

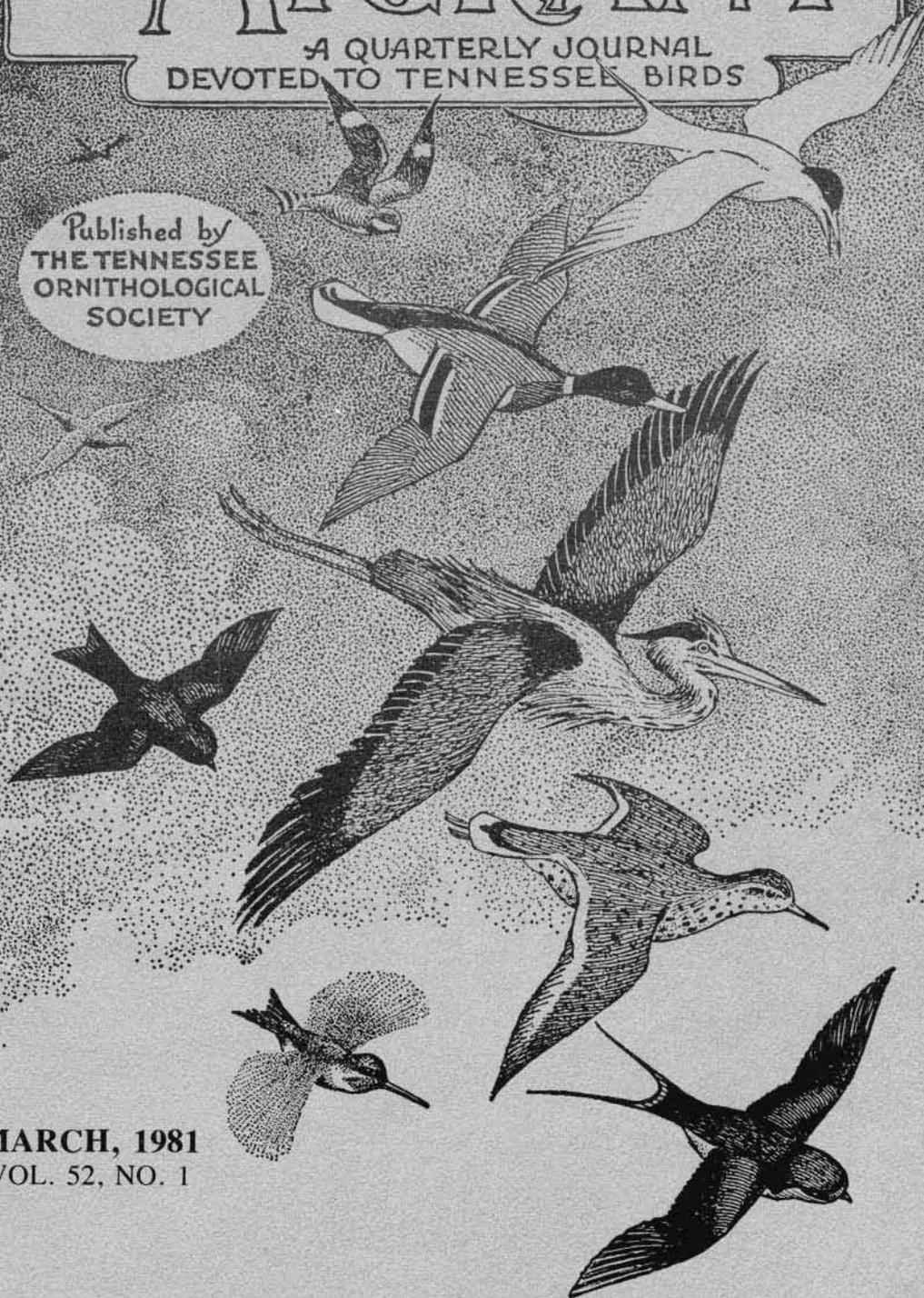
# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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## THE CLIFF SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) IN TENNESSEE

FRED J. ALSOP, III

Since Ben B. Coffey, Jr. reported a 14 August 1932 sighting of one Cliff Swallow in Memphis (Coffey, 1933) more than 160 citations for this species have appeared in the pages of *The Migrant*. Today, more than 45 years later, we still know very little about the movements of this bird through, and its breeding activities in, Tennessee.\* The purpose of this paper is to consolidate most of what has been published about the bird in the State in an effort to better understand its present status and its history as a breeding bird. Hopefully it will raise questions that birders across Tennessee can seek to answer as they look for evidence of nesting colonies in their home birding areas during the summer seasons to come.

Cliff Swallows in Tennessee occur either as transients passing through the State (most of the nesting range of the species is north of Tennessee) or as summer residents nesting in Tennessee. Records of transients in *The Migrant* for the southerly Fall migration come mostly from "The Season." Those for the northward passage are recorded principally in the "Spring Field Days."

Because the species is a regular transient through the State records of its dates of occurrence are few, i.e., it is a familiar bird and few observations get reported, especially for the Fall migration (records of Fall migrants are outnumbered by those of Spring transients by more than 3 to 1). Extreme dates for the bird in Tennessee are 6 March as the earliest and 24 October as the latest. Because most of the records for Spring migrants were produced by birders taking part in "Spring Field Days" peak movements for migrants at this season are unknown as the date listed is that of the local count which may have little correlation with migratory movements of the species. Median dates of occurrence for the Spring in the four regions used in "The Season" are: Western Coastal Plain, 5 May; Central Plateau and Basin, 27 April; Eastern Ridge and Valley, 30 April; and Eastern Mountain, 2 May. It appears that most of the transients move through the State between 20 April and 10 May in their flights to breeding areas to the north. Median dates for the Fall migration in the above regions are: Western Coastal Plain, 5 September;

\*Some care should be taken when using only the data recorded in *The Migrant*. Ben Coffey pointed out some literature problems when he reviewed this paper by stating, "When someone expands a regional distribution phenomena into a state-wide study . . . he has to consider the status of "Season" notes as published in the past. There was a period when there was no Season published; then, later it was kept short. At that time, to save space, I left out many, many swallow notes . . . in order to have room for other data. Then, Cliff Swallow colonies became commonplace, so, they were, generally not mentioned."

Central Plateau and Basin, 16 September; Eastern Ridge and Valley, 21 August; and Eastern Mountain, 4 September. The major movements appear to be between 1 August and 20 September with the largest flocks, hundreds to thousands of birds, being reported in the second two weeks of August. By the end of the second week of August most of the birds in Tennessee's breeding colonies are usually gone from the colony site.

The natural nesting site for the Cliff Swallow must have been the walls of rocky bluffs and outcroppings as the common and scientific names suggest. The race which breeds in the State is *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota pyrrhonota* (Vieillot). *Petrochelidon* is Greek for "rock swallow" from *petros*, "rock," and *chelidon*, "swallow" (*pyrrhonota* is in reference to one of the bird's field marks and is Greek for "russet-backed," from *pyrrhos*, "russet," and *noton*, "back"). The earliest published nesting site is by Albert Ganier and S. A. Weakley in 1936 (Ganier and Weakley, 1936) of a colony on a man-made structure, Lock D, on the Cumberland River near Dover in Stewart County. No information is available as to how long this colony had been in existence, only that the lock keepers stated the birds had been there for a number of years (the locks were constructed in 1916). Earlier nesting of the species was at least suspected as Mr. Ganier (Ganier, 1933) in his *A Distributional List of the Birds of Tennessee* gives the swallow the status of a "fairly common transient" in all regions, and "very rare summer resident" in East Tennessee. Perhaps the oldest nesting location for the species was in Decatur County in a natural situation on island bluffs in the Tennessee River 13 miles downstream from Savannah. This colony on Swallow Bluff Island had been "in existence for many years" when Ganier and his party visited it in 1936 (Ganier and Weakley, 1936) and contained about 90 nests. Alfred Clebsch (Clebsch, 1941) visited the site on 17 May 1941 and found the location abandoned with the colony relocated upstream because the locals were punching down nests to use the young for fish bait. At this time there were about 200 nests and Clebsch states, ". . . (there was) good evidence that swallows have been nesting at these river-bluffs since early times." There was an additional nesting site (Ganier and Weakley, 1936) nearby on the Decatur County shore on some low limestone bluffs where steamboats tied up called Swallow Bluff Landing. In 1943 (14:62) Swallow Bluff was blasted into the river as it was ". . . regarded as a menace to navigation upon the coming raising of the Kentucky Dam pool. . . ." Weakley (1945) two years later found the Swallow Bluff colony had moved 25 miles downstream to Marvin's Bluff in Perry County.

S. A. Weakley (1936) located a colony with 107 nests, 24 July 1936, on Lock B on the Cumberland River in Montgomery County 14 miles above Clarksville. This lock was also constructed in 1916 and his inquiries of the local lock keepers established that the birds began nesting there in 1917. He located a second Cliff Swallow population nesting on Lock C, 18 miles west of Clarksville, with about 20 nests. In 1937 a new nesting site was found to be under the bridge approach, and the bridge itself, at Dover near the original colony at Lock D.

In July, 1942, Ben Coffey found the easternmost colony to that date when he saw Cliff Swallows in flight about the Market Street bridge within the city of Chattanooga. A short search disclosed 5 or 6 nests of the bird under the bridge. A 35 year old fisherman Coffey questioned said they had been nesting there all his life ". . . most certainly for the last 10 to 12 years . . ." (Coffey, 1942).

One of the most common nesting sites for the swallow in its breeding areas north of Tennessee has been the walls of buildings with the mud nests usually being

placed close up under the eaves. Barns have been especially favored for this activity. On 4 June 1947 William Sutherland and Lee Herndon (Herndon, 1947) found 15 occupied nests of the Cliff Swallow in the hall-way of a barn along the Watauga River in the Siam community in Carter County. A second barn with 14 active nests in its hall-way was located nearby at the Siam bridge. The owner of the latter structure said the birds had been there every summer since 1941. It was not until 17 April 1972 that another nest of the species would be reported from the walls of a building. In that year Martha Dillenbeck and Peter Range (1972) found 2-8 nesting in a barn at Austin Springs in adjacent Washington County. These are the only observations of the species nesting in barns (buildings) I am aware of for the State, and, though separated by a period of 25 years, the locations are less than 15 miles apart. The Carter County locality remains the most eastern published nesting site for the bird in Tennessee.

During the 1950's new colonies were found in Perry, Hardin, Marion, Hamilton, and Humphreys counties. All were situated on man-made structures in, on, or over the Tennessee River. In the 1960's many new populations were found nesting in the Chattanooga area (West, 1961). Birders in the Nashville area located several colonies west of the city along the River Road in Davidson and Cheatham counties and on the road between Ashland City and Clarksville. Additional nesting birds were reported from Rhea, Hickman, and Perry counties. Ben Coffey (1964) found Cliff Swallows nesting under both approaches of the bridge spanning Kentucky Lake at Paris Landing in Henry and Stewart counties.

The 1970's are showing either a northeastward breeding extension of Cliff Swallows in the State or the location of overlooked colonies which may have been in existence for many years. However, the long residence of established, reliable birders in the Knoxville area and in the Tri-cities region indicates a recent movement of the swallow into the area and the establishment, probably within this decade of several new breeding colonies in the Upper East Tennessee counties along the headwaters and major tributaries of the Tennessee River. In 1970 two small colonies were found in Knox County and an additional one south of Knoxville on the Knox County-Blount County line (Alsop, 1970). Knoxville has had an active chapter of the T.O.S. for many years and its breeding birds and their status are as well known as those of any county in the State. It seems most unlikely that a species that nests in such conspicuous situations as does the Cliff Swallow would be overlooked for long. In the same year Gary Wallace (Wallace, 1970) located 6 colonies under concrete bridges in Grainger County and two nests to the south in neighboring Jefferson County. In 1972 Dillenbeck and Range located a small nesting population in a barn in Washington County near Johnson City. In the 1977 nesting season the author and Rick Phillips found the following colonies under concrete highway bridges on U.S. 11-W in Hawkins County on 24 May: 18 active nests plus several nests from past seasons under the west end of the James Leftwich Rogers Memorial Bridge over the Poor Valley Creek embayment of Cherokee Lake; 20 active nests plus several "old" nests under the bridge over Clouds Creek embayment of Cherokee Lake; 4 old and abandoned nests under the Caney Creek embayment bridge over Cherokee Lake; and 59 active nests under the north approach of the Hugh B. Day bridge over the Holston River just south of Rogersville. On 25 May 1977 Rich Phillips and Tom Laughlin found 22 active nests on the concrete pylons supporting the bridge over Boone Lake near Muddy Creek in Sullivan County southeast of Tri-cities Airport. Some nests in this colony were still under construction, some had incubating birds, and 3 were occupied by House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*). It is believed that the Sullivan County site is

more than a year old and the Hawkins County sites have been occupied since about 1971 (based on the old nests still present and on conversations with local residents and fishermen).

Little has been published in the State's literature on the actual nesting activities of the birds at the colony sites. From the available information it is known that nest construction has been observed as early as 13 April (Weakley, 1938) and as late as 9 July (Goodpasture, 1960). Some birds have been seen to add new mud to the shells of nests from the previous season and some apparently to occupy intact nests from the preceding year (Clebsch, 1941) presumably after adding some new lining materials. Birds have been seen incubating eggs from 18 May (Clebsch, 1941) to 4 June (West, 1961). Observations of young being fed in the nest surely have been made but no reliable dates have been published.

Almost all of the reported nesting sites of the Cliff Swallow in Tennessee are located on two major river systems within the State. All the known sites (known to the author) on the Cumberland River are downstream from Nashville from just west of the city to Dover. Most of the colonies in the State, however, are located on the Tennessee River and its tributaries including the Holston River and the Watauga River in Upper East Tennessee (see Figure 1 and Tables 1-4). One would suspect that searches in the summer along these waterways in Meigs, Roane, Loudon, and Hamblen counties in East Tennessee and Houston County in western Middle Tennessee would produce evidence of nesting in those places as well. With regard to the presence of this species in the Memphis and Reelfoot Lake areas and at other locations along the Mississippi River over a period of at least 45 years it is somewhat surprising that more have not been discovered to be nesting in West Tennessee. The Coffeys and others have looked for the mud nests of this swallow around Memphis for many years without much success. On 29 April 1973, Jerald Ledbetter and members of the Memphis T.O.S. located 2 birds and a nest at Shelby Forest State Park. On 24 May, Lula and Ben Coffey observed the 2 birds and the nest under a gabled roof of an open shed for fishing skiffs with 52 Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) nests (*American Birds*, 27 (5):881). Coffey noted that it was 99 miles to the nearest nest northwest and the first known in the lower Mississippi Valley. The next year the Coffeys saw two Cliff Swallows carrying nesting materials to the same shed on 28 April. Later they learned that all the swallow nests had been destroyed by park personnel because of excrement on the boats. Some Barn Swallows remained in the vicinity, but no Cliff Swallows have been seen there since (Ben Coffey, pers. comm.). On 19 June, 1977, Ben Coffey found two birds and a nest on the Spring Creek bridge, 6 miles east of Hickory Valley, Hardeman County.

With the exception of the very early nesting sites on limestone bluffs in Decatur and Perry counties and Gray Cliff and Nickajack Cave (West, 1961) in the Chattanooga area, all the reported nests have been located on man-made structures. These have included barns, culverts, bridges (principally concrete) and locks and dams. The shifting status of the Cliff Swallow from that of a rather uncommon migrant, i.e., "Even as transients, these birds are not frequently recorded in our State though occasionally, in the mixed flocks of swallows that congregate in migration over lakes and ponds, one can pick out a number of these conspicuously marked birds" (Ganier, 1936), to a fairly widely distributed, not uncommon breeding bird seems to be contributed to no small degree to its ability to adapt to the artificial nesting sites provided by Tennessee's department of highways and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Nesting sites that seem to be



TABLE 1.  
NESTING SITES OF THE CLIFF SWALLOW IN THE  
WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION

| LOCATION AND AUTHORITY             | YEAR                 | DATE   | REMARKS   |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------|---|
| Swallow Bluff Island, Decatur Co.* |                      |        |   |
| Ganier and Weakley                 | 1936                 | May    | 90 nests: eggs & construction                             |
| Clebsch                            | 1941                 | May 18 | 200 nests: eggs & construction                            |
| Swallow Bluff Landing, Decatur Co. |                      |        |   |
| Weakley                            | 1936                 | Jul 25 | 150 nests   |
| Weakley                            | 1941                 | May 18 | 25-35 nests each in two sites abandoned                   |
| 1 mile upstream (Weakley)          | 1936                 | Jul 25 | 50 nests  |
| 1¾ mile upstream (Weakley)         | 1936                 | Jul 25 | 218 nests   |
| Tenn. River, Savannah, Hardin Co.  |                      |        |   |
| Coffey                             | 1947                 | Jul 4  | 92 nests  |
| DeBerry                            | 1952                 | May 21 | colony active   |
| Coffey                             | 1952-1957, 1960-1975 |        | colony active   |
| Coffey                             | 1976                 | Jun 22 | 300 nests   |
| Counce, McNairy Co. Coffey         | 1960                 | Jun 18 | nesting   |
| Snake Creek, nw Shiloh, Hardin Co. |                      |        |   |
| Coffey                             | 1950                 | May 12 | nesting (60 birds plus)                                   |
| Coffey                             | 1953                 | May 9  | 300 nests (and 21 June)                                   |
| Coffey                             | 1960                 | Apr 2  | 300 nests   |
| Coffey                             | 1971                 | Jul 3  | 300 nests   |
| Pickwick Dam, Hardin Co. Coffey    | 1953                 | Jun 21 | 60 nests, office end                                      |
| Coffey                             | 1960                 | Jun 19 | original site at office end abandoned, 230 nests on dam** |
| Patterson                          | 1966                 |        | 500-1,000 nests   |
| Patterson                          | 1967                 | Apr 15 | 50 nests under construction                               |
| Coffey                             | 1967                 | May 14 | 330 nests   |
| Shelby Forest St. Pk., Shelby Co.  |                      |        |   |
| Ledbetter, Coffey                  | 1973                 | Apr 29 | 1 nest & 2 birds  |
| Coffey                             | 1974                 | Apr 28 | 1 nest under construction                                 |
| Spring Creek, Hardeman Co. Coffey  | 1977                 | Jun 19 | 1 nest & 2 birds  |
| Beech River, Decatur Co. Coffey    | 1956                 | May 6  | 700 nests   |
| Coffey                             | 1964                 |        | colony still active                                       |
| Coffey                             | 1971                 | Jun 25 | 1,385 nests   |
| Birdsong Creek, Benton Co. Coffey  | 1971                 | Apr 29 | 65 nests  |
| Alsop                              | 1973                 | May 26 | 140 nests   |

\*flooded in 1943

\*\*Pickwick, House Sparrows at original site, under walk to office; swallows moved to turbine bays.

preferred, both for the establishment and maintenance of a breeding population, are those on vertical rock or concrete faces with some overhanging protection from rain. The site is over water, at least during the early phases of nest construction and egg laying. The entrances-exits to the colony are not screened by overhanging and/or blocking vegetation and there are adjacent broad expanses of open water, fields, grasslands, etc. over which the birds of the colony can feed.

TABLE 2  
NESTING SITES OF THE CLIFF SWALLOW IN THE  
CENTRAL PLATEAU AND BASIN REGION

| LOCATION AND AUTHORITY  | YEAR      | DATE   | REMARKS  |
|---|-----------|--------|--|
| Lock D, Dover, Stewart Co.*<br>Ganier & Weakley   | 1936      | May 24 | 310 nests; eggs & construction<br>construction                               |
|   | 1938      | Apr 13 |  |
| Lock B, Montgomery Co. Weakley*<br>Weakley  | 1936      | Jul 24 | 107 nests<br>construction  |
|   | 1938      | Apr 13 |  |
| Lock C, Montgomery Co. Weakley*   | 1936      | Jul 24 | 20 nests   |
| Dover, Stewart Co. Weakley<br>Ganier & Clebsch  | 1937      | May 16 | 280 birds  |
|   | 1942      | Jun 21 | 6 birds  |
| Marvin's Bluff, Perry Co. Weakley   | 1945      |        | nesting (1,800 in 1950, Coffey)  |
| Perryville, Perry Co. Coffey<br>Coffey<br>Coffey<br>Coffey  | 1947      | May 10 | 500 nests  |
|   | 1953      | Jul 12 | largest colony; 1,910 nests  |
|   | 1956-1970 |        | smaller  |
|   | 1971      | Jun 25 | 255 nests  |
| Johnsonville, Humphreys Co.<br>Coffey<br>C. L. Barker<br>Coffey   | 1953      | May 10 | 50 nests   |
|   | 1955      | June   | 600 nests  |
|   | 1971      | Jun 26 | from boat 350 nests US 70;<br>110 nests railroad                             |
|   | 1973      | May 26 | 210 nests  |
| River Road w of Nashville, Davidson<br>and Cheatham Co. Parmer<br>Coffey<br><br>Parmer<br>Parmer<br>Parmer<br>Parmer<br>Riggins | 1960      | May 14 | 175 nests at three sites   |
|   | 1964      | Jun 24 | 2 sites, fewer birds than<br>in 1960, 3rd site abandoned<br>as many as usual |
|   | 1966      |        | nesting  |
|   | 1967      | May 5  | nesting  |
|   | 1968      | Apr 27 | normal nesting   |
|   | 1970      |        | 84 nests at three sites  |
|   | 1971      | Jul 4  |  |
| Ashland City-Clarksville Rd.<br>Goodpasture   | 1960      | Jul 9  | 35-40 nests under construction   |
| Paris Landing, Henry & Stewart Co.<br>Coffey<br>Coffey  | 1963      | Apr 28 | 180 nests  |
|   | 1971      | Apr 29 | 150 nests  |
| Pleasantville, Hickman Co. Coffey   | 1963      | Jun 28 | 45 birds   |
| Coon Creek, Perry Co. (Tenn 100)<br>Coffey  | 1971      | Jun 25 | 30 birds   |
| West Point, Lawrence Co. Alsop<br>Alsop   | 1972      | May 27 | 1 nest & 2 birds   |
|   | 1972      | Jul 30 | 1 nest, different site<br>from above   |
| Linden, Perry Co. Coffey<br>Coffey  | 1958      | Jun 28 | 100 nests  |
|   | 1971      | Jun 25 | 100 nests  |

\*Locks D, B, and C were destroyed around 1966.

TABLE 3.  
NESTING SITES OF THE CLIFF SWALLOW IN THE  
EASTERN RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION

| LOCATION AND AUTHORITY   | YEAR | DATE   | REMARKS                              |
|--|------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Market St. Bridge, Chattanooga. Coffey                                   | 1942 | Jul 21 | 5-6 nests                            |
| Coffey   | 1951 | Jun 17 | 110 nests                            |
| West   | 1959 |        | nesting                              |
| West   | 1961 |        | 612 nests                            |
| Hales Bar Dam, Chattanooga. West   | 1955 | May 2  | 386 nests                            |
| West   | 1961 | May    | none — abandoned                     |
| Nickajack Cave, Chattanooga. West  | 1960 |        | 12 nests                             |
| Gray Cliff, Chattanooga. West  | 1960 |        | 140 nests                            |
| West   | 1961 |        | 225 nests                            |
| N. Chickamauga Ck., Chattanooga. West                                    | 1957 | Apr 14 | nesting                              |
| S. Chickamauga Ck., Chattanooga. West                                    | 1959 |        |                                      |
| West   | 1960 | May 15 | 200 nests — later destroyed          |
| Dayton, Rhea Co. West  | 1961 | Jun 10 | nesting at 3 sites                   |
| Soddy embayment, Hamilton Co. West                                       | 1961 | Jun 10 | nesting                              |
| 1 mile from above. West  | 1961 | Jun 10 | 100 nests                            |
| Nickajack Culvert, Chattanooga. West                                     | 1961 | Jun 1  | 522 nests; eggs Jun 4                |
| West   | 1964 | Jun 8  | 550 nests                            |
| Shallowford Bridge, Chattanooga. West                                    | 1960 |        | 200 nests                            |
| West   | 1961 |        | 200 nests                            |
| Shallowford Bridge (new I-40)  | 1964 | Jun 8  | 30 nests under construction          |
| Knox County, Turkey Cr. Alsop  | 1970 | May 16 | 14 nests, const. (comp'd. 18-20 May) |
| Alsop  | 1971 | May 8  | 4 nests under construction           |
| Knox Co.-Blount Co. line (Tanner)  | 1970 | May 23 | 2 nests under bridge                 |
| W. P. Harrell Bridge, Grainger Co.<br>Wallace                            | 1970 | Jun 5  | 25 nests; 67 nests Jun 7             |
| Bean Station, Hwy. 11-W, Grainger Co.<br>Wallace                         | 1970 | Jun 7  | 30 nests; bridge at Briar Forks Ck.  |
| J. K. Shields Bridge, Grainger Co.<br>Wallace                            | 1970 | Jun 7  | 9 nests; 20 on Jun 20                |
| Bridge 2 miles east of above. Wallace                                    | 1970 | Jun 7  | 39 nests                             |
| Bridge 4 miles east of J. K. Shields bridge.<br>Wallace                  | 1970 | Jun 7  | 47 nests                             |
| South end of J. K. Shields, Jefferson Co.<br>Wallace                     | 1970 | Jun 7  | 2 nests                              |
| Austin Springs, Washington Co,<br>Dillenbeck & Range                     | 1972 | Apr 17 | 2-8 birds nesting in barn            |
| Poor Valley Creek embayment bridge, 11-W<br>Hawkins Co. Alsop & Phillips | 1977 | May 24 | 18 nests                             |
| Clouds Creek embayment bridge, 11-W<br>Hawkins Co. Alsop & Phillips      | 1977 | May 24 | 20 nests                             |
| Caney Creek embayment bridge, 11-W<br>Hawkins Co. Alsop & Phillips       | 1977 | May 24 | 4 old nests                          |
| Hugh B. Day Bridge, Rogersville, Hawkins<br>Alsop & Phillips             | 1977 | May 24 | 59 nests                             |
| Muddy Creek bridge over Boone Lake,<br>Sullivan Co. Phillips & Laughlin  | 1977 | May 25 | 22 nests                             |

TABLE 4.  
NESTING SITES OF THE CLIFF SWALLOW IN THE  
EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION

| LOCATION AND AUTHORITY                                     | YEAR | DATE  | REMARKS                 |
|--|------|-------|-------------------------|
| Siam, Carter County, Herndon                               | 1947 | Jun 4 | 15 nests in barn        |
| Siam near bridge over Watauga River,<br>Carter Co. Herndon | 1947 | Jun 4 | 14 nests in second barn |

Nesting Cliff Swallows in Tennessee have few reported natural enemies. Ganiem (1962) reported seeing a small dark colored snake protruding about one foot of its body from the nest of one of the swallows as he and Weakley explored the colony at Swallow Bluff in Decatur County in 1936. Ganiem was impressed at the snake's ability to reach the nests on the flat limestone rock face and one should believe this predator would have a most difficult, if not impossible, time of it trying to reach nests situated on vertical concrete structures. House Sparrows have established a symbiotic relationship with this swallow that, while not acting as a predator, is a parasitic role which may influence the nesting success of individual Cliff Swallows. This sparrow has often been observed nesting in the established colonies of the swallow. In this situation the House Sparrow uses the nest constructed by Cliff Swallows to lay its own eggs and raise its young. David Patterson (1966) noted a cyclical interaction of Cliff Swallow and House Sparrow populations at Pickwick Dam over a 10 year period and suggested that increasing sparrow populations, which are dependent on Cliff Swallows for nest sites, caused decreases in the swallow's density to the point of actual failure of the colony. He believes that alternative nesting locations are necessary to maintain stable populations of Cliff Swallows in an area. Patterson also found similar, but not simultaneous, cycles for these two species at other sites. For some swallows natural catastrophes have brought disaster to nesting attempts. Rapidly rising flood waters have been known to destroy the mud nests when they have been placed in locations close to the water's surface, and driving rain may so weaken the nests that they fall.

Man has been an obvious agent in the radiation of nesting colonies of the Cliff Swallow in the State. He is also the greatest single agent in the destruction of the nests and their contents. Swallow Bluffs were dynamited into the Tennessee River in 1943 and then submerged by the filling of Kentucky Lake. Fishermen in the area destroyed many nests to use the young for fish bait (Clebsch, 1941). A former nesting site at Hales Bar Dam was not used in 1961 when TVA moored a barge adjacent to it (West, 1961). At the North Chickamauga Creek bridge near Chattanooga, TVA workers scraped the nests off to paint the bridge during the nesting season (West, 1961), a practice that apparently occurred approximately every two years. Shooting of adult birds and the destruction of nests with shotguns has been reported by West (1961) and others. Ben Coffey (1964) found nests of the species in the Nashville area which had been destroyed by humans.

The Cliff Swallow seems to be increasing as a breeding species in Tennessee. Most of this bird's breeding range extension in the State appears to have occurred in the last 45 years and may be to a large degree correlated with the construction of structures that provide suitable conditions for the nesting requirements of the

species. The Tennessee River system and the Cumberland River downstream from Nashville are the principal locations for the bird's nesting activities in Tennessee. The most recently established colonies indicate a continued movement of the swallow as a breeding bird into the upper reaches of the Tennessee River system into the Holston River system and the increased presence of the bird in the counties of Upper East Tennessee. New colonies should be searched for in these areas and along the Mississippi River, especially in the Memphis region. Birders across the state are encouraged to check the sites of known colonies and to record the present status of the Cliff Swallow.

#### SUMMARY

This paper is an attempt to consolidate most of the published observations of Cliff Swallows in Tennessee. The species occurs both as a transient and a summer resident being recorded between 6 March and 24 October. Little is known of the actual migratory movements of the species in the State, but major migration activity seems to take place between 20 April - 10 May and 1 August - 20 September.

The species is documented as having nested in Tennessee since at least the 1930's and most probably was present as a breeding species for many years prior to these writings. The natural nesting sites are thought to be cliffs and other vertical rock faces over or near water. The species has demonstrated both an extension of its breeding range eastward in the state and a major increase in its population in the past 45 years. These changes can be correlated with the establishment of man-made structures, i.e., bridges, dams, locks, etc. that provide suitable nest sites along the Tennessee and Cumberland river drainages. Man not only is an important agent in the change in status of Cliff Swallow populations in Tennessee, he is one of the principal forces in the destruction of the species' nests, the loss of young, and general disturbances to nesting colonies.

#### USE OF THE TABLES

Tables 1 through 4 document in chronological order the Cliff Swallow records published in *The Migrant* and some additional ones from the unpublished field notes of Ben B. Coffey, Jr. The geographical areas represented by each is based on the four regions used in the current "The Season" reports. The boundaries are, therefore, quite arbitrary and are not boundaries recognized by birds or most birders. It is therefore, recommended that readers seriously interested in documenting the presence of nesting colonies listed in the tables consider those along the Tennessee River where it marks the boundary between the Western Coastal Plain and the Central Plateau and Basin regions as belonging to the same nesting populations or of populations of one nesting area. Otherwise, nests on the west end of a bridge spanning the river will be considered as distinct from the nests of the same colony on the east end of the same bridge because the former are listed from the Western Coastal Plain (WCP) and the latter from the Central Plateau and Basin (CP&B). For practical interpretation purposes, locations bordering the Tennessee River in the following counties should be considered as one: Hardin (WCP) and Wayne (CP&B), Decatur (WCP) and Perry (CP&B), Benton (WCP) and Humphreys (CP&B), and Henry (WCP) and Stewart (CP&B).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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## THE 1980 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

RICHARD D. LURA

This year's sixteen (16) counts recorded a total of 135 species. It is regrettable that the number of counts continues to drop. These sixteen represent a very low Christmas Count. The efforts of those who continue to participate are greatly appreciated.

The high number of Brown-headed Nuthatches at Chattanooga is notable. Several counts recorded their first House Finches, which continue to increase in numbers. Pine Siskins were more numerous and widespread than on recent Christmas Counts, as were Evening Grosbeaks and Red-breasted Nuthatches. As is the custom the counts are tabulated from west to east across the state.

## INFORMATION ON THE COUNTS

MEMPHIS: 21 Dec.; 0645 to 1700; clear; temp. 15 to 34°F; wind NE, 3-10 mph; 37 observers in 13 parties; 126 party hours (96 on foot, 30 by car); 194 party miles (75 on foot, 119 by car).

Diane and William Bean, Carolyn Bullock, Dick Caldwell, Fred T. Carney, Tina Carpenter, Lula and Ben B. Coffey, Jr. (compilers, 672 N. Belvedere 38107), Dollyann Daily, Julian Darlington, Mary Davant, Helen Dinkelspiel, Fred L. Dickson, Jr., Jack and Katherine Embury, Jim and Sue Ferguson, Wm. B. Fowler, Jr., Joe Guinn, Van Harris, Russell Jones, Allan Larrabee, Gerald Papachristou, George Payne, Jr., Rob and Bill Peoples, Ernest Restivo, Marshall Sklar, Arlo I. and Noreen Smith, Richard Taylor, Howard H. Vogel, Martha Waldron, Ann Webb, Bobby and Wendell L. Whittemore, and Jeff Wilson.

LeConte's Sparrow seen by Wendell Whittemore.

REELFOOT LAKE: 20 Dec.; 0530 to 1600; temp. 12 to 20°F; wind NE, 12-20 mph; 13 observers in 5 parties; 36 party hours (16 on foot, 16 by car, 4 by boat); 200 party miles (18 on foot, 174 by car, 8 by boat).

Joel Bonnell, Ben Coffey, Lula Coffey, Wendell Crews, Dollyann Daily, Scott Jones, Kenneth Leggett, Brant Manning, Don Manning (co-compiler), Gina Manning (co-compiler—P. O. Box B, Bells 38006), Arlo Smith, Noreen Smith, Martha Waldron.

Six of the Snow Geese were of the blue form. The Golden Eagle was an immature. Forty-six of the Bald Eagles were immatures. Seen count week: Bobwhite and Woodcock.

BUFFALO RIVER CHAPTER: 27 Dec.; 0530 to 1730; mostly clear, temp. 22 to 40°F; wind light and variable; 10 observers in 4 parties; 40 party hours (5 on foot, 35 by car); 241 party miles (15 on foot, 226 by car).

Andy Augustine, Helen Clayton, Lloyd Clayton (compiler—Rt. 4, Lawrenceburg 38464), Susan Gamble, David Ihrie, Mary Ihrie, Mark Reeves, Damien Simbeck, Dawn Simbeck, Don Simbeck.

The Snow Goose was of the blue form.

## THE 1980 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

|                      | Memp | Reel             | Buff           | Colu           | Nash | Hick           | Marf | Leba | Cook | High           | Chat           | OSMB | Knox           | King | Ellis | Roun |
|----------------------|------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------|----------------|------|------|------|----------------|----------------|------|----------------|------|-------|------|
| Common Loon          | --   | --               | --             | --             | 1    | 6              | --   | --   | --   | 14             | 12             | --   | 1              | --   | 3     | --   |
| Western Grebe        | --   | --               | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | 2 <sup>0</sup> | --             | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Horned Grebe         | --   | --               | --             | --             | 176  | --             | --   | 4    | 7    | 30             | --             | 8    | --             | 5    | --    | --   |
| Pied-billed Grebe    | 1    | 2                | 3              | 5              | 7    | 53             | --   | 5    | --   | 16             | 77             | --   | 44             | 12   | 1     | --   |
| Hbl.-cr. Cormorant   | --   | --               | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | --             | 1              | --   | 1              | --   | --    | --   |
| Great Blue Heron     | 2    | 7                | 1              | --             | 6    | 33             | 1    | 24   | --   | 8              | 24             | 2    | 67             | 10   | 1     | 1    |
| Green Heron          | --   | --               | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | 1 <sup>0</sup> | --   | --    | --   |
| Blk.-cr. Night Heron | --   | --               | --             | --             | --   | 8              | --   | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Mute Swan            | --   | --               | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | --             | 1 <sup>0</sup> | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Canada Goose         | 1    | 158              | 25             | 251            | 29   | 922            | --   | 273  | --   | 430            | 35             | --   | 25             | 45   | --    | --   |
| Snow Goose           | --   | 8 <sup>0</sup>   | 1 <sup>0</sup> | 1              | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Mallard              | 71   | 2308             | 37             | 133            | 51   | 217            | 19   | 1020 | --   | 283            | 268            | 4    | 32             | 165  | 475   | --   |
| Black Duck           | 2    | 48               | 6              | 12             | 7    | 16             | --   | 1261 | --   | 164            | 17             | --   | 27             | 58   | 100   | --   |
| Gadwall              | 5    | 1.58             | --             | 52             | 147  | 10             | --   | 436  | --   | 2              | 134            | --   | 58             | 3    | 3     | --   |
| Pintail              | --   | 80               | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | 115  | --   | 4              | 1              | --   | 3              | 8    | --    | --   |
| Green-wg. Teal       | --   | 200              | --             | --             | --   | 1              | --   | 1    | --   | --             | --             | --   | 5              | --   | --    | --   |
| Blue-wg. Teal        | 4    | 20               | --             | 1              | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| American Wigeon      | 2    | 850              | 2              | 23             | 277  | --             | --   | 167  | --   | --             | 6              | --   | 8              | --   | 2     | --   |
| Northern Shoveler    | 3    | 650              | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | 1    | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Wood Duck            | 4    | 250              | --             | 7              | 2    | 1              | --   | --   | --   | 2              | 4              | 1    | --             | 4    | --    | --   |
| Redhead              | --   | 30               | --             | 1              | --   | --             | --   | 3    | --   | --             | --             | --   | 7              | --   | --    | --   |
| Ring-necked Duck     | 4    | 850              | 63             | 53             | 51   | 2              | --   | 250  | --   | 3              | 9              | --   | --             | 270  | 25    | --   |
| Canvasback           | 1    | 15               | 3              | 6              | 5    | --             | --   | 10   | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | 12   | --    | --   |
| Greater Scaup        | --   | --               | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | --             | 115            | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Lesser Scaup         | 22   | --               | --             | 3              | 66   | 110            | --   | 1    | --   | 54             | 47             | --   | 27             | 6    | 6     | --   |
| Scaup sp.            | --   | 125              | 8              | --             | --   | --             | --   | 375  | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Common Goldeneye     | --   | 15               | 6              | 6              | 4    | 120            | --   | --   | --   | 1              | 48             | --   | 15             | 1    | --    | --   |
| Bufflehead           | --   | 25               | --             | --             | 65   | 35             | --   | --   | --   | 7              | 31             | --   | 6              | --   | 83    | --   |
| Surf Scoter          | --   | --               | --             | --             | --   | 1 <sup>0</sup> | --   | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Ruddy Duck           | 1    | 3.88             | --             | 1              | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | 4              | --   | --    | --   |
| Hooded Merganser     | --   | 30               | 3              | --             | 2    | 2              | --   | 25   | --   | 75             | --             | --   | 19             | 1    | 8     | --   |
| Common Merganser     | --   | 8                | --             | --             | 6    | --             | --   | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | 6    | --    | --   |
| Red-br. Merganser    | --   | 2                | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | 4              | --             | --   | --             | 1    | --    | --   |
| Turkey Vulture       | 1    | 30               | 48             | --             | 4    | --             | 4    | 3    | 1    | 1              | --             | 38   | --             | 27   | --    | --   |
| Black Vulture        | --   | 2                | 3              | 48             | 33   | 6              | 1    | 32   | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | 90   | --    | --   |
| Sharp-sh. Hawk       | 3    | 1                | --             | 1              | 1    | --             | --   | 3    | --   | --             | 4              | 3    | --             | 1    | 2     | --   |
| Cooper's Hawk        | 1    | --               | 7              | 2              | 1    | 1              | 1    | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | 1              | 3    | 1     | --   |
| Red-tailed Hawk      | 67   | 24               | 6              | 42             | 43   | 22             | 16   | 13   | 5    | 6              | 37             | 3    | 28             | 5    | 2     | 1    |
| Red-shld. Hawk       | --   | 15               | 1              | --             | 1    | 4              | --   | 1    | --   | --             | 4              | 1    | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Rough-legged Hawk    | --   | --               | --             | 2              | 1    | --             | 1    | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Golden Eagle         | --   | 1 <sup>0</sup>   | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Bald Eagle           | --   | 108 <sup>0</sup> | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | --             | 4 <sup>0</sup> | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Marsh Hawk           | 12   | 3                | 4              | 13             | 3    | 2              | 1    | 2    | --   | --             | 2              | --   | 2              | --   | --    | --   |
| Osprey               | --   | --               | --             | 1 <sup>0</sup> | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| American Kestrel     | 16   | 14               | 17             | 34             | 45   | 53             | 54   | --   | 3    | 8              | 1              | 4    | 16             | 22   | 15    | --   |
| Ruffed Grouse        | --   | --               | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | --             | --             | 2    | --             | 5    | 1     | 1    |
| Bobwhite             | 114  | --               | 43             | 33             | 87   | 119            | 19   | --   | 6    | 3              | 50             | 17   | 37             | 26   | --    | --   |
| Turkey               | 37   | 1                | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | 14   | --    | --   |
| Sandhill Crane       | --   | --               | --             | --             | --   | 1 <sup>0</sup> | --   | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Virginia Rail        | --   | --               | --             | 7              | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Sora                 | --   | --               | --             | 6              | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| American Coot        | 84   | 128              | 6              | 540            | 19   | 222            | --   | 179  | --   | 4              | 657            | 1    | 1.18           | 45   | --    | --   |
| Killdeer             | 57   | 21               | 50             | 15             | 108  | 68             | 11   | 10   | 1    | 10             | 183            | 14   | 89             | 64   | 24    | --   |
| American Woodcock    | 1    | --               | --             | 2              | 2    | 1              | --   | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | 2    | --    | --   |
| Common Snipe         | 19   | 15               | 31             | 24             | 5    | 9              | 12   | 3    | --   | --             | 25             | 1    | 25             | 8    | --    | --   |
| Spotted Sandpiper    | --   | --               | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | 2    | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Lesser Yellowlegs    | --   | 1                | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Least Sandpiper      | --   | --               | --             | 1              | --   | --             | --   | --   | --   | --             | --             | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Herring Gull         | 7    | 39               | --             | --             | --   | 15             | --   | --   | --   | 80             | 20             | --   | 2              | --   | 1     | --   |
| Ring-billed Gull     | 150  | 5                | --             | --             | 8    | 607            | --   | 3    | --   | 55             | 89             | --   | 491            | 24   | 2     | --   |
| Bonaparte's Gull     | --   | 33               | --             | --             | --   | 19             | --   | 6    | --   | --             | 84             | --   | 4              | 14   | --    | --   |
| Rock Dove            | 1    | 14               | 15             | 153            | 207  | 157            | 88   | 58   | --   | 10             | 963            | --   | 160            | 400  | 136   | --   |
| Mourning Dove        | 360  | 24               | 145            | 143            | 303  | 248            | 97   | 151  | 30   | 14             | 456            | 62   | 275            | 535  | 205   | --   |
| Barn Owl             | --   | --               | --             | 1              | --   | --             | --   | 2    | --   | --             | 2              | --   | --             | 1    | --    | --   |
| Screech Owl          | --   | --               | 5              | 8              | 6    | 6              | --   | 14   | --   | 12             | 8              | 5    | 15             | 5    | 2     | --   |
| Great Horned Owl     | 1    | 1                | 1              | 9              | 6    | 5              | 1    | 6    | 3    | --             | 5              | --   | 4              | 1    | --    | --   |
| Barred Owl           | 3    | 7                | 1              | 2              | 4    | 3              | --   | 10   | --   | --             | 3              | --   | --             | --   | --    | --   |
| Belted Kingfisher    | 8    | 7                | 17             | 23             | 26   | 28             | 7    | 8    | --   | 6              | 24             | 13   | 36             | 24   | 17    | 4    |
| Common Flicker       | 210  | 147              | 20             | 34             | 74   | 58             | 19   | 30   | 1    | 1              | 35             | 1    | 14             | 10   | 11    | --   |
| Pileated Woodpecker  | 21   | 23               | 10             | 14             | 30   | 12             | 3    | 3    | 2    | 3              | 15             | 11   | 14             | 9    | 9     | --   |

|                        | Nemp              | Reel           | Buff | Colo            | Nash                  | Hick  | Murf  | Leba           | Cook | High            | Chat            | GSMN | Knox  | King  | Eliz  | Roan           |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|----------------|------|-----------------|-----------------|------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 128               | 96             | 24   | 59              | 112                   | 38    | 27    | 29             | 5    | 6               | 35              | 3    | 29    | 18    | 7     | --             |
| Red-bd. Woodpecker     | 10                | 28             | 6    | 6               | 2                     | 3     | --    | 1              | --   | 1               | 2               | --   | --    | --    | --    | --             |
| Yellow-bel. Sapsucker  | 32                | 24             | 2    | 28              | 25                    | 19    | 10    | 6              | 2    | 1               | 13              | 2    | 9     | --    | 3     | 1              |
| Hairy Woodpecker       | 16                | 7              | 5    | 10              | 28                    | 12    | 8     | 6              | 1    | 1               | 4               | 5    | 8     | 3     | 3     | 3              |
| Toway Woodpecker       | 76                | 51             | 19   | 80              | 147                   | 53    | 24    | 16             | 8    | 8               | 41              | 29   | 31    | 29    | 29    | 6              |
| Eastern Phoebe         | --                | 2              | 3    | 5               | 2                     | 1     | 1     | --             | --   | --              | 2               | 6    | 1     | 1     | 1     | 1              |
| Eastern Wood Pewee     | --                | --             | --   | --              | --                    | --    | --    | 1 <sup>b</sup> | --   | --              | --              | --   | --    | --    | --    | --             |
| Horned Lark            | 263               | 562            | 15   | 3               | 33                    | --    | --    | --             | --   | --              | 55              | --   | --    | --    | --    | --             |
| Blue Jay               | 265               | 76             | 101  | 78              | 259                   | 152   | 17    | 87             | 9    | 43              | 183             | 27   | 273   | 120   | 175   | 11             |
| Common Raven           | --                | --             | --   | --              | --                    | --    | --    | --             | --   | --              | 4               | --   | --    | --    | 7     | 6              |
| Common Crow            | 57                | 190            | 227  | 288             | 361                   | 199   | 152   | 97             | 12   | 51 <sup>b</sup> | 469             | 241  | 834   | 338   | 725   | 27             |
| Blk.-cp. Chickadee     | --                | --             | --   | --              | --                    | --    | --    | --             | --   | --              | --              | 306  | --    | --    | --    | 2 <sup>b</sup> |
| Carolina Chickadee     | 199               | 99             | 56   | 168             | 435                   | 197   | 76    | 74             | 25   | 15              | 269             | --   | 260   | 108   | 136   | 26             |
| Tufted Titmouse        | 96                | 29             | 98   | 114             | 291                   | 94    | 31    | 51             | 15   | 52              | 146             | 53   | 86    | 75    | 58    | 8              |
| White-br. Nuthatch     | --                | 2              | 8    | 6               | 63                    | 2     | --    | 2              | 9    | 20              | 38              | 36   | 12    | 21    | 24    | 6              |
| Red-br. Nuthatch       | 8                 | 10             | 2    | 2               | 3                     | --    | --    | 1              | --   | --              | 33              | 24   | 61    | 3     | 8     | --             |
| Brown-bd. Nuthatch     | --                | --             | --   | --              | --                    | --    | --    | --             | --   | --              | 17 <sup>b</sup> | --   | --    | --    | --    | --             |
| Brown Creeper          | 10                | 7              | --   | 9               | 19                    | 20    | 1     | --             | 1    | --              | 5               | 6    | 10    | --    | 1     | --             |
| Winter Wren            | 13                | 6              | 9    | 3               | 5                     | 2     | --    | 2              | 3    | --              | 4               | 10   | 1     | 6     | 2     | --             |
| Howick's Wren          | --                | --             | --   | 1               | 1                     | 1     | 1     | 3              | --   | --              | --              | --   | --    | --    | --    | --             |
| Carolina Wren          | 98                | 19             | 5    | 43              | 93                    | 56    | 7     | 4              | 8    | 3               | 73              | 36   | 81    | 36    | 44    | 10             |
| Mockingbird            | 154               | 27             | 68   | 28              | 168                   | 164   | 77    | 51             | 8    | 12              | 137             | 24   | 162   | 35    | 53    | --             |
| Gray Catbird           | --                | --             | --   | --              | --                    | --    | --    | 1              | --   | --              | --              | 1    | --    | --    | --    | 1              |
| Brown Thrasher         | 28                | 4              | 4    | 5               | 6                     | 12    | 10    | 4              | --   | 1               | 5               | 2    | 6     | 4     | 1     | --             |
| American Robin         | 1,091             | 151            | 167  | 15,891          | 1,891                 | 681   | 1,291 | 423            | 22   | 333             | 512             | 17   | 411   | 87    | 341   | 3              |
| Horned Thrush          | 35                | 25             | 3    | 23              | 1                     | 3     | --    | 3              | --   | 2               | 5               | 7    | 2     | 6     | 5     | --             |
| Eastern Bluebird       | --                | 3              | 68   | 57              | 71                    | 17    | 4     | 24             | 27   | 24              | 166             | 2    | 61    | 30    | 57    | 10             |
| Golden-cr. Kinglet     | --                | 10             | 15   | 14              | 6                     | 15    | --    | 1              | --   | --              | 42              | 107  | 52    | --    | 20    | 2              |
| Ruby-cr. Kinglet       | 33                | 25             | 11   | 13              | 11                    | 18    | --    | 2              | --   | 1               | 32              | 14   | 4     | 1     | 5     | --             |
| Water Pipit            | 63                | --             | --   | 1               | --                    | --    | --    | --             | --   | --              | 38              | --   | --    | --    | --    | --             |
| Cedar Waxwing          | 46                | 15             | 24   | 2               | 16                    | 9     | 23    | --             | --   | --              | 33              | 4    | 11    | 58    | 40    | --             |
| Loggerhead Shrike      | 18                | 11             | 18   | 11              | 25                    | 7     | 5     | 6              | --   | 2               | 6               | 1    | 1     | --    | 1     | --             |
| Starling               | 2,118             | 3,558          | 508  | 1,008           | 5,308                 | 2,098 | 7,508 | 2,778          | --   | 312             | 1,138           | 251  | 3,118 | 1,778 | 1,598 | 49             |
| Yellow-rmp. Warbler    | 299               | 181            | --   | 13              | 38                    | 31    | 2     | 7              | 5    | --              | 40              | 1    | 40    | 44    | 47    | --             |
| Pine Warbler           | 2                 | --             | --   | --              | --                    | --    | --    | --             | --   | --              | 11 <sup>b</sup> | --   | --    | --    | --    | --             |
| Palm Warbler           | --                | --             | --   | --              | --                    | --    | --    | --             | --   | --              | 10 <sup>b</sup> | --   | --    | --    | --    | --             |
| Northern Waterthrush   | --                | 1 <sup>b</sup> | --   | --              | --                    | --    | --    | --             | --   | --              | --              | --   | --    | --    | --    | --             |
| Common Yellowthroat    | --                | --             | --   | 1 <sup>b</sup>  | --                    | --    | --    | --             | --   | --              | --              | --   | --    | --    | --    | --             |
| House Sparrow          | 443               | 273            | 150  | 55              | 218                   | 275   | 467   | 57             | 29   | 84              | 212             | 12   | 121   | 113   | 158   | 88             |
| Eastern Meadowlark     | 251               | 75             | 135  | 75              | 130                   | 74    | 78    | 56             | 9    | 66              | 138             | 35   | 76    | 75    | 70    | --             |
| Red-winged Blackbird   | 7,991             | 9,591          | 142  | 1,258           | 2,118                 | 5,018 | 11    | 14             | --   | --              | 1,118           | --   | 534   | 62    | --    | --             |
| Rusty Blackbird        | 103               | 2              | --   | 409             | 22                    | 166   | 6     | 6              | --   | --              | 24              | --   | 14    | 1     | --    | --             |
| Brewer's Blackbird     | 33                | --             | --   | 3               | --                    | --    | --    | --             | --   | --              | --              | --   | --    | --    | --    | --             |
| Common Grackle         | 49                | 900            | 185  | 1,208           | 7,608                 | 1,218 | 1,448 | 144            | --   | 59              | 797             | --   | 251   | 35    | --    | --             |
| Brown-headed Cowbird   | 835               | 500            | 1    | 808             | 608                   | 1,008 | 133   | 163            | --   | 3               | 2               | --   | 50    | 39    | --    | --             |
| Cardinal               | 583               | 272            | 131  | 359             | 500                   | 373   | 162   | 400            | 34   | 36              | 255             | 102  | 263   | 191   | 147   | 13             |
| Evening Grosbeak       | --                | 27             | 15   | 3               | 11                    | --    | --    | --             | --   | --              | 102             | 72   | --    | --    | 153   | --             |
| Purple Finch           | 198               | 33             | 56   | 232             | 163                   | 120   | 326   | 57             | 76   | 26              | 147             | 20   | 132   | 129   | 58    | 1              |
| House Finch            | --                | --             | --   | 2               | 12                    | --    | 38    | 7              | --   | --              | 22              | --   | 50    | --    | --    | --             |
| Pine Siskin            | 11                | --             | --   | 1               | 75                    | 35    | 13    | 2              | 1    | --              | 9               | 20   | 6     | 40    | --    | --             |
| American Goldfinch     | 167               | 101            | 124  | 99              | 468                   | 245   | 153   | 186            | 52   | 18              | 306             | 36   | 168   | 29    | 45    | 1              |
| Red Crossbill          | --                | --             | --   | --              | --                    | --    | --    | --             | --   | --              | --              | 1    | --    | --    | --    | --             |
| Rufous-sided Towhee    | 68                | 3              | 30   | 51              | 89                    | 70    | 34    | 51             | 4    | 6               | 82              | 12   | 46    | 3     | 11    | 1              |
| Savannah Sparrow       | 78                | 4              | 19   | 2               | 11                    | 10    | --    | --             | --   | --              | 21              | --   | 4     | --    | --    | --             |
| Leconte's Sparrow      | 1 <sup>b</sup>    | --             | --   | --              | --                    | --    | --    | --             | --   | --              | --              | --   | --    | --    | --    | --             |
| Dark-eyed Junco        | 875               | 631            | 239  | 113             | 535                   | 142   | 116   | 241            | 26   | 52              | 347             | 329  | 170   | 122   | 323   | 52             |
| Tree Sparrow           | --                | 5              | --   | --              | --                    | --    | --    | 1              | --   | --              | --              | --   | --    | --    | --    | --             |
| Chipping Sparrow       | --                | --             | --   | --              | --                    | 1     | --    | --             | --   | 10              | 2               | --   | 7     | --    | --    | --             |
| Field Sparrow          | 380               | 124            | 111  | 67              | 170                   | 121   | 26    | 34             | 13   | 32              | 307             | 112  | 224   | 76    | 92    | 12             |
| White-cr. Sparrow      | 47                | 2              | 8    | 31              | 10                    | 29    | 35    | 33             | 1    | --              | 2               | --   | 13    | 36    | --    | --             |
| White-thr. Sparrow     | 1,891             | 450            | 127  | 228             | 379                   | 328   | 88    | 97             | 32   | 14              | 593             | 224  | 721   | 240   | 121   | 3              |
| Fox Sparrow            | 186               | 15             | 6    | 10 <sup>b</sup> | 19                    | 4     | --    | 4              | 3    | --              | 21              | 4    | 1     | 3     | --    | --             |
| Swamp Sparrow          | 487               | 96             | 7    | 46              | 36                    | 64    | --    | 2              | 6    | --              | 44              | 6    | 27    | 6     | --    | 1              |
| Song Sparrow           | 509               | 100            | 55   | 32              | 130                   | 306   | 10    | 39             | 17   | 12              | 217             | 135  | 465   | 204   | 160   | 73             |
| Lapland Longspar       | --                | 40             | --   | --              | --                    | --    | --    | --             | --   | --              | --              | --   | --    | --    | --    | --             |
| Snow Bunting           | --                | --             | --   | --              | --                    | --    | 1     | --             | --   | --              | --              | --   | --    | --    | --    | --             |
| Total Species          | 83                | 96             | 73   | 93              | 87                    | 86    | 56    | 84             | 40   | 61              | 96              | 62   | 83    | 76    | 67    | 31             |
| Grand Total - 135      | $\bar{N} = 1,000$ |                |      |                 | $\bar{X} = 1,000,000$ |       |       |                |      |                 |                 |      |       |       |       |                |

\*See Information on Counts

COLUMBIA: 27 Dec.; 0400 to 2000; clear; temp. 27 to 42°F; 24 observers.

George Mayfield, Jr. (compiler—Maury County Hospital, Columbia 38401).

Details on unusual species not available. Seen Count Week: Turkey and Common Goldeneye.

NASHVILLE: 27 Dec.; 0530 to 1700; cloudy; temp. 28 to 38°F; wind NW, 0-10 mph; 56 observers in 12 parties and 18 feeders; 96 party hours (42.5 by foot, 50.5 by car, 3 by boat); 265 party miles (27 on foot, 233 by car, 5 by boat).

Frances Abernathy, Jan Alexander, Mildred Ansley, John and Willa Bates, Michael Bierly (compiler—3825 Bedford Avenue, Nashville 37215), Jane Bridgman, Jean Cobb, Bonnie Coplin, Annella Creech, Sam Dement, Milbrey Dugger, Clifton Dunn, John Ellis, Charles Farrell, Clara Fentress, Bill and Lucy Finch, Ann Fort, Ann Foster, Twinkle Gibbons, Katherine Goodpasture, Sarah Greene, Mary Ann and Tom Guschke, Tom Harston, Bob Hatcher, Betty Herbert, Debbie Hill, Oliver Lang, Adiene Lyon, Portia Macmillan, Margaret Mann, Loys Marsden, Jane Maynard, Joe McLaughlin, Jim McLaughlin, Jimmy Parrish, Marge and Oscar Patrick, Audrey and Don Perry, Dick Porter, Virginia Price, Elizabeth Queener, Pat Stallings, Helen Sterling, Carol Stewart, Dee Thompson, Lawrence Trabue, David Vogt, Kenneth and Sarah Walkup, Hallie Waller, Harriet Waller, Virginia Workman.

HICKORY PRIEST: 3 Jan.; 1500 to 1730; variable cloudiness; temp. 40 to 58°F; wind W, 8-16 mph; 33 observers, 31 in 16 parties, 2 at feeders.

Frances Abernathy, Jan Alexander, Linda Anderson, Michael Bierly, Ralph Cazort, Dwight Cooley, Annella Creech, Gail D'Apolito, Clifton Dunn, Beth Evans, John Filley, Ray Fleischer, Carol Knauth, Lee Kramer, Louise Jackson, Tom Harston, Margaret Mann, Rocky Milburn, Richard Newton, Alberta Oliver, David Oliver, Marge and Oscar Patrick, Audrey and Don Perry, Betty Richards, Kathy Robertson, Pat Stallings (compiler—406 North 17th St., Nashville 37206), Carol Stewart, Ann Tarbell, Dee Thompson, David Vogt, Miriam Weinstein.

Seen Count Week: Evening Grosbeak.

MURFREESBORO: 3 Jan.; 0600 to 1830; clear; temp. 30 to 56°F; 8 observers in 4 parties, plus 18 at feeders; 48 party hours (8 on foot, 40 by car); 210 party miles (10 on foot, 200 by car).

Glenn Birdwell (compiler—Rt. 3, Compton Road, Murfreesboro 37130), Fred Detlefson, Lou Erwin, C. E. Greever, Edith Haynes, Ann Hettish, Bob Hettish, Wilma Hunter, Rebecca Jones, Larry McFarlin, Maryedith McFarlin, Don Magee, Linda Magee, Ruth Odum, Deanna Quesenberry, John Sellars, Alberta Spence, Frances Vaughan.

Sandhill Crane present since March.

LEBANON: 20 Dec.; mostly clear; wind NE, 5-10 mph; 11 observers, 9 in 4 parties, plus 2 at feeders, 26.5 party hours (3 on foot, 23.5 by car); 229 party miles (8 on foot, 221 by car).

Earline Berry, Melissa Canon, Fred Detlefson, Robert Hosier, Reid McKee, Ruth McMillan, Ray Pope, Jeff Reed, Alice Savage, John Sellars, William Senter

(compiler—313 West Hills Drive, Lebanon 37087).

Poor details on the Eastern Wood Pewee. Seen Count Week: Brown Creeper and American Woodcock.

COOKEVILLE: 27 Dec.: 0630-1630; clear; temp. 27 to 36°F; 4 observers in 2 parties; 12 party hours; 22 party miles (2 on foot, 20 by car).

Sam Coward (compiler—Box 118, Algood 38501), Joseph Fields, Jim Simek, Richard Simmers.

HIGHLAND RIM: 3 Jan.; fair; temp. 34 to 50°F; 18 observers in 9 parties; 28 party hours; 378.5 party miles.

Glenn King, Stanley Barr, Carroll Barr, Ruth Luckadoo, Tom Luckadoo, Marjory Harper, Roberta Woods, Lee Woods, Quincy Styke, Dan Styke, Marsha Rimpley, Ed Rimpley, Craig Rimpley, Lillie Willard, Wanda Winnett, Niki Medley, Mary Cay McKelvey, Erma Rogers (compiler—Rt. 1, Hillsboro 37342).

CHATTANOOGA: 20 Dec.: 0230 to 1630; mostly clear; temp. 24 to 32°F; wind N to NW, 10-25 mph; 37 observers, 24 in 8 parties, plus 13 at feeders; 85 party hours (27.5 on foot, 50.5 by car); 512.5 party miles (30.5 on foot, 482 by car).

Benton Basham, Jeff Basham, Peggy Basham, Nelson Bennett, Ken Dubke, Lil Dubke, Chris Haney, Gary Hartman, Jim Herman, Bill Humeniuk, Daniel Jacobson, Al Jenkins, Elena Killian, Keith Krause, Chris McKee, Dave Mathewson, Bob Mitchell, Johnny Parks, Joe Stone, Randy Stringer (compiler—758 Emory Drive, Chattanooga 37415), Carl Swafford, Bruce Wilkey, Mary Anne Wilkey, Kathy Davidson.

Excellent details on all unusual sightings.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK: 4 Jan.; 0545 to 1700; clear; temp. 9 to 45°F; wind variable; 31 observers in 14 parties; 99.5 party hours (71 on foot, 28.5 by car); 284 party miles (91.5 on foot, 192.5 by car).

Winnifred Brown, Howard Chitwood, Marcia Davis, Don DeFoe (compiler—Rt. 2, Box 176, Gatlinburg 37738), Bob Floyd, Katherine Foster, Louise Fuller, Paul Hartigan, Audrey and Ron Hoff, Paula Howley, Tony Koella, Henry Lix, Alison and Bill McNutt, Chuck Nicholson, Holly Overton, J. B. Owen, Paul Pardue, Truett Patterson, Ethel and Lawrence Ritchie, Kenneth and Mabel Sanders, Boyd Sharp, Lillian Smathers, Johneta and Louis Smith, Jim Tanner, Dave and Linda Turner. Knoxville Chapter, Tennessee Ornithological Society.

The chickadees are a mixture of Carolina and Black-capped.

KNOXVILLE: 21 Dec.: 0400 to 1800; clear; temp. 17 to 33°F; wind NE, 0-10 mph; 16 observers in 11 parties; 81 party hours (40 on foot, 41 by car); 461 party miles (42 on foot, 419 by car).

Gary Carlson, Marcia Davis, William Foster, Paul Hartigan, Audrey Hoff, Ron Hoff, Tony Koella, Charles Nicholson, Holly Overton, Paul Pardue, Kenneth Sanders, Mabel Sanders, Boyd Sharp, James Tanner (compiler—Rt. 28, Box 155, Knoxville 37920), Carroll Thrift, Linda Turner.

KINGSFORT: 20 December; 17 observers.

Fred Alsop, Tom Bowman, Allen Cook, John Paul Dillow, Charlotte Finucane, Tom Finucane, Tom Gannaway, Jim Gilland, Richard Hampton, Catherine Hughes, Elmo Lewis, Sandy Lewis, Bill Maden, Pat Maden, Arthur Smith (compiler—100 Otari Dr., Rt. 14, Kingsport 37664), E. E. Scott, Randy Vanover.

An Orange-crowned Warbler was deleted due to lack of details of observation.

ELIZABETHTON (LEE R. HERNDON CHAPTER): 3 Jan.; 0700 to 1715; overcast; temp. 25 to 42°F; 15 observers in 6 parties; 49.5 party hours (21.5 on foot, 28 by car); 315 party miles (22 on foot, 293 by car).

Martha Dillenbeck, Helenhill Dove, Glen Eller (compiler—Rt. 3, Grandview Terrace, Elizabethton 37643), Harry Farthing, Sally Goodin, Rick Knight, Joy Kyle, Richard Lewis, Dick Lura, Paul Porter, Ed Schell, Glenn Swafford, Barbara Walsh, Jim Walsh, Jane Whitehead.

ROAN MOUNTAIN: 29 Dec.; 0730 to 1630; temp. 25 to 44°F; wind calm; 8 observers in 3 parties; 22 party hours (13 on foot, 9 by car); 103 party miles (12 on foot, 91 by car).

Helenhill Dove, Sally Goodin, Rick Knight, Richard Lewis, Vickie Lewis, Paul Porter, Ed Schell, Glenn Swafford.

Good details on the Black-capped Chickadees.

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*EDITOR'S NOTE*—A Long-billed Marsh Wren was seen on the Kingsport count by Fred Alsop and a party of four. Details of the observation were recorded with the editor of *The Migrant*.

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*Correction:* The Migrant. Vol. 51, No. 2.

p. 32. The nine Brown Nuthatches listed on the Knoxville Chapter Christmas Count should be changed to nine Brown Creepers.

## ROUND TABLE NOTES

**PRAIRIE FALCON AT MEMPHIS**—On 5 October 1958 while banding Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) on the roof of 1433 Union Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, we noticed a hawk with falcon-like wings and tail. Occasionally we have had an American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) present at similar banding sites but this falcon was about the size of a Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) and of a somewhat sandy appearance. We were able to see the diagnostic black axillars, at times, during the four or five minutes that the Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) was around and as close as forty m. While apparently attracted by the Chimney Swifts that were being released, we did not see it take one. Assisting Lula and me were Henry and Helen Dinkelspiel and others. This is evidently the first record of this species in Tennessee.

On 12 October 1980, at a Memphis Chapter hike on the Penal Farm, east of town, George Owen pointed out a hawk low overhead to Mrs. Coffey. Lula had time to see the shape, size, color and the black axillars, as the Prairie Falcon moved away. David Vance, Jr., a local falconer, advises that there have been no escapes of this species in this region and that there were two sightings, this Fall, near Thayer, Missouri (Arkansas). In past years we have seen Prairie Falcons west of Laramie, Wyoming, and Loveland, Colorado. In mid-August, 1980, we also saw a number over the Pawnee National Grasslands, near Greeley, Colorado.

BEN B. COFFEY, JR., 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis 38107. Accepted 17 Feb. 1981.

**YELLOW RAIL SPECIMEN FROM WEST TENNESSEE**—On 30 April 1979, a student brought me a Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) that had been found dead on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. The location of the bird, at the base of a greenhouse wall, and the fresh condition of the bird indicate it died by colliding with a glass wall of the greenhouse on the night of 29 April 1979. Preparation of the specimen showed it to be a very fat male. It is now in the University of Tennessee at Martin skin collection as UTMB 377.

This is the only Yellow Rail in the University of Tennessee at Martin collection. Other Tennessee specimens include the first two Tennessee records dating 15 October 1953 (Ganier 1954, *Migrant* 25:13), and 29 September 1957 (Laskey 1957, *Migrant* 28:54-57); these were prepared by Mr. A. F. Ganier (AFG skin numbers 1649 and 1683, respectively) and are, presumably, now in the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology.

Most of the Tennessee records of Yellow Rails are from fall migration television tower casualties in middle Tennessee. Howell and Monroe (1958, *Migrant* 29:17-27) reported one fall record for Knox County. I am not aware of previous records from west Tennessee; neither can I find records of any observations during spring migration for the state as a whole.

T. DAVID PITTS, Biology Department, The University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin 38238. Accepted 1 Dec. 1980.

**WHIP-POOR-WILL FORAY**—On the evening of 20 June 1980, six members of the Elizabethton Chapter TOS conducted a Whip-Poor-Will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) foray on the north slope of Holston Mountain. The route and foray method were the same as those used in previous years (Herndon, Lee R. 1959 *The Migrant* 30:31).

The foray began near the Big Creek section of South Holston Lake in Sullivan County, followed graveled U.S. Forest Service roads (Big Creek Rd. onto Old Flatwoods Rd.) toward Elizabethton, and stopped at the Cherokee National Forest Boundary near Keensburg Community in Carter County. The route covered 22.4 km with stops made every 0.8 km. The foray began at 2100 EDT and ended at 2330 EDT. The sky was clear, with the moon in the last quarter. The temperature was 17C with winds light and variable.

The foray produced 48 calling Whip-Poor-Wills (2.1 per km) with one other sighted on the road. This number compares favorably with the only other foray conducted this late (45 on 21 June 1967—Dillenbeck, 1967. *The Migrant* 38:41). No owls were heard.

Participants: Glen and Helen Swofford, Jane Whitehead, Helenhill Dove, Martha Dillenbeck, and Rick Knight.

RICK KNIGHT, 804 North Hills Drive, Johnson City 37601. Accepted 3 Sept. 1980.

PROBABLE FIRST NESTING OF THE HOUSE FINCH IN TENNESSEE—At 1415 on 11 May 1980 in Sullivan County, Tennessee the song of a House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) was heard at Oak Hill Cemetery in Kingsport. Investigation of a nearby American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) yielded an adult male and female House Finch feeding a recently fledged House Finch approximately 9 m above the ground. The bird being fed was judged to be a recently fledged individual because it was being fed by a pair of adult birds; it vocalized and gestured characteristically of a fledgling begging for food; and most importantly because of down-like plumage observed on the head of the bird. A. C. Bent (*Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosebeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows, and Allies*, Vol. 1, New York: Dover Publications Inc.; 1968.) says of the House Finch: "The filoplumes persist until all feathers are fully grown, and the filaments standing erect among the feathers of the crown furnish the last identification mark by which the more recently fledged individuals can be distinguished."

Oak Hill Cemetery is a 21 ha area of park-like habitat, vegetated chiefly by various ornamental and native species of trees and shrubs, including many conifers. The area is surrounded by the city of Kingsport and its suburbs and is 3.6 km from the Tennessee-Virginia border.

THOMAS F. LAUGHLIN, Route 1, Kingsport 37660.

RICK A. PHILLIPS, 1332 Tranbarger Dr., Kingsport 37660. Accepted 25 Feb. 1981.

## COMPTON CROOK

Friends of Compton Crook, a former member of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, are sorry to hear of his death 15 January 1981 at Towson, Maryland.

Compton was active in the Nashville Chapter of TOS from 1927 through 1932 when he moved to Kentucky. In 1940 he was a corresponding member of TOS living in Towson, Maryland. He taught at State Teacher's College (later University) in Towson until his recent retirement.

Compton Crook took part in Nashville Christmas counts when he lived in Nashville. To cite only two, he published articles in *The Migrant* on the Black Vulture and the Killdeer. He served as secretary and later as treasurer of the Nashville Chapter of TOS in the early 1930's.

He was a student and teacher of biology all of his life.

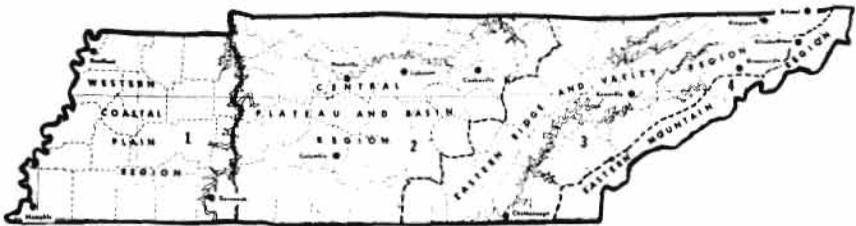
KATHERINE GOODPASTURE

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## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I am continuing a study on the Screech Owl that was begun in 1976 as part of a Master's study at the University of Tennessee. The Screech Owl is commonly found dead on Tennessee roadways primarily in the months of October through February. Much information can be obtained by examining these birds (food habits, sexual size dimorphism, color phase ratios, etc.). If you should find a road kill Screech Owl, please freeze the specimen along with the date and location of the collection and write or call me at: Rt. 4, Box 541, Valley Ln., Clinton, TN 37716 (945-3034) or Division of Land and Forest Resources, Tennessee Valley Authority, Norris, TN 37828 (632-6450, ext. 2354). I will arrange to pick up the bird. Thank you. Linda J. Turner.

## THE SEASON

FRED J. ALSOP, III, *Editor*

## FALL MIGRATION: 1 AUGUST - 31 OCTOBER 1980

Allow me to begin this report on a personal note. As those of you within the T.O.S. know, the editorship of *The Migrant* will change hands at the spring State meeting of the organization with the resignation of Dr. Gary O. Wallace after ten years as editor. In order that the new editor may put together his own staff I am also resigning my position as editor of "The Season." I should like to express my appreciation to Gary Wallace for his assistance and cooperation during this decade of our work together and to congratulate him on his many successes with this journal and the birders, both amateur and professional, it serves. My gratitude is extended to all the regional compilers for all the hours they have given to the contributors in their regions and to the readers of this publication.

It is with regret that this, my final report, is once again incomplete. The data from the Central Plateau and Basin Region was unavailable after an extended deadline at the time the editor of *The Migrant* called for the materials. This is the third issue in which this regional report has been unavailable.

Good numbers and varieties of migrants were reported from the three regions which follow. One of the most outstanding birds observed this season was the sighting of a *Prairie Falcon* by Lula and Ben Coffey and members of the Memphis TOS in October. Another raptor of note was a Merlin (Pigeon Hawk) seen in late September on Roan Mountain at the opposite end of the state. The Eastern Ridge and Valley Region had four Peregrine Falcon reports. Another outstanding bird observed during this season was the first *Yellow Rail* record for the Chattanooga Area. Shorebirds were in especially good numbers in the Western Coastal Plain and Eastern Ridge and Valley Regions with many species being recorded including Red Knot, Baird's, Western, Buff-breasted Sandpipers and Sanderling. The Eastern Ridge and Valley Region reported Northern Phalaropes and a very large Pectoral Sandpiper migration. The Western Coastal Plain Region reported a large roost of Eastern Kingbirds estimated at numbering a thousand. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was trapped and banded in the Eastern Mountain Region where many species of warblers and vireos were also recorded. All reporting regions had records of Philadelphia Vireos, a species that is reported only sparingly in spring and fall migration across the state. Details of these and many other good records follow.

**WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION**—*Cormorant-Falcon*: Double-crested Cormorant: 30 Aug (1) DRU (MLB, others); 6 Sep (1) DRU (MCTOS). Great Blue Heron: 30-31 Aug (50) DRU (MLB, others); (1) PP (MLB, others). Green Heron: 30-31 Aug (20) DRU (MLB, others); (3) PP (MLB, others). Little Blue Heron: 30-31 Aug (15) DRU (MLB, others). Black-crowned Night Heron: 30

## SOUTH DYERSBURG HERON ROOST

|        | <i>Little Blue<br/>Heron</i> | <i>Great<br/>Egret</i> | <i>Cattle<br/>Egret</i> | <i>Imm.<br/>White Ibis</i> |
|--------|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 19 Aug | 833+                         | —                      | NC                      | 49+                        |
| 28 Aug | NC                           | —                      | 1189+                   | 31+                        |
| 9 Sep  | 521+                         | —                      | NC                      | 25+                        |
| 10 Sep | 176+                         | —                      | 391+                    | 5+                         |
| 30 Sep | 0                            | 1                      | 0                       | 0                          |

NC — not counted

W. G. Criswell

Aug (2) DRU (MLB, others). Least Bittern: 30 Aug (1) DRU (MLB, others). Canada Goose: 6 Sep (8) BSU (MLB, others). Snow Goose (Blue Morph): 25 Oct (35) C (MCTOS). Gadwall: 25 Oct (40) C (MCTOS). Green-winged Teal: 25 Oct (1) C (MCTOS). Blue-winged Teal: 30-31 Aug (10) DRU (MLB, others); (9) PP (MLB, others); 25 Oct (4) C (MCTOS). Northern Shoveler: 25 Oct (10) C (MCTOS). Ring-necked Duck: 25 Oct (1) C (JW). Lesser Scaup: 25 Oct (250) C (JW). Ruddy Duck: 25 Oct (2) C (JW). Mississippi Kite: 11 May thru 13 Aug (2-3) R (JF, SF); 15 May (2) OP (NS, MW); 25 May (4) FPSP (MCTOS); 4 Aug (4) M (JS); 14 Aug (18) M (JS); 15 Aug (3) Drummond, TN, Southwest Tipton County (AIS, NS); 19-20 Aug (2/8) M (JS); 3 Sep (18) M (JS); 4 Sep (6 mature, 2 imm) OP (JS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Oct (2) OP (JS); 25 Oct (1) C (MCTOS); 26 Oct (1) M (JW); 31 Oct (1) M (DV); 10 Nov (1) M (DV); 15 Nov (1) M (DV). Cooper's Hawk: 19 Oct (1) OP (JS); 1 Nov (1) M (JW); 15 Nov (1) M (DV). Broad-winged Hawk: 13-15 Aug (1) OP (JeF); 30 Aug (1) DRU (MLB, others). Bald Eagle: no specified date, letter received from DRU dated 12 Aug (4; two adults, two imm) (VLC). Osprey: 20-21 Sep (1) Upper Pickwick Lake (JG); 1 Oct (1) OP (JS). PRAIRIE FALCON: 12 Oct (1) M (LCC, BBC, MCTOS).

*Plover-Tern*: Semipalmated Plover: 30-31 Aug (12) PP (MLB, others); 6 Sep (2) PP (MLB, others). American Golden Plover: 12 Oct (1) Island 21, Dyer Co. (WGC). Piping Plover: 30-31 Aug (1) PP (MLB, others). Ruddy Turnstone: 31 Aug (1) BF (MLB, others); 21 Sep (2) M (BBC, LCC). This is the *first sighting* for Shelby County. American Woodcock: 19 Jul (1) M (DD). Common Snipe: 13 Aug (2) M (RP, MW). Spotted Sandpiper: 30-31 Aug (10) PP (MLB, others); (1) PP (MLB, others); 6 Sep (4) PP (MLB, others). Solitary Sandpiper: 25 Oct (2) C (JW). WILLET: 30 Aug (1) PP (MLB, others). Greater Yellowlegs: 25 Oct (6) C (JW). Lesser Yellowlegs: 25 Oct (4) C (JW). Pectoral Sandpiper: 30-31 Aug (40/3) PP (MLB, others); 6 Sep (20) PP (MLB, others), 25 Oct (24) C (JW). Baird's Sandpiper: 30 Aug (1) PP (MLB, others). Least Sandpiper: 30-31 Aug (8) DRU (MLB, others); 6 Sep (2) PP (MLB, others); 25 Oct (10) C (JW). Short-billed Dowitcher: 30 Aug (1) PP (MLB, others); 25 Oct (4) C (JW). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 30-31 Aug (12/8) PP (MLB, others). Western Sandpiper: 30-31 Aug (4) PP (MLB, others). 6 Sep (3) PP (MLB, others). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 31 Aug (11) BF (MLB, others); 6 Sep (5) PP (MLB, others). Sanderling: 24 Sep (1) M (CB, HBD). Herring Gull: 6 Sep (1) PP (MLB, others); 25 Oct (42) C (MCTOS). Ring-billed Gull: 25 Oct (40) C (MCTOS). Bonaparte's Gull: 25 Oct (40) M (MCTOS). Common Tern: 6 Sep (1) PP (MLB, others). Caspian Tern: 31 Aug (2) PP (MLB, others); 6 Sep (8) BSU (MLB, others); 29 Sep (1) Island 21, Dyer Co. (WGC). Black Tern: 30-31 Aug (3/1) PP (MLB, others); 6 Sep (10) PP (MLB, others).

*Owl-Warbler:* Great Horned Owl: 21 Sep (1) M (JW). Common Nighthawk: 24 Sep (250) M (WB). Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Nov (81) SFSP (MCTOS). Eastern Kingbird: 28 Aug (1,000 in roost) M (JS). Tree Swallow: 12 Nov (1) FPSP (CB, HBD, NM, AS, NS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 7 Oct (2) FSP (BBC, LCC); this species has been very common this season in other locations in the Memphis area. House Wren: 26 Sep (1) R (SF), 27-29 Sep (1) M (JW), 20 Oct (1) M (JW). Philadelphia Vireo: 30 Sep (1) SFSP (CB, HBD, SF, SL). Black-and-white-Warbler: 11 Sep (1) M (HBD). Magnolia Warbler: 21 Oct (1) M (DD). Wilson's Warbler: 5 Sep (1) M (HBD).

*Locations:* BF—Britton Ford; BSU—Big Sandy Unit, Tenn. Nat. Wildlife Refuge; C—Chucalissa, Southwest Memphis; DRU—Duck River Unit of the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge; FPSP—Fort Pillow State Park; FSP—Fuller State Park; M—Memphis; OP—Overton Park; PP—Pace Point; R—Raleigh, northeast Shelby County; SFSP—Shelby Forest State Park.

*Observers:* WB—William Bean; MLB—Michael L. Bierly; CB—Carolyn Bullock; WGC—William G. Criswell; BBC—Ben B. Coffey, Jr.; LCC—Lula C. Coffey; DD—Dolly Ann Daily; HBD—Helen B. Dinkelspiel; JeF—Jesse Feldman; JF—Jim Ferguson; SF—Sue Ferguson; JG—Joe Guinn; SL—Selma Lewis; NM—Nelle Moore; MCTOS—Memphis Chapter, TOS; RP—Rob Peeples; AIS—Arlo Smith; NS—Noreen Smith; JS—John Stokes; DV—Dave Vance; MW—Martha Waldron; JW—Jeff Wilson.

MARTHA WALDRON, 1626 Yorkshire Dr., Memphis 38119.

**EASTERN RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION**—The regular and sustained efforts to monitor the wading and shorebirds in the prime habitats continued. The largest number of Great Blue Herons ever recorded during this season were observed on Douglas Lake by Tony Koella. The "white" herons were widely reported and for the fourth consecutive year immature White Ibis were at scattered locations.

During this period TVA continued their policy of near full pool of Chickamauga Lake which resulted in very limited habitat for migrating shorebirds. As a result coverage concentrated on four basic locations: the Kingston Steam Plant, Douglas Lake, Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery and the Austin Springs' section of Boone Lake. As is now considered usual, impressive numbers and varieties of birds were identified at the Kingston Steam Plant. Similar results were obtained by Koella at Douglas Lake, especially the tremendous numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers. His count was unprecedented.

A first local record of the secretive Yellow Rail was secured for the Chattanooga area when one apparently hit a building downtown and was turned over to the Nature Center. The significance that can be ascribed to the sightings of Common Ravens near Austin Springs is difficult to interpret when one considers the distance it is from their normal territory.

In our region, it appears little effort is expended in observing and reporting on the obscure passerine migration. Nicholson did comment that in banding at Norris he recorded a ratio of one Philadelphia to four Red-eyed Vireos.

There is much rich additional detail in the body of the report and it should be closely read.

*Loon-Merganser*: Common Loon: 18 Oct (1); 29 Oct (72) BL (RK). Pied-billed Grebe: 20 Oct (10) HRA (KLD). Double-crested Cormorant: 28 Sep (1) K (KTOS); 28 Oct (2) HRA (KLD); 30, 31 Oct (2) AS (MD, SG, JW). Great Blue Heron: max 4 Oct (120) DL (TK). Little Blue Heron: 1-14 scattered at HRA and SB (KLD); max 8 white plumaged birds EB through 22 Aug (CPN, DH, LT); 3 Aug (23), 9 Aug (6) DL (TK); 8 Sep (1) SB (KLD). Cattle Egret: 5 Aug (1) LaF (GM). Great Egret: 1-10 regular HRA, KSP and SB (KLD, CH); 3 Aug - 26 Oct (3-6) DL (TK); last 30 Oct (8) MHL (WKJ). Black-crowned Night Heron: none found after 31 Jul DL (TK); 29 Aug (3) HRA (EK); 1 Sep (1) KSP (KLD); last seen AS 24 Sep (RK); 26 Oct (2) SB (KD). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 21 Oct (1 ad) AM (KD). White Ibis: one regular KSP till 11 Aug (KLD *et al*); 1 Aug (1) Holston R. at Surgoinsville (WKJ); 2 Aug (1) SB (KLD); 21-29 Aug (5-7) HRA (EK). Snow Goose: 3 Oct (1 "blue") KSP (ABS, SJS); 26, 28 Oct (11 "blue" and 1 "snow") HRA (KLD). Mallard: regular at KSP w/max 16 Sep (120) (KLD). Black Duck: 8 Sep (1) KSP (KLD). Gadwall: 22 Sep (4) KSP (KLD); 31 Oct (25) AS (MD, HD, SG). Pintail: 14 Sep (2) KSP (KLD). Green-winged Teal: 14 Sep (2) KSP (KLD); 22 Oct (1) AS (RK). Blue-winged Teal: regular KSP (max 106) with few noted elsewhere (KLD). Am. Wigeon: 5 Sep (1) KSP (KLD); 27 Sep (1) BL (MD, JK). No. Shoveler: 18 Aug (4) AS (RK); 5, 7 Sep (1) KSP (KLD); 2 Oct (3) AS (RK); 10 Oct (7) HRA (KLD). Ring-necked Duck: first 25 Aug (4) KSP (KLD). Lesser Scaup: it now appears one spent the entire summer on a small pond in JC (LHTOS); 30 Oct (200) BL (MD, SG, JW, HD). *OLDSQUAW*: 30 Oct (4) BL (MD, SG, JW, HD). Ruddy Duck: 30 Oct (2) BL (MD, SG, JW, HD). Hooded Merganser: 3 Oct (1) KSP (ABS, SJS); 29 Oct (1) AS (MD, JW, SG).

*Hawk-Coot*: Sharp-shinned Hawk: only 3 noted Eliz-JC with some observations coming from other sections (mob). Cooper's Hawk: nine sightings during period Eliz-JC (LHTOS) with encouraging sightings from other areas (mob). Red-shouldered Hawk: 3 Oct (1) AS (MD, SG). Bald Eagle: 29 Jul, 5 Aug (1 ad) NoL (JCH). Marsh Hawk: 5, 8 Oct (1) AS (RK) and widely scattered reports from the lower section of the region (mob). Osprey: scattered reports from most areas (mob). *PEREGRINE FALCON*: 16 Sep (1) KSP (KLD); 25 Sep (1 ad carrying a shorebird) NoL (JCH); 5 Oct (1 imm) KSP (DLT); 5 Oct (1) N (CPN). Due to the distance and times of observation it is felt these last two sightings were different birds. *YELLOW RAIL*: 13 Oct (1—first local record, details will appear in Round Table Notes) downtown Chattanooga (KLD, RBW). *COMMON GALLINULE*: 31 Oct (2) Surgoinsville (WKJ). Am. Coot: 12 Aug (4) Chickamauga Dam (KD).

*Plover-Phalarope*: Semipalmated Plover: regular w/max 5 Sep (25) KSP (KLD); 19 Aug - 22 Sep (1-2) EB (DH, CPN, LT); 31 Aug - 9 Sep (20 regular) DL (TK) w/last 13 Sep (4) (TK); 14, 20 Sep (1) AS (RK); last report for the region 22 Oct (2) KSP (ARS, SJS). Killdeer: regular with max of 110 at KSP on 22 Oct (ABS, SJS). Am. Golden Plover: 7-14 Sep (1-2) KSP (DLT *et al*); 14 Oct (3) KSP (KLD); 20 Oct (1) HRA (KLD). Black-bellied Plover: 7, 13 Sep (10) DL (TK); 17 Sep (1) KSP (SBS); 18-20 Sep (1-2) NoL (JCH); 21 Sep (1) DL (TK). Ruddy Turnstone: 15 Aug (1) SB (LD); 5-30 Sep (1) KSP (KLD, SBS *et al*). Common Snipe: 14, 15 Aug (1) SB (LD, CH), then no further reports till 13 Sep (2) DL (TK). Spotted Sandpiper: usually 1-7 KSP (mob) with last 3 Oct (1) KSP (SBS); 9 Aug - 7 Sep (1) DL (TK). Solitary Sandpiper: 4-18 Aug (1-3) HRA (KLD); 9-23 Aug (1-6) DL (TK); 26 Oct (1) DL (TK). Willet: 14 Aug (3) SB (KLD); 17 Aug (1) DL (TK). Greater Yellowlegs: regular w/max 31 Aug (50) KSP (KLD); 15-31 Aug (1-5) DL (TK); 26 Oct (14) DL (TK). Lesser Yellowlegs: regular w/max 8 Sep (30)

KSP (KLD *et al*); 3 Aug - 13 Sep (4-30) DL (TK). *RED KNOT*: 6-22 Sep (2-4) KSP (SBS, RAH, *et al*); first found by SBS and RAH. Pectoral Sandpiper: regular w/max 18 Aug (43) KSP (KLD); largest numbers ever recorded in the region w/max 7 Sep (400) DL (TK); 29 Oct (15) AS (RK). White-rumped Sandpiper: 17 Aug - 7 Sep (1-10) DL (TK). *BAIRD'S SANDPIPER*: 16-24 Sep (1-4) KSP (KLD, SBS); 8-17 Sep (1-2) EB (DH, LT, CPN); 22 Oct (1) KSP (SBS). Least Sandpiper: regular w/max 8 Sep (50) KSP (KLD); 3 Aug - 26 Oct (1-20) DL (TK). Dunlin: 20 Oct (2) HRA (KLD); 22 Oct (20) KSP (ABS, SBS); 26 Oct (35) DL (TK). Dowitcher (Species ?): 18 Aug - 22 Sep (1-12 HRA, SB (KLD); 31 Aug (10) DL (TK). Stilt Sandpiper: 15, 18 Aug (1) SB (KLD); 18 Aug - 26 Sep (1-11) KSP (SBS *et al*); 31 Aug (1); 13 Sep (10) DL (TK); 29 Sep (1) HRA (RCS); 4 Oct (2) DL (TK). Semipalmated Sandpiper: regular w/max 1 Sep (150) KSP (KLD); 31 Aug (400) DL (TK); last 26 Oct (5) DL (TK). Western Sandpiper: 9 Aug - 21 Sep (1-4) DL (TK); 18 Aug - 14 Sep (2-35) KSP (KLD); 1 Sep (2) St. John's Pond (MD, SG). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 7 Sep (6) KSP (KLD); 8-17 Sep (1-2) EB (DH, CPN, LT); 17 Sep (2); 22 Oct (1) KSP (SBS). Am. Avocet: 7 Sep (8) KSP (DLT *et al*). Sanderling: 15 Aug (3) SB (LD); 12-30 Sep (3-11) KSP (DLT, SBS *et al*); 13-21 Sep (20-25) DL (TK); 20 Sep (2) AS (RK); 6 Oct (4) NoL (JCH). Wilson's Phalarope: 30 Aug - 8 Sep (2-3) KSP (KLD, SBS, *et al*); 26 Oct (1) DL (TK). *NORTHERN PHALAROPE*: 6 Sep, 4 Oct (1) DL (TK); 12-16 Sep (1) KSP (SBS *et al*).

*Gull-Raven*: Herring Gull: 30 Sep (2) KSP (SBS). Ring-billed Gull: 26 Sep (1) KSP (SBS). Laughing Gull: 17 Sep (1) KSP (CH *et al*). Bonaparte's Gull: 31 Oct (1) BL (MD, HD). Forster's Tern: 1 Sep (1) KSP (KLD); 13 Sep (5) DL (TK); 28 Sep (11) K (James T. Tanner); 29 Sep (10) HRA (RCS). Common Tern: 29 Sep (35) HRA (RCS); 29 Oct (1) AS (RK). Caspian Tern: 30-31 Aug (2) KSP (BHS, KLD); 6 Sep (4) DL (TK). Black Tern: 4 Aug (1) EB (DH, CPN, LT); 18, 19 Aug (2) SB (KLD); 19 Aug (1) AS (SG, MD); 23 Aug (13) DL (TK); 30 Aug (1) KSP (BHS); 1 Sep (3) KSP (DH, CPN); 13 Sep (1) DL (TK). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 10 Oct (1) HRA (KLD). Whip-poor-will: 21, 22 Sep (1 calling) KCo (SBS). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 27 Sep (10 observed migrating) N (DH, CPN, LT). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 13, 21 Sep (1\*) N (CPN). Traill's Flycatcher: 16 (1\*); 18 (2\*) Sep N (CPN). Least Flycatcher: 11 Sep - 1 Oct (5\*) N (CPN). Olive-sided Flycatcher: 11 Sep (1) JB (RK); 28 Sep (1) KCo (KTOS). Tree Swallow: 9-16 Sep (750) DL (TK); 29 Sep (250) HRA (RCS); 7 Oct (40) JC (RK). Bank Swallow: 9-16 Sep (2250) DL (TK); 29 Sep (1) HRA (RCS). Rough-winged Swallow: 29 Sep (2) HRA (RCS). Barn Swallow: last 10 Oct (1) HRA (KLD). Cliff Swallow: 9-16 Sep (20) DL (TK); 29 Sep (4) HRA (RCS). Purple Martin: max 11 Aug (2500) HRA (KLD) and last on 8 Sep (4) HRA (KLD). *COMMON RAVEN*: a couple of sightings have been made at very low elevation near Austin Springs (LHTOS).

*Nuthatch-Sparrow*: Red-breasted Nuthatch: first dates then followed by many other widely scattered sightings; 10 Sep (1) KCo (JCH); 23 Sep (1) SM (RBW). House Wren: 6 Oct (1) JC (MD). Winter Wren: 28 Sep (1) KCo (KTOS). Long-billed Marsh Wren: 27 Sep (1) AS (Glen Eller, Harry Farthing); 28 Sep (6) KCo (KTOS); 30 Sep (1) KSP (SBS); 7 Oct (1) JB (RK). Short-billed Marsh Wren: 18 Aug (1) AS (RK). Hermit Thrush: 20 Oct (6) KCo (JCH)—a high early count. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 27 Sep (1\*) N (CPN); 28 Sep (12) KCo (KTOS). Water Pipit: 3 Oct (3) KSP (ABS, SJS); 20 Oct (1) HRA (KLD). Loggerhead Shrike: 4 Aug (2 ad w/2 dependent young) HRA (KLD); 11 Sep - 15 Oct (2) JB (RK *et al*). Philadelphia Vireo: 4 Oct (1) JC (SG); Knoxville Fall Count recorded 4 on 28 Sep

and 13 were banded at Norris with a ratio of 1 Philadelphia to 4 Red-eyes (CPN). Tennessee Warbler: very numerous Eliz-Jc (LHTOS); Orange-crowned Warbler: 4, 18 Oct (1) JC (SG). Cape May Warbler: very numerous Eliz-JC (LHTOS). Bay-breasted Warbler: 25 Oct (1) K (JC). Bobolink: 22 Aug - 24 Sep (1-3) AS (RK); 27 Aug (1) SB (KD). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: the Eliz-JC area recorded the largest numbers for a fall migration in many years with the last one noted 24 Oct (LHTOS); they were very abundant at Knoxville; on their fall count 28 Sep 437 were sighted while the average for the past 5 years has been 72 (CPN). Purple Finch: first date 1 Oct (1\*) AS (RK). House Finch: First fall sighting in JC on 3 Oct (HD) with 1-5 since. Two all fall in K, apparently carry overs from summer breeders; male singing on 26 Sep. Two on 31 Oct in north Knoxville where Stedman banded 130 last winter, so these were probably first fall arrivals. They have many other reports (SJS). Pine Siskin: 20 Oct (10) K (JCH); 26 Oct (20) SM (RBW). Savannah Sparrow: 6 Sep (1) KSP (RAH, SBS). Vesper Sparrow: 17 Oct (1) JB (RK). White-crowned Sparrow: 3 Oct (1) AS (RK); 26 Oct (6) JCo (TK). White-throated Sparrow: 2 Oct (1\*) AS (RK). Fox Sparrow: 31 Oct (1) KCo (SBS). Lincoln's Sparrow: 13 Sep - 22 Oct (1-3 w/several banded) AS (RK).

*Select Abbreviations:* ad—adult; *et al*—and others; imm—immature; max—maximum; mob—many observers; \*—banded.

*Locations:* AM—Amnicola Marsh; AS—Austin Springs; BL—Boone Lake; ChL—Chickamauga Lake; DL—Douglas Lake; EB—Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, Clinton; Eliz-JC—Elizabethton-Johnson City Area; HRA—Hiwassee River Area; JB—Jonesboro; JC—Johnson City; K—Knoxville; KCo—Knox County; KSP—Kingston Steam Plant; LaF—LaFollette; MHL—Melton Hill Lake; N—Norris; NoL—Norris Lake; SM—Signal Mountain.

*Observers:* ABS—A. Boyd Sharp; BHS—Barbara H. Stedman; CH—Chris Haney; CPN—Charles P. Nicholson; DH—Dave Hankins; DLT—Dave and Linda Turner; EK—Elena Killian; GM—George McKinney; HD—Helenhill Dove; JCH—Joseph C. Howell; JK—Joy Kyle; JW—Jane Whitehead; KLD—Ken and Lil Dubke; KTOS—Knoxville Chapter, TOS; LD—Lil Dubke; LHTOS—Lee R. Herndon Chapter, TOS (formerly the Elizabethton Chapter, TOS); LT—Linda Turner; RAH—Ron and Audrey Hoff; MD—Martha Dillenbeck; RCS—Randy C. Stringer; RK—Rick Knight; SBS—Steve and Barbara Stedman; SG—Sally Goodin; SJS—Stephen J. "Steve" Stedman; TK—Jon A. "Tony" Koella; WKJ—Wesley K. James

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION—Hot temperatures from the summer period continued thru-out the month of September. Rainfall was average for the period. The first killing frost came on 7 October; about the same date as the past three years.

Waterfowl moved into the area near mid October and several large rafts were seen near the end of the month. Little shorebird movement, but very good fall warbler, vireo and flycatcher migrations were noted. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were "everywhere" as they staged their largest fall flight in recent years. Early House Finch sightings may indicate another "big" year for this ever expanding species.

This region needs more sightings reported from our TOS members, especially

from the southern range of the mountain region. Did you report your observations this past period??? Send them in no matter how insignificant you might think they are. They are important.

*Heron-Hawk*: Green heron: last seen 31 Oct (1) SHL (RL). Little Blue Heron: last seen 11 Aug (2) WatL (GE, RK). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: last seen 18 Sep (2) E (GE); last birds from successful nesting season. Black Duck: 1st fall sighting 26 Sep (2) SHL (RL). American Wigeon/Ring-neck Duck: 1st fall sighting on 24 Oct from WibL (RK, GW). Bufflehead: 1st fall sighting 19 Oct (2) WibL (GW). Common Merganser: 24 Aug (1 female apparently injured) WatL (GE). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 8 separate sightings during the period (Elizabethton area) LHTOS. Cooper's Hawk: 7 separate sightings during period (Elizabethton area) LHTOS. Red-shouldered Hawk: 27 Sep (1) HM (DL, GW). Broad-winged Hawk: last seen 2 Oct (1) E (HF). Osprey: seen from 7 Sep thru 6 Oct in area (LHTOS). *PIGEON HAWK* (Merlin): 20 Sep (1) RM (ES).

*Sandpiper-Veery*: Spotted Sandpiper/Solitary Sandpiper: last seen 27 Sep (2 ea) RC (JM). Greater Yellowlegs: 27 Sep (2) RC (JM). Pectoral Sandpiper: 11 Aug (9) RC (RK). Dowitcher (*species?*): 7 Sep (1) SHL (RL). Sanderling: 27 Sep (3) RC (JM). Black Tern: 19 Sep (3) SHL (RL). Common Nighthawk: 24 Aug (150-200) migrating thru Eliz area; last seen 17 Oct (1) E (GE). Red-headed Woodpecker: 27 Sep (4) E (GE, HF) apparently migrating thru, was feeding on acorns. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1st fall sighting 27 Sep (1) RC (JM). *YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER*: 20 Sep (1 banded) SHL (RL). Least Flycatcher: last seen 21 Sep (1) RM (ES). Olive-sided Flycatcher: 27 Sep (1) E (GE, HF). Tree Swallow: 6 Oct (25-30) E (RK). Purple Martin: last seen 23 Aug (2) E (HF). Common Raven: two *low elevation* reports (1500 to 2000') on 27 Sep and 31 Oct. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 5 Sep our 1st high elevation reports for the year, mid Oct produced several low elevation reports also. Wood Thrush: last seen 8 Oct (1) E (HF). Hermit Thrush: 1st fall sighting 27 Sep (1) RC (JM). Veery: last seen 22 Sep (1) RM (ES).

*Pipit-Sparrow*: Water Pipit: 29 Sep (4) RM (ES); 2 Oct (1) RM (GW). Loggerhead Shrike: 28 Sep (1) SHL (RL). Solitary Vireo: last seen 24 Oct (1) E (GE, HF). Philadelphia Vireo: 21 Oct (2) E (HF). Orange-crowned Warbler: 24 Oct (1) WibL (RK). Cape May Warbler: last seen 18 Oct in E (HF) after a heavy fall migration. Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: 1st fall sighting 27 Sep (1) E (DL, GW). Cerulean Warbler: 8 Aug (4 birds, apparently young being fed by adults) RM area (SG, MD, HD). Blackpoll Warbler: 27 Sep (1) RM (ES). Palm Warbler: last seen 25 Oct (1) E (GE). Wilson's Warbler: 13 Sep (1 banded) SHL (RL). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: very heavy concentrations all period with last seen on 24 Oct (2) E (LHTOS). Blue Grosbeak: several banded SHL (RL), last seen on 9 Oct. Indigo Bunting: last seen 18 Oct (1) E (GE). *HOUSE FINCH*: 1st seen 18 Oct (2) SHL (RL) up to 8 by end of period. Vesper Sparrow: 4 Oct (1 banded) SHL (RL). White-throated Sparrow: 1st fall sighting 3 Oct (1) E (HF). Fox Sparrow: 1st fall sighting 24 Oct (1) RM (RK). Lincoln's Sparrow: 12 Oct (1 banded) SHL (RL). *HENSLOW'S SPARROW*: 23 Oct (1) Roan Mt. State Park (FJA).

*Locations*: E—Eliz. area; HM—Holston Mtn.; RC—Roans Creek; RM—Roan Mtn.; SHL—South Holston Lake area; WatL—Watauga Lake; WibL—Wilbur Lake.

*Observers*: FJA—Fred Alsop; HD—Helenhill Dove; MD—Martha Dillenbeck; GE—Glen Eller; HF—Harry Farthing; SG—Sally Goodin; RK—Rick

Knight; LHTOS—Lee Herndon Chapter TOS; DL—Dick Lura; RL—Richard Lewis; JM—John Martin; ES—Ed Schell; GW—Gary Wallace.

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Correction: *The Migrant*, Vol. 51, No. 4.

p. 95 reads: "Red-cockaded Woodpeckers fledged one young in"

It should read: "Red-cockaded Woodpeckers observed feeding young in nest in"

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### EDITOR'S MESSAGE

As I put together this issue of *The Migrant* (my last one), I look back upon 10 years during which I served as your Editor. Thank you for the privilege and honor of serving. The editorship involves much work but the effort has many rewards and has been very gratifying. I would like to thank the membership for their excellent cooperation and I would especially like to thank the various individuals who served on the editorial staff during the past 10 years. From the many individuals that deserve special recognition I would at least like to say thanks to Fred Alsop who served as the "Season Editor" for my entire tenure as Editor.

The TOS has drawn its strength through a conservative approach to a single goal: to record and encourage the study of birds in Tennessee. It is important for any organization to periodically step back from the sometimes slow pace of routine activities and reflect on the growth and progress that occurs over the long run. This change in editorship is one mechanism to accomplish this. Charles P. Nicholson, the new Editor will inherit a vigorous organization that is 66 years old, involving 14 chapters and about 750 members. Chuck will bring a new approach and new ideas to the editorship of *The Migrant*. Many people have contributed time and energy in the past in building the TOS into a viable organization. I am sure that the current membership stands solidly behind the new Editor, ready to support him and to contribute to the future of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

GARY O. WALLACE

## PREPARATION OF COPY FOR PUBLICATION

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

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

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

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

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

**STYLE:** Recent issues of THE MIGRANT should be used as a guide in the preparation of manuscripts. Where more detail is needed reference should be made to the *Style Manual for Biological Journals* available from the American Institute of Biological Sciences, 1401 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22209.

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

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

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