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NO. 1

BIRDS OF DECATUR COUNTY

(INCLUDING THE 1978 FORAY)

CHARLES P. NICHOLSON

Decatur County is located in west Tennessee, bordered on the east by the Tennessee River, on the south by Hardin County, on the west by Henderson and Carroll Counties, and on the north by Benton County. The total land area is approximately 85,470 ha. The west half of the county is in the Gulf Coastal Plain physiographic region, and much of it is overlain with loess soil formations (Odom 1955). The eastern half of the county is in the Highland Rim section of the Interior Low Plateau province. Except for bottomland along the Tennessee River, most of the eastern area is rolling hills underlain by cherty limestone. Approximately 66 percent of the county is forested (Hedlund and Earles 1971). The southeast corner of the county is forested with yellow pine hardwoods; the remainder of the area is oak-hickory. Essentially all of the forested area is second-growth. Agricultural areas are primarily pasture, hayfields, and soybeans. The Beech River and several smaller creeks, flowing into the Tennessee River, drain the county. Prior to the impoundment of the Tennessee River to create Kentucky Lake in 1943, cypress swamps were reported along the river (Clebsch 1941). At present, limited areas of bottomland hardwood forest occur in the county, and much of the bottomland along the Tennessee River is cleared for rowcrops. Elevations range from 109 m along the Tennessee River to a maximum of 207 m. The population of Decatur County was 9500 in 1970.

This was the site of the 1978 breeding bird foray of the TOS, held 26 to 29 May. Twenty-one people participated in the foray, and daily checklists were kept by each party. Most of the fieldwork was carried out on 27 and 28 May. In addition to random birding of assigned portions of the county, 6 Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes were conducted. Along each 24.5 mi route, birds were recorded during a 3 min period at 50 stops, spaced one-half mi apart. Five of the routes were censused on 27 May, and the sixth on 28 May. The weather was hot and clear each day, with showers part of the afternoon of the 28th.

Following is an annotated list of Decatur County birds, presenting foray results and other available Decatur County observations. For species observed on the foray, these results are given first. The first number is the total individuals observed, excluding BBS route results; the second, presented as a fraction, is the total individuals observed on the 6 BBS routes, over the number of stops, out of 300, at which the species was observed. Observations from northern Decatur County, made on 17 November 1978 by the author, and observations from the eastern half of the county on 29 December 1978 by Morris D. Williams and the author are presented next. Following these, in parentheses, are observations from

other years. These include published observations from the Swallow Bluff area by Alfred Clebsch (1941) and A. F. Ganier, and several short notes in *The Migrant*. Unpublished records include observations by Ben Welch, Jr. from SE of Decaturville on 2-4 July, 27 and 28 August 1938; by Lula C. and Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Alice Smith and Fred Carney on 28 May 1950; by the Coffeys on 15 July 1951, 12 July 1953, 5 May 1956, 26 April 1957, 27-28 June and 28 July 1958, 15 March and 2 May 1959, 28 June 1963, 1 August 1954, 2 May 1965, 25 June 1971, and 20-21 June 1977; and by the Coffeys and Carol Bullock on 17 June 1979. Many of the observations by the Coffeys are from along Rt. 100, and their records often omitted common species, or only include Chuck-will's-widow-Whip-poor-will or Cliff Swallow observations. Complete lists of lengthier observation periods were kept in 1977 and 1979. The Busseltown unit of the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge is abbreviated TNWR in the following annotated list.

- PIED-BILLED GREBE—1, 0/0, on 27 May near Perryville by the Smiths; 1 on 29 December.
- GREAT BLUE HERON—9 on 29 December; (1 on 17 May 1941 by Ganier and Clebsch on Tennessee River.)
- GREEN HERON—18, 6/5; (2 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON—1, 0/0, on 28 May at Busseltown by Campbell, Hinton and Nicholson; (3 reported by Clebsch in cypress swamp along Tennessee River on 18 May 1941.)
- CANADA GOOSE—500 at TNWR on 29 December.
- SNOW GOOSE—2 at TNWR on 29 December.
- SNOW GOOSE (Blue Morph)—1 at TNWR on 29 December.
- MALLARD—2, 0/0, on 27 May by Wilkey; 1000 at TNWR on 29 December.
- BLACK DUCK—50 at TNWR on 29 December.
- AMERICAN WIGEON—200 at TNWR on 29 December.
- WOOD DUCK—11, 0/0; 4 at TNWR on 29 December.
- RING-NECKED DUCK—3 at TNWR on 29 December.
- CANVASBACK—2 at TNWR on 29 December.
- TURKEY VULTURE—16, 3/3; 1 on 17 November; 22 on 29 December; (23 on 2-4 July, 2 on 27 August and 4 on 28 August 1938 by Welch; 2 on 15 July 1951, 1 on 15 March 1951, 5 on 29 April 1971, 9 on 20-21 June 1977, and 1 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- BLACK VULTURE—7 on 29 December; no available summer records.
- COOPER'S HAWK—1 at TNWR on 29 December; (1 near Decaturville on 2-4 July 1938 by Welch.)
- RED-TAILED HAWK—4, 1/1; 3, including pair at nest on 29 December; (1 on 28 August 1938 by Welch; 1 on 21 June 1977 by Coffeys.)
- RED-SHOULDERED HAWK—2, pair at nest, contents unknown, 2 mi N of Hwy 20 along Busseltown Road, reported on 27 May by Dubke and Wilkey; (1 on 18 May 1941 by Clebsch and Ganier; 1 on 29 April 1971 by Coffeys.)
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK—2, 3/3; (3 on 20-21 June 1977 and 1 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- OSPREY—(2, described as a pair, along the Tennessee River by Clebsch and Ganier on 18 May 1941. The lateness of this date suggests the species may have formerly bred in the area.)

- AMERICAN KESTREL—0, 2/2; 2 on 17 November; 4 on 29 December; (1 on 4 December 1958 by the Coffeys.)
- BOBWHITE—108, 140/110; 1 on 29 December; (14 on 27 August and 10 on 28 August 1938 by Welch; 37 on 21 June 1977 and 22 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- TURKEY—(probable former resident, stocking records [Schultz 1955] include 75 released at Decaturville in 1941, and 35 released at Brownsport Furnace in 1942; no recent records available.)
- AMERICAN COOT—15 on 29 December.
- SEMIPALMATED PLOVER—(1 reported on 18 May 1941 by Clebsch.)
- KILLDEER—11, 7/7; 1 on 29 December.
- COMMON SNIPE—2 on 29 December.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER—1 recorded along the Tennessee River, 4 mi N of Perryville on 14 April 1944 by Cottam (1944.)
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER—2 on 28 May by Campbell, Hinton, Nicholson and the Smiths; ('a few' reported on 18 May 1941 by Clebsch.)
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER—('a few' reported on 18 May 1941 by Clebsch.)
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER—24 on 27 May by Huber, Whittington and Wilkey; ('a few' reported on 18 May 1941 by Clebsch.)
- RING-BILLED GULL—8 along Tennessee River on 29 December.
- MOURNING DOVE—208, 190/129; nest, with adult incubating 2 eggs, observed at TNWR on 28 May by Nicholson; 201 on 29 December; (17 on 28 August 1938 by Welch; 64 on 21 June 1977 and 35 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO—47, 42/40; (2 on 2-4 July, 2 on 27 August and 1 on 28 August 1938 by Welch; 2 on 28 May 1950, 2 on 15 July 1951, 5 on 12 July 1953, 7 on 28 July 1958, 20 on 21 June 1977 and 20 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO—0, 1/1, on 27 May (migrant?) by the Dubkes.
- SCREECH OWL—1 on 26 May by Nicholson and 6 on 27 May by Wilkey and Huber; 1 red-phase road kill on 29 December.
- BARRED OWL—0, 1/1, on 27 May by Whittington.
- CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW—3, 8/8; (4 on 3 July 1938 by Welch; unknown number reported by Clebsch on 17-18 May 1941; 1 on 29 March 1953 by Mrs. R. L. Duck and 2 on 30 March 1953 by Mrs. Edd Davis at Parsons [Coffey 1954]; 1 on 12 July 1953 at firetower E of Parsons, and 2 on 21 June 1977 by the Coffeys) (see Chuck-Whip entry below.)
- WHIP-POOR-WILL—8, 4/2; (1 on 15 July 1951 at firetower E of Parsons by the Coffeys; 1 on 7 April 1952 at Parsons by Mrs. Edd Davis [Coffey 1954]; 2 on 2 May 1965 by the Coffeys.)
- CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW—Whip-poor-will roadside counts—27 May: 9 Chucks and 48 Whips on 24.5 mi rt. in SW part of county, by Huber and Wilkey; (27 June 1958: 5 Chucks at 3 stops W of Parsons, and 8 at 4 of 8 stops and 2 Whips at 2 stops E of Parsons, by the Coffeys; 20 June 1977: 7 Chucks at 5 stops and 19 Whips at 10 stops on 7.5 mi, 16 stop rt. between Hwy 20 and Busseltown, by the Coffeys; 16 June 1979: 7 Chucks at 6 stops and 30 Whips at 20 stops on 11 mi, 23 stop rt. in NE part of county, by the Coffeys and Bullock.)
- COMMON NIGHTHAWK—2, 4/4; (5 on 2-4 July 1938 by Welch; observed by

- Clebsch on 17-18 May 1941; 2 on 15 July 1951 and 2 on 21 June 1977 by the Coffeys.)
- CHIMNEY SWIFT—97, 123/41; 3 on 21 June 1977 and 7 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD—11, 2,2; 1 on 21 June 1977 and 3 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- BELTED KINGFISHER—3, 2/2; 2 on 29 December.
- COMMON FLICKER—5, 8/8; 6 on 29 December; (1 on 15 July 1951 and 1 on 21 June 1977 by the Coffeys.)
- PILEATED WOODPECKER—7, 18/18; 1 on 17 November; 3 on 29 December; (1 on 27 August and 2 on 28 August 1938 by Welch; 1 on 15 July 1951, 0 on 12 July 1953, 2 on 28 June 1958, 0 on 21 June 1977 and 1 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER—57, 110/93; nest, contents unknown, observed by Waldron on 27 May near Mile Branch in SW corner of county; 3 on 17 November; 10 on 29 December; (14 on 21 June 1977 and 21 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- RED-HEADED WOODPECKER—1 on 28 May by the Mayfields and Nicholson, and 1 on 29 May by Campbell, Hinton and Nicholson, both along the Beech River bottoms SSW of Parsons.
- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER—1 on 29 December.
- HAIRY WOODPECKER—0, 3/2; 1 on 17 November; (1 on 12 July 1953 by the Coffeys.)
- DOWNY WOODPECKER—20, 27/24; 1 on 17 November; 3 on 29 December; (2 on 2-4 July 1938 by Welch; 1 on 12 July 1953, 4 on 28 June 1958, 5 on 21 June 1977 and 7 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- EASTERN KINGBIRD—94, 38/31; (6 on 2-4 July 1938 by Welch; 1 on 12 July 1953, 2 on 28 June 1958, 6 on 21 June 1977 and 4 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- ACADIAN FLYCATCHER—33, 20/17; (1 on 28 May 1950, 1 on 15 July 1951, 1 on 12 July 1953, 2 on 28 June 1958, 1 on 20 June and 4 on 21 June 1977, and 4 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- EASTERN WOOD PEWEE—39, 99/94; (8 on 2-4 July and 1 on 28 August 1938 by Welch; 2 on 28 May 1950, 9 on 15 July 1951, 6 on 28 June 1958, 12 on 21 June 1977 and 13 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- HORNED LARK—1 on 28 May by Campbell, Hinton and Nicholson at TNWR; 2 on 29 December at TNWR; (1 on 28 June 1958 by the Coffeys.)
- ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW—13, 7/3; ('a few' on 17 May and 3 pairs on 18 May 1941 along Tennessee River at Swallow Bluff by Clebsch and Ganier; 3 on 15 July 1951, 2 on 28 June 1958 and 3 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- BARN SWALLOW—164, 77/37; 2 nests on 27 May, 1 by Waldron, contents unknown, and 1 by Nicholson, containing 3 eggs, and 12 nests under Hwy 69 bridge over Cub Creek on 29 May by Nicholson, 1 empty, 1 with 4 large young, others not inspected; (4 imm and 2 ad on 28 June 1958, 111 birds and 16 nests on 20-21 June 1977, and 29 birds and 24 nests at I-40 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- CLIFF SWALLOW—720, 10/1. The first published account of this interesting species in Decatur Co. was by Ganier and Weakley (1936) who published photographs showing about 90 nests on a section of bluff along the Tennessee River at

Swallow Bluff Landing. Clebsch (1941) and Ganier visited the area in 1941 and counted about 200 nests on 18 May at a colony site upstream from the landing and opposite Swallow Bluff Island. Out of 5 nests examined, 2 were empty, 1 held 1 fresh egg, 1 held 3 slightly incubated eggs, and 1 held 4 eggs incubated 5 days. They also collected a series of 7 male and 3 female specimens, now preserved in the Louisiana State Museum of Zoology. During the summer of 1943, the overhanging cliff was dynamited into the river as a navigation safety measure (Anon. 1943). The Swallow Bluff site is 1 of only 4 natural (i.e. not on man-made structures) nest sites in the Tennessee or Cumberland River drainages known to the author. The others are Nickajack Cave, active in 1978, and Grays Bluff (West 1961), current status unknown, both in Marion Co., Tennessee, and the former colony at Fort Deposit, Alabama (Howell 1924).

Following the completion of Kentucky Dam in 1944, which may have partially inundated some remaining bluff sites, Coffey (pers. comm.) reported nests on the York Bridge, Hwy 100 over Tennessee River at Perryville, in 1947 and 60 nests in 1953 (Coffey 1953). These nests were under the E end of the bridge in Perry Co. Twenty-five old nests were observed by Coffey under the W end of the bridge on 25 June 1971, and 250 old nests, with no birds present, were observed at the same place on 27 May 1978 by K. Dubke and Nicholson. Other known nest sites in Decatur Co. and number of nests present are: Hwy 100 bridge over Beech River, N of Decaturville—in use since at least 1956, max. 1385 nests on 25 June 1971 by Coffeys; county road bridge over Beech River, just S of Perryville—in use since at least 1956, max. 2500 nests on 28 June 1958 by Coffey *et al.*, 210 nests on 27 May 1978 by Dubke and Nicholson; bridge over Whites Creek near Mt. Carmel—200 nests on 21 June by the Coffeys, 300 on 27 May 1978 by Dubke and Nicholson; Hwy 69 over Little Lick Creek near Cozette—9 nests on 20 June 1977 by the Coffeys, 13 on 29 May 1978 by Nicholson; Hwy 69 over Cub Creek—32 nests on 29 June 1977 by the Coffeys, 11 nests on 29 May 1978 by Nicholson; Hwy 69 at Stewman Creek—152 nests on 27 May 1978 by Dubke and Nicholson; Hwy 69 at Doe Creek—200 nests on 27 May 1978 by Dubke and Nicholson. Total of 986 active nests in 1978.

PURPLE MARTIN—93, 54/18; many Martin nest structures observed; (15 on 27 August 1938 by Welch; 1 on 15 July 1951, 6 on 28 June 1958, 10 on 21 June 1977, and 2 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)

BLUE JAY—95, 188/113; nest under construction at Busseltown on 28 May by Nicholson; 15 on 17 November; 97 on 29 December; (described by Welch [1938] as the sixth most common species; 46 on 21 June 1977 and 17 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)

COMMON CROW—54, 82/71; 11 on 29 December; (12 on 2-4 July, 1 on 27 August and 6 on 28 August 1938 by Welch; 4 on 15 July 1951, 1 on 12 July 1953, 11 on 28 June 1977 and 6 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)

CAROLINA CHICKADEE—39, 16/13; 3 on 17 November; 12 on 29 December; nest observed by Waldron on 27 May at Busseltown, contents unknown; (described by Welch [1938] as the ninth most common species, and 9 on 2-4 July, 4 on 27 August, and 1 on 28 August 1938 by Welch; 2 on 28 May 1950, 4 on 28 June 1958, 21 on 21 June 1977, and 4 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)

TUFTED TITMOUSE—101, 130/111; 6 on 17 November; 14 on 29 December; (4 on 2-4 July 1938 by Welch; 2 on 28 May 1950, 3 on 15 July 1953, 17 on 28 June 1958, 34 on 21 June 1977, and 28 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)

- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH—1, 6/7; 1 on 29 December; (2 on 15 July 1951, 2 on 12 July 1953, 3 on 28 June 1958, and 2 on 21 June 1977 by Coffey *et al.*)
- BEWICK'S WREN—0, 0/0; (2 on 28 May 1950, 2 on 15 July 1951, 2 on 12 July 1953, 4 on 28 June 1958, and 1 on 15 March 1959 by Coffey *et al.*)
- CAROLINA WREN—11, 10/10; 1 on 17 November; 1 on 29 December; (described by Welch [1938] as the most common summer bird, and 24 on 2-4 July, 8 on 27 August, and 13 on 28 August by Welch; 0 on 28 May 1950, 1 on 15 July 1951, 4 on 12 July 1953, 6 on 28 June 1958, 11 on 21 June 1977, and 9 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- MOCKINGBIRD—42, 76/61; 1 on 17 November; 3 on 29 December; (19 on 2-4 July 1938 by Welch; 19 on 28 June 1958, 39 on 21 June 1977, and 8 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- GRAY CATBIRD—13, 19/16; (5 on 2-4 July and 2 on 27 August 1938 by Welch; 5 on 15 July 1951, 2 on 21 June 1977, and 6 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- BROWN THRASHER—33, 39/33; 2 on 29 December; (2 on 2-4 July 1938 by Welch; 5 on 28 June 1958, 13 on 21 June 1977, and 14 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- AMERICAN ROBIN—25, 32/24; 35 on 29 December; (9 on 21 June 1977 and 10 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- WOOD THRUSH—50, 84/66; (6 on 2-4 July 1938 by Welch; 0 on 28 May 1950, 3 on 15 July 1951, 7 on 12 July 1953, 8 on 28 June 1958, 42 on 21 June 1977, and 20 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- HERMIT THRUSH—1 on 29 December.
- EASTERN BLUEBIRD—17, 3/2; 9 on 29 December; (2 on 2-4 July and 1 on 27 August 1938 by Welch; 2 on 28 May 1950; 1 on 17 July 1951; 3 on 12 July 1953, 2 on 28 June 1958; 1 on 21 June 1977, and 2 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER—88, 61/45; nest observed by Waldron on 27 May, contents unknown; (12 on 28 August 1938 by Welch; 4 and imm. on 12 July 1953, 9 on 21 June 1977, and 14 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET—10 on 17 November; 1 on 29 December.
- RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET—1 on 29 December.
- CEDAR WAXWING—20 on 17 November; 26 on 29 December.
- LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE—11, 2/2; brood observed on 29 May by Campbell, Hinton and Nicholson near Hopewell Church; (7 on 2-4 July 1938 by Welch; 2 on 17 July 1943, 1 on 28 June 1958, 1 on 21 June 1977, and 1 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- STARLING—125, 64/25; 25 on 17 November; 155 on 29 December; (2 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- WHITE-EYED VIREO—95, 87/80; (described by Welch [1938] as the 5th most common summer bird, and 9 on 28 August 1938 by Welch; 78 on 20-21 June 1977, and 17 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO—18, 5/5; (1 on 28 May 1950, 1 on 15 July 1951, 3 on 12 July 1953, 0 on 28 June 1958, 2 on 21 June 1977, and 4 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- RED-EYED VIREO—29, 30/27; (10 on 20-21 June 1977 and 17 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- WARBLING VIREO—2 on 27 May, observed by Campbell and Hinton, and by Bullock, Daily and Ferguson, and 1/1 by Campbell and Hinton.

- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER—2, 13/13; (1 on 28 May 1950, 1 on 28 June 1958, and 2 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER—70, 13/10; 2 nests on 27 May, 1 at Ponderosa Dock, adults carrying food to cavity, by Campbell and Hinton, and 1 at Busseltown by Waldron, contents unknown; (1 on 28 June 1958, 2 on 21 June 1977, and 1 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER—2 on 28 May by Mayfields and Nicholson, along Beech River near jct. with Bear Creek, and 2 at same site on 29 May by Campbell, Hinton and Nicholson.
- WORM-EATING WARBLER—1 on 28 May, and 1 on 29 May, both by Campbell, Hinton and Nicholson; (2 on 21 June 1977 and 0 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER—7, 15/15; almost all sightings within Highland Rim region; (1 on 2 May 1959 and 1 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- NORTHERN PARULA—14, 4/4; (2 on 21 June 1977 and 2 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER—0, 1/1, a late migrant, on 27 May by L. Dubke.
- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER—15 on 17 November; 7 on 29 December.
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER—(1 on 28 May 1950, a late migrant, by Coffey [1950] near Parsons; the date given for this in *The Migrant* is wrong.
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER—2, 0/0; late migrants, on 27 May by Dubkes and Bullock, Daily and Ferguson.
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER—9, 5/5; (2 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- PINE WARBLER—7, 6/6; (5 on 21 June 1977 by the Coffeys.)
- PRAIRIE WARBLER—19, 36/31; (2 on 28 May 1950, 2 on 28 June 1958, 1 on 2 May 1959, 2 on 21 June 1977 and 2 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- OVENBIRD—0, 5/5.
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH—5, 7/7; (1 on 28 May 1950 and 2 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- KENTUCKY WARBLER—26, 35/33; (1 on 28 May 1950, 1 on 15 July 1951, 1 on 12 July 1953, 6 on 28 June 1958, 15 on 21 June 1977, and 10 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- COMMON YELLOWTHROAT—95, 87/72; (24 on 21 June 1977, 24 on 17 June 1979, and many on previous trips by Coffey *et al.*)
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT—37, 68/61; (17 on 21 June 1977, and 10 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- HOODED WARBLER—9, 6/6; (1 on 21 June 1977, and 1 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- AMERICAN REDSTART—9, 0/0; all observed along Beech River bottoms by Campbell, Hinton, Mayfields and Nicholson.
- HOUSE SPARROW—95, 118/19; 2 on 29 December.
- EASTERN MEADOWLARK—96, 138/77; 13 on 29 December; (8 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD—150, 145/66; nest with 3 eggs on 29 May near Parsons by Nicholson; 150 on 29 December; (30 on 21 June 1977, and 12 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- ORCHARD ORIOLE—66, 38/35; (2 on 2-4 July 1938 by Welch; 1 on 28 May 1950, 1

- on 17 July 1951, 7 on 28 June 1958, 18 on 20-21 June 1977, and 15 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- COMMON GRACKLE—134, 204/84; 30 on 29 December; (25 on 12 July 1953, 23 on 21 June 1977, and 50 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD—72, 98/58; 3 on 29 December; (8 on 28 June 1958, 32 on 21 June 1977, and 12 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- SCARLET TANAGER—9, 11/11; (1 on 15 July 1951 at fire tower E of Parsons by Coffey [1951], and 5 on 20-21 June 1977 by the Coffeys.)
- SUMMER TANAGER—84, 103/83; (4 on 28 May 1950, 6 on 15 July 1951, 11 on 12 July 1953, 12 on 28 June 1958, 29 on 21 June 1977, and 24 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- CARDINAL—128, 209/158; nest on 27 May, contents unknown, by Waldron; 8 on 17 November; 78 on 29 December; (described by Welch [1938] as 10th most common summer bird, and 3 on 28 August 1938 by Welch; 65 on 21 June 1977, and 50 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- BLUE GROSBEAK—6, 10/9; (5 on 21 June 1977, and 3 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- INDIGO BUNTING—198, 185/137; empty nest on 27 May by Nicholson; (described by Welch [1938] as the 2nd most common summer bird, and 28 on 2-4 July, and 20 on 17 August 1938 by Welch; 6 on 28 May 1950, 17 on 15 July 1951, 1 on 12 July 1953, 17 on 28 June 1958, 56 on 21 June 1977, and 42 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- DICKCISSEL—1, 0/0, on 27 May near Bath Springs by K. Dubke and Nicholson; (3 on 28 June 1958, and 4 on 21 June 1979 by the Coffeys.)
- PURPLE FINCH—2 on 17 November; 7 on 29 December.
- AMERICAN GOLDFINCH—17, 21/13; 2 on 17 November; 10 on 29 December; (14 on 2-4 July and 1 on 27 August 1938 by Welch; 3 on 28 May 1950, 5 on 12 July 1953, 5 on 28 June 1958, and 4 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE—59, 125/103; 6 on 17 November; 30 on 29 December; (4 on 2-4 July 1938 by Welch [Coffey 1941]; 1 on 28 May 1950, 3 on 15 July 1951, 2 on 12 July 1953, 17 on 28 June 1958, 1 on 2 May 1959, 38 on 21 June 1977, and 23 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- SAVANNAH SPARROW—25 on 29 December.
- VESPER SPARROW—1 on 29 December at TNWR.
- LARK SPARROW—5, 3/2; nest in pasture along Hwy 69, 1.3 mi S of jct. with Hwy 114, on 27 May with 5 grown young by Whittington, nest empty on 28 May.
- DARK-EYED JUNCO—25 on 17 November; 60 on 29 December.
- CHIPPING SPARROW—18, 22/17; (described by Welch [1938] as the 7th most common summer bird, and 12 on 2-4 July, 4 on 27 August, and 8 on 28 August 1938 by Welch; 3 on 28 May 1950, 7 on 28 June 1958, and 5 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- FIELD SPARROW—38, 40/34; 25 on 29 December; (described by Welch [1938] as the 8th most common summer bird, and 15 on 2-4 July, 5 on 27 August, and 7 on 28 August 1938 by Welch; 6 on 28 June 1958, 16 on 21 June 1977, and 5 on 17 June 1979 by Coffey *et al.*)
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW—55 on 17 November; 110 on 29 December.
- SWAMP SPARROW—2 on 29 December.
- SONG SPARROW—5 on 17 November; 12 on 29 December.

The preceding list discusses 127 species known to occur in Decatur County. Ninety-seven species were found during the 1978 foray, and 92 probably breed in the county. Additional birding in the fall, winter and spring would obviously add many species to this list. Breeding season studies in surrounding counties have listed species which were not recorded in Decatur County, either because they were overlooked, no longer breed in the county, or have never occurred in the county. These include the Northern (Baltimore) Oriole, found by Coffey (1944) in Henderson County, the Willow Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow and Song Sparrow found on the 1973 Benton County foray (Alsop 1976), and the Black Vulture, Cerulean Warbler and Bachman's Sparrow, previously found in both Henderson County (Coffey 1944, Williams 1976), and Benton County (Alsop 1976). There has been no summer record of a Cooper's Hawk in Decatur County since 1938. Additional fieldwork in Decatur County will help clarify the status of these and other species.

Foray participants: Carolyn Bullock, James M. Campbell, Dollyann Daily, Kenneth H. Dubke, Lillian H. Dubke, Sue Ferguson, Marjory Harper, Betty Reid Hinton, Mary Ann Huber, Ruth Luckado, George Mayfield, Jr., Mark H. Mayfield, Rad Mayfield, Charles P. Nicholson, Gerry Papachriston, Alice Smith, Arlo Smith, Noreen Smith, Martha Waldron, Richard Whittington, and R. Bruce Wilkey.

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank Lil Dubke for seeing to much of the foray planning, BBS route layout, map preparation, and other details. Ben Coffey graciously made available his observations from Decatur County, and commented on the manuscript, as well as providing many literature references to Decatur County birdlife.

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BIRDING NATCHEZ TRACE STATE PARK AND FOREST

Interstate 40 passes thru the Forest and north of the S. P. The exit is 110 miles NE of Memphis and 90 miles SW of Nashville. Large stands of Loblolly pines were planted in 1938, supplementing oaks, hickories, sweet gums and other hardwoods. There are three lakes: Maple Lake, to the north and Cub Lake and Brown's Lake south of I-40. Turning south on a paved road, a lookout and trail terminal is soon reached, then a camping area, and at 7 miles, Hqs, and work area, and store-filling station. Back NE 3 miles is Cub Lake with cabins and camping on the south and lodge and picnic areas on the north. Brown's Lake is near the south end of the Forest. Birding is good from pull-outs on the main north-south road and around Cub Lake. The Whip-poor-will is common in summer as well as the Chuck-will's-widow. Other common summer residents include Wood Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Field Sparrow. Also of interest are Eastern Phoebes and Scarlet Tanagers. The Pine Warbler moved in, about 1950.

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ROUND TABLE NOTE

CLIFF SWALLOWS NESTING A MILE FROM WATER—Birdsong Road passes over Interstate-40 highway at Exit 133, southeast corner of Benton County. Each spring we have often birded briefly along this side road. On 24 April 1976 we noted 15 Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonata*) at the overpass itself and counted 23 of their nests under same. In 1977 our stop wasn't until 11 July and the swallows were gone; we saw 8 nests. Following counts were: 29 April 1978, 30 birds and 25 nests; 27 April 1979 20 birds in the air and 22 nests. This exit is a mile west of the Tennessee River's western shore and we know of no other body of water as close. This is the first site I have found in the Mid-South not close to water. On 10 June 1971 we saw moderately large flocks nesting under overpasses for Interstate-25 near Colorado Springs, with no indication of streams or ponds nearby. As the Cliff Swallows increase in numbers we may expect more use of these overpasses; Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) and Rock Doves (*Columbia livia*) have been doing so.

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BOOK REVIEW

A BIRDWATCHERS GUIDE TO THE EASTERN UNITED STATES. By Alice M. Geffen. 1978. Barrons/Woodbury, New York. 346 pages, 20 drawings by Peter Hayman. \$6.95 (paper), \$15.95 (cloth). This is a good guide to birding areas in the 26 states east of the Mississippi River. It is divided into three regions: Northeast (13 states), Southeast (8 states), and North Central (5 states.) Within each region the states are alphabetically arranged. Each chapter features one state and begins with a map showing major highways and the birding areas in that state. National parks, forests, wildlife refuges, Audubon sanctuaries, and private preserves are described in detail. Each location includes the full name, address, telephone number, traveling directions, hours of operation, available education programs, a general description of the terrain, common and rare species spotted, availability of checklist, and where nearby camping facilities can be found. State parks and forests (with telephone numbers) are listed at the end of each chapter and at the end of the book there is a detailed index of the birds mentioned in the text.

This birding guide nicely complements Pettingill's guide to bird-finding east of the Mississippi River and will certainly be a handy guide for the traveling birdwatcher.

GARY O. WALLACE

A WEST TENNESSEE FORAY—JUNE, 1979

BEN AND LULA COFFEY

After a 6-day, 1220 mile trip making five Breeding Bird Surveys from southwest to northeast Mississippi, Lula and I made 7 night runs (1720 miles with 790 net miles) counting nightjars in the Mid-South, using Memphis as a day base. On the latter, 693 miles were in West Tennessee, with 290 net miles on the stop and go runs themselves. Then followed ten days of birding throughout West Tennessee (a 5-day trip, a 2-day trip, and three single days from Memphis) totaling 1620 miles with 451 miles net, 13 through 25 June. An emergency back-up had to be made, to do two Breeding Bird Surveys in the Reelfoot Lake area at the end of June. Finally, no more early risings!

Comments on some of the field results are made in this format rather than as a few scattered data in seasonal notes since I will emphasize negative information. Too often a record is published but we don't know if it was casual or the result of an extended search in certain habitat. Negative information is difficult to evaluate. On our June mornings birds were active until possibly 0930 hours, then less so until about noon. If we had then kept on listing, our results would have biased in favor of those species which are persistent singers or callers. Usually we birded from about sun-up until 1130 hours, then moved in the afternoon to another area, with casual observations enroute. Good coverage was given late one afternoon as we passed through Benton County. On these latter dates, nightjars usually called about 45 minutes after dusk, so, on the overnight trips we made those runs also. Admittedly, there is some additional bias in birding along roads since we depend largely on hearing the species. Also, even in June, some species may be busy feeding broods and less noticeable.

The areas covered were chiefly the higher portions—four days being chiefly along the Tennessee River Divide and occasionally to the river which was 10 to 25 miles distant. This included Henry County, north Decatur County (not on 1978 Foray routes), east central McNairy County and southwest Hardin County. We also visited east Weakley County, the Obion County bluffs, south Madison County, southeast Fayette County and extreme southwest Hardeman County, and Chickasaw S. P. No marshes, swamps, or large river bottomlands were visited. Birds are relatively more active and common in good bottomlands (subsequent comment under American Redstart applies to several other species in the Hatchie bottoms.) All areas had been birded in previous years, some often since I started looking for summering Rufous-sided Towhees (*The Migrant* 1941:51-57.)

Hawks were low in number; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Broad-winged Hawk, 5; American Kestrel, 19 June: 1, N of Stafford's Store, S. tip of Weakley County, and 1, Skullbone, NE Gibson County. The buteos are more common than indicated but the Kestrel is uncommon here in summer. As we crossed the Obion River on US 51 Highway, we saw a Mississippi Kite. This hawk is fairly common in the Mississippi River Counties (plus the west side of Obion County) and is increasing in sites and numbers in Shelby County.

Only 4 Pileated and 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers were listed, indicating that these two species are chiefly in the bottoms. Of 15 Hairy Woodpeckers, 11 were in the Chickasaw S. P. Five Eastern Phoebees were in the Obion hills, 20 June, and one in SE Weakley County. In recent seasons in Shelby County, the species is

again becoming more uncommon. Rough-winged Swallows totalled 11; several decades ago this species lost many nesting sites when our rural roads—and highways—were widened and road banks were sloped and planted.

The White-breasted Nuthatch, often hard to find in Shelby County, was missed in most areas but 10 seen in Henry County, 18 June, were at five points, all in a narrow corridor between Tenn. 119 and the Lake. Six were in Chickasaw S. P., 25 June, while 2 were S of Pickwick S. P., 23 June; none found in Counce or Shiloh N.M.P. where we expected them to be fairly common. The only Bewick's Wren was 3½ miles SE of Finger, McNairy County, 22 June. Carolina Wrens totaled 42, escaping detection in 3 of the 10 areas,—a reduced status, agreeing with results of the last three years of Breeding Bird Surveys. Eastern Bluebirds seen were 18; missing from 3 areas. As expected Loggerhead Shrikes were down—11, in six areas.

A Swainson's Warbler was found, 22 June, on Meridian Creek S of Jackson; another on 23 June S of Hamburg, our third ever record just S of Shiloh N.M.P. The number of Black-and-white Warblers (2) was so low that it would indicate that we would do better to check their distribution in late May. By mid-July, wanderers are moving into the Lake-Shelby County tier. The lone Blue-winged Warbler does not agree with early season findings, either. The Parula Warbler was uncommon or not found in most areas, being chiefly a bottomland species here. In the Obion bluffs area we heard 13 on 20 June but none on 27 June through part of this terrain on a Breeding Bird Survey. Pine Warblers were uncommon and only in the southern half of Tennessee. The Prairie Warbler was a special objective expected in all areas worked. Numbers were low; not found in only two areas but previously at these it had been not uncommon. Habitat changes affect this species and I believe overall numbers are down in West Tennessee. Generally the species is found west to about a Dresden-Saulsbury line with a scattered few in the Obion bluffs area and to be expected casually in other Mississippi River bluff areas. No Ovenbirds were heard and only a few Hooded Warblers while the Kentucky Warbler seems to be the only uncommonly distributed warbler in our woods. The American Redstarts numbered two, both in the Obion bluffs area. We might compare this low count with a total of 108, 15 June 1974, from a 12-mile ride (BBC) and a 9-mile ride (LCC) down the Hatchie River in the N. W. R. as part of a survey organized by Jerald Ledbetter.

Only one Northern (Baltimore) Oriole was listed—22 June, at Finger. This species is fairly common along the Mississippi River but this year has been in low numbers during spring and summer. A special effort was made for the Scarlet Tanager but it was not heard at several places where formerly found—Chickasaw S. P. and SW Hardin County. Among 9 records: one, 14 June, 3½ miles E of Medon, Madison County and another, 19 June, E of Dresden. The Blue Grosbeak was well distributed but not yet in appreciable numbers. The Rufous-sided Towhee was common except in Chickasaw S. P. (8) and in the Obion hills (2).

Special efforts for the Grasshopper and the Bachman's Sparrow yielded none. Much suitable habitat in Henry and Weakley County was worked for the former, and two late evening runs made in promising areas along the southern part of the "Divide" for the latter. In this connection we note that a single Bewick's Wren and a single Bachman's Sparrow reappeared, after the 1978 absence of the species, on the Corinth, Mississippi survey, 2 June 1979. This breeding bird route runs west, 2 to 4 miles south of our McNairy County line. The Chipping and Field

Sparrows were almost uncommon, although the latter totaled ten in the Obion bluffs area. Only a few American Goldfinches were seen.

Concerning West Tennessee, a few additional comments are presented. On the 1973 Benton County Foray I would consider the following species as transients: Black-billed Cuckoo, Cedar Waxwing, and Blackpoll Warbler. Since the Willow Flycatcher arrives in mid-May, as stated, part could be late transients, although, undoubtedly we have nesters in that area. Apparently, there was no follow-up on the Song Sparrows there. On this 17 June we found the habitat destroyed at that spot. Since the species has been reported in Lake County, we may expect a few widely scattered nesters. One transient was omitted, a Solitary Vireo, 26 May 1973, in the Benton County corner of Natchez Trace State Forest; we spent quite some time taping it.

Only two Common Nighthawks were seen—near Counce the morning of 23 June. None heard on the three all-night trips or the short evening runs. On 29 July we found the species fairly common, as usual, in old downtown Memphis, but few, if any, out at long established shopping centers. On 6 June we found 6 Whip-poor-wills at 5 stops in the southeast corner of Gibson County. In Crockett County one was heard just north of Gadsen, then south, 5 at two stops within a mile. Otherwise across the south side of both counties, even Chuck-will's-widows were hard to find. On 8 June we worked the bluff area of Lauderdale County, getting our first county record of the Whip-poor-will in June—three at two stops, 3 miles W of Central or 5 miles NW of Ripley. Chuck-will's-widows totaled 44 at 27 of 73 stops, in 43 miles; this is low. A larger count was logged, 7 June, across Fayette County: 138 at 58 of 67 stops, in 38 miles (roughly Fisherville-Macon-Williston East.) Whip-poor-wills numbered 15 at 11 stops, mostly east of Williston; no appreciable increase. On the same night we worked the area of our only previous Shelby County June Whip-poor-will (South of Arlington) and found only one, about a mile west of the previous site. We had 22 Chuck-will's-widows at 12 of 16 stops.

The short evening runs were incidental and near our lodging for the night. We are indebted to Carolyn Bullock for her hospitality the first night and birding with us then and the next morning. NE Decatur County, 16 June, 11 miles, 23 stops; 7 Chuck-will's-widows at 6 stops, 30 Whip-poor-wills at 20. NE Henry County, 17 June, 10 miles, 18 stops: 8 Chuck-will's-widows at 5 stops, 17 Whip-poor-wills at 11. Only Whips along Tenn 119 and east to the lake. E Weakley County, 18 June, 10 miles, 17 stops, 8 Chuck-will's-widows at 6 stops, 14 Whip-poor-wills at 9. On 19 June, five miles along the Obion bluffs, opposite Walnut Log, nothing was heard but a single Whip-poor-will at the start. Conditions were favorable and the absence of calling appears unexplainable. On 22 June, 12 miles along the Tennessee River divide E of Selmer, 20 Chuck-will's-widows at 14 of 20 stops, 13 Whip-poor-wills at 11.

For Shiloh N.M.P. we present a comparison with previous runs along an 8-mile circuit. Respectively, for 20 June 1953, 7 June 1973, and 1 June 1979: Chuck-will's widow 25, 35, 28; Whip-poor-will 0, 6, 4. We had expected an increase in the latter species.

672 N. Belvedere, Memphis 38107. Accepted 2 Sept. 1979.

THE SEASON

FRED J. ALSOP, III, *Editor*

FALL MIGRATION: 1 AUGUST—31 OCTOBER, 1979

This season followed an extremely wet summer. Many of the TVA reservoirs were at much higher than normal drawdown levels leaving little suitable habitat to attract migrating shorebirds. Good movements of shorebirds were recorded, however, especially in the Eastern Ridge and Valley, and particularly at the Kingston steam plant where birders were regular visitors. This site's list included a Red Knot in early September and a Northern Phalarope in the middle of the month. Sanderlings were observed in several areas across the region throughout most of the reporting period. Other notable aquatic species include a Red-throated Loon on Cherokee Lake and Least Terns at two locations in the Eastern Ridge and Valley. Caspian Terns were seen in late September on South Holston Lake in the East Mountain Region.

The most unusual sighting of a raptorial species is the observation of a Mississippi Kite in late August at Decatur in the Ridge and Valley region. This is only the second record for the species in Tennessee more than few miles east of the Mississippi River. Golden Eagles were found at two sites in the Eastern Mountain and one suffering from a gunshot wound was recovered in the Ridge and Valley Region. Both of these regions also reported a Merlin each and both had multiple observations of Peregrines.

A flock of 200 Cattle Egrets was recorded at Dyersburg. The Western Coastal Plain Region also reported Evening Grosbeaks, a most unusual winter visitor in West Tennessee, in mid-October. A Monk Parakeet was observed in Memphis.

House Finches are becoming more common in the State each year as winter visitors. In Johnson City, six to eight were regular visitors at a feeder after 24 October. Some efforts should be made to more carefully document the numbers and distribution of this artificially displaced western finch as it continues to consistently winter here.

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION—Parakeet-Osprey: *MONK PARAKEET:* 27 Oct (1) M (FW), only previous sighting in Memphis was Oct-Feb, 1972-1973. Cattle Egret: 3 Oct (200) D. Little Blue Heron: 3 Sep 213 herons flying up Forked Deer past Tigrett Wildlife Management Area (WGC). Mississippi Kite: 1 Aug-31 Aug (1-4) North Dyer Co. (WGC), 30 Aug (30) North Memphis (JS), 30 Aug-15 Sep several seen at various points in Memphis area, (LCC, BCC, GC), 15 Sep-22 Sep (1 immature being fed) M (SF, JF). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 13 Oct (1) PF (JGH). Rough-legged Hawk: 13 Oct (1) PF (JGH). Osprey: 13 Sep (1) HP (RM), 15 Sep (1) Everett's Lake, Dyer Co. (WGC). 16 Sep (1) Island 21, Dyer Co. (WGC).

Dowitcher-Grosbeak: Long-billed Dowitcher: 13 Oct (1) PF (JGH). Caspian Tern: 16 Sep (2) Island 21, Dyer Co. (WGC). Common Nighthawk: From 25 to 150 or more seen at various point in Memphis, 23 Aug thru 18 Oct (GC, LCC, BCC, JS, WF, JS, OI, DB, JGH, GO, PO, MW). Olive-sided Flycatcher: 25 Sep (1) D (CH). House Wren: 13 Oct (1) PF (JGH), 22 Oct (1) D (CH). CEDAR WAXWING: 27 Aug (25) OP (previous earliest date printed in *The Migrant* for West Tn. was 26 Sep.) Blue Grosbeak: 3 Aug (4 young) Dyer Co (WGC). *EVENING GROSBEAK*: 17 Oct (24-24) M (JD).

Locations: D—Dyersburg, HP—Herb Parson's Lake in west Fayette Co.; M—Memphis; OP—Overton Park, city park in mid-town Memphis; PF—Penal Farm, northeast Shelby Co.; R—Reelfoot Lake.

Observers: DB—Diane Bean; GC—Greg Charbonnet; BCC—Ben B Coffey, Jr.; LCC—Lula C. Coffey; WGC—W. G. Criswell; JD—Jon Devore; JF—Jim Ferguson; SF—Sue Ferguson; WF—William Fowler; CH—Celia Hudson; JGH—James G. Holt; OI—Oliver Irwin; RM—Robert McGowan; PO—Peggy Owen; GO—George Owen; JS—John Stokes; FW—Freeman Wright; MW—Martha Waldron.

MARTHA WALDRON, 1626 Yorkshire Drive, Memphis 38117.

CENTRAL PLATEAU AND BASIN REGION—Double-crested Cormorant: 2 Nov Old Hickory Lake (2) CS. Green Heron: 30 Oct Radnor Lake, Nash (1) AP. Little Blue Heron: 15-23 Oct MetroCenter, Nash (1 white) DV. Great Egret: 29 Jul - 3 Sep Lewis' Lake, Gallatin (1) DPC; 25 Aug Ashland City Marsh (1) RJM; 25 Aug Hillsboro, Grundy Co. (1) ER; 8 Sep Cross Creek's Nat'l Wildlife Refuge (3) WAS; 15 Sep Rock Is, Warren Co (2) MW. Green-winged Teal: 17 Aug Lewis' Lake, Gallatin (2) DPC, DW. Ruddy Duck: 16-30 Sep Monsanto Ponds, Columbia (1) BAL. Broad-winged Hawk: 15 Sep Rock Is, Warren Co (Flocks 45, 125, 20) MW. Peregrine Falcon: 21 Sep Gallatin Steam Plant (1) DPC. Sandhill Crane: 25 Oct Barnes Hollow, Putnam Co (10-15) RWS. Semipalmated Plover: 6 Oct Gallatin Steam Plant (1) DPC. American Golden Plover: 11-14 Oct Gallatin Steam Plant (1) DPC; 2-28 Oct MetroCenter (1-5) DV, JB, EQ. Black-bellied Plover: 26 Aug Gallatin Steam Plant (1) DPC. Upland Sandpiper: 25 Aug MetroCenter (2) DV. Red Knot: 10 Oct Gallatin Steam Palnt (40) DPC. Dunlin: 22 Oct Gallatin Steam Plant (40) DPC. Stilt Sandpiper: 26 Aug-30 Sep Gallatin Steam Plant (1) DPC; 6-7 Oct Green's Lake, Gallatin (1) MLB. Western Sandpiper: 4 Nov Gallatin Steam Plant (3) DPC. Sanderling: 22 Sep Gallatin Steam Plant (1) DPC; 6-7 Oct Gallatin Steam Plant (1) DPC. American Avocet: 15 Sep Gallatin Steam Plant (8) TG; 19 Oct Cross Creeks Nat'l Wildlife Refuge (3) BW *et al.* Least Tern: 26 Aug Gallatin Steam Plant (1) DPC. Black Tern: 26 Aug Gallatin Steam Plant (9) DPC. Whip-poor-will: 27 Oct Basin Spring (1) KAG, Late. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 Sep Basin Spring (1 banded) KAG; 10 Sep Lewis Co (1 banded) GRM; 1 Oct Lewis Co (1 banded) GRM. Tree Swallow: 25 Sep Gallatin (500) DPC. Bank Swallow: 30 Sep Gallatin (54) DPC. Brown Creeper: 10 Sep Nashville (1) JM. Bewick's Wren: 29 Sep Gallatin (5) DPC. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 9 Sep Nashville (1) LF. Water Pipit: 6 Oct Gallatin Steam Plant (1) TK. Golden-winged Warbler: 17 Aug Love Hill, Nash (1) JA. Magnolia Warbler: 2 Nov Love Hill, Nash (1) JA. Blackburnian Warbler: 28 Oct Pennington Bend, Nash (1) MLM. Hooded Warbler: 21 Oct Percy Warner Park, Nash (1) JB, EQ. Pine Siskin: 13 Oct Basin Spring (2) KAG, Early. Vesper Sparrow: 30 Sep MetroCenter (1) DV.

Observers (alphabetically beginning first initial): AP—Audrey Perry; BW—Barbara Wilbur; BAL—Bedford and Anne Lockridge; DV—David Logt; DW—Diane Wilson; DPC—Dot and Paul Crawford; EQ—Elizabeth Queener; ER—Erma Rogers; GRM—George R. Mayfield; JA—Jan Alexander; JB—Jane Bridgman; JM—Jane Maynard; KAG—Katherine A. Goodpasture; LF—Lucy Finch; MLM—Margaret L. Mann; MLB—Michael L. Bierly; MW—Miriam Weinstein; RWS—Richard W. Simmers; RJM—Rocky J. Milburn; TG—Tom Gray; TK—Tony Koella; WAS—Warioto Audobon Society.

PAT STALLINGS, 406 North 17 Street, Nashville 37206.

EASTERN RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION—Rain over the region was heavier than normal. The Chattanooga National Weather Service Office recorded a total of 4.84 inches of excess precipitation during the period and other sections of the region were probably similar. As a result, TVA was able to generate a great deal of hydropower thus keeping electric rates down, but it made an ornithological disaster for the observation of wandering wading species and migrating shorebirds on Chickamauga Lake. Sightings of both groups of birds on the reservoir were probably the worst since records have been kept. At the end of the period Chickamauga Lake was still near full pool.

Observations of shorebirds were concentrated at the Kingston Steam Plant with other interesting coverage coming from Austin Springs, the Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery and the Rankin Bottoms section of Douglas Lake. A close reading of the Kingston Steam Plant observations, since the intense coverage was initiated in 1978, makes one speculate what constitutes "normal" numbers.

A television tower kill at Knoxville on the nights of 29-30 September resulted in the death of 326 birds of 33 species. A description of the kill will be written up as a separate article.

Loons-Hawks: Common Loon: 23 Oct (1), 30 Oct (19) BL (RK). *RED-THROATED LOON*: 22 Oct (1) Cherokee Lake in Grainger Co. (TK). Pied-billed Grebe: 13 Aug (1) KSP (KLD); 3 Oct (23) SB (LD, EK). Double-crested Cormorant: 28 Oct (1) HRA (KLD). Little Blue Heron: 2 Sep (10) RB (TK); 8 Aug-2 Oct (only 5 records of 1-11 birds) HRA, SB (KLD, RCS). Cattle Egret: 3 Oct (1) Townsend (TK); 29 Oct (5) HRA (KLD). Great Egret: 2 Sep (10), 8 Sep (25) RB (TK); 23 Oct (2), 30 Oct (1) BL (RK); 1-2 regular EB through 24 Sep (CPN, LT); 6-27 Aug (1-2) HRA (KLD). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 6 Aug (4) HRA (KLD); 13, 20 Aug (1 imm) KSP (KLD); last seen 14 Sep (1) AS (SG). Least Bittern: 29 Sep-23 Oct (1-2) AS (GE, HF, RK). American Bittern: 16-29 Sep (1) AS (GE, HF). White Ibis: 13 Aug (1 imm) HRA (KLD). Canada Goose: first arrival of non-resident birds 26 Sep (50) CL (CPN). Snow Goose: 28 Oct (2 blue morph) HRA (TOS). Black Duck: 1-3 Sep (2-7) KSP (LD, RCS); 2 Sep (6) RB (TK). Gadwall: first 3 Sep (2) KSP (RCS, LD). Pintail: first 8 Sep (4) EB (SBS); 23 Oct (51) RB (TK). Green-winged Teal: 12 Sep (1) AS (RL, RK); 23 Oct (204) RB (TK). Blue-winged Teal: 4 Sep-23 Oct (1+) AS (RK); 18 Sep (79) SB (KLD). American Wigeon: 18 Sep (3) KSP (KLD). No. Shoveler: 5 and 6 Sep (1) SJP (RK). Wood Duck: max 21 Aug (350) HRA (KLD); 8 Sep (230) RB (TK). Ring-necked Duck: one spent the season on a pond in JC (RK, MD, SG). Lesser Scaup: one spent the period on a pond in JC (RK, MD, SG). Ruddy Duck: 29 Oct (1) Patrick Henry Lake (MD, SG). *MISSISSIPPI KITE*: 27 Aug (1) observed near

Decatur, details to be submitted (RCS, KLD). Cooper's Hawk: 5 Sep (1) Winfield, Scott Co. (CPN); 8 Sep (1) EB (SBS); 18 Sep (1) U. T. Plant Science Farm (SBS). *GOLDEN EAGLE*: injured bird (*gunshot wound*) found 28 Oct on Cherokee Lake, Hamblen Co., it was rehabilitated and released 18 Dec (John New *fide* CPN). Bald Eagle: one at Cherokee Dam in mid-Aug (Harry Morre *fide* JBO); 13 Sep (1 imm) Norris Lake (JCH). *PEREGRINE FALCON*: 23 Sep (1) Mt. Roosevelt and 1 ad. KSP—(same bird?) (JCH, CPN, JBO). Merlin: 15 Sep (1) KSP (CPN, JBO, SBS).

Grouse-Phalarope: Ruffed Grouse: 6 Oct (1 hit a window killing itself) Signal Mt. (RBW); 19 Oct (1) HRA on Lower River Rd. between Candies and S Mouse Creeks (KLD). Sora: 14 Sep (2) JB (RK); 12 Oct (1) AS (RK). *COMMON GALLINULE*: 4-14 Sep (1) AS (RK); 1 Oct (1 imm) this injured bird was found at Alcoa and brought to Knoxville for rehabilitation and release (Len Hurley *fide* CPN & SJS); 23 Oct (6) RB (TK). Semipalmated Plover: 2, 8 Sep (1, 3) RB (TK); 3 Sep-7 Oct (1-4 occasional) KSP (KLD, TK). American Golden Plover: 11 Sep (1) KSP (KLD, JBO); 19 Sep (1 dead on road) JC (TFL); 10-14 Sep (1) AS (RK). Black-bellied Plover: 27 Aug-2 Sep (1) KSP (KLD, REB, MaD, CPN); 7 Oct (2) KSP (TK). Ruddy Turnstone: 15 Sep (1) HCo (TFL, RAP). Common Snipe: 14 Sep (1) KSP (SJS, REB); 23 Sep (4) RB (TK). Upland Sandpiper: 2 Aug (1) EB (CPN); 23 Sep (8) RB (TK). Spotted Sandpiper: 3 Aug-14 Sep (1-5) EB (CPN, LT). Willet: 23 Aug (1) EB (LT, SJS); 1-3 Sep (1) KSP (REB, MaD, KLD, CPN, RCS). Greater Yellowlegs: 23 Sep, 23 Oct (2, 1) RB (TK); 24 Aug (1) SB (KLD); 9-31 Oct (1-11 regular) SB, HRA (KLD). Lesser Yellowlegs: 2, 23 Sep (10) RB (TK). *RED KNOT*: 3 Sep (1) KSP (KLD, CPN, RCS). Pectoral Sandpiper: 13 Aug-30 Oct (1-11 sporadic) SB, HRA, KSP (KLD, RCS, EK); 2-23 Sep (4-12) RB (TK). *BAIRD'S SANDPIPER*: 3-24 Sep (1-6) KSP (SBS, KLD, CPN, LT, MaD *et al.*). Least Sandpiper: 13 Aug-14 Oct (1-53) SB, HRA, KSP (KLD, EK). Dunlin: 2-31 Oct (1-8) AS (ETOS); 7 Oct (7) KSP (TK); 23 Oct (45) RB (TK). Stilt Sandpiper: 12 Aug-24 Sep (1-35) EB, KSP (KLD, LT, SBS, MaD, CPN, *et al.*). 15 Aug (1) SJP (RK); 14 Sep (1) AS (MD, SG). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 Aug-7 Oct (1-35) KSP (KLD, TK); 2, 8 Sep (8) RB (TK). Western Sandpiper: 12 Aug (1) EB (SJS, REB); 20 Aug-24 Sep (1-9) KSP (KLD, RCS, EK); 15-29 Aug (1-3) SJP (RK); 14, 15 Sep (5, 1) HCo (RAP, TFL). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 8-11 Sep (3-5) KSP (KLD, JBO, LT, SBS *et al.*). *SANDERLING*: 14 Sep (3) AS (SG, MD); 29 Sep (3) AS (GE, HF); 23 Sep (2) RB (TK); 11 Aug-7 Oct (1-6) KSP (SBS, KLD, RCS, CPN *et al.*); never before has this bird ever been found in the region so consistently. American Avocet: 3 Sep (11) Louisville (MaD); 19 Oct (3) Bays Mt. Park, Kingsport (Tom Bowman, Dan M. Johnson, TFL, RAP). Wilson's Phalarope: 24 Aug-6 Sep (1-2) KSP (KLD, RCS, CPN, MaD *et al.*). *NORTHERN PHALAROPE*: 15 Sep (1) KSP (CPN, JBO, SBS *et al.*).

Gull-Sparrows: Laughing Gull: 14 Sep (1) KSP (SJS, REB); 15 Sep (2) KSP (SBS, CPN, JBO). Forster's Tern: 30 Aug (3) SB (LD); 27 Aug (1) EB (LDT). Common Tern: 26 Aug (6-9) KSP (LD, EK, MaD, LDT); 3 Sep (1) SB (KLD, RCS). *LEAST TERN*: 23 Aug (1) EB (LT); 24 Aug (1) SB (LD). Caspian Tern: 26 Aug (1) KSP (EK, LD, MaD, LDT); 6 Sep (1) KSP (SJS, MaD, REB); 14 Sep (2) KSP (SJS, REB). Black Tern: 11 Aug-3 Sep (1-30) KSP, HRA, SB (KLD, CPN, MaD, REB, Holly Overton); 25 Aug (9) AS (RK, SG). Whip-poor-will: 17 Sep (1) HRA (KLD). Common Nighthawk: 27 Aug (400) Norris (CPN), then several later reports of flocks in the hundreds; last 12 Oct (1) K (CPN). Eastern Kingbird: 27 Aug (25 counted flying south at 8:30 a.m.) SB (KLD). Tree Swallow: 14 Sep

(300+) JB (RK). Bank Swallow: 14 Sep (200+) JB (RK). Rough-winged Swallow: 10 Oct (1) AS (RK). Barn Swallow: 23 Oct (1) JC (SG). Cliff Swallow: 14 Sep (250+) JB (RK). Purple Martin: 7 Sep (1) JC (MD, SG). Brown Creeper: 30 Sep (1) K (JMC, JCH, CPN). Long-billed Marsh Wren: 29 Sep-16 Oct (1-2) JB, AS (RK). Short-billed Marsh Wren: 7-23 Aug (1) SB (KLD); 30 Sep, 5 Oct (1) Concord (SBS, A. Boyd Sharp). Brown Thrasher: 21 Sep (50) K (JCH). Swainson's Warbler: 21 Sep (1) Campbell Co. (JCH). Worm-eating Warbler: 20 Sep (1) K (JCH). Golden-winged Warbler: 30 Sep (1) K (TK). Blue-winged Warbler: 19 Sep (1) K (JCH). Canada Warbler: 21 Oct (1) K (LT). Bobolink: 14, 29 Sep (70, 40) JB (RK); 30 Sep, 2 Oct (3, 12) AS (GE, HF). Orchard Oriole: 27 Aug (1) HRA (Ken Dubke). *HOUSE FINCH*: 6-8 regular in JC after 24 Oct (Helenhill Dove, SG). Grasshopper Sparrow: 30 Sep (1) JB (RK). White-crowned Sparrow: 9 Oct (1) AS (RK).

Locations: AS—Austin Springs; CL—Cove Lake; EB—Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery; HCo—Hawkins County; HRA—Hiwassee River Area; JB—Jonesboro; JC—Johnson City; K—Knoxville; KSP—Kingston Steam Plant; RB—Rankin Bottoms (Cocke County section of Douglas Lake); SB—Savannah Bay; SJP—St. John's Pond.

Observers: REB—Beck, Robert E.; MaD—Davis, Marsha; MD—Dillenbeck, Martha; KLD—Dubke, Kenneth H. and Lillian H.; LD—Dubke, Lillian H.; TOS-ETOS—Elizabethton Chapter; GE—Eller, Glen; HF—Farthing, Harry; SG—Goodin, Sally; JCH—Howell, Joseph C.; EK—Killian, Elena; RK—Knight, Rick; TK—Koella, Jon A. "Tony"; RL—Lewis, Richard; CPN—Nicholson, Charles P.; JBO—Owen, J. B.; RAP—Phillips, Rick A.; SJS—Stedman, Stephen J. "Steve"; SBS—Stedman, Steve and Barbara; RCS—Stringer, Randy C.; LT—Turner, Linda; LDT—Turner, Linda and Dave; RBW—Wilkey, R. Bruce.

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION—After a wetter than normal summer, this period's rainfall returned to more normal totals. August and Sept. had near normal temperatures. The first major frost came on 8 Oct with cooler temperatures during the rest of the month.

Accipiters and falcons were very prominent during the period with several unusual sightings being reported. A small tern movement through the area along with a good warbler movement made for interesting birding. A very poor cone crop and sparse food otherwise in the higher elevations will probably mean a non-productive year of northern visitors. Red-breasted Nuthatches are completely missing from the high elevations, after being so numerous this past winter and during the summer months.

LOON-HAWK: Common Loon: 27 Oct (1) WatL (MD, SG) 1st fall return. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 17 Aug (2) E (GE). *SNOW GOOSE*: (Blue Morph) 27 Oct (2) WatL (ES). Black Duck: 29 Sep (3) WibL (GW, DL) 1st fall return. Blue-winged Teal: 12 Sep (3) SV (HF) 1st fall return and 23 Oct (1) SV (GE) last seen. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 12 separate sightings during period. Cooper's Hawk: 5 separate sightings during period. Broad-winged Hawk: 14 Oct (1) GSMNP (SS) last seen. *GOLDEN EAGLE*: 9 Sep (1) GSMNP (BS) and 13 Oct (1) HS (HF). Marsh Hawk: 17 Sep (1) RM (ES). Osprey: 8 Sep (1) RM (ETOS) 1st fall return

and 20 Oct (1) WatL (GE) last seen. *PEREGRINE FALCON*: 29 Sep (1) GSMNP (SS); 6 Oct (1) SHL (RL); 7 Oct (1) Pigeon Forge (BS). *PIGEON HAWK (MERLIN)*: 29 Sep (1) SHL (RL).

Yellowlegs-Wren: Greater Yellowlegs: 6 Oct (2) SHL (RL). Pectoral Sandpiper: 7 Oct (2) E (GE). Forster's Tern: 29 Sep (5) SHL (RL). Common Tern: 29 Sep (1) SHL (RL). *CASPIAN TERN*: 29 Sep (4) SHL (RL) and 25 Sep (3) SHL (RL). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 30 Sep (1) SV (HF) last seen. Barn Owl: 1-8 Aug (1) SV (GW). Screech Owl: still very low populations in area. Great Horned Owl: 18-26 Sep (1) SHL (RL). *OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER*: 25 Aug (1) Unaka Mtn. (ES). Tree Swallow: 10 Oct (3) SV (HF) last seen. Rough-winged Swallow: 6 Oct (2) E (GE). Black-capped Chickadee: 7, 14 Oct (2-5) GSMNP (SS, BS); 20 Oct (1) RM (DL). Red-breasted Nuthatch: no birds seen in higher elevations. House Wren: 15 Oct (1) E (HF) last seen.

Vireo-Sparrow: Solitary Vireo: 20 Oct (1) SV (HF) last seen. Warbling Vireo: 1 Sep (1) SHL (RL). Prothonotary Warbler: 8 Sep (1) RM elevation 5500' (LoH.) Blue-winged Warbler: 24 Sep (1) E (LoH) last seen. Nashville Warbler: 12 Oct (1) E (HF) last seen. Magnolia Warbler: 20 Oct (1) E (GE) last seen. Cape May Warbler: 8 Sep (250-300) RM elevation 5500' (ETOS). Pine Warbler: 21 Oct (2) WibL (GW) last seen. Palm Warbler: 31 Oct (1) E (GE). Wilson's Warbler: 22 Sep (1) E (DL) last seen. Boblink: 13 Oct (20) Pigeon Forge (BS). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 9 Oct (1) RM (ES) last seen. Indigo Bunting: 14 Oct (2) HS (GE). Purple Finch: 30 Sep (2) GSMNP (BS). Red Crossbill: 15 Oct (15) GSMNP (Chuck Nicholson). Vesper Sparrow: 23 Sep (1) SHL (RL). White-crowned Sparrow: 23 Sep (1) SHL (RL) 1st return. White-throated Sparrow: 26 Sep (2) E (HF). *LINCOLN'S SPARROW*: 29 Sep (1) SV (GW, DL).

Locations: E—Elizabethton; GSMNP—Great Smoky Mtn National Park; HS—Hunter Swamp; RM—Roan Mountain; SHL—South Holston Lake; SV—Siam Valley; WatL—Watauga Lake; WibL—Wilbur Lake.

Observers: MD—Martha Dillenbeck; GE—Glen Eller; ETOS—Eliz. Chapter TOS; HF—Harry Farthing; SG—Sally Goodin; LoH—Lois Herndon; DL—Dick Lura; RL—Richard Lewis; BS—Barbara Stedman; ES—Ed Schell; SS—Steve Stedman; GW—Gary Wallace.

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Correction: *The Migrant*. Vol. 50, No. 3.

p. 67 Reads: "Osprey: 14 Apr (1) LaJoie Lake, CSP (TOS, MC), courtship observed 5 Mar, R (JF, SF)."

It should read: "Osprey: 14 Apr (1) LaJoie Lake, CSP (TOS, MC). Yellow Rail: 30 Apr (1) window kill, U. T. Martin, the first record for West Tennessee, (DP). American Woodcock: 17 Feb through 11 Mar, (1 to 10), courtship observed 5 Mar, R (JF, SF)."

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