area and found nothing. The next day visibility had improved remarkably and we were on the scene again shortly after 8:00 hours, to follow up the previous day's observation. Again the bird was not found.

In order to gain more insight into the above observation and the recording of the species, all available reference material was checked. It was noted that Alsop (1972) listed the Red-necked Grebe in his "Preliminary List of Tennessee Birds"; Parmer (1970) records one observation by Albert F. Ganier at Nashville, 1 May, 1920. Both the A.O.U. Check-list (1957) and Palmer (1962) note the bird's presence in Tennessee. Lawrence Trabue (1965) presents some very interesting discussions on the sighting of the Red-necked Grebe in Tennessee. Parmer cites Albert Ganier's detailed description from his personal card file on his observation of the bird at Radnor Lake, giving description, plumage and size. However, the only other apparent record of the species in the state is discussed in detail by Lawrence Trabue in his article. It appears this bird was found on a Christmas Count in 1926, without any details given whatsoever on

its rarity. On the same count, a White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) was reported with complete details given. Trabue gives little credence to the observation of the grebe and speculates that it could have been a Horned Grebe, which is common in the winter. We agree with his conclusion. The A.O.U. Check-list as well as Bent (1919) record the species at Reelfoot Lake. We can find no record to support this observation.

The Red-necked Grebe is casually found in the winter along the coast with a few records in Florida, so its appearance here was not totally unexpected. This observation should alert field observers to carefully observe all grebes.

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 Route 1, Box 134-D, Ooltewah 37363.

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THE SIXTY-FIRST ANNUAL SPRING TOS MEETING

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

30 APRIL, 1, 2 MAY 1976

Headquarters will be at the Quality Inn South, East Ridge Exit, I-75 South from Chattanooga. Make reservations directly to Quality Inn South, East Ridge, for special rates. Additional information will be sent out well in advance by the host chapter Chattanooga. If further details are needed contact Ken and Lil Dubke, Route 1, Box 134-D, Ooltewah, TN 37363.

BIRD FINDING IN TENNESSEE

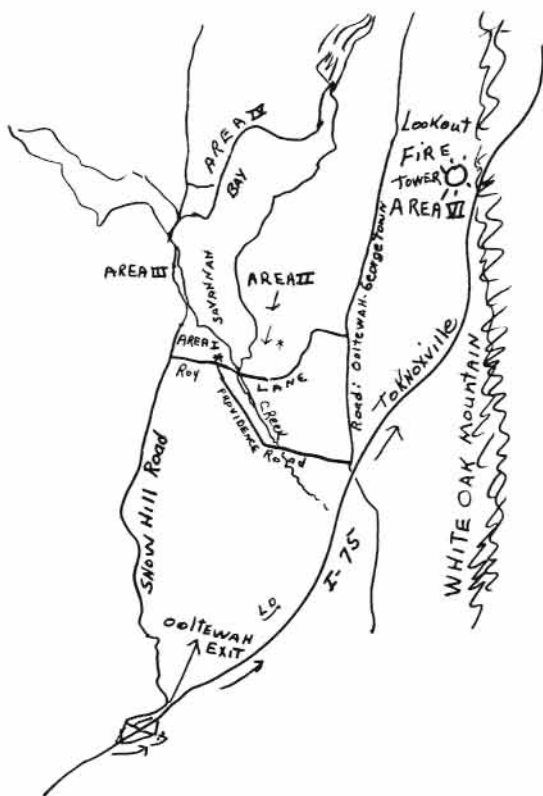
SAVANNAH BAY

KENNETH H. AND LILLIAN DUBKE

One of the finest for a variety of birds in Hamilton County is an area we locally call Savannah Bay. It is reached from Chattanooga by traveling I-75 North, approximately 16 miles, to Ooltewah Exit, drive under Freeway, turn right onto Snow Hill Road, continue approximately 4 miles (a silo and barn on left, also sign Providence Baptist Church) turn right on Roy Lane, continue approximately 4 miles (a silo and barn on left, also sign Providence Baptist Church) turn right on Roy Lane.

In fact we were so attracted to the location that we bought land and built our home on the south end of the Bay. We moved into our home 17 July, 1974. The house faces north with a different view from each window: White Oak Mountain, brushy areas, grass and lake, and with winter lake draw-down, extensive mud flats. TVA fills the lake to full pool by mid-April and lowers the level to mud flats by October. This enables us to conveniently observe feeding waterfowl, shorebirds and herons in the winter.

AREA I: With ease, one can look out the window and pan with scope the exposed mud in winter and during migration for shorebirds, hawks, waterfowl,



gulls and terns. To verify suspected rare or unusual species and numbers, it is just a simple matter to walk to the water's edge.

AREA II: This is TVA property, it is low, wet and marshy and will therefore have no permanent structure built upon it. Every few years the TVA Division of Reservoir Properties, brushes the area down for mosquito control. It is in this area that migrating flocks of Orchard Orioles have been found consistently after the nesting season until the end of August. In 1974 a late summer Kingbird roost, with numbers up to 80 was present. Short-billed Marsh Wrens have been found during this period. In the winter there is an abundance of food for sparrows.

AREA III: This is a convenient place to get closer observations of the birds feeding on the exposed mud flats.

AREA IV: Same as above.

AREA V: This is the north end of the Bay and when the lake is full in summer has many little islands which make very attractive areas for Wood Ducks to feed. Surrounding the area are hedgerows and fields. In 1975 a Red-shouldered Hawk was found nesting in the timbered, swampy area.

AREA VI: White Oak Mountain. To date this area has been explored to a limited extent for woodland species. The mountain goes to an elevation of 1800 feet and has a fire tower which makes an excellent hawk migration observation point.

Close to 200 species have been found in the area. The unique feature of the area is the apparent rich productivity of the flats to consistently sustain a good wintering population of 85 to 165 Dunlin, 75 to 100 Common Snipe and an equal number of Killdeer. To our knowledge, and in discussion with other active Tennessee field observers, there is no other site in the state that harbors such a varied combination of species.

Route 1, Box 134-D, Ooltewah 37363.

THE 1975 MISSISSIPPI VALLEY WINTER BALD EAGLE COUNT

The Tennessee Ornithological Society will conduct a one-day Bald Eagle Count on Saturday, 14 February. This count will be held in cooperation with the Mississippi Valley Winter Bald Eagle Survey under the direction of Elton Fawks. If the weather is bad in your area the count can be held on 15 February. The totals of individual counts should be called in to 1-800-342-8406 on 16 February. The final report can be mailed later to Bill Yambert, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Box 40747, Nashville, Tennessee 37204.

ROUND TABLE NOTES

WOOD STORK SEEN IN STEWART COUNTY—On 25 May, 1975, while approaching Clarksville, Tennessee, 1.2 miles west of the Montgomery-Stewart County line on U. S. Highway 79, Michael Dinsmore sighted a Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana*, at 09:10 EDT soaring above the highway. Noted were the dark head with heavy decurved bill, white body, black tail, extensive areas of black on trailing sides of wings, and large overall size. The bird was believed to be an immature due to a predominately yellow bill (Robbins, et al. 1966. *Birds of North America*. Golden Press, New York). It soared with its neck fully extended and its legs extended past its tail. No other bird looks like this in flight. It was as large as a Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*, but this species flies with its neck folded back to its shoulders. It was much too large to be an ibis.

The bird was observed from below in excellent light, through 10 x 35 binoculars as it soared overhead at a height of approximately 250 feet for about two minutes. It then flew off to the northwest in the general direction of Lake Kyle, within the Fort Campbell Military Reservation. Immediately, an hour was spent searching for the bird in the area of Lake Kyle with no luck. Several return trips to the area on subsequent days also yielded no sighting of the bird. The weather was warm and sunny with a slight overcast beginning to build up with the temperature in the 70's. The general habitat was one of a rural residential farm community to the south of Highway 79 and plantations of *Pinus taeda* and deciduous woodlands to the north.

The observer has had previous experience with all common wading birds of the Middle Tennessee area, and also with other waders and ibises in Florida.

The Wood Stork exhibits a rather extensive post-breeding dispersal northward from its breeding grounds along the southeast coast and in Florida (Palmer, R. S. 1962. *Handbook of North American Birds*. Vol. 1. Loons through Flamingos. Yale University Press). The area of this dispersal usually includes west Tennessee along the alluvial plain of the Mississippi River, but not middle and east Tennessee. Mike Bierly of Nashville was kind enough to search back issues of *The Migrant* and located 7 records of the Wood Stork east of the Mississippi alluvial plain where the sightings usually occur. Two records were in 1925 and three were in the 1930's. The two most recent records include one near Tullahoma in 1955 (*The Migrant*, 26:43), and one near Chattanooga in 1966 (*The Migrant*, 37:82). The present record therefore represents the first reported sighting of a Wood Stork in nearly 9 years in Tennessee east of the Mississippi alluvial plain.

MICHAEL O. DINSMORE, P. O. Box 182, Indooroopilly, Queensland, Australia 4068.

SURF SCOTERS AT SAVANNAH BAY, CHATTANOOGA—On 11 May, 1975, while panning Chickamauga Lake, Savannah Bay, with a 20x scope, I observed two Surf Scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*). With visiting friends I quickly walked down to the waters' edge and under excellent light conditions, the sun to the rear, and at a distance of 75 meters, I could easily distinguish the

field marks of a first year male and a female Surf Scoter. Of interest, Francis H. Kortright (1942, *The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America*, The Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pa.), comments that the main northward flight of the Surf Scoter takes place along the coast in May.

In addition to myself, other observers were my husband, Ken, E. O. Grundset, Roger Woodruff, Gertrude Fleming, Ann and Carl Gibson and others.

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

PURPLE SANDPIPER SIGHTING IN SUMNER COUNTY, TENNESSEE—On 6 June 1975 at about 17:30 CDT, we made a routine check of the ash disposal pond at the Gallatin Steam Plant. We listed two Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), one Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), three Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), two Least Sandpipers (*Erolia minutilla*), and twelve Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Ereunetes pusillus*). Also present were two medium-sized shore birds, resting and preening on the ash. One, we first thought, was a Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama bimantopus*) in an unusual plumage. Later, we decided to list this bird "unidentified." We concentrated most of our attention on the second bird. Its most noticeable field mark was the orange-yellow of the short legs. We then noticed that the medium-length beak was yellow at the base and black at the tip. The yellow shaded out to black about midway between base and tip. A quick check of *Birds of North America* by Robbins et al, confirmed Dot's suspicion that the only sandpiper with these field marks is the Purple Sandpiper (*Erolia maritima*). However, this bird was brown, not the slaty-gray of the winter birds we have seen in Massachusetts.

The sky was clear and the bright afternoon sun was behind us, affording the best light conditions possible at this location. Our spotting scope is a Bushnell 20-45x. The bird was approximately 100 yards out on the ash. It was somewhat shorter but plumper than the Killdeer and was noticeably larger than the Semipalmated Sandpipers. The head, back and wings had typical "peep" plumage, basically brown. The throat and breast were strongly streaked with brownish and the belly was pale. The bird did not feed or fly while we watched it. We swapped the book and the spotting scope back and forth for about 30 minutes, then went home to call other birders. It was gone the next day and was not seen again.

Obviously, a Purple Sandpiper in Tennessee in June is a very unlikely bird indeed, so we checked the references we have on the bird.

Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds*, states: "In breeding plumage (rarely seen here) the bird is browner with a few rusty marks on the back and a heavily streaked breast."

On page 152 of Bent's *Life Histories of North American Shorebirds* (part one), casual records are listed from Bermuda, New Jersey, Georgia, Florida (Key Biscayne and Gordon's Pass), Missouri, Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin. The Missouri and Wisconsin records are spring records.

There are two previous records of Purple Sandpipers in Tennessee (*The Migrant* 43:62-63). The first record was at Hiwassee Island on 25 November 1962 and the second on 8 June 1967 at Bays Mountain Lake.

These records seem to indicate that, even though the Purple Sandpiper is a bird of the far north, occasional individuals tend to wander erratically. We feel sure that "our" bird was one of these individuals.

PAUL AND DOT CRAWFORD, Route 4, Gallatin 37066.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES AND LAUGHING GULLS AT CHICKAMAUGA DAM, CHATTANOOGA—On 7 December 1971, Lee Shafer observed on Nickajack Lake what appeared to be 2 adult and 2 immature Black-legged Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*). Upon arriving home he immediately called Benton Basham, who, the next day, drove to the location to confirm the sighting. They were not there, however, on a hunch the birds could possibly have moved up stream toward Chickamauga Dam he checked that site. His hunch was correct, as he found not only the Kittiwakes but also identified winter plumaged Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricella*). The word quickly spread and many people had an opportunity to leisurely view not only the northern Kittiwakes, but also the costal breeding Laughing Gulls in an unique combination of circumstances for our inland location. In addition to the writers seeing the birds others included the entire Lee Shafer family, Benton Basham, Floyd Murdock, Fred J. Alsop, III and many field observers from across the state.

The 2 adult Kittiwakes were typical winter plumage; black legs, solid black wing tips, dark diagonal band across the wings and dark mark at base of neck in back. The plumage of the two immature Kittiwakes included a dark neck band, black legs, black wing tips, terminal black band on slightly forked tail. The Kittiwake numbers ranged from one to four, while the Laughing Gulls ranged in numbers from eight to fifteen.

The Kittiwakes were last observed on 13 December by the writers and the Laughing Gulls on 15 December.

These are further details as recorded in *The Migrant* 43 (1):25.

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

LONG-EARED OWL IN GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE—The Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) was observed seven times from 9 March to 25 March, 1975, at Kinsler Park adjoining Lake Davey Crockett south of Greeneville on the Nolichucky River. The first sighting was 9 March 16:35 EDT. Flushed from a honeysuckle-overgrown thicket of mixed cedar, pines, and small deciduous trees, the first owl was sighted flying somewhat in the manner of the Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) on a short daytime flight. During the attempt to sight the first owl, a second owl left the roost and alighted near the first owl in an open pine higher on the ridge. At this time the owls were identified. The first owl moved away so that only one owl was well observed through 7 x 50 binoculars from 50 feet distance by observer Royal Beecher Spees (RBS). The owl was more the color of that shown in *A Guide to Field Identification, Birds of North America*, Robbins, Bruun & Zim, 1966, Western Publishing Co., p. 161, than that shown in *A Field Guide to the Birds, Eastern Land and Water Birds*, Peterson, 1947, Houghton Mifflin,

Plate 39 adjoining p. 150, but sat more erect and trim (feathers close to the body rather than "fluffed" with air) than either handbook depicts the owl. This was assumed to be more of an "alarmed" posture than those depicted in the paintings. The day was sunny and clear with temperatures in the low 40's following a night in the 20's with light wind and light snowfall. The weather preceding the sighting had not been severe in the region at this elevation.

The most "whitewash" marked roosting cedar was in a small sink on the north side of a low ridge leading northeast from the lake area to higher pasture land (1247 feet to 1400 feet). This well-used tree was about 25 feet tall, the roost being about 16 feet up and about level with the upper south side of the sink. Approach was first made up to the lower north side of the sink from the adjoining overgrown field during exercising of a bird dog. The area had been laid out several years ago as a multiple-stand field practice archery range, affording a number of open paths through the area. During the past two years there has been construction of recreation facilities surrounding this wooded area, including for the past 8 months a golf course, and perhaps some concentration of the owl food supply due to movement from these areas to the fields adjoining the wooded areas. The principal sighting area would total some 10 acres with additional wood lots adjoining in the park and around the lake. The attempt to get a second sighting of the birds that day with a second observer at 18:15 EDT proved fruitless.

The second sighting was made in the same manner as the first on 15 March 1975 at 18:45 EDT with weather partly cloudy and temperatures in the 40's. The two owls were observed to move successively from the roost trees. The first owl moved away from the open pine when the second owl moved into the tree. One was observed, at 50 feet, to perch erect on top of a broken tree stem and except for the "ears" would have easily been missed by the observer because it looked like the end of the stem extended. Observer: RBS.

The third sighting 16 March 1975 was made by several individuals (from 15:10 EDT to 16:30 EDT) when an owl perched in a pine on the south rim of the sink and all members of the party observed the bird in detail, at a distance of 40 feet, both aided and unaided by binoculars. Weather was partly cloudy with a light breeze and temperatures in the 40's and 50's. Members of the party were Gary Wallace, Glen Eller, Dick Lura from the Elizabethton Chapter, TOS; Helen Spees and RBS of the Greeneville Chapter, TOS.

On 19 March 1975 10:00 EDT to 12:45 EDT during showery weather, temperature in the 50's, a party searched the area with no sightings. Party members were Lee R. Herndon, Martha Dillenbeck, Helenhill Dove from the Elizabethton Chapter, TOS; Richard Nevius and RBS of the Greeneville Chapter, TOS.

On the fourth sighting 21 March 17:55 EDT during quiet, sunny, warm (60's) weather, an owl was sighted at 40 feet in a pine thicket 100 feet northwest of the sink and six feet above eye level, aided and unaided by binoculars, by Helen Reed and Greeneville Chapter TOS members Willie Ruth Nevius, Margaret and King Gaut, Helen Spees and RBS. During this observation some observers could hear sounds such as those made by a small cat. In *Birds of Eastern North America*, Frank M. Chapman states that the note of this owl is said to resemble the noise made by kittens.

The fifth sighting 22 March 1975 16:30 EDT with clear sky, light breeze, and temperature in the 60's was in a pine tree on the ridge approximately 100 feet east of the sink roost-tree by a party of Knoxville Chapter, TOS: J. B. Owen, Chuck Nicholson, Fae Andrews, Gary Muffly; Elizabethton Chapter, TOS: Lois and Lee R. Herndon, Pete Range, Jake Slonaker; and by RBS.

The sixth sighting was 23 March 18:30 EDT in the same area with a clear day and temperature in the low 70's by Knoxville Chapter TOS members: Chuck Nicholson, Fae Andrews and Morris Williams. An earlier attempt that day 16:00 to 17:00 by RBS failed.

On 24 March 1975 no sighting resulted during a 3-hour morning search of the area by Fred Alsop and a search 15:00 EDT to 16:00 EDT by Alsop and RBS.

The final observation on the morning of 25 March 1975 was in a pine over a "whitewash" approximately 70 feet west southwest of the sink by Fred Alsop on a clear, windy day with temperature in the 60's.

Unsuccessful attempts to observe the owl were on 30 March 1975 14:00 to 15:00 EDT; 2 April 1975 13:00 to 15:00 EDT.

It was observed that the Long-eared Owl was content to be observed by persons at close range (approximately 25 feet) but that approach by a second person or persons from another direction with the owl turning to watch both directions caused the owl to move away.

All sightings of these birds were within 100 feet of the principal roost tree.

Search of *The Migrant* reveals no reported sightings of the Long-eared Owl north of Chattanooga or east of Nashville in Tennessee.

DR. ROYAL BEECHER SPEES, P. O. Box 356, Greeneville 37743.

WINTER TREE SWALLOWS AT SAVANNAH BAY—On 6 January, 1975, the writer observed a Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) fly by the window of the den of our house on Chickamauga Lake. The window faces to the north, offering a panoramic view of the vast mudflats and grassy area of the bay. Regularly, while working at the desk, binoculars (7 x 35, wide angle) are stationed nearby for quick identification of various species as they move about. Such was the occasion on the above noted observation.

The maximum temperature on this date was 56 degrees, with the wind blowing in a clear sky from the SW at 18 to 22 mph. Leisure views of the white belly and green-black back were made of the bird as it hawked for insects as close as 50 meters.

On 25 February a similar observation was made except this time there were two birds and Lil was present to enjoy the observation of our early migrating swallows. Again, there was unlimited visibility with wind speeds up to 30 mph from the west and temperature up to 57 degrees.

On 23 February, 1971, an early Tree Swallow was reported in the same area by the author and his wife (*The Migrant* 44 (2):47). The only other published Tennessee winter record of the Tree Swallows that could be located were those discussed by Lawrence O. Trabue in his article "A Review of Tennessee Christmas Counts" (*The Migrant* 36 (2):36-44).

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

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK IN SUMNER COUNTY, TENNESSEE—

On 17 February 1975, Carol Knauth had an item about a Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) in her "Wing Tips" column in the Nashville Banner. Mrs. Knauth said that the bird had been coming to a feeder in Portland,



Photo by Paul Crawford

Tennessee. Since there was no previous record of a Black-headed Grosbeak in Sumner County, we were very interested in seeing the bird.

After some difficulty, we located the bird at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Monte Hagan in South Tunnel. Their mailing address is Portland, South Tunnel is a village located on the edge of the Highland Rim and is about five miles north-northwest from Gallatin.

We called the Hagans and were told that the grosbeak was strictly a morning bird, usually arriving between 06:15 and 06:45 and was rarely, if ever, seen after 10:00.

On the morning of 20 February, we went to the Hagan's home at 06:20 CST. The light was poor at this time but a number of birds were already feeding at a hanging feeder and also on the ground where cracked corn had been scattered. Among the birds present were Cardinals *Cardinalis cardinalis*, Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*), Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*), Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*), Field Sparrows (*Spizella pusilla*), and Rufous-sided Towhees (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*).

At 06:25, the Black-headed Grosbeak flew in from the thicket that borders the Hagan's back yard, lit on the ground and began feeding on cracked corn. The bird fed until 06:44, then flew back into the thicket. It returned for brief intervals of feeding until 09:08 and was not seen again that morning.

The morning was clear and cool and by 08:00 visibility was very good. The bird fed at a spot about 25 ft. from the observers and 7 x 50 binoculars were used. We made the following notes while we watched the bird: crown, dark sooty with a paler stripe down the center; pale line over the eye; cheek patch, dark sooty as sides of crown; beak, large, pale, with upper mandible slightly darker than lower; throat, breast and flanks, yellowish-orange with orange

collar extending around back of neck; light streaking on flanks; rump, rusty-orange; belly, bright lemon-yellow; wings and tail, black with white markings; the wing had a white patch near the front and a white bar farther back. The white markings in the wings and tail were especially noticeable when the bird was in flight.

We recognized the bird immediately as an immature male Black-headed Grosbeak. We had seen several of this species in Colorado and also saw the bird in Murfreesboro in January 1974 (*Migrant* 45:72-73). This bird, and the Murfreesboro bird, were quite similar.

The bird first appeared in the Hagan's yard on 2 January 1975 and was last seen on 21 April 1975. Mrs. Hagan, who had never seen a Black-headed Grosbeak, identified the bird using only Peterson's "*A Field Guide to the Birds.*" Its feeding habits were consistent throughout the period and it never lost its shyness, always flushing at the slightest movement. We saw the bird several times during its stay and it was also seen by several other birders from various parts of the state.

It is of interest to note that there were three additional reports of Black-headed Grosbeaks in Tennessee during the time the Hagan's bird was here. The first bird was reported in Memphis 13 January through 19 January. The second bird was seen at the junction of Collins Road and Tennessee Highway 100 near Nashville. Mrs. Robert McClain described it to Katherine A. Goodpasture. Her description was a good one and she was able to identify a picture of the bird. The third bird was trapped and banded by Katherine A. Goodpasture at her home on 26 March. The last two locations are $9\frac{1}{2}$ air miles apart.

If we can assume that these four birds are separate individuals, the first three months of 1975 produced the same number of Black-headed Grosbeaks as the total previously recorded for Tennessee.

Possibly, future observations will give an indication as to whether this was just an unusual year, if more people are reporting their observations, or if the Black-headed Grosbeak is extending its range.

PAUL AND DOT CRAWFORD, Route 4, Gallatin 37066.



THE SEASON

FRED J. ALSOP, III, *Editor*

NESTING SEASON: 16 MAY - 31 JULY

What a most interesting *nesting season* report! There were many good birders in the field and they found many late migrants and stragglers, some wandering visitors from farther south, some nesting by uncommon species, and some challenging problems that must wait until at least next year's nesting season before they can be answered. In addition to the information presented in the following pages look at all the things we don't know about the species which frequent Tennessee in the summer and make yourself a personal project to add some new information about the State's breeding avafauna next year. Find for yourself the most exciting birding is *after* the spring migration!

Ospreys were reported from all four regions as late as the last week of May, but there was only one known nesting attempt by the species in the State. One pair nested and laid eggs at Reelfoot Lake within sight of the new Airpark Motel. In June the nest was abandoned and the pair was seen to start construction on a new nest nearby. Broken egg shells were found in the first nest and the second nest was never completed.

Bald Eagles were seen in the Central Plateau and Basin and in the Ridge and Valley Regions in June, but nothing is known of their activities here during the period and it may be assumed that they probably came here as wandering birds after the earlier nesting season in more southern areas (Florida?). A Marsh Hawk was found as late as 29 May in the Western Coastal Plain.

There were many sightings of late shorebirds in all Regions, but they were especially noteworthy because of the numbers of individuals and the diversity of species represented in the Central Plateau and Basin and the Ridge and Valley Regions. The Western Coastal Plain reported a Spotted Sandpiper in mid-June and for the third consecutive year there were summer records of Upland Sandpipers at the Nashville airport making the latter a most interesting problem. A Common Snipe was found in July in a marsh in Chattanooga and a Northern Phalarope was recorded in the Tri-cities area.

Tree Swallows nested successfully in the Western Coastal Plain and were found in July in the Eastern Mt. Region. The last area also reported Pine Siskins on Roan Mt. from May through July and Red Crossbills in the Smokies

in May and June and on Roan Mt. in July. Additional unusual records include: a Lesser Scaup and a Black Tern in the Western Coastal Plain in June and several new sites for the Painted Bunting in that region; two colonies of Black-crowned Night Herons nesting near Nashville, a Wood Stork in Stewart County, a Chestnut-sided Warbler in Nashville in June, a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Fall Creek Falls State Park in June (nesting???), a Lark Sparrow whose attempt to nest was plowed under, and several locations for Willow Flycatchers all in the Central Plateau and Basin Region; in the Eastern Ridge and Valley Region there was a nesting Pied-billed Grebe, Willow Flycatcher nests, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on Lookout Mountain in late June, and Bachman's Sparrows in Roane County; Willow Flycatcher nests were also reported from the Eastern Mountain Region.

Perhaps the most exciting record for the summer comes from Roan Mountain for it may prove to add a new nesting species to the State List in the near future. Magnolia Warblers, at least three singing males, were located there in late June and July in the edges of the spruce-fir stands. The birds appeared to be territorial, but the searchers could find no evidence of actual nesting. Perhaps next year with greater efforts and some luck this colorful migratory species will become Tennessee's newest nesting bird.

This particular *Season* is filled with truly striking information and good birding challenges for the next nesting season. Your *Migrant* staff encourages you to add your observations to all future reports.

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION—The nesting season in West Tennessee was marked by a complete run of the Breeding Bird Surveys. Lauderdale County was selected as the Foray County for 1975 and those observations and data will appear later in a special article and the following information does not reflect the sightings made in Lauderdale Co.

The Osprey Nest at Reelfoot in May indicated that the two Osprey were incubating eggs, however two weeks later the pair were seen building another nest.

Scaup-Bunting: Lesser Scaup: 6 June (1 male) Robco Lake (BBC, LC). Marsh Hawk: 29 May (1 female) H, NWR (JL). Osprey: 22 May (1) H, DRU (JL). Black Tern: 15 June (1 adult) H, DRU (MLB, EH, BJ). *GOLDEN PLOVER*: 5 July (1 full breeding plumage) Miss. R. bar, SW Lake Co. (MLB, DJ). Spotted Sandpiper: 15 June (1) H, DRU (MLB), 4 July (1) Miss. R. Lauderdale Co. (MLB, DJ), 5 July (1) Island and (1) mainland, Lake Co. Tree Swallow: 15 June (2 adults, 4 young) H, DRU (MLB, EH, BJ). Black-and-white Warbler: 16 June (1) SFSP (BBC). Worm-eating Warbler: 16 June (1) SFSP (BBC), 22 July (1) Hatchie R. Bottoms, TN Hwy. 100, 3 mi. W. of Toone (EC). *PAINTED BUNTING*: May-June, found at four sites in NW area of city of M and at 2 other sites, including the 1974 site, June and July, Covington, TN. (AS, MLB).

Locations: Robco Lake—SW Memphis, H, NWR—Hatchie River, National Wildlife Refuge, H, DRU—Hustburg, Duck River Unit, Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, SFSP—Shelby Forest State Park, M—Memphis.

Observers: BBC—Ben B. Coffey, Jr., LC—Lula Coffey, JL—Jerald Ledbetter, MLB—Mike L. Bierly, EH—Ernest Holzhausen, BJ—Bill Jones, DJ—Daniel Jacobson, EC—Mrs. Ed Carpenter, AS—Alice Smith.

MARTHA WALDRON, 1626 Yorkshire Drive, Memphis 38117.

CENTRAL PLATEAU AND BASIN REGION—*Loon-Tern:* Common Loon: 18 May (1) Coleman Lake (Lee Kramer); 8 June (1) OHL (BJ); 13 July 31 July (1-2) Percy Priest (MLB, GJ, MLM). Little Blue Heron: Mid-July (20-25) CCNWR (Samuel Barton); 5 reports NA. Cattle Egret: 22 May (12) NA (Dot and George Woodring); 7-10 June (2) G (DC, PC, BF, SF). Great Egret: 19 July (6) CL (Miriam Weinstein). *BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:* 22 June (16 nests, 30 young) OHL (BF, SF); 31 May (40-50 nests) BH (MLB); 13 July (10 ad., 50 imm.) BH (MLB, GJ); 12 July (40, mostly imm.) BV (GJ); 8 July (65) G (DC, PC). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 7 June (2) Lawrence Co. (Lloyd Clayton, MDW); 22 July (1 imm.) BV (KAG, MLB). Least Bittern: 1 June (1) GP (DRJ, GB). American Bittern: 1 June (1) GP (DRJ, GB). *WOOD STORK:* 25 May (1) S (Michael Dinsmore). Blue-winged Teal: 7 June (2) G (DC, BF, SF); 8 July (1) G (DC, PC). Ring-necked Duck: 7 June (1) G (DC, BF, SF); 10-15 June (2-1 M, 1F) G (DC, PC). Black Vulture: 5-22 July (10-92 feeding on dead fish at farm pond) G (PC). *BALD EAGLE:* 17-18 May (1 imm.) CL (MLB, RJM); 8 June (1) S (BJ). Osprey: 31 May (1) OHL (BF, SF). American Coot: 13 July (1) Wilson Co. (MLB, GJ). Semipalmated Plover: 11 June (1) GSP (DC, PC). *UPLAND SANDPIPER:* 10 July (1) NA, Airport (MLM); later 2 present thru period. Greater Yellowlegs: 23 July (1) GSP (DC, PC, BF, SF). Lesser Yellowlegs: 6 July (1) GSP (DC, PC). White-rumped Sandpiper: 31 May (25) CCNWR (James and Richard Holt); 10, 11, 12 June (10, 32, 11); 3-6 July (4-7), all GSP (DC, PC). Baird's Sandpiper: 1, 4 June (3) GSP (DC, PC). Least Sandpiper: 25 May (118), 12 June (1), all GSP (DC, PC). Stilt Sandpiper: 6, 23 July (1) GSP; 15, 23 July (1) G (DC, PC, BF, SF). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 8 July (15) GSP, and (4) G (DC, PC). Western Sandpiper: 22-31 July (1-12) G, GSP (DC, PC). *WILSON'S PHALAROPE:* 11 July (1) GSP, 22 July (1) G (DC, PC). Herring Gull: 26-31 May (1) OHL (BF, SF). Forester's Tern: 3 July (2) OHL (BF).

Cuckoo-Sparrow: Black-billed Cuckoo: 30 May (1) NA (KAG). Whip-poor-will: 12 May, nest found, 17 May, 2 young, BS (KAG). Red-headed Woodpecker: 7 June (nest, 4 newly-hatched young) FP (MDW). *WILLOW FLYCATCHER:* 18 May - 7 June (1) CL (MPS); 20 May (2) BV (KAG); 31 May (1) Shelby Bottoms, NA (MLB); 22 June (3) BV (MLB); 22 June (1) ACM (MLB). Olive-sided Flycatcher: 22 May (1) Radnor Lake (MLB). Tree Swallow: 1 June (1) ACM (MLB, David Vogt). Bank Swallow: 12 July (2) ACM (RJM). Bewick's Wren: 1 June (5) UHBBS (MDW); 7 June (nest, 5 newly-hatched young, 2 eggs) FP (MDW). Long-billed Marsh Wren: 26 May (5) CL (MLB). Short-billed Marsh Wren: 17 May (2) CL (MLB, RJM); 26 May (1) CL (MLB). *SWAINSON'S THRUSH:* 1 June (1) NA (Ann Nichols). *SWAINSON'S WARBLER:* bird reported last period still present 12 July (MPS). *BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER:* 3 June (1, seen

and heard) Fall Creek Falls State Park (MCW). *CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER*: 11 June (1) NA (John Ellis). Hooded Warbler: 27 July (nest, 3 downy young) BS (KAG). Dickcissel: 8 June (4) GBBS (DRJ). Savannah Sparrow: 26 May (2) CL (MLB). Grasshopper Sparrow: 1 June (1) G (3) UHBBS (MDW); 8 June (8) GBBS (DRJ). *SHARP-TAILED SPARROW*: 17 May (2) CL (MLB, RJM). *LARK SPARROW*: 1 June (3 birds, 1 building nest, 8 June, nest plowed up) Viola (DRJ); 7 June (1) FP (MDW). White-throated Sparrow: 1 June (1) Smith Co. (BJ). Lincoln's Sparrow: 18 May (2) CL (MLB). Swamp Sparrow: 18 May (2) CL (MLB). Song Sparrow: June-July (1-2) McMinnville, Woodbury (MCW).

Locations: ACM—Ashland City Marsh; BH—Bordeaux Heronry; BS—Basin Springs; BV—Buena Vista; CCNWR—Cross Creeks NWR; CL—Cheat-ham Lake; FP—Five Points; G—Gallatin; GBBS—Glen Breed Bird Survey; GP—Goose Pond; GSP—Gallatin Steam Plant; NA—Nashville Area; OHL—Old Hickory Lake; S—Stewart Co.; UHBBS—Union Hill Breeding Survey, Macon County.

Observers: GB—Gary Bayne; MLB—Michael Bierly; DC—Dot Crawford; PC—Paul Crawford; BF—Bill Fintel; SF—Sally Fintel; KAG—Katherine Goodpasture; GJ—Greg Jackson; DRJ—Daniel Jacobson; BJ—Bill Jones; MLM—Margaret Mann; RJM—Rocky Milburn; MPS—Pat Stallings; MCW—Mary Wood; MDW—Morris Williams.

MORRIS D. WILLIAMS, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Tenn., Knoxville 37916.

EASTERN RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION—Interesting June records include Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers. A Common Snipe was seen at Amnicola Marsh in early July. Knoxville reported Bald Eagles, a Common Gallinule, and Bachman's Sparrows. Probably the most unusual bird of the season was a Northern Phalarope at Austin Springs.

Since 1960 special efforts have been made to observe the nesting attempts of the Osprey in the Chattanooga area. This is the first year since then that no evidence of a nesting attempt has been found. More time will be spent searching for nests next year.

Loon-Hawk: Common Loon: 17 May (3) SB (LD). *PIED-BILLED GREBE*: 30 June (1 adult and 1 young) AM (KLD); 12 July (2 adults and 3 young) Chickamauga, Ga. (KD). Little Blue Heron: 13 July (3, imm.) CL (Gary and Cynthia Muffly); 23 July (5, imm.) Poe Branch, Daisy (KD). Cattle Egret: 15-18 May (1) JCo (Carol Hall, Anne Koella, Stuart Nelson); 19 May (1) SB (KLD). Great Egret: 16 May (2) AS (SG, RL); 25 July (6) HRA (KLD). Black-crowned Night Heron: 31 July (1) NoL (JCH). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: throughout period (1, imm.) AS (GE). Least Bittern: 31 July (2) AM (DRJ). Blue-winged Teal: last 8 June (1) AS (GE, HF). American Wigeon: last 21 May (1) AS (GW, DL). Hooded Merganser: 19 May (1) Chickamauga Dam (DRJ). Red-breasted Merganser: 18, 24 June (pair, male believed unable to fly) Clinch River, Mile 66.7 (GM). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 7 July (1) JC (Jake Slonaker); 25 July (1) SB (KLD). *BALD EAGLE*: 23 May (1), 9 June (1) NoL (JCH). Osprey: last 30 May (1) AS (DL). American Kestrel: 19 June - end of period (1-2) CH (DRJ).

Rail-Phalarope: King Rail: 7 June (1) AM (DRJ). *COMMON GALLINULE*: 9 June (1) NoL (JCH). American Coot: 26 June (3) NL (DRJ). Semipalmated Plover: 19 May (3) JCo (TK). American Woodcock: 7 June, 12 July (1) AM (DRJ). *COMMON SNIPE*: 10 July (1) AM (GLB, DRJ). Spotted Sandpiper: 26 May (3) CL (JMC, JCH); 16 July (1) AM (GLB). Solitary Sandpiper: 7 July - end of period (1-7) SB, AM (KLD, DRJ). Greater Yellowlegs: 21 July (1) AM (KLD). Lesser Yellowlegs: 21 May (2) AS (DL); 10 July - end of period (1-5) AM (KLD, DRJ). *BAIRD'S SANDPIPER*: 19 May (1) JCo (TK). Least Sandpiper: 10 July - end of period (1-18) AM, HRA (KLD, DRJ). Dunlin: 19 May (1) JCo (TK). Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 8 June (44) AS (GE, HF, RL, DL); 25 July (1) AM (KLD). Western Sandpiper: 19 May (6) JCo (TK); 29 July (1) AM (DRJ). *NORTHERN PHALAROPE*: 16, 17 May (1) AS (MD, SG, DL).

Tern-Thrush: Common Tern: 17 May (2) SB (LD). Black Tern: 17 May (4) SB (LD). Barn Owl: 24, 28 June, 4 July (1) KCo (GM); 27 June (1) NoL (JCH); 7 June, 10 July (1) AM (DRJ); (nest with 3 young) JC (Barney Keefer, et al); 1 July (3 young, banded) SeV (BB, Lee Shafer Family, DRJ). Barred Owl: 27 June (3) NoL (JCH). *WILLOW FLYCATCHER*: one active nest, AS (Gary Foshie); three active nests, Kingsport (Gary Foshie); 23 May, 12 July (1) AM (KLD). Tree Swallow: 4 August (20) Norris (Frances Olson). House Wren: 12 pairs in K area (CPN, BS, et al). Short-billed Marsh Wren: 31 July (1) SB (KLD). Swainson's Thrush: last 24 May (1) K (JBO). Veery: 24 May (1) K (KMS).

Warblers-Sparrows: Swainson's Warbler: 26 May (1) CC (JMC, JCH). Blue-winged Warbler: 1, 8 June (1) Scott Co. (JMC); 11 July (1) LM (GLB). Tennessee Warbler: last 25 May (1) K (EF). Blackburnian Warbler: 19 May (1) LM (GLB). Bay-breasted Warbler: 19 May (1) LM (GLB). Blackpoll Warbler: 25 May (1) K (EF). *CONNECTICUT WARBLER*: 18 May (1, banded) SeV (BB); 19 May (1) Rock Springs, Ga. (Roger Woodruff, GLB, DRJ). Bobolink: 18 May (31) JCo (TK). Northern Oriole: 1 June (1) Scott Co. (JMC); 9 July (2) RCo (JMC). *ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK*: 28 June (1) LM (GLB); 30 June (1) K (BS). Dickcissel: 18 May, 3 June (1) JCo (TK). Grasshopper Sparrow: through season (1) JCo (TK); 6 June (2) Telford (MD, SG). *BACHMAN'S SPARROW*: 18-20 June (1-2) RCo (CPN); 6 July (1) Blount Co. (TK).

Locations: AM—Amnicola Marsh; AS—Austin Springs; CC—Campbell County; CH—Chattanooga; CL—Cove Lake; HRA—Hiwassee River Area; JC—Johnson City; JCo—Jefferson County; K—Knoxville; KCo—Knox County; LM—Lookout Mtn., GA; NL—Nickajack Lake; NoL—Norris Lake; RCo—Roane County; SB—Savannah Bay; SeV—Sequatchie Valley.

Observers: BB—Benton Basham; GLB—Gary L. Bayne; JMC—James M. Campbell; MD—Martha Dillenbeck; KLD—Ken and Lil Dubke; KD—Ken Dubke; LD—Lil Dubke; GE—Glen Eller; EF—Elizabeth French; HF—Harry Farthing; SG—Sally Goodin; JCH—J. C. Howell; DRJ—Daniel R. Jacobson; TK—Tony Koella; RL—Richard Lewis; DL—Dick Lura; GM—Gary Muffly;

CPN—Charles P. Nicholson; JBO—J. B. Owen; KMS—Ken and Mabel Sanders; BS—Boyd Sharp; GW—Gary Wallace.

DANIEL R. JACOBSON, P. O. Box 6, Wildwood, GA 30757.

EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION—The weather for the area was very hot and dry, which was an extreme contrast from the previous period's very wet conditions. May's total rainfall was 5.50 inches with only 1.45 falling during the last half of the month. June's rainfall was almost 1 inch below the average, while July's rainfall total was the lowest in the past 15 years. We had 10 days with temperature over 90° which is very unusual for this area.

One very important observation coming from Roan Mountain this period! Three singing male *MAGNOLIA WARBLERS* (not known to nest in Tenn.) were found apparently on territory during early July. Although no nest could be located this find should prompt more thorough investigation next season. Are we really giving these out-of-the-way places within our area all the attention that is needed?

Loon-Swallows: Common Loon: last seen 20 May (1) Bri (Wallace Coffey and Diane Wilson). Bufflehead: last seen 24 May (2) WibL (RL). Black Vulture: 10 June (2) GSMNP (GJ, MB). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 30 May (1) and 4 July (1) IMG (SG). Cooper's Hawk: 23 May (1) IMG (SG); 4 June (1) RM (TMS). Broad-winged Hawk: 1 active nest on RM produced 2 young (TMS et al). Osprey: last seen 28 May (1) WatR (GE). Lesser Yellowlegs: very late date 8 June (1) St. Johns Pond (GE). Black-billed Cuckoo: period's only sighting 22 June (1) IMG (SG). Barred Owl: 1 June (1) and 15 July (1) IMG (SG); 8 June (1) GSMNP (GJ, MB); 11 July (2) RM (LRH, ES, GE). *WILLOW FLYCATCHER*: 2 active nests in Johnson County found on 28 June and 5 July (Gary Foshie). *OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER*: 22 May (1) IMG (SG, MD); 8 June (1) GSMNP (GJ, MB). Tree Swallow: 7 July (1) RM (LRH, ES).

Chickadee-Sparrow: Black-capped Chickadee: 8 thru 11 June (2-7) GSMNP (GJ, MB). Brown Creeper: 9 June (2) GSMNP (GJ, MB). Prothonotary Warbler: first seen 21 May, last seen 3 July (1 pair) WatR (LRH, GE, GW, DL) no nest located. Swainson's Warbler: 19 May (1) Rock Creek (GW). *BREWSTER'S WARBLER*: 30 May (1) IMG (SG, MD). *MAGNOLIA WARBLER*: 30 June thru 14 July (at least 3 singing males) RM (LRH, ES, FWB, GE, RL, AS). Cerulean Warbler: 21 May (1) WatR (LRH, GW, DL); 9, 10 June (1) GSMNP (GJ, MB). Pine Warbler: 10 June (1 late) GSMNP (GJ, MB). Wilson's Warbler: 24 May (1) Bri (Anna Cantwell). Blue Grosbeak: 27 May (2) Eliz (John Martin); 14 June (1) WatR (GE). Pine Siskin: 30 May (3) ES; 13, 14 June (3-5) ES, TMS; 2 July (1) FWB, all on RM. Red Crossbill: 25 May (15) GSMNP (Larry Gates); 23 June (6-9) GSMNP (Katherine Goodpasture); 11 July (16) RM (LRH, GE); 14 July (12) RM (RL, AS). Grasshopper Sparrow: 17 May (2) near Eliz (LRH, GW, DL). Vesper Sparrow: 31 May (1) RM (ES); 21 June (2) Lake Phillip Nelson (FWB).

Locations: Bri—Bristol, Eliz—Elizabethton, GSMNP—Great Smoky Mtn. National Park, IMG—Iron Mtn. Gap, RM—Roan Mtn., WatR—Watauga River, WibL—Wilber Lake.

Observers: FWB—Fred Behrend, MB—Mike Bierly, MD—Martha Dillenbeck, GE—Glen Eller, SG—Sally Goodin, LRH—Lee Herndon, GJ—Greg Jackson, DL—Dick Lura, RL—Richard Lewis, AS—Alan Smith, ES—Ed Schell, TMS—Tommy and Maxie Swindell, GW—Gary Wallace.

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

BOOK REVIEWS

The third edition of *BIRDS OF THE NASHVILLE AREA* compiled by Henry E. Parmer was published in spring, 1975 and should be an invaluable reference for anyone interested in the birds of the Middle Tennessee area.

Incorporating meticulously kept records by Tennessee Ornithological Society members over a period of many years of reliable observation, the present volume has been updated to include further findings since the publication of the first two editions.

Since there is no book exclusively devoted to the birds of our state of Tennessee currently available, the information on the status of birds, their earliest arrival and latest departure dates, where seen and by whom, even in one area of the state, should be helpful to many birders. The booklet is available at \$1.50 (plus 16¢ postage) to TOS members, \$2 to non-members, Box 1301, Nashville, Tennessee 37203.

CAROL M. KNAUTH

OCEAN WANDERERS/THE MIGRATORY SEA BIRDS OF THE WORLD. 1974. By R. M. Lockley. David & Charles, Newton Abbot, Devon, Great Britain; Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, Pa. 168 pp. \$15.00.—This is a well written book that all bird enthusiasts can enjoy. The author discusses how sea birds have adapted to their demanding environment, gives a brief outline of their natural history and provides maps of their distribution. In addition to the specific coverage of the birds themselves, other topics deal with the evolution and adaptations of sea birds, their behavior, feeding grounds, navigational skills, and the effects of mankind. The book which is full of up-to-date information is well illustrated with eight pages of color photographs, 28 black and white photographs, 22 maps and numerous drawings by Robert Gillmor.

GARY O. WALLACE

PREPARATION OF COPY FOR PUBLICATION

The purpose of THE MIGRANT is the recording of observations and original information derived from the study of birds, primarily in the state of Tennessee or the area immediately adjacent to its borders. Articles for publication originate almost exclusively from T.O.S. members.

Contributors should prepare manuscripts and submit them in a form acceptable to the printer, after editorial approval. Both articles and short notes are solicited but their format should be somewhat different.

Some suggestions to authors for the preparation of papers for publication are given herewith.

MATERIAL: The subject matter should relate to some phase of Tennessee Ornithology. It should be original, factual, concise, scientifically accurate, and not submitted for publication elsewhere.

TITLE: The title should be concise, specific, and descriptive.

STYLE: Recent issues of THE MIGRANT should be used as a guide in the preparation of manuscripts. Where more detail is needed reference should be made to the *Style Manual for Biological Journals* available from the American Institute of Biological Sciences, 3900 Wisconsin Avenue N. W., Washington, D. C. 20016.

COPY: Manuscripts should be typed double spaced on 8½ x 11" paper with adequate margins, for editorial notations, and should contain only entries intended for setting in type, except the serial page number. Tabular data should be entered on separate sheets with appropriate title and column headings. Photographs intended for reproduction should be sharp with good contrast on glossy white paper in black and white (not in color). Instructions to the editors should be given on a separate sheet. Weights and measurements should be in metric units. Dating should be in "continental" form (e.g., 7 March 1968).

NOMENCLATURE: Common names should be capitalized followed by binomial scientific name in italics only after the first occurrence in the text for both regular articles and ROUND TABLE NOTES, and should conform to the A.O.U. Check-list 5th edition, 1957 and its Thirty-second Supplement. Trinomial should be used only after the specimen has been measured or compared with typical specimens.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: When there are more than five references in an article, they should be placed at the end of the article, otherwise they should be appropriately included in the text.

SUMMARY: Articles of five or more pages in length should be summarized briefly, drawing attention to the main conclusions resulting from the work performed.

IDENTIFICATION: Rare or unusual species identification to be acceptable must be accompanied by verifying evidence. This should include: date, time, light and weather conditions, exact location, habitat, optical equipment, distance, behavior of bird, comparison with other similar species, characteristic markings, experience of observer, other observers verifying observation and reference works consulted.

REPRINTS: Reprints are available on request. Reprint requests should accompany article at the time of submission. Billing to authors will be through the state T.O.S. Treasurer.

Books for review and articles for publication should be submitted to the editor. Seasonal reports and items should be forwarded to the appropriate departmental editor whose name and address will be found on the inside front cover.

CONTENTS

INCIDENT OF NEST-SITE RELATED AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR IN THE FLICKER, <i>Colaptes auratus</i> . Philip M. Mathis	73
RED-NECKED GREBE SIGHTED ON CHICKAMAUGA LAKE. Kenneth H. and Lillian H. Dubke	75
BIRD FINDING IN TENNESSEE. Kenneth H. and Lillian Dubke	77
ROUND TABLE NOTES	
Wood Stork Seen in Stewart County. Michael O. Dinsmore	79
Surf Scoters at Savannah Bay, Chattanooga. Lillian H. Dubke	79
Purple Sandpiper Sighting in Sumner County, Tennessee. Paul and Dot Crawford	80
Black-legged Kittiwakes and Laughing Gulls at Chickamauga Dam, Chattanooga, Kenneth H. and Lillian H. Dubke	81
Long-eared Owl in Greene County, Tennessee. Royal Beecher Spees	81
Winter Tree Swallows at Savannah Bay. Kenneth H. Dubke	83
Black-headed Grosbeak in Sumner County, Tennessee. Paul and Dot Crawford	84
THE SEASON. Edited by Fred J. Alsop, III	86
Western Coastal Plain Region. Martha Waldron	87
Central Plateau and Basin Region. Morris D. Williams	88
Eastern Ridge and Valley Region. Daniel R. Jacobson	89
Eastern Mountain Region. Glen D. Eller	91
BOOK REVIEWS	
BIRDS OF THE NASHVILLE AREA. Carol M. Knauth	92
OCEAN WANDERERS/THE MIGRATORY SEA BIRDS OF THE WORLD. Gary O. Wallace	92
Illustration by Fred J. Alsop, III	