

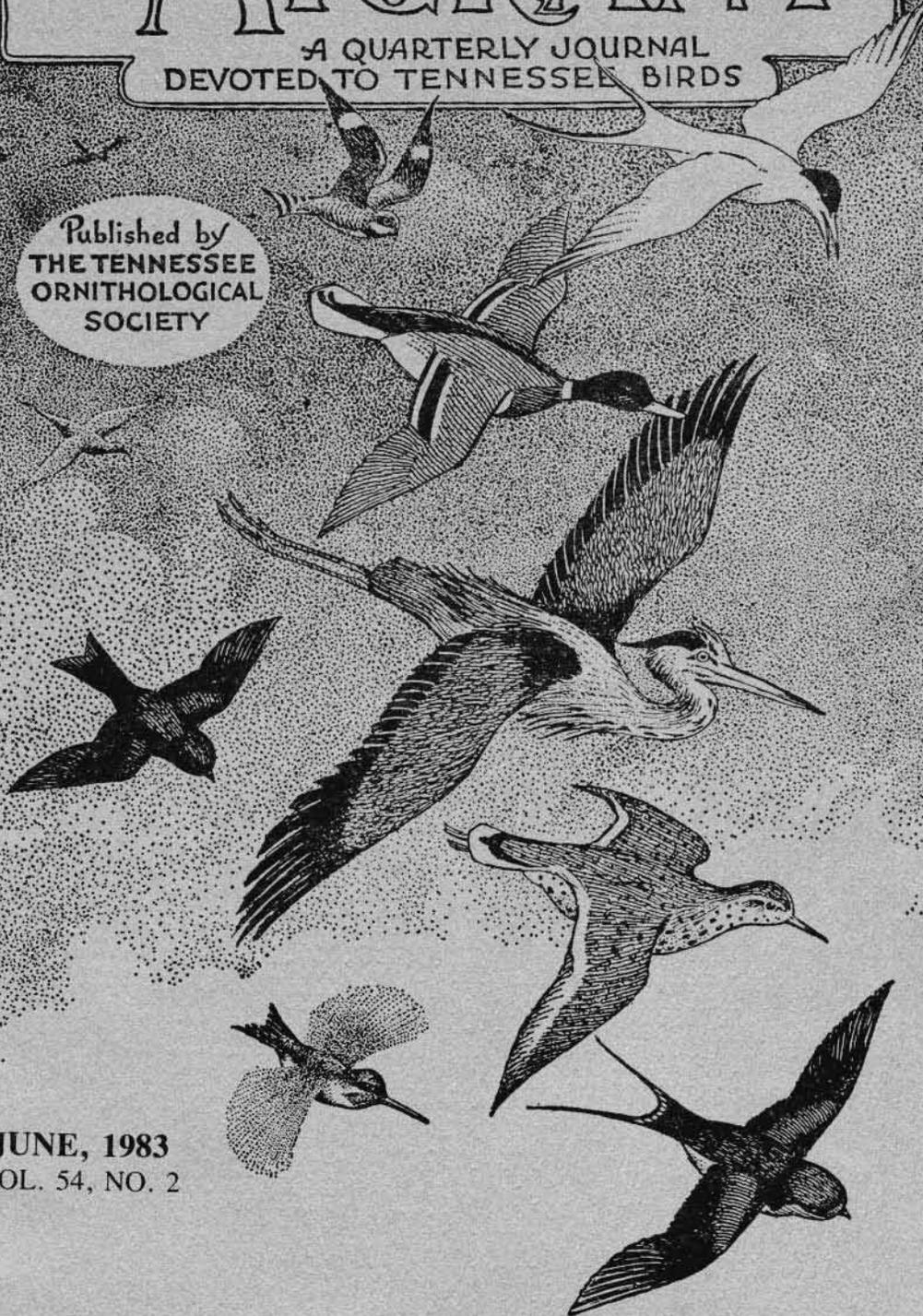
# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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## SHOREBIRDS OF KINGSTON STEAM PLANT

LINDA J. FOWLER

Shorebirds (Charadriiformes: Charadriidae, Recurvirostridae, and Scolopacidae) migrate through Tennessee enroute to their wintering grounds in South America and coastal U.S. and to their breeding grounds in northern U.S. and Canada. Of the 31 shorebirds that are discussed here, only the Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) and Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) are known to nest in Tennessee. Suitable inland stopover sites are generally scarce with most migrants depending on the exposed shoreline of lakes and rivers. Spring rains begin to fill reservoirs in April, thereby eliminating the majority of this habitat during peak migration periods. Conversely, reservoir shorelines are usually not exposed until mid-October, after peak fall shorebird numbers have passed through. Consequently, inland areas suitable for resting and feeding of migrant shorebirds are very valuable.

The Kingston Steam Plant (KSP), located near the confluence of the Clinch and Emory Rivers and about 5 km from Walden Ridge in Roane County, is one of the few sites in Tennessee where large numbers of migrant shorebirds stop with a high degree of predictability. Birds are attracted to the flats and open waters of the plant's 80 ha ash disposal area (Figure 1). The first published shorebird records for this site appeared in 1970 just three years after the ash disposal area was completed. Scattered records of shorebird sightings appear in the literature from 1970-1978. However, intensive birding was not conducted until 1979 when the site became widely recognized by ornithological groups in the State.

In recognition of its ornithological importance, the KSP was designated as part of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's Wildlife Observation Area program in 1981. This program identifies and promotes public use of areas in Tennessee with large concentrations of observable wildlife. Although shorebirds are the primary attraction of the KSP site, many species of waterfowl, herons, gulls, terns, raptors, and sparrows are also regularly seen (Checklist of Waterbirds of the Kingston Steam Plant, L. J. Fowler, 1983).

The purpose of this paper is to summarize records on the shorebirds of Kingston Steam Plant from 1970 to March 1983. Based upon these records, early and late observation dates and maximum numbers of each species are listed for both spring and fall seasons. Records for this paper were taken from *The Migrant*, *American Birds*, International Shorebird Survey computer printout (1980-1983), and from my personal log (1977-1982). Nomenclature follows the American Ornithologists' Union's Checklist of North American Birds (6th edition, 1983).



FIGURE 1. Ash disposal pond at Kingston Steam Plant, Roane County, Tennessee. Photo by Linda J. Fowler.

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** (*Pluvialis squatarola*) — Uncommon spring and fall transient. **SPRING** — early, 7 May; late, 26 May; maximum, 19 birds on 17 May 1980. **FALL** — early, 9 August; late, 15 November; maximum, 9 birds on 9 August 1982.

**LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER** (*Pluvialis dominica*) — Rare spring and uncommon fall transient. Only one spring record: 14 May 1979. **FALL** — early, 7 September; late, 14 October; maximum, 4 birds on 2 October 1981.

**SEMIPALMATED PLOVER** (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) — Uncommon spring and fall transient. **SPRING** — early, 26 April; late, 28 May; maximum, 35 birds on 17 May 1980. **FALL** — early, 3 July; late, 22 October; maximum, 25 birds on 5 September 1980.

**PIPING PLOVER** (*Charadrius melodus*) — Rare fall transient. No spring records. **FALL** — early, 24 July; late, 26 September; maximum, 1 bird.

**KILLDEER** (*Charadrius vociferus*) — Common spring and fall transient. Breeds locally. Fairly common winter resident in the region in wet plowed fields. Winter record: 12 birds on 28 February 1981. **SPRING** — early, 2 April; late, 28 May; maximum, 3 birds on 27 May 1981. **FALL** — 29 June; late, 22 November; maximum, 110 on 22 November 1980.

**AMERICAN AVOCET** (*Recurvirostra americana*) — Rare fall transient. No spring records. Four fall records: 7 September 1980, 20 July 1981, 7 August 1981, 21 August 1982; maximum, 8 birds on winter plumage on 7 September 1980.

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa melanoleuca*) — Uncommon spring transient and fairly common fall transient. SPRING — early, 9 April; late, 19 May; maximum, 10 birds on 9 April 1982. FALL — early, 16 July; late, 31 October; maximum, 50 birds on 31 August 1980.

**LESSER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa flavipes*) — Common spring and fall transient. SPRING — early, 12 April; late, 28 May; maximum, 220 birds on 26 April 1980. FALL — early, 3 July; late, 22 October; maximum, 40 birds on 31 August 1982.

**SOLITARY SANDPIPER** (*Tringa solitaria*) — Rare fall transient. No spring records; however, the bird is a fairly common spring migrant in the region on small farm ponds. FALL — early, 14 July; late, 31 August; maximum, 4 birds on 14 July 1982.

**WILLET** (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) — Rare spring and fall transient. SPRING — early, 17 April; late, 17 May; maximum, 20 birds on 27 April 1980. FALL — early, 6 July; late, 3 September; maximum, 2 birds on 9 August 1982.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER** (*Actitis macularia*) — Fairly common spring and fall transient. SPRING — early, 29 April; late, 2 June; maximum, 3 birds on 7 May 1982. FALL — early, 3 July; late, 21 October; maximum, 18 birds on 17 August 1981.

**UPLAND SANDPIPER** (*Bartramia longicauda*) — One record: 16 April 1981 of 1 bird.

**WHIMBREL** (*Numenius phaeopus*) — Two spring records: 27 May 1979 (18 birds), 24 May 1980 (1 bird).

**HUDSONIAN GODWIT** (*Limosa haemastica*) — One spring and one fall record: 14 May 1979 (1 bird), 16 August 1982 (1 bird).

**MARbled GODWIT** (*Limosa fedoa*) — One record: 16-17 July 1981 (1 bird).

**RUDDY TURNSTONE** (*Arenaria interpres*) — Rare spring and fall transient. SPRING — early, 19 May; late, 24 May; maximum, 4 birds on 19 May 1981. FALL — early, 29 August; late, 30 September; all records of 1 bird.

**RED KNOT** (*Calidris canutus*) — Rare fall transient. No spring records. FALL — early, 31 July; late, 22 September; maximum, 4 birds on 14 September 1980.

**SANDERLING** (*Calidris alba*) — Rare spring and uncommon fall transient. One spring record: 19 May 1981 (1 bird). FALL — early, 18 July; late, 8 October; maximum, 11 birds on 17 September 1980.

**SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER** (*Calidris pusilla*) — Common spring and fall transient. SPRING — early, 27 April; late, 4 June; maximum, 215 birds on 31 May 1982. FALL — early, 10 July; late, 7 October; maximum, 200 birds on 12 September 1982.

**WESTERN SANDPIPER** (*Calidris mauri*) — Rare spring and uncommon fall transient. SPRING — early, 16 May; late, 28 May; maximum, 1 bird 16 May 1981. FALL — early, 18 July; late, 24 September; maximum, 6 birds on 5 September 1981.

LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*) — Common spring and fall transient. SPRING — early, 27 April; late, 2 June; maximum, 100 on 10 May 1982. FALL — early, 3 July; late, 18 November; maximum, 40 birds on 28 August 1981.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Calidris fuscicollis*) — Uncommon spring and rare fall transient. SPRING — early, 6 May; late, 4 June; maximum, 25 birds on 17 May 1980. FALL — early, 10 July; late, 11 August; maximum, 4 birds on 11 August 1982.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*Calidris bairdii*) — Uncommon fall transient. No spring records. FALL — early, 13 July; late, 22 October; maximum, 6 birds on 3-24 September 1979.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Calidris melanotos*) — Common spring and fall transient. SPRING — early, 26 April; late, 19 May; maximum, 24 birds on 7 May 1980. FALL — early, 14 July; late, 30 October; maximum, 52 birds on 21 August 1982.

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*) — Rare spring and uncommon fall transient. Winter record: 26 January - 9 February 1980 (1-3 birds). SPRING — early, 26 April; late, 17 May; maximum, 50 birds on 17 May 1980. FALL — early, 17 July; late, 18 November; maximum, 20 birds on 22 October 1980.

STILT SANDPIPER (*Calidris himantopus*) — Rare spring and uncommon fall transient. SPRING — early, 15 May; late, 31 May; maximum, 3 birds on 16 May 1982. FALL — early, 16 July; late, 30 September; maximum, 19 birds on 31 July 1982.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*Tryngites subruficollis*) — Rare fall transient. No spring records. FALL — early, 25 August; late, 27 October; maximum, 3 birds on 7 September 1980.

DOWITCHER SPP. (*Limnodromus* spp.) — Rare spring and uncommon fall transient. SPRING — early, 26 April; late, 13 May; maximum, 27 birds on 13 May 1979. FALL — early, 29 June; late, 2 October; maximum, 9 birds on 24 August - 14 September 1981.

COMMON SNIPE (*Gallinago gallinago*) — Rare fall transient. Three fall records: 26 August 1978, 14 September 1979, 10 September 1981. Fairly common in the region in spring and winter in plowed or marshy fields and lake edges.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus tricolor*) — Rare fall transient. No spring records. FALL — early, 22 August; late, 15 September; maximum, 3 birds on 7 September 1980.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus lobatus*) — Rare spring and fall transient. SPRING — early, 17 May; late, 26 May; maximum, 2 birds on 18 May 1980. FALL — early, 8 September; late, 23 September; maximum, 1 bird.

Tennessee Valley Authority, Norris, TN 37828. Accepted 1 April 1984.

## AUTUMN HAWK FLIGHTS 1982

LINDA J. FOWLER

A total of 10,394 hawks of 13 species was reported from 17 stations in Tennessee during the fall of 1982 (Table 1). Between 22 August and 8 November, 327 observation hours were accumulated, breaking the previous high of 316 hours set in 1975. A Merlin, three Peregrine Falcons, and a Bald Eagle were among the rarest species reported.

Temperatures were slightly below average in September with highest rainfall occurring during 1-3 September at most eastern and middle Tennessee weather stations. The first cold temperatures (below 10°C) were recorded in the state on 22 September; however, no major frontal systems developed during September to concentrate Broad-wing flights.

The first large flocks of Broad-winged Hawks were observed on 17 September at three lookouts. David Highbaugh and Paul Pardue reported 949 Broad-wings from two different sites on Chilhowee Mountain. J. Patton saw 225 Broad-wings in less than one hour at Signal Point, and I saw 101 Broad-wings from Laurel Grove Firetower in 3½ hours of observation. The following day from Snooper's Rock and from the town of Red Bank, Peter Robinson and Randy Stringer each reported Broad-wing numbers exceeding 400. On 20 September the highest daily Broad-wing total was reached when Peter Robinson observed 769 birds from Dunlap Firetower. The following day Bruce Wilkey reported 500 Broad-wings at Dunlap Firetower. From 22 September to 26 September most stations reported Broad-wing numbers barely exceeding 100. However, on 26 September, Ken Dubke saw 416 Broad-wings, the last flight exceeding 100 birds for the season. Total Broad-wing count was 7,370, the lowest since 1976 (Table 2).

A Cooper's Hawk total of 30 birds was similar to last year's total of 31 birds. However, the 114 Sharp-shinned Hawks reported for 1982 was twice last year's total. Higher Sharp-shin numbers this year were associated with the intensive October hawk watching of Ken Dubke at Signal Point. On 10 October, Dubke saw 31 Sharp-shins and 1 Cooper's Hawk at Signal Point in 8 hours of observation, the season's highest daily total.

Red-tailed Hawks were reported in slightly higher numbers than last year. Most stations reported one to three resident Red-tails during September and early October. On 10 and 17 October, Ken Dubke reported seven and nine Red-tails, respectively, at Signal Point. However, the season's highest daily Red-tail total was reported on 24 October when I saw 27 birds from Mt. Roosevelt Firetower. Most of the birds moved through between 2:30 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. with as many as seven birds in a single kettle. In other parts of the southern Appalachian region, Red-tails peaked on 26 October and 13 and 15 November.

Red-shouldered Hawks were reported in half the numbers of last year, but still above the long-term average. Lower numbers this year were partly due to the lower numbers reported from Chilhowee Mountain. In 1981, Barbara Stedman counted 23 Red-shoulders from Chilhowee Mountain in 33 hours of observation. However, in 1982, Audrey Hoff spent 86 hours at Chilhowee Mountain and saw only two Red-shoulders. Hoff's total seems more consistent with the southern Appalachian region and Tennessee's previous season totals, where Red-shoulders make up less than one percent of the season's total hawks.

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF 1982 AUTUMN HAWK FLIGHTS

Date	Station	Reporter	Hours	TV	BV	SS	LH	RT	RS	BW	NH	OS	AK	Others	Total
		(No. Observers)													
08/22	Kyles Ford FT	R. Nevius (2)	3.5	13		1	1	1		10					26
08/29	Rich Mt. FT	K. Nevius (2)	3.0	3				1		1				1a	6
09/03	Mt. Roosevelt FT	L. Fowler (2)	2.5	7		1								3b	11
09/04	Walden FT	L. Fowler (2)	2.5	1		1				3					5
09/05	Kyles Ford FT	R. Nevius (3)	4.5	6		2	1		4	27				1h, 1BE	42
09/12	Signal Pt.	K. Dubke (2)	8.0	1		1									2
09/14	Thorn Hill	P. Pardue (1)	2.5	55	2	2	2	2		18					81
09/15	Chilhowee Mt.	P. Pardue (1)	2.0	9	2			2	1	4					18
09/17	Signal Pt.	J. Patton (1)	0.8							225					225
09/17	Chilhowee Mt.	P. Pardue (2)	6.0	38	3	2	1	2	1	291	3				341
09/17	Look Rock	D. Highbaugh (2)	5.3			1				656		1		1u	661
09/17	Laurel Grove FT	L. Fowler (2)	3.5	8			1		1	101				1b, 6u	118
09/18	Red Bank	R. Stringer (1)	0.3							430					430
09/18	Signal Pt.	K. Dohke (1)	8.0	4				1		83		2	1		91
09/18	Snooper's Rock	P. Robinson (11)	7.0	3	4	2				416		1		1u	427
09/18	Mt. Roosevelt FT	J. B. Owen (2)	5.0	4		2				141				1b	151
09/18	Bon Air	S. Bell (5-12)	5.0				1	2		280	2	1		1a	287
09/18	Laurel Grove FT	L. Fowler (2)	3.3	4						298		1		1a, 1b	305
09/19	Signal Pt.	K. Dubke (2)	9.0	1		5		3		177					186
09/19	Mt. Roosevelt FT	M. Davis (3-11)	6.3	6		2	1	2		34				1a, 9b, 2u	57
09/19	Meadow Creek FT	R. Spees (2)	6.5			2	1			38	1	1		4h, 2PF, 1ML	50
09/19	Bon Air	S. Bell (2-12)	7.0			2	6	1	2	389	2		2	2a	406
09/19	Laurel Grove FT	L. Fowler (2)	4.0	5		1				164		1	1	2u	174
09/20	Dunlap FT	P. Robinson	6.0							769					769
09/21	Dunlap FT	B. Wilkey (1)	6.3	3		4		4		500		1			512
09/21	Oolawah FT	K. Dubke (1)	4.0	4			1								5
09/21	Mt. Roosevelt FT	J. B. Owen (3)	4.5							11					11
09/22	Mt. Roosevelt FT	J. B. Owen (3-4)	7.0	5				2		124					131
09/22	Laurel Grove FT	L. Fowler (2)	5.0	3	3			2		142				1a, 2b, 3u	156
09/23	Signal Pt.	R. Watson (1)	3.0							121					121
09/23	Laurel Grove FT	P. Hartigan (1)	4.3	4	4					86				1a, 2b	97
09/24	Look Rock	L. Fowler (2)	5.0	1	1			1		13				1b, 2u	25
09/25	Signal Pt.	K. Dubke (1)	8.0	2		3		1		4					10
09/25	Laurel Grove FT	L. Fowler (2)	1.5	3				2						1u	6
09/26	Signal Pt.	K. Dubke (2)	9.0	1	3	7		3	1	416	1		4		436
09/26	Dunlap FT	R. Kleinstar (1)	1.0							86					86
09/26	Meadow Creek FT	R. Spees (3)	3.11	4						75					79
09/28	Kyles Ford FT	P. Pardue (1)	1.5	5	2	1		1	2	36	1				48
09/29	Laurel Grove FT	P. Hartigan (2)	4.8	27					1	13				5a, 1b, 7u	34



Northern Harriers were reported in average numbers. In the past two years, over 80 percent of the Northern Harriers were reported from Chilhowee Mountain. In 1982, only 6 of the 15 birds were reported from Chilhowee Mountain (40 percent). Osprey numbers were slightly higher than the past 10-year average. Increased hours of observation, however, may account for this.

A total of 11 American Kestrels was reported in 1982. There have never been a lot of Kestrels seen during the migration season in Tennessee. Within the past 10 years, the highest number of Kestrels seen was 24 birds in 1974 in 290 hours of observation. Four other Falcons were identified during the 1982 season: a Merlin and three Peregrine Falcons. On 19 September, Richard Spees saw two Peregrines and a Merlin from Meadow Creek Firetower. The other Peregrine was spotted by Ken Dubke on 9 October from Signal Point.

A Bald Eagle recorded on this season's count was the first seen since 1980 from a Tennessee lookout. Richard Nevius saw the bird on 5 September from Kyles Ford Firetower. Mendota Firetower, Virginia reported five Bald Eagles in 1982.

As usual, most stations reported resident Turkey Vultures during September. However, on 21 October, George and Hedy Woods watched 1,845 Turkey Vultures fly over their Townsend home between 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., the largest flock of vultures ever reported from Tennessee. An even later vulture flight was seen by Marcia Davis from her Knoxville office on 8 November. Two groups of Turkey Vultures (35 and 6) were seen heading south. No large flocks of Black Vultures were seen.

#### KEY TO SPECIES ABBREVIATIONS IN TABLES

BV — Black Vulture; TV — Turkey Vulture; OS — Osprey; BE — Bald Eagle; NH — Northern Harrier; SS — Sharp-shinned Hawk; CH — Cooper's Hawk; GO — Northern Goshawk; RS — Red-shouldered Hawk; BW — Broad-winged Hawk; RT — Red-tailed Hawk; RL — Rough-legged Hawk; GE — Golden Eagle; AK — American Kestrel; ML — Merlin; PF — Peregrine Falcon; a — unidentified Accipiter; b — unidentified Buteo; u — unidentified raptor.

#### LOOKOUT STATIONS

*Thorn Hill* — Near the town of Thorn Hill at Bean's Gap on U.S. 25E, there is a scenic lookout with ample parking for hawk watchers to view birds coming down Clinch Mountain. This lookout is on the same ridge as Kyles Ford and Mendota firetowers, and at an elevation of 2,485 feet (757 m) in Grainger County (36°20'55"N, 83°23'40"W, Avondale, Tenn., 7.5" USGS quad).

*Dunlap Firetower* — Located just off U.S. 127, this tower is 14 km S of the town of Dunlap in Sequatchie County (35°14'15"N, 85°24'35"W, Ketner Gap, Tenn., 7.5" USGS quad), at an elevation of 2,367 feet (721 m). From it, hawks can be seen migrating down the west side of Walden's Ridge.

*Laurel Grove Firetower* — This firetower is located on Walden's Ridge 11 km W of Clinton at an elevation of 1,720 feet (524 m) in Anderson County (36°06'40"N, 84°13'55"W, Clinton, Tenn., 7.5" USGS quad).

*Meadow Creek Firetower* — This firetower is located 26 km SW of Greeneville in Cherokee National Forest (35°58'20"N, 82°58'15"W, Paint Rock, Tenn.-N.C., 7.5" USGS quad), at an elevation of 2,875 feet (876 m). Hawks can

be seen migrating down Meadow Creek Mountain in Cocke County, at the eastern edge of the ridge and valley region.

*Red Bank* — From the town of Red Bank (35°07'45"N, 85°17'00"W, Fairmount, Tenn., 7.5" USGS quad) in Hamilton County, hawks can be seen migrating down the eastern escarpment of Walden's Ridge.

*Rich Mountain Firetower* — This tower is located at an elevation of 3,670 feet (1,119 m) on the Greene County, Tennessee - North Carolina state line in the Bald Mountains (35°55'40"N, 82°48'20"W, Hot Springs, N.C. - Tenn., 7.5" USGS quad).

*Snooper's Rock* — This rock escarpment is located in Prentice Cooper State Forest on Walden's Ridge overlooking the Tennessee River gorge, Marion County (35°04'45"N, 85°23'45"W, Wauhatchie, Tenn., 7.5" USGS quad).

*Walden Firetower* — This tower is located on the Roane - Morgan County border, 5 km NE of Harriman at an elevation of 1,832 feet (558 m) on Walden's Ridge (35°58'35"N, 84°31'05"W, Harriman, Tenn., 7.5" USGS quad). This tower is located 21 km NE of the Mt. Roosevelt firetower.

Rt. 4, Box 541, Valley Lane, Clinton, TN 37716. Accepted 23 December 1983.



## ROUND TABLE NOTES

BELL'S VIREO IN OBION COUNTY, TENNESSEE — A Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) was observed by a class of 12 students and me on 27 May 1976 in the southeastern corner of Obion County, Tennessee. The bird was found in a strand of willows (*Salix* sp.) approximately 6 m tall at the edge of a slough adjacent to a paved secondary road. The locality was approximately 3 km northeast of the community of Hop-In. Excellent views were obtained repeatedly and the bird sang frequently as it patrolled the willows in a territorial fashion. On 1 June 1976, a bird was still using the same site. No more than one Bell's Vireo was ever seen during this period. During subsequent visits to the site in 1976 and later years, I failed to observe the bird.

This is apparently the first record of a Bell's Vireo in northwest Tennessee. Previously it was found nesting at Memphis in 1935 (Migrant 6:67, 1935). A Bell's Vireo was also found at Natchez Trace State Park in 1946 (Migrant 42:68, 1946), and on Mud Island, Shelby County in 1971 (Migrant 42:68, 1971). The first nest of a Bell's Vireo in Kentucky was found in 1980 near Paducah, in the western part of the state (Kentucky Warbler 57:77-79, 1981). Because the species normally nests to the north and west of West Tennessee, and into southern Indiana and western Ohio (A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds, 1983, p. 592), additional occurrences in West Tennessee would not be surprising.

T. DAVID PITTS, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN 38238. Accepted 12 January 1984.

A LAWRENCE'S WARBLER IN SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE — On 13 September 1982, we mist-netted a Lawrence's Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera x pinus*) next to the Wolf River on the property of the Shelby County Correction Center on the eastern edge of Memphis, Tennessee. The bird was banded with a standard U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band and released. On 18 September 1982, the bird was recaptured in the same area and was photographed, weighed, measured, and released. It was in apparent good health, and weighed 10.8 g.

Lawrence's Warbler is the recessive hybrid resulting from a cross between the Blue-winged (*V. pinus*) and Golden-winged (*V. chrysoptera*) Warblers (see Parkes, Wilson Bull. 63:5-15, 1951). We have captured Blue-winged Warblers at this site during past migrations, and an immature bird was captured on 14 September 1982. No Golden-winged Warblers have been captured at this site from the time our mist-netting operations began in 1979. This specimen exhibited typical plumage except for the wings: black ear patch and throat patch separated by yellow; crown, breast and belly yellow; and olive-green back. The wings, however, were more typical of the Blue-winged Warbler, being a blue color. The wing bar and patch were an off-white, not as white as shown in Peterson (A Field Guide to the Birds, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1980).

This is apparently the first Shelby County record of a Lawrence's Warbler.

ROBERT G. McLEAN, MARK E. RITKE, AND EDWARD CAMPOS, Division of Vector-Borne Viral Diseases, Centers for Disease Control, Fort Collins, CO 80522-2087, and (MER) Department of Biology, Memphis State University, Memphis, TN 38152. Accepted 15 November 1983.

BARNACLE GOOSE IN HUMPHREYS COUNTY, TENNESSEE — On 11 January 1983, I observed a single Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) at the Duck River Unit of the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Humphreys County, Tennessee. I first observed the bird at 1355, at a distance of about 150 m as it swam in a flooded fallow field near the main road into the east side of the refuge, 1.9 km SE of Hustburg. With the bird were about 20 Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*), and several Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and Northern Pintails (*Anas acuta*). Several thousand ducks and Canada Geese were in the surrounding fields. The Barnacle Goose was intermediate in size between the Canada Geese and Mallards, and was readily identifiable by its white face, contrasting with black on the top of the head, neck and chest. I used Bushnell Custom 7 x 35 binoculars and a Bausch and Lomb Discoverer spotting scope, and watched the bird for about 10 minutes until it swam out of sight behind tall weeds in the flooded field. During the time of my observation, the sky was overcast with occasional blowing rain and sleet, and the temperature was in the high 30's°F.

Shortly after I lost sight of the bird, I met Carl Dowdy, a refuge employee, and described my observation to him. He was unaware of any previous reports of Barnacle Geese that winter. A cold front moved through the area that evening, accompanied by a light snowfall and much lower temperatures. I briefly searched, unsuccessfully, for the bird on the morning of the twelfth. The area was worked by numerous other birders the following weekend and later in the winter, but, to my knowledge, none was successful in observing the Barnacle Goose.

This constitutes the fourth Tennessee record of a Barnacle Goose. Previous records are of 2 birds at Cove Lake State Park, Campbell County, 11 February - 17 March 1968 (Koella, T. 1969, Barnacle Goose at Cove Lake State Park, Migrant 40:62-63), a single bird at the same site of my observation, 2 March - 24 April 1970 (Burke, G. M. 1970, Barnacle Goose at Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Migrant 41:60-61), and 2 birds at Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge, Stewart County, 24-27 January 1976 (Williams, M. D. 1976, The season — Central plateau and basin region, Migrant 47:45).

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## THE SEASON



WINTER: 1 DECEMBER 1982 - 28 FEBRUARY 1983

This past winter was mild throughout the state, and several half-hardy lingering species were reported from across the state. Among these were a Spotted Sandpiper, House Wrens, Orange-crowned Warblers, Northern Yellowthroats, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Many invasive species were present in low numbers, and very few Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks were reported. There were, however, several reports of Rough-legged Hawks from Middle and West Tennessee. Several normal winter residents were present in lower than average numbers.

Results of the 1983 midwinter eagle survey are shown in Table 1. Survey reports from November 1982 through mid-January are summarized, and most of the surveys were conducted 4-9 January. Reports were received from personnel of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Corps of Engineers, and Tennessee Valley Authority, as well as TOS members. This year's Bald Eagle count is one of the highest ever. The statewide survey, part of a larger nationwide effort, has now been conducted for several years. The time is right for someone to undertake an analysis of population trends of eagles wintering in Tennessee.

Christmas Bird Count is abbreviated "CBC" in the following reports. — CHARLES P. NICHOLSON

**WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION** — The sewage lagoons near Ensley in southwest Shelby County attracted large numbers of Least Sandpipers, along with Western Sandpipers and Dunlin. Unusual birds reported at feeders were an Indigo Bunting and a Lincoln's Sparrow. The Memphis Christmas Bird Count recorded a Solitary Vireo, a Common Yellowthroat, and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

*Duck-Gull:* Ruddy Duck: 15 Dec (2600) Robco Lake (BBC, LCC, WLW). Turkey Vulture: 19 Dec (1) PEF, MEM, CBC (MTOS). Bald Eagle: 18 Jan (1 ad) Benton Co. and Tenn. River (SB, KAG, VLP). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 19 Dec (2) MEM, CBC (MTOS); 18 Jan (1) MEM (SB, KAG, VLP). Rough-legged Hawk: 30 Jan (1) ESL (JRW); 4 Feb (1) Britton Ford, Henry Co. (SG, AH, JCM, VLP, HS). Least Sandpiper: 19 Dec (125) ESL, MEM, CBC (MTOS); 1 Jan (346), 15 Jan (38), 30 Jan (84) ESL (JRW). Western Sandpiper: 1 Jan (4), 30 Jan (3) ESL (JRW). Dunlin: 19 Dec (12) ESL, MEM, CBC (MTOS); 1 Jan (7), 15 Jan (2), 30 Jan (1) ESL (JRW). Gull species: 4 Feb (10,000) Paris Landing State Park, Henry Co. (SG, AH, JCM, VLP, HS).

TABLE 1. 1983 MIDWINTER EAGLE SURVEY

	Adult	Bald Eagle		Total	Golden Eagle		Unid. Eagle
		Imm.	Unk.		Adult	Imm.	
<u>West Tennessee</u>							
Reelfoot Lake	84	44	4	132	-	-	-
Mississippi River	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
Open Lake	1	2	-	3	-	-	-
Tennessee NWR	22	32	-	54	3	-	-
Pickwick Reservoir	3	-	-	3	-	-	-
Totals	112	78	4	194	3	-	-
<u>Middle Tennessee</u>							
Land-Between-the-Lakes	6	5	-	11	-	-	-
Cross Creeks NWR	5	4	-	9	-	-	-
Cheatham Reservoir	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Caney Fork River	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Center Hill Resv.	1	1	-	2	2	-	2
Cordell Hull Resv.	3	-	-	3	-	-	3
Dale Hollow Resv.	27	16	-	43	-	-	-
Woodbury	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Woods Reservoir	2	3	-	5	-	-	-
Totals	46	29	-	75	3	-	5
<u>East Tennessee</u>							
Norris Reservoir	6	-	-	6	-	-	-
Douglas Reservoir	3	-	-	3	-	-	-
Melton Hill Resv.	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Watts Bar Resv.	15	4	-	19	1	-	-
Chickamauga Resv.	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
Nickajack Reservoir	2	1	-	3	-	-	-
Chilhowee Reservoir	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Cades Cove	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	28	7	-	35	1	-	1
GRAND TOTALS	186	114	4	304	7	-	6

*Wren-Finch*: House Wren: 19 Dec (2, different locations) MEM, CBC (RTC, TC). Marsh Wren: 6 Dec (2) Air Park Inn, REL (RJM). Solitary Vireo: 19 Dec (1) MEM, CBC (GRP, EJR). Orange-crowned Warbler: 19 Dec (1) MEM, CBC (RTC); 29 Jan (1), 2 Feb (1) MEM (MGW). Pine Warbler: 19 Dec (5 total, 3 different locations) MEM, CBC (MTOS). Common Yellowthroat: 18 Dec (2) Air Park Inn, REL, CBC (BBC, LCC, GRP, WLW). ROSE-BREASTED GROS-BEAK: 19 Dec (1) MEM, CBC (DAD, MTOS). INDIGO BUNTING: 22 - 28 Feb (1) BAR (JRW). Amer. Tree Sparrow: 4 Feb (20) Air Park Inn, REL (SG, AH, JCM, VLP, HS). LeConte's Sparrow: 15 Jan (1) PEF (CHB, MGW, JRW). Lincoln's Sparrow: 14-28 Feb (1) BAR (JRW). LAPLAND LONGSPUR: 16 Jan (1), 21 Jan (50) PEF (CHB). Rusty Blackbird: 8 Dec (16) PEF (CHB, HBD, SCF,

SSL, MGW); 1 Jan (10) ESL (JRW); 16 Jan (75) PEF (CHB, MGW); 23 Jan (150) PEF (CHB, DAD, MGW, JRW); 30 Jan (43) ESL (JRW). Northern (Baltimore) Oriole: 10 Jan - 28 Feb (1 female) MEM (SNK). House Finch: 8 Dec - 28 Feb (1) MEM (SLL); 11-15 Feb (1) MEM (WRP).

*Locations:* BAR — Bartlett, Shelby Co.; MEM — Memphis; PEF — Shelby Co. Penal Farm; REL — Reelfoot Lake, Lake Co.; ESL — Ensley Sewage Lagoons, Shelby Co.

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CENTRAL PLATEAU AND BASIN REGION — Winter this year was relatively warm and wet, particularly in February, and predictably a number of species characteristic of mild winters were present, including Green Heron, Sora, Least Sandpiper, Sedge Wren, Palm Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and LeConte's Sparrow, as well as the less predictable Indigo Bunting and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Additionally, a few rarities were reported; among these were Western Grebe, Barnacle Goose, and Northern Goshawk.

A preliminary assessment of Christmas Bird Count information indicates that permanent resident species were generally present in higher than normal numbers this winter, especially avian predators, while species resident in the region only during the winter months were present in lower than normal numbers, especially waterfowl. The former phenomenon was probably due in part to the mildness of the winter (but also to other factors such as breeding success the preceding summer), while the latter one may be attributable to these species staying farther north than usual, again due to the mildness of the winter weather. Comparison of total individuals recorded in middle Tennessee on eight Christmas Bird Counts with the average of total individuals seen on the previous five years' counts revealed these trends. Twenty-six permanent resident species were recorded in numbers more than 25 per cent higher than the previous five year average. Of these many were raptors, an encouraging sign for these species. Included were such species as Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Kestrel, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Bewick's Wren, and Loggerhead Shrike. Seventeen other permanent resident species (some of which breed only in limited numbers) were stable compared to the previous five-year average. This group was comprised of the following species: Black-crowned Night-Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Killdeer, American Woodcock, Rock Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, and Rufous-sided Towhee. Only one permanent resident species, the Brown Thrasher, was present in numbers more than 25 per cent lower than the previous five-year average. Why this species was recorded so much less frequently — it was down 54 per cent — than in the five previous winters, especially during a mild winter, is a puzzle.

In general, winter resident species were present in lower than normal numbers this season. Compared to the average of the previous five CBCs, only four species were more than 25 per cent higher than the average. One of these was the Rough-legged Hawk; its increase correlates with increases in raptors virtually across the board. The other three species which increased were Golden-crowned Kinglet, which had one of its best years ever, Swamp Sparrow, and Song Sparrow, which is coming close to being a permanent resident of the region. Twelve stable winter resident species were Common Loon, Northern Harrier, Common Snipe,

Ring-billed Gull, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Purple Finch, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow. Another twelve species were recorded in numbers which were more than 25 per cent lower than the previous five-year average: Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Herring Gull, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Fox Sparrow.

An effort was made to exclude from these comparisons all erratic species (such as Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak), species which wander as their food supply is depleted (such as American Robin and Cedar Waxwing), and species which showed great variation in numbers over the previous five years (many ducks and blackbirds, etc.). On the other hand, it must be acknowledged that several factors, including changing numbers and locations of middle Tennessee CBCs, changing numbers of party hours, and changing weather conditions, were not adjusted for in making these comparisons. In spite of these variables, however, there still emerges from the 1982 CBCs a picture of some promise for regional species, particularly those which reside here year-round. The following compilation of species seen in the region throughout the season relies more on CBC data than has been normally the case mainly due to a paucity of records received by the compiler, who earnestly requests that all regional and state observers forward records to him on or before the dates established by the editor. Many thanks to those who did submit data.

*Loon-Ducks:* Common Loon: 18 Dec (1) Lebanon CBC (Melissa Cannon, Ruth McMillan, Alice Savage); 1 Jan (21) Hickory-Priest CBC (NTOS); 8 Jan (1) Dale Hollow Lake, PIC (RCH). Horned Grebe: 1 Jan (53) Hickory-Priest CBC (NTOS); 24 Jan (1) Franklin Reservoir, WMC (SJS). WESTERN GREBE: 1 Jan (1) Old Hickory Lake, DVC (MLM, Lee F. Kramer); bird was seen for a few days thereafter. Double-crested Cormorant: 8 Jan (1) Dale Hollow Lake, PIC (RCH). Green Heron: 28 Dec (1) Columbia, MUC (William G. Fuqua); 2 Jan (1) Duck River Reservoir CBC, MUC (Dan Gray). Tundra Swan: 18 Dec (1) Lebanon CBC (Ray Pope, Fred Detlefsen). Snow Goose: 4 Jan (1) Metro Center, DVC (CGD); 22 Jan (1 "blue") Franklin Res., WMC (BHS, SJS). BARNACLE GOOSE: 11 Jan (1) DRU (CPN); details will be published. BRANT: 30 Dec (1) and 4 Jan (1) CCNWR (DWB); last sightings of this bird which was present at CCNWR since 17 Dec 81 (DWB). Green-winged Teal: total of 46 on 8 CBCs; 13 Dec (1) Franklin Res., WMC (SJS). Black Duck: regional high 450 on Ashland City CBC; 4 Feb (24) Franklin Res., WMC (SJS). Mallard: regional high 3,649 Lebanon CBC; 17 Dec (17) Franklin Res., WMC (SJS). Gadwall: regional high 685 Lebanon CBC; 1 Feb (20) Franklin Res., WMC (SJS). Canvasback: 11 Dec - 1 Feb (up to 42) Franklin Res., WMC (SJS, BHS); only 5 on 8 regional CBCs. Ring-necked Duck: 20 Feb (250+) Lewis Pond, SUC (DTC, JPC); CBC total low. Common Goldeneye: regional high 6 Hickory-Priest CBC; 13 Dec (1) and 17 Dec (2) Franklin Res., WMC (SJS). Bufflehead: regional high 50 Nashville CBC (Radnor L.) (NTOS); 17 Dec (3) Franklin Res., WMC (SJS). Hooded Merganser: regional high 54 Lebanon CBC; 24 Jan - 4 Feb (1) Franklin Res., WMC (SJS). Common Merganser: 1 Jan (1) Hickory-Priest CBC (CGD, RM); 17 Jan (2) Old Hickory Dam, DVC (CGD); 12 Feb (6) Ashland City (SR). Red-breasted Merganser: 18 Dec (3) Ashland City CBC (NTOS); 24 Jan (1) Franklin Res., WMC (SJS). Ruddy Duck: 18 Dec (2) Columbia CBC (CLTOS); 11 Dec - 1 Feb (up to 6) Franklin Res., WMC (SJS, BHS).

*Diurnal Raptors:* Northern Harrier: total of 21 on 8 CBCs; 30 Jan (1) GSP (DTC, JPC); 12 Feb (1) Ashland City (SR). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 6 on 8 CBCs; 26 Feb (1) Byrdstown, PIC (RCH). Cooper's Hawk: 7 on 8 CBCs; 15 Jan (1) Dickson County (RM, CGD); 12 Feb (1) Ashland City (SR). GOSHAWK: at least one injured bird found in Cottontown, SUC, brought to Virginia Price during period. Red-shouldered Hawk: 26 on 8 CBCs; 26 Jan (5) Byrdstown, PIC (RCH). Red-tailed Hawk: 166 on 8 CBCs; 18 Dec - 22 Jan (1 dark phase) Ashland City (RM, CGD, SJS, BHS). Rough-legged Hawk: 5 on 8 CBCs; 4 Jan (1) CCNWR (DWB); 15 Jan (5) Ft. Campbell, MTC (SJS, BHS, Audrey R. Hoff); 23 Jan (1) Poole Knobs, Percy Priest Lake, DVC (SJS); good year for this species. Golden Eagle: 6 Dec (1) DRU (CGD); 14 Dec (1) CCNWR (DWB); 18 Dec (1) Ashland City CBC (MLM, M. Pat Stallings, Jan C. Alexander); 29 Dec (1) Barkley WMA, SWC (DWB); 15 Jan (1) DRU (RM, CGD).

*Rail-Goldfinch:* Sora: 18 Dec (3) Columbia CBC (CLTOS); 29 Dec (1) Metro Center, DVC (DFV). Virginia Rail: 18 Dec (5) Columbia CBC (CLTOS). American Coot: 8 Jan (30) Dale Hollow Lake, PIC (RCH). Sandhill Crane: 11 Dec (7) Bear Creek WMA, SWC (DWB). Least Sandpiper: 8 Dec (1) GSP (DTC, JPC). Great Horned Owl: 32 on 8 CBCs; 26 Feb (2) Byrdstown, PIC (RCH). Barred Owl: 28 on 8 CBCs; 23 Feb (2) Byrdstown, PIC (RCH). Eastern Phoebe: 15 on 8 CBCs; 19 Feb (1 calling) Byrdstown, PIC (RCH); 20 Feb (1 checking nest site) Leiper's Fork, WMC (BHS). Bewick's Wren: 10 on 8 CBCs; encouraging number. Sedge Wren: 26 Dec (1) Nashville CBC (RM, Jim Snapper). Palm Warbler: 1 Jan (7) Hickory-Priest CBC (NTOS). Common Yellowthroat: 26 Dec (1) Nashville CBC (Miriam Weinstein, Hardy Wilcoxon). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 19 Dec - 10 Jan (1 im. male) Columbia, MUC (George R. Mayfield, Jr.). Indigo Bunting: 17 Dec (1) Leiper's Fork, WMC (SJS); 21 Feb to end of period (1 male) Nashville (Terry R. Murray, *vide* DFV). LeConte's Sparrow: 18 Dec - 12 Feb (up to 11) Ashland City (SJS, DFV, SR). Dark-eyed Junco: 21 Jan (1 "Oregon") Santa Fe, MUC (Catherine and Robert Zseltvoy). Purple Finch: all season (320 banded) Leiper's Fork, WMC (SJS, BHS). House Finch: 10 Dec (1) Byrdstown, PIC (RCH); 21 Jan - 12 Feb (1) Loretto, Lawrence Co. (Damien J. Simbeck, Don K. Simbeck); first county record. Pine Siskin: 26 Feb (1) Columbia, MUC (O. Bedford Lochridge). American Goldfinch: all season (144 banded) Leiper's Fork, WMC (SJS, BHS).

*Locations:* CBC — Christmas Bird Count; CCNWR — Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge, Stewart County; DRU — Duck River Unit, Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Humphreys County; DVC — Davidson County; GSP — Gallatin Steam Plant, Sumner County; MTC — Montgomery County; MUC — Maury County; PIC — Pickett County; SUC — Sumner County; SWC — Stewart County; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; WMC — Williamson County.

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EASTERN RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION — This has been a mild winter and is probably the main reason why the large number of half-hardy species was recorded in the southern portion of the region. On the warm date of 8 January the compilers decided to drive by and check the status of the Armstrong Bend Heron Rookery. To their pleasant surprise a Great Blue Heron was standing on every nest! American Woodcocks were observed singing regularly in Greene County during January and February.

The very intense field work associated with the Christmas Bird Counts resulted in a large number of species and birds being recorded. In particular we recommend

close study of the Chattanooga and Hiwassee counts as these are areas we are most familiar with. Rather than duplicate this material we will stress observations other than the counts.

The extra effort expended during the Christmas Counts demonstrated this was not a "northern finch" winter. The only Red-breasted Nuthatches reported were those associated with the Christmas Bird Counts. A very few Pine Siskins were sighted at feeders and only one Evening Grosbeak was reported for the entire season.

*Loon-Goose:* Common Loon: 1 Dec (44) BOL (RLK); 1-18 regular CHL (KHD, LHD). Horned Grebe: 1 Dec (12) BOL (RLK); 19 Dec (1) KNC (MLD); regular, max 21-Dec (46) CHL (KHD, LHD). Pied-billed Grebe: 3 reports of 2 birds DOL (JAK); regular, max 21 Dec (66) CHL (KHD, LHD). Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Dec BOL (RLK); 4 Feb (5) TEL (CPN); four records CHL with max 7 Dec (5) (KHD, LHD). Great Blue Heron: 26 Nov (205) DOL (JAK); regular, max 25 Jan (103) HRA (KHD, LHD). Green Heron: 17 Dec (1) KNC (PAH); 4 Jan and 21 Feb (1) CHL (KHD, LHD). Black-crowned Night-Heron: 6 birds were found in a new wintering area near Louisville (MLD). Tundra Swan: 17 Jan (7) HRA (DMJ); 27 Jan - 1 Feb (6-12) HRA (CWC). Canada Goose: regular, max 8 Jan and 8 Feb (500) HRA (KHD, LHD). Snow Goose: 4 Jan (2 blue phase) HRA (KHD, LHD); 16 Jan (9 white phase) HRA (DMJ); 25 Jan and 14 Feb (1 white phase) HRA (KHD, LHD); 21 Feb (1 white phase) MHL (WKJ).

*Mallard-Merganser:* Mallard: max 110 DOL (JAK); regular, max 4 Jan (5,000) HRA (KHD, LHD). Amer. Black Duck: max 20 DOL (JAK); regular, max 27 Dec (500) HRA (KHD, LHD). Gadwall: 5-13 Feb (5-7) JNB (RLK); max 100 DOL (JAK); regular, max 27 Dec (500) CHL (KHD, LHD). Pintail: 5 Feb (3) JNB (RLK); 12 Feb (40) DOL (JAK); regular, max 27 Dec - 31 Jan (60) HRA (KHD, LHD). Green-winged Teal: 14 Jan (1) EJC (Sally Goodin, Glenn Swofford); max 100 DOL (JAK); regular, max 13 Dec - 8 Jan (300) HRA (KHD, LHD). American Wigeon: max 100 DOL (JAK); regular, max 4 Jan (150) HRA (KHD, LHD). Northern Shoveler: 27 Dec (3) HRA (KHD, LHD). Ring-necked Duck: max 122 DOL (JAK); regular, max 8 Jan (250) HRA (KHD, LHD). Scaup, species: 7 Dec (545) CHL (KHD, LHD); Greater Scaup: regular, max 31 Jan (230) CHL (KHD, LHD). Lesser Scaup: 3 reports of 2 birds DOL (JAK). Common Goldeneye: regular, max 25 Jan (20) CHL (KHD, LHD). Bufflehead: regular, max 18 Jan (10) CHL (KHD, LHD). Ruddy Duck: much more regular than usual with max 21 Feb (35) CHL (KHD, LHD). Hooded Merganser: 5-20 irregular on BOL Jan and early Feb (RLK); only one report DOL (JAK); regular, max 21 Dec (160) HRA (KHD, LHD). Common Merganser: 14 Feb (1) HRA (KHD, LHD). Red-breasted Merganser: 27 Dec (15) HRA (KHD, LHD).

*Osprey-Gull:* Osprey: mid-Dec along the French Broad River, KNC (DS); 31 Dec (1) HRA (RDH, ARH, BHS, SJS). Sandhill Crane: 7 Dec (7) migrating over Chattanooga (RCS); 9 Dec (1) Monroe Co. (WKJ); 9 Dec (25 noted roosting on water's edge, then feeding in a nearby field) SAB (KHD, LHD); 19 Feb (4) HRA (CWC, Brainerd Cooper, Jr., Louise J. Cash). American Coot: regular, max 8 Jan (1,500) CHL (KHD, LHD); regular, max 7 Dec (1,100) HRA (KHD, LHD). Killdeer: regular, max 6 Dec (291) SAB (KHD, LHD); regular, max 27 Dec (270) HRA (KHD, LHD). American Woodcock: 6 Jan - 26 Feb (1-2 singing) GNC (Richard and W. Ruth Nevius). Common Snipe: 27 Dec (100) GNC (Fred Simpson); regular, max 28 Dec (95) SAB (KHD, LHD). Spotted Sandpiper: one first found on CHL 18 Dec (RCS *et al.*), then recorded at the same location till the

end of the period (KHD, LHD). This is the first local winter record. Greater Yellowlegs: 7 Dec, 21 Feb (1) HRA (KHD, LHD). Least Sandpiper: 16 Jan (16) DOL (JAK); 1-6 occasional at both SAB and HRA (KHD, LHD). Dunlin: numbers ranged from 0 to 120 during the season DOL (JAK); 1-79 sporadic at both SAB and HRA (KHD, LHD). Herring Gull: regular, max 25 Jan (12) CHL (KHD, LHD). Ring-billed Gull: regular, max 25 Jan (475) CHL (KHD, LHD). Laughing Gull: 6 Feb (1) CHL (RCS). Bonaparte's Gull: 4-25 Jan (3-12) CHL (KHD, LHD).

*Tern-Nuthatch*: Forster's Tern: 31 Jan (1) CHL (KHD, LHD). Owls: from the EJC area Glen Eller commented that Barn and Barred Owls were not noted in their section while Screech Owls were reported in normal numbers; Great Horned Owls were on the increase; one active nest site HRA (KHD, LHD). Red-headed Woodpecker: 6-27 Jan (1) JNB (RLK). Eastern Phoebe: 21 Dec (1) HRA (KHD, LHD); 25 Jan, 14 Feb (2) HRA (KHD, LHD). Horned Lark: 1 Feb (60) JNB (RLK); 40+ regular WHP, 100+ regular McDonald, GNC, 20+ regular DOL (JAK). Purple Martin: first 25 Feb (1) Knoxville (Paul S. Pardue). Common Raven: one on 10 Jan at a very low elevation near Johnson City; every year they seem to get more low elevation sightings. Red-breasted Nuthatch: only reports were those found on CBCs.

*Pipit-Sparrow*: Water Pipit: 13 Dec (125) Vonore (CPN); reported from three different areas of KNC — 18 Dec (74), 8 Jan (20), 5 Feb (10) (PAH); 28 Dec (165) SAB (KHD, LHD). Loggerhead Shrike: 13 Dec (2) and 4 Feb (1) Vonore (CPN); 4 Feb (1) Benfield (CPN); 7 and 25 Feb (1) Norris (CPN); 13 and 21 Dec, 12 Jan (1) KNC (PAH); one all period SAB (KHD, LHD). Palm Warbler: 18 Dec (3) on the Chattanooga CBC (PDR, KHD *et al.*) with one still present in the same area 7 Feb (KHD, LHD). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 11 Dec - 20 Jan (1 male) this bird came each day to a bird feeder in Col (Benton Basham, LHD). Evening Grosbeak: the only sighting seems to be one bird reported by Nancy Shepard in Maryville on 5 Jan. Purple Finch: about normal sightings EJC with no big flocks reported (LHTOS); present in good numbers KNC, but not as plentiful at feeding stations (KTOS). House Finch: increasing in EJC area with many small flocks at feeding stations; continuing its increase and expansion in KNC. Observed in high numbers at some feeders in Oak Ridge, Knoxville and other surrounding areas (KTOS). Pine Siskin: none were reported in the EJC area (LHTOS); only one in Greeneville by Ben Britton; several records of single birds at feeders in KNC, but no flocks reported there (KTOS); the only report from the Chattanooga area was one bird present at a feeder in Col from 20 Jan to 20 Feb (REL). Savannah Sparrow: not as common this year at their usual sites WHP; for example, on his farm JAK would only find 10 where previous seasons 20-30 were found. Vesper Sparrow: 8 Jan (5) HRA (KHD, LHD); 16 Jan (3) HRA (ACD). Chipping Sparrow: a "few" regular all period Col, one banded 3 Feb (REL). White-crowned Sparrow: last year at WHP they could be found at 6 sites, but this season only at 4 with their numbers ranging from 5 to 50 at each site (JAK).

*Locations*: BOL — Boone Lake; CHL — Chickamauga Lake; Col — Collegedale; DOL — Douglas Lake; EJC — Elizabethton - Johnson City; GNC — Greene County; JNB — Jonesboro; KNC — Knox County; MHL — Melton Hill Lake; SAB — Savannah Bay; TEL — Tellico Lake; WHP — White Pine.

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION — This area experienced one of its mildest winters in several years. The middle two weeks of December, the middle two

weeks of January, and the first half of February were the only periods of cold, snowy weather. Precipitation was below average in January and February. The Roan Mountain Christmas Bird Count, held on 26 December, had unusually warm temperatures of 46-62° F. This was the warmest since the count was begun in 1950.

While the weather was very mild, birding was sometimes poor. Waterfowl numbers were low, and no large numbers of normally common American Wigeon, Ring-necked Ducks, or scaup were noted. There was almost no invasion of northern finches, with only a few Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, and Red Crossbills recorded. Red-breasted Nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Winter Wrens were in much lower than average numbers in the mountains.

Perhaps the best bird of the period was the Orange-crowned Warbler which appeared at a feeder in Elizabethton in late January and stayed past the end of the period. This bird fed on suet and was seen by many observers.

*Loon-Owls:* Common Loon: 3 Dec (2), 18 Dec (1), 28 Jan (5) WatL (MD, SG, RLK, GS). Horned Grebe: 18 Dec (1), 28 Dec (5), 3 Jan (6) WatL (MD, RLK, GS). Canada Goose: 28 Dec (2) WatL (SG). Wood Duck: 26 Feb (2) SmV (GDE) first spring report. American Wigeon: 18 Dec (1) WibL (RL) only report. American Goldeneye: 3 Jan (2) WatL (RLK); 28 Jan (1) WibL (SG); 18 Feb (1) WibL (MD). Common Merganser: 5-18 Dec (1) WatR (GDE, HLF, SG, RL). Red-breasted Merganser: 3 Jan (4) WatL (RLK) only report. Ruddy Duck: 2-5 Dec (1) SmV (GDE, HLF); 18 Dec (1) WibL (SG, RL). Vultures: a roost near SHL contained up to 30 Black Vultures and 130 Turkey Vultures (RLK, RL, *et al.*). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 9 separate reports during period, about average. Cooper's Hawk: 6 separate reports during period, about average. Red-shouldered Hawk: 28 Jan (2) WatL (SG, MD); 22 Feb (1) St. Johns (RLK). Common Barn-Owl: 12 Dec (1) SHL (RL) only report. Great Horned Owl: 2 nest sites near SHL (RL); 1 site near WibL (RLK).

*Phoebe-Warbler:* Eastern Phoebe: above average numbers throughout period. Horned Lark: 26 Feb (3) SmV (GDE). Common Raven: several low elevation sightings along with normal reports from Roan and Iron Mountains (GDE, RLK). Red-breasted Nuthatch: only 3 reports from ELI area. HOUSE WREN: 18 Dec (1) ELI (RLK). Winter Wren: no reports from ELI area. Hermit Thrush: only 4 reports from ELI area, below average. Eastern Bluebird, Carolina Wren, Loggerhead Shrike: all reported in above average numbers in ELI area. ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: 27 Jan through end of period (1) ELI (BW *et al.*).

*Sparrows-Grosbeak:* Fox Sparrow: 8 Jan (1) Roan Mountain (RLK); 20 Feb (1 banded) SHL (RL). White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows: present in below average numbers in ELI area. Purple Finch: present in average numbers in ELI area. House Finch: 2-3 small flocks at feeders in ELI area. Red Crossbill: 10 Dec (3) WatL (MD, SG, RLK). Evening Grosbeak: 6 Jan (1) ELI (BW), 8-16 Jan (1) ELI (Lynn Miller); 26 Jan (1) SHL (RL), all reports of females.

*Locations:* ELI — Elizabethton; SHL — South Holston Lake; SmV — Siam Valley near Elizabethton; WatL — Watauga Lake; WatR — Watauga River; WibL — Wilbur Lake.

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## OBSERVERS

- SB—Sandra Bevins  
DWB—Donald W. Blunk  
CHB—Carolyn H. Bullock  
CWC—Carl W. Campbell  
TC—Tiny Carpenter  
RTC—Robert T. Casey  
BBC—Ben B. Coffey, Jr.  
LCC—Lula C. Coffey  
DTC—Dot T. Crawford  
JPC—J. Paul Crawford  
DAD—Dollyann Daily  
ACD—Angela C. Davis  
MLD—Marcia L. Davis  
MD—Martha Dillenbeck  
HBD—Helen B. Dinkelspiel  
CGD—C. Gerald Drewry  
KHD—Kenneth H. Dubke  
LHD—Lillian H. Dubke  
GDE—Glen D. Eller  
HLF—Harry L. Farthing  
SCF—Sue C. Ferguson  
SG—Sally Goodin  
KAG—Katherine A. Goodpasture  
SGR—Sarah Greene  
RCH—Robbie C. Hassler  
ARH—Audrey R. Hoff  
RDH—Ron D. Hoff  
AH—Ann Houk  
SNK—Susan N. Keeton  
RLK—Richard L. Knight
- JAK—J. Anthony Koella  
RL—Richard Lewis  
SLL—Selma L. Lewis  
REL—Mrs. R. E. Lynn  
MLM—Margaret L. Mann  
DMJ—Dave Mathewson, Jr.  
JCM—Jane C. Maynard  
RM—Rocky Milburn  
CPN—Charles P. Nicholson  
GRP—George R. Payne  
WRP—W. Robert Peebles  
VLP—Virginia L. Price  
SR—Steve Rannels  
EJR—Earnest J. Restivo  
DS—David Shiflett  
BHS—Barbara H. Stedman  
SJS—Stephen J. Stedman  
HS—Helen Sterling  
RCS—Randy C. Stringer  
GS—Glen Swafford  
MGW—Martha G. Waldron  
BW—Barbara Walsh  
WLW—Wendell L. Whittemore  
JRW—Jeff R. Wilson  
CLTOS—Columbia Chapter, TOS  
KTOS—Knoxville Chapter, TOS  
LHTOS—Lee Herndon Chapter, TOS  
MTOS—Memphis Chapter, TOS  
NTOS—Nashville Chapter, TOS

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