

## THE MIGRANT

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# THE MIGRANT

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VOL. 49

#### MARCH, 1978

NO. 1

## SAVANNAH SPARROW (Passerculus sandwichensis) NESTING IN UPPER EAST TENNESSEE

#### FRED J. ALSOP, III

The discovery of the nest and eggs of a Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) on 2 July, 1973, established this species as a breeding summer resident in Tennessee. Not only does the Hawkins County nesting extend the known breeding range of the sparrow more than 200 miles further south, but it changes its previously designated status in Tennessee of migrant and winter visitor considerably.

The presence of Savannah Sparrows in a dry hayfield in June, long after they should have departed for nesting areas north of the State was detected by the author as I sought to locate a nest of the Grasshopper Sparrow (Ammodramus savannarhm) for photographic purposes. On 23 June I was walking through the field and watching the Grasshopper Sparrows make their short erratic flights as I approached them, when I noticed one bird that had flown to a perch on a bordering fence was different from the others. A look through the binoculars showed it to be a Savannah Sparrow. I was most surprised to find the bird here, in East Tennessee, at such a late date and decided it must be a straggler which had been unable to migrate northward. The next day, the 24th, I again saw a Savannah Sparrow in the same field. The bird was also present on the 26, 27, and 28th of June. I was still seeking the Grasshopper's nest on the 29th of June when I flushed the Savannah once more, but this time there were two more with it. From a distance of no more than 75 feet I saw three Savannah Sparrows, all in adult plumage, sitting on the barbed wire fence. By this time I had spent more than 30 man-hours in this field of approximately 70 acres and had seen only a single Savannah and had never heard an individual sing even one song to announce its presence. The same day I found the Grasshopper Sparrow's nest and the Savannahs were temporarily put aside.

On 2 July I walked out to the blind on the Grasshopper's nest following the tracks of my car which I had taken through the field on the 29th to carry the camera equipment to the nest site. A sparrow flushed from beneath my feet and flew to a nearby perch. It was an adult Savannah. A short search in the grass near my feet produced a nest holding three eggs. The bird had been incubating on the nest which lay squarely between the 4'6" track of my car! The incubating bird and eggs were present the next two days, 3 and 4 July. On 7 July there were three young birds in the nest that looked to be two to three days old. I set up a photographic blind eight feet from the nest was similarly

watched and photographed the next day. On both days only one adult was seen to be feeding the nestlings. That this was, indeed, the case was denoted by the physical appearance of the bird, the rather long time between feedings, and that though many hours were spent near the nest I never detected two birds simul-



Savannah Sparrow, photographed 7 July 1973, Hawkins Co., Tenn. by Fred J. Alsop, III, at its nest with three young — 3 days old. First known nesting record for Tennessee.

taneously. Tom Bowman, a Bays Mountain Park naturalist, and I banded the nestlings on 10 July (bands # 56-360, . . 25, and . . 27). On 17 July the nest was empty, but an adult Savannah Sparrow perched in open view and "scolded" me when I walked 50 feet east of the nest. I spent approximately 20 minutes looking for the young fledglings without success with the adult chipping at me the while. I repeated the efforts to find some trace of the young birds on the next day, but again, only found and was chipped at by the adult. On 21 July I located the adult, which again began chipping, and this time I flushed a short-tailed young Savannah Sparrow. The fledgling was put to flight three times, each trip carrying it 60 to 100 feet. The band on the leg could be clearly seen. In the entire period of over 90 man-hours spent in the field with the two sparrow species and hearing hundreds of songs of the Grasshopper Sparrow and other grassland species, at no time did I detect a single song of the Savannah Sparrow.

The nest was on the ground and well concealed by a cover of grasses approximately 10-12 inches high. It was of poor construction being built of loosely interwoven grasses and lined with fine grass. The nest was four inches in diameter and the cup measured 1½ inches deep. The major cover species around the nest and in the field was Orchard Grass (*Dactylis glomerata L.*). Additional surrounding vegetation included: Wild Stonecrop (*Sedum ternatum*), Canadian Burnet (*Sanguisorba canadensis*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*), Horse-nettle (*Solanum carolinense*), and Creeping Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis corniculata*). Other passerine species nesting in the same field were the Grasshopper Sparrows already mentioned, Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) and Eastern Meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*).

Geographically, the nest was located E. 82°42′45″ and N. 36°30′30″ in Hawkins County, Tennessee, on McPheeters Bend south of the Holston River. The property belongs to L. J. Blankenbecler of Kingsport, and lies approximately 1.5 air miles south of Church Hill, Tennessee (9 air miles WSW of Kingsport). The nest was in a hayfield 400 feet west of Goshen Creek and 800 feet north of River Road at an elevation of 1150 feet. The Holston River bounds the field on the north.

The A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds, Fifth Edition (1957) gives the southernmost breeding limit of Passerculus sandwichensis savanna (Wilson) as ". . . south to northwestern and central Ohio (Toledo; rarely Columbus), West Virginia (Maxwelton), western Maryland (Accident). . . ." The Check-list is obviously out-of-date as the following accounts will indicate. Chandler Robbins (personal communication) says, "Our Breeding Bird Survey (1970) shows the species as regular in Garrett County, Maryland, and there is also one spot in the Hagerstown Valley of Washington County that regularly picks up a few individuals of this species at an elevation of 620 feet . . . as a result of intensive field work we have found that the Savannah Sparrow nests regularly at higher elevations in both Montgomery and Howard County." George A. Hall (personal communication) states he has summer records for the bird as far south as Nicholas and Greenbrier Counties in West Virginia, but he has no nests for these (Maxwelton is in the latter county). "The southernmost actual nest that I (Hall) have record of is in northern Pocahonaas County. This would appear to be about 250 airline miles NE of Bristol." Burt Monroe, Jr. (personal communication) gives the following information about the bird in Kentucky, "Although no nests yet found, Savannah is now widely distributed in summer in parts of Oldham and eastern Jefferson counties near Louisville and considered as a regular summer breeder now." Fred R. Scott (personal communication) reports that the first nesting record for the species in Virginia was found two weeks before mine on 16 June 1973 in Highland County. The nest, found by Robert L. Ake, his son John, and Wavell Fogleman, contained four young ready to fledge. The Virginia site is approximately 200 airline miles northeast of the Hawkins County, Tennessee site.

In an additional note regarding the status of the bird in Maryland, Robbins, with reference to Montgomery and Howard Counties, says, "... this bird is well established in these counties at elevations of 500 feet and more; there are also a few records in western Montgomery County down to 320 feet elevation. If we apply the rule that 200 feet difference in elevation is equivalent to 1 degree of latitude, we would expect Savannah Sparrows to nest in suitable habitat in eastern Tennessee at elevations of 1000 feet or more. Your bird is probably in the 1200 to 1400 foot range and so would fall within the expected elevation. Accordingly, I would expect that further field work in the Kingsport area would show Savannah Sparrows to be much more widespread there than your single first nest would suggest."

My own field experience, heretofore, with Savannah Sparrows in Tennessee had indicated what others had said of its status in the State was correct; it is regarded as a migrant and a winter visitor. This status is reflected in the following citations: G. R. Mayfield (1931) October-April; open fields, grassy fields, and damp cut-over meadows. A. F. Ganier (1933) abundant to common transient; common to fairly common winter resident. B. P. Tyler and R. B. Lyle (1933) rather rare winter resident; found in open country. B. P. Tyler and R. B. Lyle (1934) no record for the species in the summer within the 30 mile radius of Johnson City covered by their paper. L. R. Herndon (1950) fairly common spring and fall migrant, 14 March-13 May and 21 Sept.-13 Nov. J. B. White (1956) uncommon migrant. J. C. Howell and M. Monroe (1957) winter resident, 16 Sept.-20 May. A. Stupka (1963) uncommon spring and fall transient; uncommon winter resident. H. E. Parmer (1970) winter resident; fairly common in migration; uncommon to sometimes rare in winter; 4 Sept. (28 Sept.-8 May) 28 May. Most birds will still be found in Tennessee during the periods listed above, but what is the real status and scope of the population that may be nesting in Upper East Tennessee?

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#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My appreciation is extended to George Hall, Burt Monroe, Chandler Robbins, and Fred Scott for giving me up-to-date information on the status of the Savannah Sparrow in their states. My thanks also to John Warden, E.T.S.U. Biology Dept., for his help in the identification of the vegetation listed in this note.

Department of Biology, Kingsport University Center, East Tennessee State University, University Ave., Kingsport 37660. Accepted 8 Nov. 1976.

#### THE 1977 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

#### RICHARD D. LURA

The twenty counts across the state this year produced 138 species, tying the 1971 count. The species seen this year provide a wide spectrum of bird life, ranging from such northern species as White-winged Crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks, and Tree Sparrows to the White-eyed Vireo, which is making its first appearance on a Christmas Count. Details of the observation are in the files of the editor. The Carolina Wren and Eastern Phoebe populations, which were down 40 percent according to the 1977 Spring Counts, are virtually at their previous Christmas Count numbers.

As is the custom, the counts are tabulated from west to east across the state.

#### INFORMATION OF THE COUNTS

MEMPHIS—18 Dec.; 06:45 to 17:00; clear; temp. 43 to  $63^{\circ}$ ; wind SW, 5-15 mph; 29 observers in 12 parties; 102 party hours (84 on foot, 18 by car); 164 party miles (63 on foot, 101 by car).

John T. Bingham, David R. Brown, Richard Caldwell, Fred T. Carney, Mrs. Ed Carpenter, Greg Charbonnet, Ben B. Coffey, Jr. (compiler—672 North Belvedere, Memphis 38107), Lula Coffey, Julian Darlington, Mary Davant, Fred Dickson, Helen Dinkelspiel, John H. Embury, Wm. B. Fowler, Jr., Skip Fowler, Russell A. Jones, Allan R. Larrabee, W. C. McDaniel, George Payne, Jr., Ernest Restive, Alice Smith, Arlo Smith, Noreen Smith, Richard Taylor, Howard H. Vogel, Jr., Martha Waldron, Wendell L. Whittemore, W. Rowlett Whittemore, Richard L. Whittington.

Six of the Snow Geese were of the Blue form. One of the Red-tailed Hawks was of the "Harlan's" race.

REELFOOT—23 Dec.; 05:30 to 16:30; mostly cloudy, temp. 31 to  $43^{\circ}$ ; wind SW, 10-20 mph; 11 observers in 5 parties; 46 party hours (21 on foot, 25 by car); 348 party miles (38 on foot, 309 by car).

Ben Coffey, Lula Coffey, Guy Hogg, James Holt, Don Manning (compiler-103 Stonewall Circle, McKenzie 38201), George Payne, David Pitts, Charles Rollins, Alice Smith, Arlo Smith, Noreen Smith.

The Golden Eagle was an immature. Thirty-eight of the Bald Eagles were immatures. The White-eyed Vireo was seen by David Pitts.

DOVER—Dec.; 06:30 to 14:30; clear; wind 15-30 mph; 4 observers in 1 party; 68 party miles (1 on foot, 67 by car).

Collier Goodlett, Dianne Sexton, John Sexton (compiler—Route 1, Dover 37058), Gary Wallace.

The Bald Eagle was an adult.

## THE 1977 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

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CLARKSVILLE—31 Dec.; 06:30 to 16:30; cloudy; temp. 30 to 44°; wind S, 4-10 mph; 20 observers in 5 parties;  $44\frac{1}{2}$  party hours ( $19\frac{1}{2}$  on foot, 25 by car); 396 party miles (53 on foot, 343 by car).

Joe Allen, Bill Blakeslee, David Chiles, Adney Cross, Mike Filson (compiler—1671 Paradise Road, Clarksville 37040), Scott Gunn, Jerold Harris, Peggy Knight, R. H. McCoy, Bill Milliken, Gloria Milliken, Beverly Mock, Lee Parrish, Dee Plunkett, John Quick, Debbie Roberts, Kathy Robertson, Rodger Selvidge, Mary Ann Stevens, Barbara Wilbur.

COLUMBIA-26 Dec.; 06:00 to 18:00; clear; temp.  $15-35^{\circ}$ ; wind NW, 0-10 mph; 9 observers in 4 parties plus 3 at feeders;  $24\frac{1}{2}$  party hours ( $15\frac{1}{2}$  on foot, 8 by car, 1 by plane);  $274\frac{1}{2}$  party miles ( $14\frac{1}{2}$  on foot, 180 by car, 80 by plane).

Ed Byassee, Dan Gray, Jr., Mary Ann Guschke, Tommie Guschke, Anne Lochridge, Bedford Lochridge, George Mayfield, Jr. (compiler—999 Sunnyside Drive, Columbia 38401), Rad Mayfield, Allen Pressnell, Jane Satterwhile.

Seen in count period: Peregrine Falcon and Cedar Waxwing.

NASHVILLE—26 Dec.; 04:45 to 17:30; clear; temp. 15 to 33°; wind W, 5-10 mph; 49 observers in 8 parties plus 16 at feeders; 103 party hours (47 on foot, 56 by car); plus 16 at feeders; 389 party miles (43 on foot, 346 by car).

B. H. Abernathy, Francis Abernathy, Billy Anderson, Clyde Anderson, Vivian Anderson, Jean Anderson, Mildred Ansley, Michael Bierly (compiler-2415 Crestnoor Road, Nashville 37215), Jean Cobb, Elizabeth Collins, Bonnie Coplin, Annella Creech, Milbrey Dugger, Evelyn Ellis, John Ellis, Lucy Finch, Combs Fort, J. P. Foster, Katherine Goodpasture, Thomas Harston, Johnny Herbert, Oliver Lang, Adene Lyon, Margaret Mann, Tim Mann, Jane Maynard, Helen McLaughlin, Joe McLaughlin, John McLaughlin, Toni McLaughlin, Rocky Milburn, David Newton, Marge Patrick, Oscar Patrick, Dick Porter, Virginia Price, Elizabeth Queener, Heather Riggins, John Riggins, Edward Seymour, Win Schaughnessy, Helen Sterling, Ellen Stringer, Anna Sulser, Becky Talbot, Ann Tarbell, David Vogt, Kenneth Walkup, Sarah Walkup.

HICKORY-PRIEST—17 Dec.; 06:00 to 16:00; intermittent light rain; temp. 50-57°; wind S-SE, 7-20 mph; 22 observers, 20 in six parties plus 2 at feeders; 61 party hours (22 on foot, 39 by car); 236 party miles (22 on foot, 214 by car).

Frances Abernathy, Michael Bierly, Bill Blakeslee, Annela Creech, Milbrey Dugger, Tom Harston, Louise Jackson, Carol Knauth, Lee Kramer, Oliver Lang, Margaret Mann, Rocky Milburn, Dick Newton, Marge Patrick, Oscar Patrick, Betty Richards, Kathy Robertson, Steve Schon, Pat Stallings (compiler—406 N. 17 Street, Nashville 37206), Ann Tarbell, David Vogt.

MURFREESBORO—18 Dec.; clear; temp. 40-50°; Anne Hettish (compiler— 1018 Lawndale Drive, Murfreesboro 37130).

Summer Tanager seen by many observers.

LEBANON-17 Dec.; 00:05 to 18:30; overcast and rain; temp. 51-60°; wind SW, 5-15 mph; seventeen observers, 7 in six parties, plus 10 at feeders;

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 $35\frac{1}{2}$  party hours (16 on foot,  $19\frac{1}{2}$  by car); 330 party miles (20 on foot, 310 by car).

Corrine Bane, Earline Berry, Marjorie Loyd, Gwendolyn McFarland, Ruth McMillan, Doug Pelren, Ray Pope, Fran Sellars, John Sellars, William Senter (compiler—313 West Hills Drive, Lebanon 37087), Sue Smith, Ed Tanner, Christine Teasley, Tressa Walters, Mrs. Wm. Welty.

Two "gull sp" were inadvertantly left off the tabulation. A Merlin was deleted due to inconclusive details. Seen in count period: Common Snipe, American Woodcock, Pine Siskin.

HIGHLAND RIM—30 Dec.; 08:00 to 17:00; intermittent rain; temp. 35 to 40°; wind E, 5 mph; 22 observers, 20 in five parties, plus 2 at feeders; 40 party hours; 320 party miles.

Debra Acuff, Virginia Angstadt, Carroll Barr, Stan Barr, Becky Bingham, Ron Bingham, Tracy Edwards, Trent Edwards, Marjory Harper (compiler— 305 Crestwood Drive, Tullahoma 37388), Mark Ilgner, Glenn King, Tom Luckadoo, Ruth Luckadoo, Dianne Madewell, Nickey Medley, Sanford McGee, Anna Parker, Jean Styke, Quincy Styke, Mary Beth Swiney, Heinrich Ramm, Ruth Ramm, Violette Wakeland.

COOKEVILLE-30 Dec.; rain; temp. 40"; 13 observers.

Mary Barbour, Kathryn Coward, Sam Coward (compiler—Box 118, Algood 38501), Glen Crawford, Mrs. Glen Crawford, Amy Johnson, Bill Jones, Pat Sullivan, Roy Sullivan, Carrel Warren, Marie White, Fanny Whitlow, Florence Williams.

CHATTANOOGA—18 Dec.; 05:00 to 22:30; clear to partly cloudy; temp. 38 to 57°; wind S-SW, 0-20 mph; 20 observers in 10 parties, plus 6 at feeders;  $65\frac{1}{2}$  party hours (39 on foot,  $26\frac{1}{2}$  by car), plus 16 at feeders;  $466\frac{1}{2}$  party miles (32 $\frac{1}{2}$  on foot, 434 by car).

Betty Anderson, Lloyd Anderson, Frances Barnwell, Benton Basham, Peggy Basham, Chris Bayne, Gary Bayne, Dovie Bullard, Wilbur Butts, Ken Dubke, Lil Dubke, Jack Freeman, Paul Freeman, Anne Gibson, Bill Hampton, Susie Hooper, Daniel Jacobson (compiler—Route 1, Box 477, Wildwood, Ga. 30757), Lemuel Jacobson, Janet Phillips, Henry Sliger, Veta Sliger, Jo Stone, Mary Tunsberg, Bruce Wilkey, Dick Wodzenski, Roger Woodruff.

A Purple Gallinule was deleted due to inconclusive details. Seen in count period: Chipping Sparrow.

HIWASSEE—I Jan.; 06:00 to 18:00; overcast; temp. 44 to  $48^{\circ}$ ; wind W, 0-15 mph; 15 observers in 5 parties;  $41\frac{1}{2}$  party hours ( $31\frac{1}{2}$  on foot, 7 by car, 3 by boat); 283 party miles (26 on foot, 233 by car, 24 by boat).

Betty Anderson, Lloyd Anderson, Benton Basham, Peggy Basham, Russell Brown, Ken Dubke, Lil Dubke, Tony Futcher, Chris Haney, Daniel Jacobson (compiler—Route 1, Box 477, Wildwood, Ga. 30757), Janet Phillips, Jo Stone, Morgan Tudor, Bruce Wilkey, Dick Wodzenski. KNOXVILLE—18 Dec.; 05:15 to 17:45; clear to cloudy; temp. 39 to  $55^{\circ}$ ; wind 5-10 mph; 21 observers in 10 parties; 84 party hours (55 on foot, 29 by car); 573 party miles (45 on foot, 528 by car).

Charles Ames, Lena Brattsten, Howard Chitwood, Mary Ann Handel, Nona Hinkle, Ross Hinkle, J. C. Howell, Morton Massey, Terry McGown, Iris Moeller, Tom Montie, Gary Muffley, Betsy Ann Murphy, Holly Overton, Paul Pardue, Kenneth Sanders, Mabel Sanders, Boyd Sharp, Michael Sloan, Alan Smith, James Tanner (compiler—Route 28, Box 155, Knoxville 37920).

White-winged Scoter was seen by J. C. Howell, Morton Massey and Gary Muffley. The Prairie Warbler was seen by Holly Overton.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK—1 Jan.; 00:15 to 16:00; overcast with intermittent rain; temp. 31 to 47°; wind variable, 1-25 mph; 48 observers in 19 parties; 152.7 party hours (97.9 on foot, 54.8 by car); 715.7 party miles (116.8 on foot, 598.9 by car).

Charles Ames, Bert Buss, Nanci Buss, Jim Campbell, Howard Chitwood, Maridaun Collins, Don DeFoe (compiler—Rt. 2, Gatlinburg 37738), Linda Duley, Elizabeth French, Katherine Foster, Brice Gilmer, Maurice Grigsby, Mary Ann Handel, Nona Hinkle, Ross Hinkle, Betty Reid Hinton, Bill Kappa, Clint Kellner, Madeline Kellner, Tom Laughlin, Henry Lix, Suzy Lix, George Mc-Gown, Terry McGown, Alison McNutt, Bill McNutt, Gary Muffley, Charles Nicholson, Louise Nunnally, Jane Orleans, Holly Overton, J. B. Owens, Paul Pardue, Truett Patterson, Rick Phillips, Lawrence Ritchie, Mrs. Lawrence Ritchie, Boyd Sharp, Mary Jane Sharp, Bill Simpson, Mary Simpson, Michael Sloan, Lillian Smathers, Alan Smith, Johneta Smith, Louise Smith, James Tanner, George Wood.

GREENEVILLE—28 Dec.; 07:00 to 17:45; cloudy, temp. 7 to 30°; wind 0-5 mph; 7 observers in 4 parties; 40 party hours (4 on foot, 36 by car).

Mrs. O. C. Armitage, King Gaut, Mrs. King Gaut, Richard Nevius (compiler-Rt. 6, Greeneville 37743). Mrs. Richard Nevius, Royal Spees, Mrs. Royal Spees.

Seen in count period: Pine Siskin and House Finch.

KINGSPORT—17 Dec.; 01:00 to 17:00; partly cloudy; temp. 34 to 60°; wind calm; 16 observers in 11 parties; 77 party hours (61 on foot, 8 by car, 8 by boat); 171 party miles (50 on foot, 107 by car, 14 by boat).

Tom Bowman (compiler—Bays Mt. Park, Route 4, Kingsport 37660), Devonda Eikler, Charles Finucane, Tom Finucane, Hayden Hannabass, Gary Hartman, Lynn Haynes, Bill Kappa, Tom Laughlin, Betsy Oglesby, Frank Oglesby, Rick Phillips, Jim Price, Eugene Scott, Arthur Smith, Ann Switzer.

White-fronted Geese (4) were deleted due to a large number of domesticated geese in the area.

ELIZABETHTON—17 Dec.; 05:15 to 17:30; partly cloudy, temp. 39 to 65°; wind N-NE, 0-15 mph; 16 observers in 6 parties; 60 party hours (33 on foot, 27 by car); 324 party miles (16 on foot, 308 by car).

Helenhill Dove, Martha Dillenbeck, Glen Eller (compiler—Rt. 3, Elizabethton 37643), Harry Farthing, Sally Goodin, Lee Herndon, Rick Knight, Joy Kyle, Richard Lewis, Vickie Lewis, Dick Lura, John Martin, Ed Schell, Glenn Swafford, Gary Wallace, Jane Whitehead.

Oldsquaw seen by Glen Eller and Harry Farthing. Solitary Vireo seen by Dick Lura, Rick Knight and Gary Wallace.

BRISTOL—31 Dec.; 07:00 to 17:30; overcast; temp. 38-42°; wind NW, 4 mph; 19 observers in 6 parties and 2 at feeders; 56 party hours (6 on foot, 44 by car, 4 by boat, 2 at feeders); 209 party miles (11 on foot, 176 by car, 22 by boat).

Judy Abbott, Sally Bachman, Rockwell Bingham (compiler—216 Melody Lane, Bristol 37620), Rosemary Bingham, Edward W. Burke, Jr., J. Wallace Coffey, Bert Hale, Mrs. Bert Hale, Ken Hale, Joe Jackson, Bill Miner, Paul Nastatka, Conrad Ottenfeld, Mike Southard, Nancy Southard, Becky Southerland, James Sutherland.

ROAN MOUNTAIN—2 Jan.; 07:45 to 16:30; cloudy with light snow; temp. 6 to  $22^{\circ}$ ; 7 observers in 3 parties; 20 party hours (11 on foot, 9 by car); 69 party miles (9 on foot, 60 by car).

Glen Eller (compiler—Rt. 3, Elizabethton 37643), Lee Herndon, Rick Knight, Richard Lewis, Vickie Lewis, Dick Lura, Ed Schell.

The Bald Eagle (adult) was seen by Ed Schell, Richard and Vickie Lewis. The White-winged Crossbills were seen by Dick Lura and Rick Knight.

\* \* \* \* \*

## TWELFTH ANNUAL TOS FALL SYMPOSIUM

#### 20-22 OCTOBER, 1978

#### FAIRFIELD GLADE

Fifty rooms have been reserved until 15 September. Each room has two double beds. Be sure to indicate that you are with TOS. Fairfield Glade is located six miles off I-40 at Crossville, TN. The address is P. O. Box 1500, Fairfield Glade, TN 38555 (ph. 615—484-7521 or in Tennessee call toll free 1-800-262-6702). For more details contact George R. Mayfield, Jr., Maury County Hospital, Columbia, TN 38401 or David Pitts, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN 38238.

## MINUTES OF THE 1977 SYMPOSIUM AND FALL MEETING

The Eleventh Annual Symposium and Fall Meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society was held 30 September and 1-2 October at Natchez Trace State Park.

The Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. on 1 October 1977 by the President, Kenneth Dubke.

The Minutes of the 1977 Spring Meeting were read by the Secretary and approved with one addition and one correction. The name Don Harris which appeared in the report of the Conservation Committee was corrected to read Don Hammer. It was incorporated in the Minutes that discussions were held with respect to the printing of a Species List for *The Migrant*.

#### REPORTS OF OFFICERS

There were no reports from the Vice Presidents of East and West Tennessee.

Sanford McGee, Vice President for Middle Tennessee, reported that the Highland Rim Chapter had been working with the Sewanee Environmental Group and other groups to insure protection for Goose Pond Marsh. Ken Dubke suggested that the Chapter work with Dr. Mayfield and the rest of the Conservation Committee so as to keep them up to date. Sanford further reported that the heron rookery at Sinking Pond was secure because the proposed airport had been rejected and would be built either in Tullahoma or Manchester instead. He urged the Chapters in Middle Tennessee to work toward improving communications so that more members in the area could be made aware of news items and events of interest. He suggested an exchange of newsletters to facilitate the process.

There was no report from the Secretary.

The Treasurer, Ray Jordan, reported that the balance in the checking account stood at one thousand thirty-five dollars. He noted that until dues were received, that balance would likely be depleted owing to printing costs for two issues of *The Migrant* of about five hundred dollars each. He noted that there would also be another small printing bill in addition. Ben Coffey expressed concern that there would be insufficient funding available for the printing of all 1977 *Migrants* without using revenue from 1978 dues. Ken Dubke stated that funds held in a savings account for general operating expenses were also available to cover the cost of *The Migrant*. He noted that, taken together, the checking and savings balances added up to two thousand five hundred dollars. Mr. Jordan also noted that some dues monies were outstanding from some chapters and he urged that they be sent in as soon as possible.

The Editor of *The Migrant*, Gary Wallace, sent regrets for not being able to attend.

"The Season" editor, Fred Alsop, reported that it was incumbent upon everyone to submit all records and season reports to the regional compilers so that they could, in turn, send their reports to him. Only in this way, he stated, could his reports to Gary Wallace be received on time and in polished form. He reminded all present that the regional compilers were listed in *The Migrant* as well as the time periods during which reports should be assembled. He praised regular contributors and urged everyone to send in any useful information which they could contribute.

There was no report from the State Count Compiler, Dick Lura.

The Curator, James T. Tanner, reported that he had received orders for three complete sets of *The Migrant*. He noted that individual copies of backissues of *The Migrant* would cost one dollar except for photocopies of issues no longer in print which would cost a dollar and fifty cents. The cost for a full set was reported at about two hundred dollars. He closed by stating that the supply was adequate to meet projected demand.

There were no reports from the Directors-At-Large.

#### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

There was no report from the Finance Committee.

George Mayfield, Chairman of the Conservation Committee, offered two resolutions for consideration. Resolution number 77-2, concerning TOS opposition to channelization in the Obion and Forked Deer Rivers, was read. Dr. Mayfield moved that the resolution be adopted and forwarded to proper authorities. Ben Coffey seconded the motion and it was carried. Dr. Mayfield then read resolution 77-3 expressing strong TOS support for the development of an adequate Non-Game Wildlife Management Program within the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. He moved that the resolution be adopted. Motion was seconded by Fred Alsop. Motion was carried.

John Sellars detailed the strong support and significant contribution of funds made in behalf of a Non-Game Program by the Lebanon Chapter. He urged widespread support throughout the TOS.

Ken Dubke noted the standing support of TOS for legislation establishing federal matching funds for state-level programs of non-game management and research. He also noted that TOS had joined a national coalition of conservation organizations in support of non-game legislation and had written to Congressman Robert Leggett to express our views.

Foray Chairman, Daniel Jacobson, recommended that, in many cases, it was not going to be feasible to conduct two-county forays because of an insufficient number of participants. George Mayfield moved that, in the future, the individual foray directors be given responsibility for determining the areal coverage and making sure there would be enough participants for two-county forays. Motion was seconded by Sanford McGee. Motion was carried. Ben Coffey urged that breeding bird counts be standardized in the foray areas and run consistently. He further urged that any routes recognized by the Fish and Wildlife Service be run. Daniel asked for help and suggestions on improving forays in the future. There was no report from the Certification Committee and the Nominating Committee.

#### REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

William Senter, Chairman of the Dixon Merritt Memorial Committee, was not present. John Sellars reported that he had talked to Mr. Walker from the State Parks and that invitations-to-bid on the placing of the final plaque had been issued.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Ken Dubke and Ray Jordan explained that Morris Williams had completed a Species Index to *The Migrant*. They further explained that Morris had paid for the printing of the index (500 copies) out of his own pocket. Ben Coffey suggested a price of one dollar and fifty cents per copy. Ken and Ray jointly moved that Morris be reimbursed the cost of printing the index, since it was to be a special publication of TOS, and that the price be set at one dollar and fifty cents per copy. Motion was seconded by Sanford McGee. Motion was carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Ken and Lil announced that the Eagle-Osprey Conservation folders were available and that, of the one hundred dollars alloted for their printing, only twenty dollars had been required for the first 1000 copies. Members were urged to take and distribute the folders to aid in TOS efforts to educate the public and increase non-game awareness.

A motion for adjournment was made and carried at 12:30 p.m.

R. BRUCE WILKEY, Secretary

#### BOOK REVIEW

A GUIDE TO BIRD-WATCHING IN EUROPE. Edited by James Ferguson-Lees, Quentin Hockliffe, and Ko Zweeres. 1976. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 335 p. \$9.95. Prepared by 19 well-known ornithologists of the countries covered, the information, though sometimes brief, consists of accurate summaries of the good birding spots. This is not a book to aid in the identification of a particular species but a guide to finding each species in Europe. Not every country is covered. Russia, for example, is omitted entirely. One third of the book is devoted to the British Isles and Scandinavia. Each chapter has a map showing the principal regions of ornithological interest and places specifically mentioned in the text. It tells where and when to look for unusual species, the location of nature reserves and lists the major conservation organizations. At the back of the book, a unique series of tables shows the status of the 432 species that can be seen in the European countries covered. This book is recommended for any birder traveling in Europe.

GARY O. WALLACE

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#### THE SEASON

#### FRED J. ALSOP, III, Editor



FALL MIGRATION: 1 AUGUST - 31 OCTOBER

This "Season" report must begin with our thanks to David Pitts for a job well done as regional compiler for the Central Plateau and Basin Region and a hardy welcome to Michael Lee Bierly who once again assumes that position's tasks with this issue's report.

The season was a wet one, but through the rains of Fall came the vanguards of several boreal species and the promise of a good "finch" winter. Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported in all regions of the State and their numbers expressed as "invasions" in all but the Western Coastal Plain Region. Purple Finches arrived early and in good numbers and along with Pine Siskins were observed in all regions of Tennessee. Evening Grosbeaks have been scarce for the past two winters, but are listed in this report from all regions except the Western Coastal Plain.

The summer's "explosion" of White Ibis into Tennessee continued into the Fall with the species observed in 4 locations in the Eastern Ridge and Valley where some birds lingered for weeks, and with the occurrence of 2 birds near Lebanon in the Central Plateau and Basin. At least 9 Double-crested Cormorants spent some time in the two central regions. Cattle Egrets and 1 to 2 Snowy Egrets were seen in the Eastern Ridge and Valley where a Common Gallinule was also found in Kingsport. Some of the most exciting finds of the season were birds associated with water environments and in addition to those cited above, included several waterfowl and shorebird species. The "rarer" scoter species for Tennessee were found in three regions with a Black (Common) Scoter in the Central Plateau and Basin and 3 at Blythe Ferry in the Eastern Ridge and Valley. A Surf Scoter was observed on Wilbur Lake in the Eastern Mountain Region. Piping Plovers were found in all regions but the Eastern Mountain, Buff-breasted Sandpipers and Wilson's Phalaropes were seen in the two central regions, and Ruddy Turnstones were flipping rocks on Pace Point in the Western Coastal Plain. A White Pelican was observed by many near Hiwassee Island. Caspian Terns were reported from all regions but the Central Plateau and Basin and the Least Terns seen near Johnson City are a most unusual record for East Tennessee.

There are many records of observations of birds of prey within this report but three merit special note. A Peregrine Falcon was seen in the Central Plateau and Basin and an injured Short-eared Owl was picked up south of Shelbyville in that region in late October. Of unusual interest is the sighting of an adult Goshawk, seen perched, in the spruce-fir forests on Roan Mountain in late August. This is a very early date for a migrant and if considered with the late summer and early fall records of the 1970's from Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Roan Creek area of Watauga Lake causes at least this one birder to wonder if there might not be a small resident population in the rugged and little birded Eastern Mountain Region.

Olive-sided Flycatchers were found in the two easternmost regions, as were Lincoln's Sparrows. Philadelphia Vireos were reported from all regions except the Central Plateau and Basin where a Lark Sparrow was found and 14 Yellowbellied Flycatchers were trapped and banded. Other unusual songbird sightings include a Black-throated Blue Warbler from the Western Coastal Plain and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow in the Eastern Ridge and Valley near Johnson City.

One introduced species had local birders reaching for their binoculars and reference books when a Monk Parakeet was discovered on the University of Tennessee Plant Science Farm just south of Knoxville. The single bird was seen for several days before it disappeared and is thought to constitute the second record for the species for Tennessee. Three birds of this species are known to have escaped from a vender in Frankfort, Kentucky (where possession is illegal) several weeks prior to the Knoxville sighting. These are but a few of the many records contained within the Fall Migration Season regional reports that follow. Thanks for your contribution.

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION—Natchez Trace State Park, the site of the Fall State T.O.S. meeting produced an interesting bird for the West Tennessee area. Dr. George Mayfield found a *Black-throated Blue Warbler*, the result of a "tower-kill." This is the second record for West Tennessee as recorded in *The Migrant*.

Hawk-Pipit: Sharp-shinned Hawk: 20 Sep (1) SFSP (LCC, HBD), 2 Oct (1) I-40 and Old Mercer Rd. (Havwood Co.) (LCC), 30 Oct (1) SFSP (GC, WCM). PIPING PLOVER: 3 Sep (1) PP (MPS, DRJ), 6 Sep (1) PP (MPS, DRJ). RUDDY TURNSTONE: 10 Sep (4) PP (MPS, DRJ, BR, TM). Baird's Sandpiper: 6 Sep (1) PP (MPS, DRJ). Western Sandpiper: 3 Sep (6) PP (DRJ, MPS), 4 Sep (2) Island 13 (MPS, DRJ), 6 Sep (3) PP (MPS, DRJ). 10 Oct (1) PP (DRJ). Stilt Sandpiper: 20 Aug (1) Hopefield, TN/ ARK (IGH). Sanderling: 3 Sep (7) PP (MPS, DRJ); 6 Sep (5) PP (MPS, DRJ); 10 Sep (18) PP (MPS, DRJ, BR, TM); 2 Oct (7) PP (DRJ). Caspian Tern: 3 Aug (3) WNWR (BBC, MM), 20 Aug (3) Hopefield, TN/ARK (JGH), 2 Oct (10-12) PP (TOS-FJA). Common Tern: 2 Oct (1) PP (DRJ). Black-billed Cuckoo: 17 Oct (1) TWA (WGC), 27 Oct (1) Bridgetown, MS (8 mi South of Memphis), (LCC). Least Flycatcher: 7 Oct (1) M (LCC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 20 Sep (1) M (SF). House Wren: 9 Oct (1) M (BBC), Gray Catbird: 27 Oct (1 banded) M (BBC), 30 Oct (1) SFSP (AS). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 Oct (3) NTSP (TOS). Water Pipit: 2 Oct (5) PP (DRJ).

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Vireo-Sparrow: PHILADELPHIA VIREO: 18 Sep (2) SFSP (HSD, HBD, MW), 20 Sep (7) SFSP (LCC, HBD). Tennessee Warbler: 30 Oct (8) SFSP (LCC, MCTOS). Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 Oct (1) NTSP (GM); 2 Oct (10) PP (DRJ). BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: 2 Oct (1) tower kill, NTSP (GM). Black-throated Green Warbler: 28 Oct (1) M (BBC), 30 Oct (1) SFSP (LCC), 1 Nov (1) M (LCC). Mourning Warbler: 7 Oct (1) M (LCC). Wilson's Warbler: 28 Oct (1) M (BBC). Ovenbird: 17 Sept (1) M (HBD). Indigo Bunting: 28 Oct (2) M (SF). Purple Finch: 30 Oct (11) SFSP (HBD, SF, MW). Pine Siskin: 30 Oct (31) SFSP (HBD, SF, MW). Song Sparrow: 9 Oct (1) M (SF).

Locations: Hopefield—west of Mississippi River, due west of downtown Memphis; Island 13, Mississippi River, Lake County; M—Memphis; NTSP— Natchez Trace State Park; PP—Pace Point; SFSP—Shelby Forest State Park; TWA—Tigrett Wildlife Area, Dyer County; WNWR—Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge, Turrell, Ark.

Observers: BBC—Ben B. Coffey, Jr.; GC—Greg Charbonnet; WGS—W. Glen Criswell; LCC—Lula Coffey; HBD—Helen B. Dinkelspiel; HSD—Henry S. Dinkelspiel; SF—Sue Ferguson; JGH—James G. Holt; DRJ—Daniel Jacobson; TM—Tim Mann; GM—George Mayfield, Jr.; MM—Matthew McCarthy; WCM—W. C. McDaniel; BR—Betty Richards; AS—Alice Smith; TOS—Tennessee Ornithological Society; MPS—Pat Stallings; MW—Martha Waldron.

MARTHA WALDRON, 1626 Yorkshire Dr., Memphis 38117.

CENTRAL PLATEAU AND BASIN REGION—Fall migration at best can be termed average. Generally no heavy concentrations of birds were noted. At season's end boreal species seemed to be staging a major invasion. Temperatures averaged warmer August and September, and —3.9 F below normal October. Precipitation was a record for fall for the Tennessee Valley. Nashville's forty-eight hour fall count 8-9 October totaled 140 species, average.

Loon-Falcon: Common Loon: As reported last period-22 Aug (2-1) Percy Priest Lake (MLM), second summer record Nashville area. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: All reports—15 Oct (1) Cordell Hull Lake (BJ); 19 Oct (3) Old Hickory Lake (MPS). Least Bittern: 2 Aug (1 young with down still on feather tips, would not fly when within 30 feet; 1 additional bird) City Lake, Cookeville (BJ), apparently species nested on lake. American Bittern: Second consecutive fall not recorded Nashville though searched for in usual locations. WHITE IBIS: As reported last period-10 Aug (2) Lebanon (Harold Stanford, John Sellars, m ob), second "Middle Tennessee." BLACK SCOTER: 29 Oct-end of period (1 female plumage type) Radnor Lake (MLB, m ob), first Nashville and third Tennessee record. Sharp-shinned Hawk: Total ten birds reported 21 Sept-14 Oct in Cannon Co., Nashville area and Manchester. Cooper's Hawk: Total five birds reported 8-19 Oct in Cannon Co., Grundy Co. and Nashville area. Golden Eagle: 12 Oct (1 im) Cannon Co. (FB), first for season and youngest plumaged they have seen there. Bald Eagle: 12 Oct (2 ad, 2 im) Dale Hollow Lake (DRH), first for season for lake. Osprey: Total six birds reported 28 Sept-9 Oct Nashville area. PEREGRINE FALCON: 24 Sept (1) Radnor Lake (MLB, m ob).

Shorebirds: 22 species of shorebirds reported during period. Noteworthy were—PIPING PLOVER: 7 Sept (1) Gallatin (MPS), seventh "Middle Tennessee" record, all Nashville area. Black-bellied Plover: 11 Oct (1) Old Hickory Lake (MLM, MPS). Upland Sandpiper: 26 Aug (1) Bellevue School grounds, Nashville (TMM). Sanderling: 11 Sept (1) Gallatin (MPS, DRJ). BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: 6 Sept (3), 11 Sept (1) different ponds, Gallatin (MPS, DRJ). WILSON'S PHALAROPE: 4-5 Aug (2-1) Gallatin (DPC, BJ).

Owl-Waxwing: SHORT-EARED OWL: 29 Oct (1 found injured, later died) south of Shelbyville, Bedford Co. (John Burns, fide Bill Yambert), early. Common Nighthawk: Large flocks-3 Sept (150) Nashville area (KAG); 5 Sept (100) I-65 and Maury Co. (Louise Jackson); 16 Sept (200,100) Nashville area (TNH, MPS). Red-headed Woodpecker: 9 Oct-end of period (many, "more than we've seen in years") Pickett Co. (DRH). YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: 21 Aug-18 Sept (14 banded) Nashville area (KAG, ATT, HIR), indicates species passed through in good numbers. Barn Swallow: 29 Oct (1) Hillsboro, Grundy Co (DRJ, MPS), late. Red-breasted Nuthatch: Major invasion-3 Sept (1) Woodbury (FB), first report for season Middle Tennessee; Nashville reports many at sunflower feeders; 8-9 Oct (17) Nashville Fall Count (NTOS), a record for count; numbers increasing at end of period. Bewick's Wren: 10 Sept (1) Nashville (TMM); 9 Oct (2) Sumner Co. (MPS), regular breeding locations, only observations for Nashville Fall Count; 24 Oct (1) Woodbury (FB); two regular breeding locations now vacant Nashville. Cedar Waxwing: late Sept-end of period (many) Nashville area (NTOS), after absence spring 1977 of usual spring movement, good to see in number, flocks reported up to 250 birds; other scattered reports for fall Middle Tennessee.

Warbler-Sparrow: In Nashville summer warblers moved out quickly with cold spell in early October. A typical October warbler day consisted of Tennessee, Magnolia, Black-throated Green and Bay-breasted. Cape May Warbler: Limited fall Nashville records. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: 16 Oct (1 banded) Two Jays Sanctuary (HJR), only about one fall record annually Nashville area. Black-throated Green Warbler: More numerous fall Nashville, one observation 9 Oct (40, in one tree) Ashland City (Craig Empson). Mourning Warbler: 3 Sept (1 banded) Two Javs, Nashville area (HJR); 3 Sept (2) Columbia (Ed Byasse). Blue Grosbeak: 9 Oct (3) Buena Vista (MLB, TNH, Bill Blakeslee), latest Nashville six days. Evening Grosbeak: Major invasion-1 Oct (75) Nashville area (fide MLM), first seasonal report Middle Tennessee; reports steadily increasing end of period. Purple Finch: By end of period present Nashville normal numbers; scattered reports Middle Tennessee. Pine Siskin: Too early to tell movement-19 Oct (3) Cannon Co. (FB), first seasonal report Middle Tennessee; 30 Oct (50) Nashville (MLB), largest flock reported by end of period. LARK SPARROW: 9 Oct (1) Shelby Bottoms (MPS, DRJ), latest Nashville by five days.

#### Symbols: ad-adult; im-immature.

Observers: FB—Francis Bryson; MLB—Michael Bierly; DPC—Dot and Paul Crawford; KAG—Katherine Goodpasture; DRH—Dave and Robbie Hassler; TNH—Thomas Harston; DRJ—Daniel Jacobson; BJ—Bill Jones; MLM— Margaret Mann; TMM—Tim Mann; HJR—Heather and John Riggins; NTOS —Nashville Chapter Tennessee Ornithological Society; MPS—Pat Stallings.

Corrigendum—The Migrant, 1977, 48(2):48, Fox Sparrow . . . 20 Jan (60) Smyrna, change credit MLB to MLM.

MICHAEL LEE BIERLY, 2415 Crestmoor Road, Nashville 37215.

EASTERN RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION—White Ibis from last season's invasion spent several weeks at Greeneville and over a month along the Hiwassee River. Generally poor shorebird conditions existed along the Hiwassee River except for a field trip on August 27 which produced sixteen species.

The annual fall trip to Hiwassee Island turned up at least three interesting species: White Pelican, Black Scoter, and Piping Plover. Upper East Tennessee had its first Least Tern and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow was found for the second consecutive fall at Austin Springs. A Monk Parakeet was present in Knoxville.

Before the end of the period Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks had moved into the region in good numbers.

Grebe-Ibis: Horned Grebe: 31 Aug (8) KP (KPTOS). Pied-billed Grebe: Regular from 5 Aug (1-5) SB, HRA (KLD). WHITE PELICAN: 30 Oct (1) HI (TOS). Double-crested Cormorant: 26 Sept-20 Oct (1) KP (KPTOS); 29, 30 Sep, 1 Oct (1) AS (RK); 6 Oct (1) ChL (JWS); 26-29 Oct (1) NL (DRJ); 30 Oct (1) HRA (TOS). Great Blue Heron: Through period (1-26) HRA (KLD). Green Heron: Regular to 4 Oct (1-25) SB, HRA (KLD); 28 Oct (1) AS (SG, MD). Little Blue Heron: 2 Aug-10 Sep (3-6) SB, HRA (KLD); 19 Aug (11) CKL (BA). CATTLE EGRET: 16 Aug (9) CKL (BA, LiD). Great Egret: 3 Aug-10 Sep (1-8) SB, HRA (KLD); 15 Aug-1 Oct (1-3) AS (ETOS); 18 Aug (1) CKL (BA). SNOWY EGRET: 12 Aug-27 Sep (1-2) SB, HRA (KLD). Black-crowned Night Heron: 5 Aug-4 Oct (1-4) AS (ETOS); 27 Aug (1) KSP (DRJ, JWS). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 5-26 Aug (1-3) HRA (KLD); 10 Aug (2) KP (RAP, TFL); 14 Sep (1) AS (RK). Least Bittern: 17 Sep (1) AS (GE, RL). American Bittern: 27 Oct (1) AS (DL). WHITE IBIS: 3 Aug-7 Sep (1-2, im) HRA (KLD); 26 Aug (1 im) SB (DRJ, GLB); 8-27 Aug (6, im) Greeneville (Dr. Royal Spees); 29 Sept (1 im) KP (FJA).

Goose-Gallinule: Snow Goose: 17 Oct (1, dark morph) HRA (KLD); 31 Oct (1, white morph) KP (KPTOS). Gadwall: 14 Aug (3) NL (DRJ). Green-winged Teal: 12 Sep (1) AS (RK). Blue-winged Teal: 12 Aug-10 Sep (1-127) SB, HRA (KLD); 3 Sep (135) FLL (PP). American Wigeon: 17 Oct (46) HRA (KLD). Wood Duck: 12 Aug (70) HRA (KLD); 27 Aug (37) SHL (JWC, David McPeak); thru-out period (20+) KP (FJA). Redhead: 13 Oct (9) SB (KLD). BLACK SCOTER: 30 Oct (3) Blythe Ferry, HRA (TOS). Red-breasted Merganser: 29 Oct (3) NL (DRJ). Turkey Vulture: 16 Oct (212) KCo (KTOS). BLACK VULTURE: thru-out period (8-10) KP (FJA). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Aug (1) SM (RBW); 20 Aug (1) Amnicola Marsh (DRJ, MPS); 25 Aug (1) Church Hill (RAP); 25 Aug (1) KP (RAP); 11 Oct (1) KP (RAP). Cooper's Hawk: 19 Aug (1) KP (RAP); 25 Aug (1) PB (RAP); 26 Aug (1) HRA (KLD); 28 Sep (1) SHL (JWC); 23 Oct (1) HRA (DRJ, MPS). Red-shouldered Hawk: 30 Oct (1) Boone Dan (FJA). Bald Eagle: 16 Aug (1) CKL (BA); 17, 18 Aug (1, im) SB (KLD); 26 Aug (1, ad, had been around 1-2 weeks) HRA (Robert Arnold *fide* (KLD); 28 Oct 1, im) PB (RAP, TFL). Marsh Hawk: 10 Sep (1) PB (RAP). Osprey: 11 Sep (1) NoL (JCH); 13 Sep (1) ChL (DRJ); 15 Sep (2) PB (RAP); 9 Oct (2) ChL (JWS); 11 Oct (1) AS (RK). Sora: 13 Sep-21 Oct (1-2) AS (ETOS). COMMON GALLINULE: 29-30 Sept (1) KP (Bill Kappa, Hayden Hannabass).

Plover-Gull: Semipalmated Plover: 6 Aug-1 Sep (1-5) SB, HRA (KLD); 4, 8 Sep (1) AS (RK, ES). PIPING PLOVER: 3 Oct (1) HI (Jim and Nancy Tanner). American Golden Plover: 27-31 Aug (1) HRA (KLD, DRJ); 21 Oct (1) HRA, (DRJ, MPS). Black-bellied Plover: 27 Aug (1) HRA (LD, DRJ). Common Snipe: 27 Aug (2) SB (LD, DRJ). Spotted Sandpiper: 27 Oct (1) AS (DL). Greater Yellowlegs: 27 Sep (12) AS (RK); 28 Oct (1) SB (KLD). Lesser Yellowlegs: 5-29 Aug (1-18) SB, HRA (KLD). Pectoral Sandpiper: 5 Aug-30 Oct (1-68) SB, HRA (KLD). Least Sandpiper: 5 Augend of period (2-50) SB, HRA (KLD). Dunlin: 24, 26 Sep (4) AS (GE, HF, RK); 30 Oct (100) HRA (JWS). Short-billed Dowitcher: 27 Aug (1, by call note) SB (LD, DRJ). Stilt Sandpiper: 27 Aug (1) HRA (DRJ). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 6-29 Aug (1-25) SB, JRA (KLD). Western Sandpiper: 26, 27 Aug (1-3) SB, HRA (KLD, DRJ). BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: 26 Aug (2) SB (KLD, GLB); 27 Aug (2) HRA (LD, DRJ); 27 Aug (1) KSP (DRJ, JWS). Sanderling: 14 Aug (4) SJP (GE, RK); 16 Aug (2) SJP (SG, MD). WILSON'S PHALAROPE: 19 Aug (1) HRA (GLB, KLD). Ringbilled Gull: 14 Sep (1) CH (DRJ).

Tern-Lark: Forster's Tern: 15 Aug (1) AS (RK); 15 Aug-4 Sep (1-2) SB (KLD, DRJ); 28 Aug (2) NL (DRJ, MPS); 14 Sep (2) AS (RK). Common Tern: 22 Aug (1) KSP (KLD); 26, 27 Aug (1) NoL (JCH). LEAST TERN: 7 Aug (1) AS (DL); 8 Aug (2) AS (RL, RK, SG). Caspian Tern: 14 Aug (1), 4 Sep (3) AS (DL, ES). Black Tern: 4-18 Aug (1-13) AS (ETOS); 6 Aug-1 Sep (1-6) SB, HRA (KLD); 12 Aug (1) KP (RAP); 13 Aug (3) Da (LMJ); 14 Aug (48) NL (DRJ); 28 Aug (3) SHL (JWC); 16 Sep (6) FLL (JCH). MONK PARAKEET: 16, 17 Oct (1) U.T. Plant Science Farm, KCo (FJA, LiD, KTOS, ABS, PP, J. B. Owen, Gary Muffly). Yellow-billed Cockoo: 3 Sep (a. feeding 3 young in nest) Da (LMJ). Barn Owl: 11 Aug (1) NoL (JCH); 5 Sep-31 Oct (1) KP (RAP, TFL); 17 Sep (2) AS (RK); 23 Sep (1) CKL (JCH); 28 Oct (1) NoL (JCH). Common Nighthawk: 23 Aug (600) K (DRJ); 15 Oct (1) JC (PR). Red-headed Woodpecker: 12 Sept (1, im) PB (FJA, RAP). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 27 Aug (1) SB (DRJ, JWS). OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: 15 Sep (1) JC (DL). Horned Lark: 24 Oct (3) Rockwood Airport (DRJ).

Swallow-Warbler: Tree Swallow: 13 Oct (5) SB (KLD). Bank Swallow: 4 Sep (1) SB (KLD). Rough-winged Swallow: 16 Oct (2) FLL (KTOS). Barn Swallow: 17 Oct (1) FLL (FJA, LiD). Cliff Swallow: 14 Sep (75) Bluff City (JWC). Purple Martin: 12 Aug (3,500) HRA (KLD); Last 4 Sep (3) HRA (KLD). Common Raven: 5 Sept (5) Mendota, VA (RAP). Red-breasted Nuthatch: good invasion throughout region. Short-billed Marsh Wren: 26 Sep (1) HRA (KLD). American Robin: 18 Sep (10,000) B (JWC). Wood

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Thrush: 13 Oct (1) CH (DRJ). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 30 Oct (1) HI (ABS). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 15 Sep (1) NL (DRJ). Water Pipit: 21 Oct (30) HRA (DRJ, MPS). Cedar Waxwing: 19 Aug (3) PB (RAP). PHILA-DELPHIA VIREO: 31 Aug (1), 20 Sep (1) JC (SG, MD). Cape May Warbler: 20 Sep (3) B (JWC); 12 Oct (1) KP (RAP). Blackpoll: 19 Sep (1) JC (SG, MD); 23 Sep (1) B (JWC). Palm Warbler: 27 Oct (1) AS (RK). Mourning Warbler: 10 Sep (1) Da (LMJ). Wilson's Warbler: 17 Sep (1) AS (RL, RK, DL, LRH).

Bobolink-Sparrow: Bobolink: 26 Aug (1) SB (KD); 1 Sept (1) KP (RAP); 19 Sep (4) K (Len Hurley). Northern Oriole: 24 Sep (1) AS (SB, RL). Common Grackle: 18 Sep (150,000) B (JWC). Brown-headed Cowbird: 18 Sep (40,000) B (JWC). Scarlet Tanager: 5 Oct (1) JC (SG). Evening Grosbeak: 6 Oct (3) K (Mrs. W. F. Vaughan); scattered reports throughout region. Blue Grosbeak: 18 Aug (1 male, 1 female, 3 fledglings) PB (RAP). SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: 24 Sep (1) AS (GE, HF). Vesper Sparrow: 30 Sep-27 Oct (1-6) AS (ETOS); 27 Oct (3) SB (KD). White-crowned Sparrow: 2 Oct (4) PB (RAP, TFL); 7 Oct (1) AS (SG, MD). White-throated Sparrow: 24 Sep (1) AS (SG, RL). LINCOLN'S SPARROW: 18 Sep (1) AS (DL, LRH); 30 Sep (2) AS (MD, SG); 2 Oct (7—banded) PB (RAP, TFL). Swamp Sparrow: 3 Oct (1) CH (DRJ).

Additional symbols used: im-immature; ad-adult.

Locations: AS—Austin Springs; B—Bristol; CH—Chattanooga; ChL— Chickamauga Lake; CKL—Cherokee Lake; Da—Daus; FLL—Ft. Loudon Lake; HI—Hiwassee Island; HRA—Hiwassee River Area; JC—Johnson City; KP— Kingsport; KSP—Kingston Steam Plant; KCo—Knox County; K—Knoxville; NL—Nickajack Lake; NoL—Norris Lake; PB—Phipp's Bend; SJP—St. John's Pond; SB—Savannah Bay; SM—Signal Mountain; SHL—South Holston Lake.

Observers: BA—Buddy Adkisson; FJA—Fred J. Alsop; GLB—Gary L. Bayne; JWC—J. Wallace Coffey; MD—Martha Dillenbeck; KD—Ken Dubke; KLD—Ken and Lil Dubke; LD—Lil Dubke; LiD—Linda Duley; ETOS— Elizabethton TOS; GE—Glen Eller; HF—Harry Farthing; SG—Sally Goodin; LRH—Lee R. Herndon; JCH—J. C. Howell; DRJ—Daniel R. Jacobson; LMJ—Lemuel M. Jacobson; KPTOS—Kingsport TOS; RK—Rick Knight; KTOS—Knoxville TOS; TFL—Tom F. Laughlin; RL—Richard Lewis; DL— Dick Lura; PP—Paul Pardue; RAP—Rick A. Phillips; PR—Pete Range; ES— Ed Schell; ABS—Boyd Sharp; MPS—Pat Stallings; JWS—Jowayne Stone; TOS —Hiwassee Island Barge Trip; RBW—R. Bruce Wilkey.

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Corrections: Vol. 48, page 50 Season Report, Eastern Ridge and Valley Region, under observers reads: RBW—Dick Wodzenski. It should read: RBW—R. Bruce Wilkey. Vol. 48, page 105 reads as follows: Vulture-Phalarope: through period (28) PB (RAP, TFL). It should read: Vulture-Phalarope: Black Vulture: through period (28) PB (RAP, TFL).

EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION—The weather for the region was normal temperatures for the entire period with all three months recording above average rainfall. The first cold spell was not until the second week of October, with the first killing frost coming on the 15th. Several unusual species were recorded during the period with the immature Surf Scoter and another Goshawk heading the list. Most winter waterfowl arrived on time and in "normal" numbers. With the early arrival of several "northern finches" we are anticipating another winter-time invasion of some of our more enjoyable species to observe during the sometimes dull and drab winter months.

Loon-Turkey: Common Loon: 1st returned 30 Oct (1) WatL (RK). Green Heron: last seen 26 Oct (1) E (HF). Green-winged Teal: 11 Oct (1) on a small pond on N. C. side of Roan Mtn. at elevation of 4500+ (ES). American Wigeon: 1st returned 16 Oct (2) WibL (GW). Redhead: 29 Oct (1) WibL (GW). Ring-necked Duck: 1st returned 13 Oct (3) WibL (RK). Canvasback: 28 Oct (1) WibL (RK). Bufflehead: 1st returned 28 Oct (2) WibL (RK). SURF SCOTER: 30-31 Oct (1) WibL (FA, KTOS, GW, RK). Black Vulture: 24 Sep (2) HM (GW, DL). GOSHAWK: 28 Aug (1) RM (RP, TL). Sharpshinned and Cooper's Hawks: 12 and 9 sightings respectively thru-out the period is another good fall flight for our area. Red-shouldered Hawk: 17 Oct (1) GLS (GW). Broad-winged Hawk: last seen 24 Sep (3) HM (GW, DL). Osprey: last seen 19 Oct (1) BC (GE). Wild Turkey: 29 Oct (1) HM (PR).

Plover-Shrike: Semipalmated Plover: 25 Aug (1) RC (GW, DL). Least Sandpiper: 11 Aug (3) RC (GW, DL). Herring Gull: 24 Sep (2) flying over HM (GW, DL). Ring-billed Gull: 1st returned 24 Sep (1) WatL (PR). CASPIAN TERN: 2 Sep (1) WatL (HD, MD, SG). Black-billed Cuckoo: 22 Aug (1) HM (SG). Barn Owl: two sites are still active in the area. Great Horned Owl: 27 Aug (1) GLS (GW); 24 Sep (2) WatL (PR); 18 Oct (1) BC (GE). Barred Owl: 24 Sep (1) IMG (SG); 11 Oct (1) RM (ES). Common Nighthawk: last seen 19 Oct (3) E (HF). Chimney Swift: last seen 8 Oct (3) E (GE, HF). Red-headed Woodpecker: 24 Sep (1) near WatL (GW, DL); 24 Sep (1) Unicoi (GE, HF). OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: 28 Aug (1) RM (RP, TL). Barn Swallow: last seen 30 Sep (1) E (GE, HF). Common Raven: 1-4 regular on IM and RM. Red-breasted Nuthatch: very heavy fall invasion with at least 122 birds counted on one day 21 Oct on RM (RP, TL). We had no Marsh Wrens sighted in this area this year. House Wren: last seen 22 Oct (1) Townsend (DJ, MPS). Wood Thrush: last scen 7 Oct (1) E (GE, HF). Water Pipit: 9 Oct (40+) RC (PR); 11 Oct (1) RM (ES); 22 Oct (1) GSMNP (DJ, MPS). Loggerhead Shrike: only 1 individual seen in area on 24 Sep in E (GW, DL).

Vireo-Sparrow: Solitary Vireo: last seen 23 Oct (1) GSMNP (DJ, MPS). PHILADELPHIA VIREO: 28 Aug (1) RM (RP, TL); 24 Sep (1) E (GW, DL). ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: 22 Oct (1) GSMNP (DJ, MPS). Nashville Warbler: last seen 31 Oct (1) Erwin (GS) late. Blackpoll: 8 Sep (1) near WibL (LRH, RK); 24 Sep (1) RM (ES). Palm Warbler: last seen 29 Oct (2) E (GE). Northern Oriole: last seen 10 Sep (1) RM (GW, DL, GE, RK). Scarlet Tanager: last seen 5 Oct (1) E (GE, HF). Blue Grosbeak: last seen 24 Sep (1) GLS (GW, DL). Evening Grosbeak: 24 Oct (50+) Erwin (GS); 29 Oct (18-22) E (GE). Purple Finch: 24 Sep (4) Backwoods Lake (ES); 26 Oct (4) Erwin (GS); 29 Oct (6) E (HF). Pine Siskin: 28 Aug (1) RM (RP, TL); 12 Sep (2) RM (RK); 22 Oct (150+) RM (RP, TL); 26-27 Oct (30+) MC (GW, DL). Red Crossbill: 27-28 Aug (15-25)

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RM (RP, TL); 10, 13 Sep (1) RM (ETOS). Vesper Sparrow: 1st returned 29 Oct (1) E (GE). LINCOLN'S SPARROW: 24 Sep (1) E (GW, DL).

Locations: BC—Bluff City; E—Elizabethton; GLS—Great Lakes Swamp (near Eliz.); GSMNP—Great Smoky Mtn. National Park; HM—Holston Mtn.; IMG—Iron Mtn. Gap; MC—Milligan College; RC—Roans Creek; RM—Roan Mtn.; WatL—Watauga Lake; WibL—Wilbur Lake.

Observers: FA—Fred Alsop; HD—Helenhill Dove; MD—Martha Dillenbeck; ETOS—Eliz. Chapter TOS; GE—Glen Eller; HF—Harry Farthing; SG— Sally Goodin; LRH—Lee Herndon; DJ—Daniel Jacobson; KTOS—Kingsport Chapter TOS; RK—Rick Knight; DL—Dick Lura; TL—Tom Laughlin; RP— Rick Phillips; PR—Pete Range; ES—Ed Schell; GS—Glen Swofford; MPS— Pat Stallings; GW—Gary Wallace.

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#### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

The TVA Regional Heritage Program and the Tennessee Heritage Program are systematically cataloging locality information about birds that are endangered, threatened, blue-listed, or of other special concern within the state of Tennessee. The information is used to minimize land-use conflicts and to identify areas which may qualify for protection under the Tennessee Natural Areas Act of 1971.

Precise locality information about current and historical nest sites, roosts, and feeding or migration stop-over areas is needed. Nest record cards, either copies or originals, are acceptable, and can be either returned or forwarded to Cornell University. The species for which we request information are:

Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Anhinga, All herons and bitterns except Green Herons, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Mississippi Kite, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Sandhill Crane, King Rail, Virginia Rail, American Coot, Common Gallinule, Purple Gallinule, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Tern, Barn Owl, Saw-whet Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Bank Swallow, Common Raven, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Warbling Vireo, Swainson's Warbler, Painted Bunting, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Bachman's Sparrow.

Please forward information on these species to: Charles P. Nicholson, TVA Regional Heritage Program, Division of Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife Development, Tennessee Valley Authority, Norris, TN 37828. Phone: 615-494-7173, ext. 473 or 235, or Dan Eagar, Tennessee Heritage Programs, 1720 West End Avenue, Suite 507, Nashville, TN 37203. Phone: 615-741-3852 (call personto-person, collect).

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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.

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