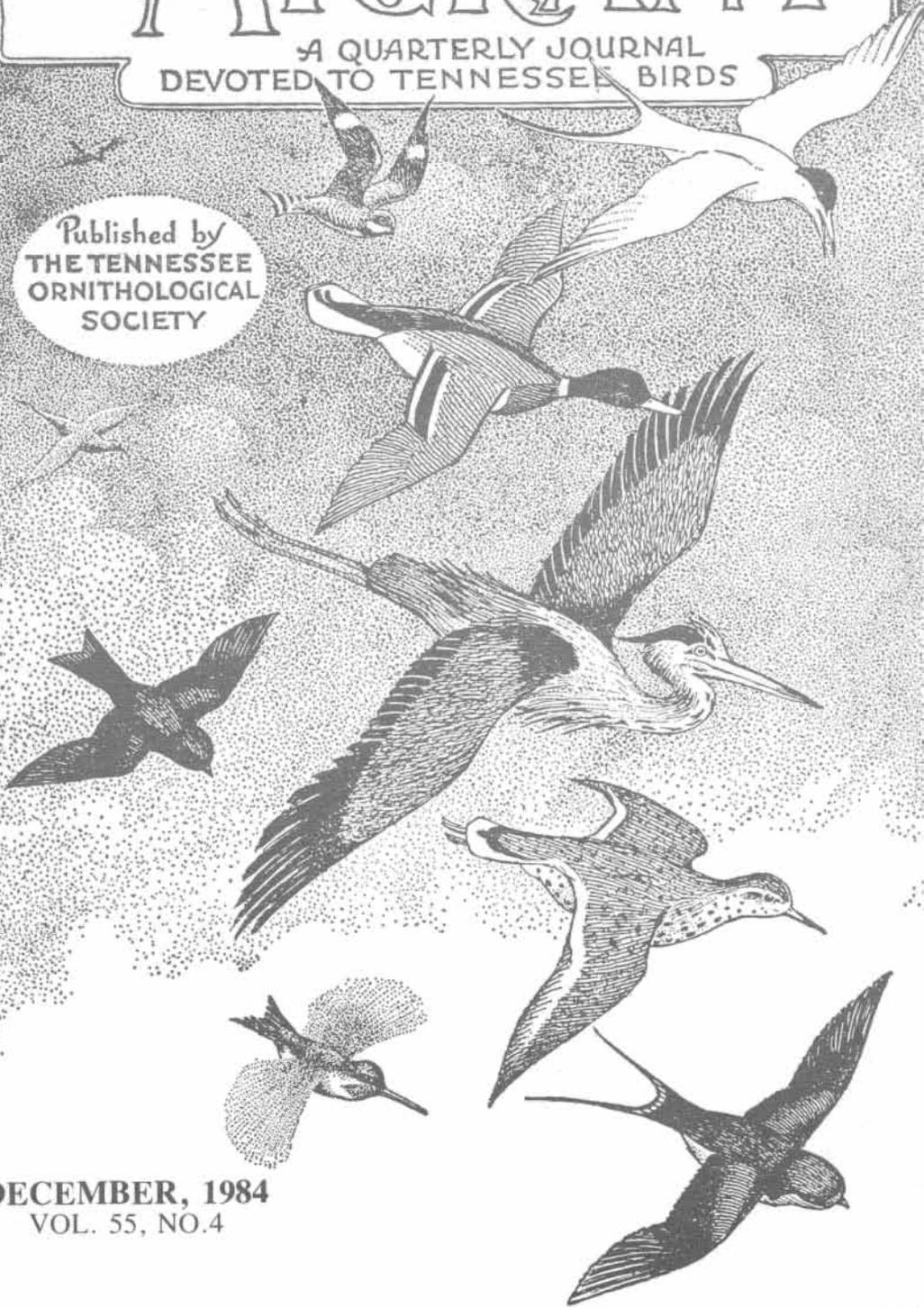


THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by
THE TENNESSEE
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EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor—Charles P. Nicholson, Box 402, Norris, TN 37828

State Count Compiler—Richard L. Knight, 804 North Hills Dr., Johnson City, TN 37601

Editorial Advisors—T. David Pitts, Morris D. Williams

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AUTUMN HAWK FLIGHTS 1984

LINDA J. FOWLER

Between 6 September and 21 October, 1984, observers spent 228.8 hours watching hawks from Tennessee lookouts, resulting in the season's total of 4,236 hawks (Table 1). Total hawks per hour (18.3) in 1984 was the lowest reported in at least 11 years (*Migrant* 54:35, 1983). High daytime temperatures (27°C-35°C) and clear blue skies during much of September created particularly poor conditions for hawk watching. Of 10 active Tennessee lookouts during the 1984 season, Look Rock received the most coverage (18 days), followed by Signal Point (11 days), and Mt. Roosevelt firetower (5 days) (Table 2). For the first time in over 20 years, a station from west Tennessee was active.

Broad-winged Hawk flights were generally poor with no daily totals exceeding 1,000. Following the passage of a mild cold front on 14-15 September, the first Broad-wing flights exceeding 100 were seen at Raccoon Mountain (316 birds) and Signal Pt. (213 birds) on 15 September. Although Chattanooga temperatures dropped to 24°C/14°C (max/min) on 15 September, temperatures at Knoxville remained high (32°C/17°C) (*Climatological Data for Tennessee* 89(9):9, 1984) and Look Rock reported no Broad-wings (it was only active for two hours). However, on 16 September temperatures dropped to 24°C/7°C at Knoxville and 390 Broad-wings were reported from Look Rock. Although temperatures remained cool for the next 3 days, high easterly winds averaged 72 km/hr at Knoxville on 16-17 September. On 18 September winds became calm and northeasterly, and the season's Broad-wing peak was reported. Audrey Hoff and David Highbaugh saw 768 Broad-wings passing over Look Rock within 15 minutes and noted "... at 1414 hours, a kettle of 550 came over lookout, followed closely by other groups of 90, 40, 23, 65, all within 15 minutes." On 19 September, Look Rock reported another 247 total Broad-wings but little movement was reported from 20-21 September from active stations.

The weekend of 22-23 September was the warmest of the month, with temperatures climbing to 30°C-32°C in most of the state. Although 7 stations were active, Broad-wing totals exceeding 100 were reported only from Ooltewah FT (324), Look Rock (258), and Signal Pt. (128). On 23 September Look Rock reported 261 Broad-wings while the other 3 active stations reported 10 or fewer Broad-wings. Following peaks on 25 September (172 Broad-wings) and 29 September (230) at Signal Pt. (other stations reported less than 50 birds for remainder of season), no Broad-wings were reported after 30 September from active stations.

TABLE 1. TENNESSEE AUTUMN HAWK FLIGHTS - 1984.

Date	Location	Reporter (# Observers)	Hours	TV	BV	SS	CH	Unid. Accip.	RT	RS	BW	Unid. Buteo	NH	OS	AK	Others	Total	
09/06	Mt. Rosev. PT	C. Overton (2)	2.0								2	2				10u	14	
09/08	Look Rock	A. Hoff (1)	2.6													1a	1	
	Bald Mt.	B. Finney (2)	5.0					1					1				2	
09/09	Look Rock	A. Hoff (2)	3.0														0	
	Bald Mt.	B. Finney (2)	6.0										1				1	
09/12	Look Rock	A. Hoff (1)	2.5									1					1	
09/13		D. Highbaugh (1)	4.0	3							5						8	
09/15		A. Hoff (2)	2.0														0	
	Raccoon Mt.	P. Robinson (3)	6.5	86	10	7			4	1	316			1	2		427	
	Signal Pt.	K. Dubke (1)	9.0			7					213			2	1		224	
09/16	Look Rock	A. Hoff (4)	6.5				1	1			390	3			2	1u	398	
	Signal Pt.	K. Dubke (1)	8.0				1				58						60	
	Thorn Hill	L. Fowler (2)	4.0								17					1u	18	
09/17	Look Rock	D. Highbaugh (1)	4.0	4	19	1	1		2		74				1	1	103	
09/18		D. Highbaugh (1)	6.3			1					780	3			1		783	
09/19		A. Hoff (2)	8.5			1		1			247			1			251	
	Mt. Rosev. FT	C. Overton (2)	2.0								2	6				18u	26	
09/20	Look Rock	A. Hoff (3)	10.0					1	1		32					2u	39	
		A. Hoff (2)	6.5			1		2	4		70	1				8u	86	
09/21	Bon Air	S. Bell (2)	5.5								3						3	
	Mt. Rosev. Ft	C. Overton (1)	1.8								4	5				15u	24	
09/22	Look Rock	A. Hoff (10)	9.0			5	1	4	1		258	10			1	2f, 6u	288	
	Bon Air	S. Bell (13)	8.0								16	1	1			1f	19	
	Thorn Hill	L. Fowler (11)	4.5						1		26						27	
	Mt. Rosev. PT	T. Koelja (3)	5.0			5					5					3	13	
	Memphis	M. Waldron (13)	8.0								1					3	5	
	Signal Pt.	K. Dubke (1)	8.0				3				128					1	132	
	Ooltewah FT	L. Dubke (4)	6.5	9	13	4		1	4	3	324					1	359	
09/23	Look Rock	A. Hoff (7)	6.6			2		2			261			1	1		3u	270
	Mt. Rosev. PT	J. Campbell (3)	4.0					2			4				1	2	1PG	10
	Bon Air	S. Bell (9)	7.5								2	7					1u	10
	Signal Pt.	K. Dubke (1)	8.0								10						10	
09/24	Look Rock	K. Overton (2)	3.0			4					15						20	
		J. Patton (1)	4.0				1				30						15	
09/25	Signal Pt.	J. Patton (1)	5.8			2					172						174	
09/26		J. Patton (1)	3.5			1					46						47	
09/27		J. Patton (1)	3.0								50		2				52	
09/28		J. Patton (1)	3.0								5		1				6	
09/29	Look Rock	A. Hoff (1)	0.3														0	
	Laurel Grove FT	J. Campbell (2)	3.0					1	1		2						4	
	Signal Pt.	K. Dubke (1)	8.0			2					230		1				233	
09/30		K. Dubke (1)	6.5			6	1				14						21	
10/03	Look Rock	A. Hoff (1)	2.0					1				1					3	
10/06		A. Hoff (1)	3.5			11	1	6		1						3	22	
10/21		A. Hoff (2)	2.0			4		1								1	1u	7
Total			228.8	102	48	66	5	24	16	8	3812	40	11	9	22	71u, 1PG, 1ML	4236	

TABLE 2. Summary of Tennessee Autumn Hawk Flights 1984 by Station (4 or more active days)

Location	Days	Hours	BW High	TV	BV	SS	CH	Unid. Acci.	RT	RS	BW	Unid. Bueo	NH	OS	AK	Others	Total	Total Hawks per Hour
Look Rock	18	82.7	780 (9/18)	7	19	31	4	19	7	3	2132	19	3	4	9	2f,23u	2282	27.6
Signal Pt.	11	66.8	230 (9/29)		6	19	1				956	5	5	2			992	14.9
Mt. Roosev. FT	5	14.8	5 (9/22)			5		2			8	22		1	5	43u,1PG	87	5.9

No large daily totals of Red-tailed or Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from Tennessee lookouts. Highest daily total for Red-tails was 4 birds (Raccoon Mt. on 15 September, Look Rock on 21 September, and Ooltewah FT on 22 September) and for Red-shouldered Hawks was 3 birds (Ooltewah FT on 22 September). In the southern Appalachian region, Red-tailed Hawks usually peak in late October and early November (*Newsletter of the Hawk Migration Association of North America* 7(2):26, 1981) when most Tennessee lookouts are no longer active.

Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported in slightly lower numbers (0.29 birds/hr) than the past 11 year (1972-83) average of 0.33 birds/hr. Sharp-shins were first reported streaming through Tennessee on 15 September (7 birds at Raccoon Mt. and 7 birds at Signal Pt.) and continued through 21 October, with the highest daily total of 11 birds recorded on 6 October at Look Rock. Only 5 Cooper's Hawks were reported from Tennessee lookouts during the 1984 season (0.02 birds/hr), which is well below the 11 year average of 0.08 birds/hr. Four of these 5 birds were seen from Look Rock. Recent papers (*Amer. Birds* 33:236-240, 1979) have emphasized the difficulty in distinguishing Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks. In Tennessee, observers seem very cautious about identifying Cooper's Hawks (justifiably). How many of the 24 unidentified Accipiters reported this season were Cooper's Hawks?

Northern Harrier totals reported in 1984 (0.05 birds/hr) were only slightly below the 11 year average of 0.06 birds/hr. Forty-five percent of the total birds were from Signal Pt. Highest daily Harrier total was 2 birds at Signal Point on 27 September.

Nine Ospreys were reported for this season (0.04 birds/hr) which is lower than the past 11 year average of 0.07 birds/hr. Although no peaks were noted, all Ospreys were seen between 15-23 September. No Bald or Golden Eagles were sighted from Tennessee lookouts this year.

American Kestrels were reported in the highest numbers (0.10 birds/hr) in more than 11 years. The highest daily Kestrel total was 3 birds and 82% of the total birds were seen between 15-23 September. The only Peregrine Falcon, an adult, was seen by Jim and Betty Reid Campbell on 23 September from Mt. Roosevelt FT. A Merlin was seen by Martha Waldron on 22 September from her Memphis lookout.

No large flocks of Turkey Vultures such as the 1,845 birds reported from Townsend in October 1982 were seen this year. The highest daily total of Turkey Vultures was reported by Peter Robinson on 15 September (86 birds) from Raccoon Mt. in 6.5 hours of observation. His largest flock was 26 birds seen between 1100 and 1200 hours. On 27 October at 1330 hours, Louise Fuller counted 86 Turkey Vultures flying south over her Knoxville home. The highest Black Vulture daily total and highest number of birds in one flock was 19 seen from Look Rock on 17 September between 1200 and 1300 hours.

Observers are still having difficulty determining whether Turkey Vultures, Black Vultures, Red-tailed Hawks, and Red-shouldered Hawks are residents or migrants. Exaggerated totals can result for these as well as other species when resident birds are reported during each visit to a lookout. In general, the peak migration for Turkey Vultures and Red-tailed Hawks is reported from mid-October through mid-November in the southern Appalachian region (*HMANA Newsletter* 8(2):25-26, 1982). Historically, Black Vultures and Red-shouldered Hawks have been reported in such low numbers that little is known about their migration. Probably the best way to separate migrant from resident birds is to consistently monitor one lookout and to note which hawks are present on a regular basis (residents).

KEY TO SPECIES ABBREVIATIONS IN TABLES

TV — Turkey Vulture; BV — Black Vulture; SS — Sharp-shinned Hawk; CH — Cooper's Hawk; RT — Red-tailed Hawk; RS — Red-shouldered Hawk; BW — Broad-winged Hawk; NH — Northern Harrier; OS — Osprey; AK — American Kestrel; PG — Peregrine Falcon; ML — Merlin; f — Unidentified falcon; u — Unidentified raptor.

LOOKOUTS

For a detailed description of lookout stations not described in this report, see *Migrant* 52:89-90, 1981; 53-62, 1982; 54:36-37, 80, 1983.

Memphis — From various points on the outskirts of the city of Memphis, hawks can be seen migrating down the western edge of Tennessee (elevation 61 m). Although there has not been active hawk watching in west Tennessee in over 20 years, back in the 1950's, large numbers of Broad-winged hawks were reported from Memphis and from lookouts 32-48 km north of Memphis (*Migrant* 22:55-56, 1951). More recently, Oliver Irwin (*Migrant* 34:2-7, 1963) reported on the migration of Mississippi Kites, Red-tailed Hawks, and other hawks from Memphis. Future hawk watching from Memphis and other west Tennessee sites might offer some interesting information about fall hawk flights in Tennessee.

Raccoon Mountain — An open area located on the top of Raccoon Mountain at the Pumped Storage Project operated by TVA at an elevation of 450 m in Marion County affords a good view of hawks migrating down Walden's Ridge (35°03'00"N, 85°24'00"W, Wauhatchie, Tenn. 7.5 quad USGS). This is the first year of observations reported from this lookout.

Rt. 4, Box 541, Valley Lane, Clinton, TN 37716. Accepted 16 July 1985.

MINUTES OF THE 1984 FALL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM

The 1984 Fall Meeting and Symposium, consisting of a Board of Directors meeting, symposium, and field trips, was held in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 2-4 November 1984.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Fall Meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 1730 on 3 November by President Tony Koella, with Secretary Barbara Finney recording the minutes. The minutes of the 19 May 1984 Board of Directors and Business Meetings were read and approved. The secretary requested that those chapters which had not furnished her an updated list of directors do so.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

TREASURER George Payne reported assets of \$35,542.04 with anticipated liabilities of \$9,850, leaving a capital reserve of \$25,692.04. Income since the May meeting was \$1,466.88. Since that meeting memberships had increased by 106, for a total of 931 memberships, including 44 libraries and exchanges with *The Migrant*.

VICE PRESIDENT for East Tennessee, Lil Dubke, reported on the projects underway by the chapters in her region. The VICE PRESIDENT for Middle Tennessee was absent and there was no report from the VICE PRESIDENT for West Tennessee.

Robbie Hassler, DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE for Middle Tennessee, reviewed figures which she had given on eagles at Dale Hollow Lake. Neither of the other DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE offered reports.

The CURATOR'S report was read by the secretary and stated that there had been no changes in the collections.

The EDITOR of *The Migrant*, Charles P. Nicholson, announced that he and the contributors to *The Migrant* were all working with the goal of having publication on schedule by early 1986. He also outlined plans for a special issue to come out in connection with the joint meeting of the TOS and The Wilson Ornithological Society in April 1986. He had no report from the Certification Committee.

The EDITOR of *The Tennessee Warbler*, Sharon Bostick, sent a report which was read by the secretary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

There was no report from the Finance Committee.

CONSERVATION — The President announced that Angela Davis will serve as chairperson of the committee, and recommended that individual chapters appoint conservation chairpersons. The President then outlined plans for a proposed National Guard training base, to be located between Fall Creek Falls State Park and Savage Gulf, and requested that members write to express themselves on this issue. Charles Nicholson gave some background on the proposal, and offered the rough draft of a resolution requesting preparation of a full Environmental Impact Statement. He moved the adoption of the resolution, which was seconded by Helen Dinkelspiel. Following some discussion, the motion was withdrawn and reworded

to express opposition to the project. The resolution was adopted. There was then a brief discussion on the relationship between TOS and the Tennessee Environmental Council.

NEW BUSINESS

The President appointed a nominating committee to serve for 2 years, composed of Martha Waldron, chairperson, Ann Hettish, and Wallace Coffey.

Charles Nicholson recommended that the TOS endorse the Breeding Bird Atlas project outlined in a proposal from the atlas feasibility committee. Paul Harris moved that this action be carried out with an official action to be taken at the May 1985 meeting. Jim Ferguson seconded the motion which carried. A steering committee was appointed, made up of Paul Hamel, Charles Nicholson, Fred Alsop, Bob Hatcher, Martha Waldron, Jim Ferguson (ex-officio), Steve and Barbara Stedman. The President expressed his appreciation to Nicholson and Hamel for work on this project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President also thanked Fred Alsop for the quality of programs which he had arranged as Program Director, and thanked the Murfreesboro Chapter for their hospitality. Kenneth Anderson of the Columbia Chapter invited all of the TOS members to attend the 1985 Spring meeting to be held the first weekend in May. Lil Dubke announced that arrangements had been made to hold the 1985 Fall Meeting and Symposium at Fall Creek Falls State Park, 1-3 November. Mack Pritchard read a letter from an Ohio wildlife research group in regard to marked Sandhill Cranes and requesting information on sightings of these birds. George Payne made a motion to hold the 1985 Foray in Cumberland County. The motion passed. Charles Nicholson reported that TOS had formally invited the Wilson Society to a joint meeting in April 1986 and that a preliminary acceptance had been received. The Holiday Inn in Gatlinburg had been reserved for the meeting.

BARBARA W. FINNEY, *Secretary*

SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

The program of the 1984 TOS Symposium was arranged by Fred J. Alsop, III. Following are abstracts of talks presented at the Symposium. One presentation, a discussion of the proposed Tennessee Breeding Bird Atlas, presented by Charles Nicholson and Paul Hamel, is not abstracted here. Information on the atlas proposal has been published in *The Tennessee Warbler*.

REELFOOT LAKE FORAY, by T. David Pitts, Biology Department, UT Martin. Twenty-one observers participated in the Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee, foray on 12 May 1984 and the follow-up on 21-24 June 1984. In May, 149 species, including many migrants, were recorded; 86 species were found in June. One Purple Gallinule nest was found; this is the first nest reported from Reelfoot Lake in recent years. The presence of adult and juvenile Common Moorhens indicated continued nesting by this species at Reelfoot Lake. Willow Flycatchers and Yellow Warblers were observed on territories; however, no other evidence of nesting in the area is known for either species. Hooded Warblers and American Redstarts, both of which were formerly abundant as nesting species, were present in low numbers.

NESTING OF THE HOUSE FINCH IN CHATTANOOGA, by John R. Freeman and Maurice E. Edwards, Biology Department, UT Chattanooga. Nesting of the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) has been observed on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in the summers of 1982, 1983 and 1984. Six nests have been built by 3 pairs of birds. Of the 28 eggs, all were hatched but a smaller number of individuals survived to leave the nests.

THE TENNESSEE ANIMAL BIOGRAPHY SYSTEM (TABS), by Christopher J. O'Bara, Tennessee Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, Cookeville, and Clifton J. Whitehead, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Nashville. The use of computerized information systems has expanded with the increased complexity of information about our natural resources. The Tennessee Cooperative Fishery Research Unit in cooperation with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is developing the Tennessee Animal Biography System (TABS) to fulfill the needs of many state and federal agencies. The system utilizes existing habitat classification systems to relate habitat and life history parameters to individual vertebrate and invertebrate species. Currently, work is being completed on the approximately 300 bird species believed to reside in or migrate through Tennessee.

PEREGRINE FALCON HACKING PROGRAM IN THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, by Rick Knight, TOS, Johnson City. The Peregrine Falcon is an endangered species whose nesting population had been extirpated from the eastern United States. The last known nest in Tennessee was at Reelfoot Lake in 1947, with the last known nest in the GSMNP in 1942. As part of a multi-agency effort to restore their numbers, 4 young falcons were hacked in the park in 1984 in hopes that they would return to the region to nest. The young falcons were released when about 6 weeks old and spent the next 3 to 4 weeks developing their flight and hunting skills before dispersing from the site.

RETURNING THE PEREGRINE FALCON AS A NESTING SPECIES IN TENNESSEE, Why and How the TOS Should Be Involved, by Kenneth H. Dubke, President, Chattanooga Chapter, TOS. A review was presented on the discovery and former nesting of the Peregrine in the state before its demise from DDT in the 1950's. Telling this story, and the efforts to restore a viable breeding population within the state, is one of the most effective methods of communicating the purpose of the TOS to the general public. To aid in the restoration project, the Chattanooga Chapter has volunteered to spearhead the endeavor and one of the methods is leading a fund raising drive with Angela C. Davis in charge.

TENNESSEE'S BALD EAGLE RESTORATION STATUS, by Robert M. Hatcher, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Nashville. With the help of many people and agencies, 1984 was a very encouraging year for Bald Eagle restoration in Tennessee. A record total number of 10 immature birds was hacked at Reelfoot Lake and Land-Between-the-Lakes. This comprises a total of 27 eagles that have been hacked in Tennessee since the initial year of 1980. The year 1984 also marked the second known successful nest since 1961. This nest, located on LBL, involved the first known return of a Tennessee-hacked eagle as a successful parent. This indicated a need to continue saturation of hacked birds at existing and future hack sites in order to maximize opportunities for them to locate mates when they return as adults.

ROUND TABLE NOTES

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE IN KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE — On 21 September, 1982, Joseph L. Collins and I observed a Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) in the Tennessee River at Peter Blow Bend, 6.5 km downstream from the US 129 bridge at Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee. The bird was identified by its streaked back, dark band extending back from the eye, and thin bill. We observed the bird around mid-day for about 20 minutes. The phalarope was swimming in and around floating patches of Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and fed by spinning and then picking up prey in its bill from near the water surface. We saw the phalarope capture at least 3 prey items, which appeared to be invertebrates between 2 and 3 cm in length. We were in a boat at the time of the observation, and, by drifting downstream, were able to approach to within 2 m of the bird (Figure 1). We made 3 such approaches, and, each time, as the boat bore down on the bird, it flew several meters upstream and landed in the water at another patch of water-milfoil. The phalarope's white wing stripe was evident when the bird was in flight. We again passed by this area at about 1700, and the phalarope was still in the same general area. This is the first record of a Red-Necked Phalarope in Knox County, although there are several records from some adjacent counties.

CHARLES P. NICHOLSON, Div. of Land and Economic Resources, Tennessee Valley Authority, Norris, TN 37828. Accepted 20 February, 1985.

FIGURE 1. Red-necked Phalarope at Knoxville, Tennessee, 21 September 1982.
Photo by Charles P. Nicholson



GLAUCOUS GULL AT PARIS LANDING, TENNESSEE — On 12 January, 1984, I observed a Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) at Paris Landing State Park, Henry County, Tennessee. The bird appeared to be in second-winter plumage, and was identified by its almost pure white back, light mottling on the belly and flanks, white wings, and pinkish bill with a dark tip. The bird was with several Ring-billed (*L. delawarensis*) and Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*), and appeared to be close to the size of a Herring Gull. I first observed this bird while it was standing on an island in Kentucky Lake about 150 m from the beach area. During the time I watched it, I saw it fly overhead several times, and land on the water as close as 50 m from me. Although I alerted other birders to the gull's presence, it was apparently not observed on later dates. Four days before this observation, I had observed 4 Glaucous Gulls at St. Louis, Missouri.

This is the third documented record of a Glaucous Gull in Tennessee. Previous records are from Old Hickory Lake, 18 January to 2 February, 1969 (*Migrant* 40:12-13, 1969), and from Fort Loudon Lake, 7 to 24 March, 1971 (*Migrant* 43:21, 1972). A "white-winged" gull present on Chickamauga Lake during the winter of 1979 (*Migrant* 50:45, 1979) was thought by some observers to be a Glaucous Gull, but its identification has yet to be resolved.

DONALD W. BLUNK, Rt. 2, Box 788, Dover, TN 37058. Accepted 20 April, 1985.

IMMATURE VIRGINIA RAIL OBSERVED IN MAURY COUNTY — Since the Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) is not known to breed in the Central Plateau and Basin Region of Tennessee, the following observation of an immature of this species seen at the Monsanto Chemical Company settling ponds in Maury County is put on record. On the afternoon of 3 June, 1984, we were observing birds near the marsh at the southwest end of Pond #2, known among local birders as the "Rail Pond", and located 9.8 km NW of the center of Columbia, when two adult Virginia Rails appeared. With them was a smaller rail about two-thirds the size of the adults. It appeared to have no down in its plumage, and it was much duller in coloration than the adults. Because of the long and slender bill, this rail resembled no other rail known to occur in the region, including Sora (*Porzana carolina*), Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), and Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*); its diminutive size precluded King Rail (*Rallus elegans*). Thus, it was presumed to be an immature Virginia Rail.

We observed this immature rail for about 15 minutes as it foraged independently near the adults. During most of this time the birds remained 7 to 10 meters away, while we observed them with 8x40 Bushnell binoculars. Because access to the marsh is restricted, a search for a nest could not be undertaken. However, the extensive (one hectare or more) cattail marsh in which these birds were seen represents the preferred nesting habitat of this species (Pough, 1951, Audubon Water Bird Guide, Doubleday & Co.). Although Virginia Rails have been seen or heard at Monsanto nearly every month of the year, including the summer months, no previous evidence of breeding has been detected, nor is there breeding evidence for any other site in middle Tennessee. Therefore, the sighting of an immature Virginia Rail at Monsanto establishes this species as at least a provisional breeding bird in the region.

O. BEDFORD LOCHRIDGE and ANNE R. LOCHRIDGE, 914 Woldridge Dr., Columbia, TN 38401. Accepted 9 May, 1985.

SEPTEMBER 1984 TOWER KILL IN KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE —

On 30 September, 1984, 749 birds of 34 species were found dead around the base of television towers on Sharp's Ridge and Zachary Ridge, Knox County, Tennessee. A total of 393 birds were found under the old WBIR-TV tower on Zachary Ridge, and 368 birds were found on Sharp's Ridge. Although there are 3 tall towers on Sharp's Ridge, 95 percent of the birds were under the WATE-TV tower, the westernmost and second tallest of the three towers. The condition of many of the birds indicated that birds were killed on both the nights of 28-29 and 29-30 September. Because only a limited amount of cleared land exists around the towers on Sharp's and Zachary Ridges, the actual number of birds killed during this period was probably much higher than that reported here.

During the period of 28-30 September, skies at Knoxville were overcast, temperatures in the 50's and 60's° F, and a trace of rain fell each day until after daybreak on 30 September, when heavy rains began. Surface winds were from the N to NE during the nights of 28-29 and 29-30 September, and dead birds were concentrated to the SW of the WATE-TV tower.

Following is a list of the species collected under the towers. The numbers of individuals collected on Sharp's Ridge appear first, followed by the number collected on Zachary Ridge. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 0-1; House Wren 1-3; Marsh Wren 0-2; Swainson's Thrush 6-37; Wood Thrush 15-21; Gray Catbird 17-13; White-eyed Vireo 4-3; Solitary Vireo 0-1; Yellow-throated Vireo 3-10; Philadelphia Vireo 7-8; Red-eyed Vireo 36-33; Blue-winged Warbler 0-1; Tennessee Warbler 9-26; Nashville Warbler 0-2; Chestnut-sided Warbler 9-10; Magnolia Warbler 4-16; Cape May Warbler 0-1; Black-throated Blue Warbler 1-7; Black-throated Green Warbler 0-2; Blackburnian Warbler 16-10; Prairie Warbler 0-1; Palm Warbler 3-6; Bay-breasted Warbler 6-13; Black-and-white Warbler 20-23; American Redstart 1-12; Worm-eating Warbler 4-6; Ovenbird 164-74; Northern Waterthrush 2-1; Kentucky Warbler 2-6; Common Yellowthroat 7-21; Hooded Warbler 5-3; Yellow-breasted Chat 4-1; Scarlet Tanager 3-2; Rose-breasted Grosbeak 17-5.

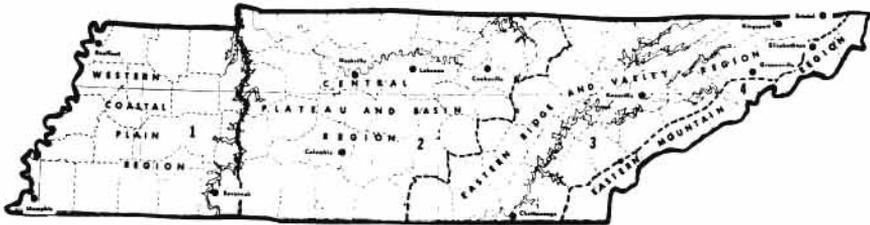
In addition to the species listed above, 1 badly decomposed Whip-poor-will was found on the road near the WATE-TV tower on Sharp's Ridge. This bird appeared to have died prior to the night of 28-29 September; I do not know if it was hit by a car or was a tower kill. Nightjars are rarely reported from tower kill collections. (*in lit.*).

This is the first large tower kill reported from the Knoxville area since 29-30 September 1979 (Turner and Davis, *Migrant* 51:27-29, 1980). Although towers in the Knoxville area are not systematically checked for kills, Sharp's Ridge is visited often enough by birders during the fall to detect a large kill within a few days of its occurrence.

I appreciate the assistance of J. B. Owen, who collected the birds at the old WBIR-TV tower, and of J. C. Howell, who helped identify the WBIR-TV birds.

CHARLES P. NICHOLSON, P. O. Box 402, Norris, TN 37828. Accepted 2 April, 1985.

THE SEASON



SUMMER: 1 JUNE — 31 JULY 1984

Temperatures were near normal this period, and rainfall near normal to above normal, especially in July.

As is usually the case during the summer season report, new nesting locations for several species were reported. Osprey nested at Duck River Unit, Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, the first middle Tennessee nesting of this species in recent memory. Another Bald Eagle nest was also reported from middle Tennessee, this one at Land-Between-the-Lakes. The first middle Tennessee evidence of nesting Virginia Rails was reported from near Columbia, and fledgling House Finches were reported for the first time from Nashville. Bank Swallows were reported from new locations — nesting in an ash pile at Kingston, a pair at a nest hole in Blount County, and an inactive colony in Cannon County. An active colony was also reported in a zinc mine tailings pile in Knox County, a site used in the 1950's, and several colonies were reported along the Mississippi River.

Readers are encouraged to note the Breeding Bird Survey results compiled for the Central Plateau and Basin region. This is the first time such a thorough analysis has been presented in *The Season*. The previous severe winter appears to have caused some reduction in numbers of Carolina Wrens and Eastern Bluebirds in middle Tennessee, but not of the magnitude of declines in the late 1970's. There was no apparent reduction of Carolina Wren numbers in the Knoxville area; insufficient data is presented to make comparisons with other parts of the state. — CHARLES P. NICHOLSON.

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION — Two pairs of Black-necked Stilts nested at the Ensley Sewage Lagoons this season. A single pair nested there in 1982. Shorebirds, the majority of which were Pectoral and Least Sandpipers, were also found at Ensley in numbers from several hundred up to about 2000.

Anhinga — *Stork*: Anhinga: 27-29 Jun (1) REL (CHB, LLC, SCF). Least Bittern: 2 Jul (2) REL (RCS). Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 2 active nests, down from 26 nests in 1983, McCorkle Road site, MEM; 12+ active nests, Hatchie River near Boliver; 24 Active nests, decline from 68 in 1980, Eagle Lake, Shelby Forest State Park; 2 active nests, decline from 14 nests in 1980, Forked Deer River, Madison Co. (Ken Garner, BPP). Cattle Egret: 25 Jun (140) east of Fulton, LDC (BBC, LCC). White Ibis: 23 Jul (2) Phillippy Pits, LKC (RCS). WOOD STORK: 14 Jun (1) REL (AIS); first Reelfoot report since 1954 report of 50+ at Walnut Log.

Moorhen - Tern: Common Moorhen: 2 Jul (6) REL (RCS). Black-necked Stilt: 8 Jul (4 ad) (JRW), 14 Jul (4 ad, 6 y) (DPB, MGW, JRW), 22 Jul (4 ad, 5 y) (JRW), 29 Jul (6 ad, 5 y) (MGW, JRW), 18 Aug (2 ad, 3 y) ESL (JRW). Western Sandpiper: 14 Jul (1) (DPB, MGW, JRW), 22 Jul (2) ESL (JRW). Pectoral Sandpiper: 8 Jul (8), 29 Jul (750) ESL (MGW, JRW). Least Tern: 2 Jul (1 nest with 3 eggs) in field 1 mile from river, Tiptonville, LKC (RCS); 3 Jul (99 y banded, 125 adults in air) Mile 795, MSR, LDC (RAG, PAH, Roberta A. Hylton, MGW); 10 Jul (8 y banded, 125 adults in air) Mile 794, MSR, LDC (RPF, MGW); 12 Jul (56 y banded, 120+ adults in air) Island 13, LKC (PAH, MGW *et al.*).

Chuck-will's-widow - Siskin: Chuck-will's-widow/Whip-poor-will: 7 Jun (11.1 mi, 30 stops; 16 CWW at 13 stops, 24 WPW at 15 stops) 4 mi E of Bolivar to Oak Grove; 7 Jun (14.5 mi, 33 stops; 18 CWW at 15 stops, 24 WPM at 19 stops) Pine Top-Silerton-Fire Tower Roads, from US 64 to TN 100; 7 Jun (6.0 mi, 13 stops, 19 CWW at 10 stops, 4 WPW at 4 stops) W of TN 18 and N of TN 100, all 7 June sites in Hardeman Co.; 14 Jun (9.4 mi, 22 stops, 6 CWW at 5 stops, 25 WPW at 15 stops) NW BNC (BBC, LCC). Black-billed Cuckoo: 15 Jun (1) 2 mi NE of Camden, not found 3 Jul (BBC, LCC). E. Phoebe: 15 Jun (1 and nest with 5 eggs) N.B. Forrester Park (BBC, LCC). Bank Swallow: colonies observed on 9 Jul along MSR at 400 y S of TN 78 (76 holes, 15-20 birds), Mile 780, Arkansas side (150 holes, 180 birds), Mile 778, LDC (54 holes, 6 birds), Mile 773, LDC (52 holes, no birds), Hatchie River, 0.5 mi from MSR, LDC (12 holes, no birds), Chickasaw Bluff #2, LDC (75 holes, 1 bird), up river from Chickasaw Bluff #2 (350 holes, 1 bird) (BBC, LCC, RAG). Bewick's Wren: 15 Jun (1) 2 mi NE of Camden, 3 Jul (1) 3 mi NE of Camden, BNC (BBC, LCC). House Wren: 25 Jun (1 singing) Driver Bar, Arkansas/TN at Fort Pillow Park, LDC (BBC, LCC). Cedar Waxwing: 15 Jun (3), 3 Jul (1) Big Sandy, BNC (BBC, LCC). Yellow Warbler: 3 Jul (1) Dunville jetty, BNC (BBC, LCC). Black-and-White Warbler: now rare where formerly present in West Tennessee (BBC). Swainson's Warbler: 2 Jul (1) Cane Creek, 5 mi W of Clarksburg, CLC (BBC, LCC). Ovenbird: 14 Jun (1) SW corner, CLC (BBC, LCC). Scarlet Tanager: 25 Jun (1) FPP, 14 Jun & 2 Jul (1) SW CLC, 15 Jun & 3 Jul (13) BNC (BBC, LCC). Song Sparrow: 25 Jun (1) LKC (RCS); 21 Jul (2 songs) ESL (BBC, LCC). Pine Siskin: 6 Jun (1 at feeder after long absence) MEM (Jo L. Levy).

Locations: BNC — Benton Co.; CLC — Carroll Co.; ESL — Ensley Sewage Lagoons, Shelby Co.; LDC — Lauderdale Co.; LKC — Lake Co.; MEM — Memphis; MSR — Mississippi River; REL — Reelfoot Lake.

MARTHA G. WALDRON, 1626 Yorkshire Dr., Memphis, TN 38117.

CENTRAL PLATEAU AND BASIN REGION—Mostly moderate temperatures prevailed this summer, and rainfall was not much higher than normal in June ($\frac{3}{4}$ " excess in Nashville), though somewhat above normal in July (2.5" excess). Perhaps as a result, breeding activity of the birds in the region was generally successful, and some exciting breeding data were obtained. At least one new breeding species for the Nashville Area was documented, while another species new to the breeding avifauna of the region was provisionally established. Furthermore, the breeding Bald Eagle population in middle Tennessee increased from one to two pairs in 1984, and Ospreys returned as a breeding species after a lengthy hiatus as a nonbreeder. Herons, swallows, wrens, and finches were also favored with breeding success. The following account offers details on these and other species, almost everything, in fact, that one might want to know about the breeding birds of middle Tennessee, including what chats and eagle chicks eat during the nesting season.

The 15 Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) conducted in the region provided evidence that the summer of 1984 was a good one for avian reproduction. One new species was added to the 117 previously recorded on these censuses, while the 98 species observed in 1984 represent the second-highest cumulative total in the 19-year history of the BBS's, indicating that species diversity in the region remains in good shape. Furthermore, 10 species were recorded on these surveys in higher cumulative numbers than ever before: Wood Duck (17), Sharp-shinned Hawk (2), Red-shouldered Hawk (6), Red-headed Woodpecker (16), Hairy Woodpecker (14), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (93), Yellow-throated Vireo (26), Yellow-throated Warbler (18), Northern Oriole (5), and House Sparrow (522). All but perhaps the last of these best ever totals are certainly encouraging, as are the steadily increasing numbers of some species breeding in the region (Table 1). Although the Canada Goose obviously had considerable assistance from man to account for its recent increase, the other species—White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, Pine Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, and Song Sparrow — are increasing without direct human intervention on their behalf. Also encouraging is the increase in Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, and Field Sparrow populations from low levels caused by the "hard" winter of 1976-1977 and 1977-1978 (Table 2). Although it is not prudent to express too much optimism about the precarious Bewick's Wren population in the region, it, too, was affected by hard winters in the late 1970's and may be recovering somewhat (Table 2). The robin also experienced slight decline during the hard winters but has increased in numbers since then (Table 1).

TABLE 1. Species on Middle Tennessee Breeding Bird Surveys Undergoing Overall Increase in Numbers

Species	Year																		
	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84
Canada Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	31	7	22	6	42	19	29
White-breasted Nuthatch	4	1	3	6	10	9	6	4	10	4	11	9	15	18	18	22	25	23	13
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	54	71	55	51	55	69	71	51	61	48	45	45	65	83	77	79	76	81	93
American Robin	67	94	92	138	155	101	178	169	157	204	223	176	190	206	262	289	229	227	286
Brown Thrasher	68	91	86	98	91	91	91	100	91	103	82	86	115	119	106	119	116	117	108
Pine Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	3	3	5	5
Blue Grosbeak	14	11	25	25	31	40	51	34	38	47	58	57	46	47	37	80	72	52	62
Song Sparrow	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	2	9	9	8	14	19	23	21

TABLE 2. Species on Middle Tennessee Breeding Bird Surveys Showing Recovery from "Hard" Winters

Species	Year																		
	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84
Carolina Wren	86	100	104	74	98	93	159	119	163	190	209	64	44	51	68	75	98	158	121
Bewick's Wren	8	20	21	11	21	10	11	17	12	11	9	1	1	2	1	1	2	5	6
Eastern Bluebird	179	170	167	134	123	185	242	179	145	163	170	131	42	53	70	108	137	145	132
Field Sparrow	369	535	307	354	342	337	322	308	292	279	277	266	181	206	187	314	263	310	341

* Breeding Bird Survey following a "hard" winter.

TABLE 3. Species on Middle Tennessee Breeding Bird Surveys Showing Overall Decline in Numbers

Species	Year																		
	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84
Northern Bobwhite	486	589	596	597	476	489	566	476	528	489	505	504	496	496	442	401	391	357	392
Whip-poor-will	31	16	34	23	14	29	15	11	7	12	15	9	16	8	11	9	11	11	7
Barn Swallow	546	480	584	581	524	497	527	562	633	484	564	546	540	632	579	442	407	336	352
Loggerhead Shrike	55	77	82	57	52	54	73	46	62	33	29	44	46	46	35	21	22	21	19
Yellow-breasted Chat	400	392	325	433	320	351	331	274	265	270	232	192	236	216	217	228	199	182	189
Dickcissel	19	45	22	18	20	43	35	23	10	8	9	10	19	8	0	5	4	10	10
Chipping Sparrow	199	210	171	184	161	124	130	107	86	80	118	68	103	90	107	123	86	90	92
Eastern Meadowlark	665	850	692	828	803	902	885	823	844	807	867	779	671	667	700	622	656	663	571

Some less salubrious news resulted from the 1984 BBS's, as indicated by species which were recorded in lowest-ever numbers: Black Vulture (1, but see species account), Loggerhead Shrike (19), Grasshopper Sparrow (4), Eastern Meadowlark (571), and Common Grackle (790). Perhaps we might not worry unduly over the last of these, but for the others concern is warranted, especially for the shrike and meadowlark, which are among 8 species breeding in the region that have undergone overall reduction in numbers since the BBS's were instituted in 1966 (Table 3). Some of these—Whip-poor-will, Barn Swallow, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Dickcissel—are predominantly neotropical migrants, which have been hard hit in recent years. However, the decline in populations of Northern Bobwhite, Loggerhead Shrike, Chipping Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark is less easy to elucidate; as they are all pasture-related species, we might surmise that the current agricultural practices in the region are inimical to their well-being. Certainly the longterm decline in their numbers is cause for concern. All 8 declining species need careful monitoring in the years ahead. Other species besides those mentioned above may also be declining; however, since their numbers on the BBS's are so low as to render analysis of them a form of statistical legerdemain, only continued vigilance on the part of regional observers will reveal their longterm status.

Grebe - Night-Heron: Pied-billed Grebe: early June (ad with y) RDL (Cathy Shaw, m. ob.), few regional breeding records; 21 Jun (1) OHD (CGD); through end of Jun (2 ad) flooded field in RUC (TJW); 30 Jul (1) MC (RJM). American Bittern: 24 Jun (1) LEP (DTC, JPC), few NA summer records. Least Bittern: 28 May (1 calling), 4 Jul (1), 23 Jul (1) MOP (ARL, OBL, SJS, BHS), probably breeding bird(s). Great Blue Heron: 12 Apr (170 active nests) DRU (Randy Cook, TWRA); 29 May (132 active nests) AEDC ponds, CFC (BPP); 2 Jul (1) MC (HEP); 15 Jul (14) LEP (CGD). Great Egret: 9 Jun (2) EWP (DFV, SDB); 17 Jul (1) CFC (ELR); 19 Jul (15), 25 Jul (25) DRU (CGD, SJS, BHS), all but the first sighting represent post-breeding dispersal. Little Blue Heron: 11-12 Jun (nest with 3 y, all of which died when nest was abandoned) Houston County (Audrey Grant, Wesley James); 2 and 15 Jul (1 imm) MC (DFV, CGD); 15 Jul (1) LEP (CGD); 19 Jul (5 ad, 20 imm) DRU (CGD); 29 Jul (10 ad, 10 imm) CCNWR (SJS, BHS). Green-backed Heron: 24 Jun (12) (DTC, JPC); "noticeably fewer at MOP than in past" (ARL). Black-crowned Night-Heron: 30 May (370 nests based on flightline survey) Bordeaux Heronry, DVC (BPP); 24 Jun (3) SUC (DTC, JPC); during season (6) PPL, RUC (ALH, RVM). Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 30 May (nest with 3 y) Mill Creek, DVC (BPP); 24 Jul (1 imm) EWP (DFV); all summer (4 ad, several y) MC (DFV).

Ducks: Wood Duck: 24 Jun (20) LEP (DTC, JPC); 29 Jul (pair with y) MC (DFV). Northern Pintail: 19 Jul (2) DRU (CGD), limited summer records. Blue-winged Teal: 7 Jun (1) MOP (SJS, BHS); 24 Jun (1) LEP (DTC, JPC); 29 Jun (1) mouth of Brush Creek, CHC (HEP). Lesser Scaup: early June (pair) RDL (DJS, m.ob.). Red-breasted Merganser: 27 Jun (1 female) OHD (Lee F. Kramer).

Diurnal Raptors: Black Vulture: 7 Jun (2 ad, 2 downy y in nest cave) Gordonsville area, SMC (PBH); 21 Jun (nest with 6 week old chick) PWP (DFV); 15 Jul (40) GSP (CGD). **OSPREY:** the first documented nesting of this species in the region in several decades occurred at DRU, where a pair was observed nest-building in April; 3 y hatched in May and fledged in early August (*fide* Carrell L. Ryan, USFWS); birds hacked at Woods Reservoir, Franklin County (Caroline Franklin), Clay County (Thomas Mabry), PPL, RUD (Donald Perry); 15 Jul (1 red-banded ad) GSP (CGD), origin not determined; 28 Jul (1) Long Hunter S.P., (DVC) (RVM). **BALD EAGLE:** pair nesting on Westvaco land near CCNWR in 1983 returned in 1984 and successfully fledged one y in late June or early July (2 y became entangled in baling wire in the nest and died); another pair, including a 3-year-old female hacked in Tennessee in 1981, nested in the LBL; it produced one y, which was fed partly on turtles and fledged successfully (*fide* Tony Campbell); hacking results: 2 fledged 25 Jul and 2 others 3 Aug, all at LBL; also 2 rehabilitated ad were released (*fide* Robert M. Hatcher). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 Jun (1) Pond Creek BBS, CHC (John O. Ellis); 11 Jun (1) BAH (RWS); 17 Jun (1) Glen BBS, GYC/WRC (DRJ). Cooper's Hawk: 24 March-24 Jun (nest, 4 y fledged on last date) BAS (KAG, ATT); 6 Jun (1 ad) Peytonsville BBS, WMC (SJS); 9 Jun (pair with prey) Union Hill BBS, Macon County (CPN, RWS, Thomas S. Patrick); accipiters, probably of this species, were at LEF on 19 Jul (SJS) and MOP on 23 Jul (SJS, BHS). Broad-winged Hawk: 3 on 2 BBS's (about average); also reported from BAH (RWS), BAS, (KAG), LEF (SJS), and PWP (DFV).

Rail-Gull: **VIRGINIA RAIL:** 3 Jun (2 ad, 1 y) MOP (ARL, OBL), provisional evidence of first regional breeding; details in *Migrant* (55:85, 1984). Common Moorhen: 15 and 23 Jul (1 ad) MOP (SJS, BHS), possibly breeding, as imm were sighted at MOP in fall. American Coot: 13 Jul (1) PWP (DFV); 19 Jul (1) DRU (CGD); 29 Jun (1) near Johntown, TRC (CPN); all season (1 crippled ad) MC (DFV); also, sometime during season an ad with y was seen on Old Hickory L. (Katherine C. Vogt). Spotted Sandpiper: all summer (2 ad, 3 nests with 4 eggs each, but no y seen) MC (DFV); through mid-June (1) RDL (*fide* DFV); 2 Jun (1) south of Franklin, WMC (SJS); 7 Jun, 23 Jul (1) MOP (SJS, BHS); 15, 22 Jul (1) GSP (CGD); 19 Jul (1) DRU (CGD); all but the first record probably represent migrants; mention (without details) of the nesting of this species in LWC was received (DJS). American Woodcock: 5 Jun (1) EWP (DFV, SDB, Charles E. Farrell); 6 Jun (1) Peytonsville BBS, WMC (SJS), first regional BBS record. Ring-billed Gull: 21 Jun (4) OHD (CGD), summering becoming more regular.

Cuckoo-Flycatcher: Black-billed Cuckoo: 4 Jul (pair copulating, one calling) MOP (BHS, SJS), only report, nesting in region is infrequent. Common Barn-Owl: 3 hacked in RUC (*fide* Robert M. Hatcher), no other details. Great Horned Owl: 1 albino, injured in Bedford County, taken to Cumberland Bird Rehabilitation Foundation, WLC (Kevin Schutt). Common Nighthawk: 7 Jul (200) Harding Mall, DVC (RJM), early flocking. Red-headed Woodpecker: by mid-May most of the large influx of wintering birds had departed, quashing speculation that they might breed; 4 Jun (1) CFC (FNM); 4 Jun (pair) Petersburg BBS, Marshall County (DFV); 6 Jun (ad) Peytonsville BBS, WMC (SJS); 13 Jun (1 ad) Chinkapin Hill, WMC (PBH); 19 Jun (1 ad) PWP (DFV); 21 Jun (1) OHD (CGD); 1 Jul (1 ad), 29 Jul (pair) MC (DFV); 4 Aug (1 imm) MOP (PBH, SJS, Larry D. Raye); again, no data on the CHC population available. Willow Flycatcher: all summer (4 pairs, 1

nest with 3 eggs, soon discovered empty, however) MC (DFV); all summer (1 singing male, later several other birds) MOP (SJS, BHS); 3-10 Jun (1 singing male) west of Dover, SWC (DWB); reported without details from ACA (CGD). Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: all summer erratically (at least 1 ad) Thompson Lane, RUC (ALH, TJW, RVM); imm seen in fall.

Swallow-Shrike: Tree Swallow: 15-16 May (2 ad on territory) and 29 Jun (2 ad, 3 fledglings) Dixon Springs, SMC (CPN); 26 May (7 ad, some entering nest holes), 15 Jul (3 ad, 9 fledglings) MOP (SJS, BHS); 28 May (30+) DRU (SJS, BHS), breeding birds probably represented; 22 Jul (200) GSP (CGD). Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 22 Jul (200) GSP (CGD). Bank Swallow: 25 May (78 inactive nest holes) near Reedyville, CNC (RPF); 3 Jun (3) MOP (ARL, OBL); 22 Jul (100) GSP (CGD); 25 Jul (415) Bledsoe Creek S.P., SUC (DTC, JPC), autumn mustering. Cliff Swallow: 28 May (6+) Hwy 50 bridge over Duck R., HIC (SJS, BHS); 29 Jun (30 active nests with y) Sam's Creek, CHC (HEP); 3 Jul (125 nests with most young flying) Hwy 49 bridge over Harpeth R., CHC (HEP); CGD estimated that 1000+ nests were active in ACA. Bewick's Wren: nest found NW on Clarksville on 16 Jun (DWB), and 1 with 4 eggs was E of Columbia on 27 Jul (Nancy A. Beyer); singing males were reported in several counties: 4 in E WMC (SJS), 2 in SUC (DTC, JPC), 2 in WLC (TJW), 1 in CNC (RPF), and 1 in W MTC (PBH); other reports: pair in Loretto, LWC (DJS), 2 near Johnson's L., LWC (DJS), family group of 4 on Peytonsville BBS, WMC (SJS), and 2 S of Murfreesboro (TJW); however, for the first time in 25 years none at Crawfords in GAL (competition from House Wren?), nor at McMillans in Lascassas, RUC, where normally seen; overall, a good year. House Wren: all season (nest, 1 male, 2 females in attendance) GAL (DTC, JPC) at least seven sites with singing and/or nesting birds in Nashville, including at Oakmont Circle where nest-building was noted 17 May, eggs in nest 20 May, and y being fed 1-5 Jun (HEP); the House Wren clearly remains a predominantly urban species in the region. Eastern Bluebird: nestbox project results: 101 fledged (compared to 60 in 1983, 30 in 1982) from 20 boxes in WLC (Martin Smith, *vide* RVM), 38 from 40 boxes in Warner Parks, DVC (SDB), 20 from 11 boxes in WMC (SJS), and 23 from unknown number of boxes in Nashville (ATT); no data were available for the large project in CHC. Cedar Waxwing: 25 May (1 flying inexpertly, possibly a y bird) CFC (ELR), few regional breeding records. Loggerhead Shrike: all summer (3 nesting pairs, 5 nests) Warner Parks, DVC (DFV); all summer (1 nesting pair) MC (DFV); see introduction.

Vireo-Dickcissel: Warbling Vireo: 3 on 3 BBS's (about average); also reported from South Harpeth Valley (KAG), RDL (PCH, m.ob.), MOP (ARL, OBL), and DRU (SJS, BHS); surely more widespread than that. Blue-winged Warbler: 12 on 7 BBS's (about average); also reported in June from Warner Parks, DVC (DFV), BAS (KAG), and BAH (RWS), and in late July from MOP (SJS, BHS). Cerulean Warbler: 5 on 4 BBS's (slightly below average); early June (15 singing males) Warner Parks, DVC (DFV), notable concentration. American Redstart: 4 on 3 BBS's (slightly below average); 11 Jun (3 singing males) near Arcott, Clay County (RWS). Yellow-breasted Chat: 28 May (1 eating egg yolk—hard-boiled?—at feeder) Byrdstown, Pickett Co. (Robbie C. Hassler); see introduction. Dickcissel: 28 May (pair, female carrying nest material) near Centerville, HIC (SJS, BHS); 2 Jun (pair) CFC (FNM); 7 Jun (1 singing male, not seen later) MC (DFV); 17 Jun (9) Glen BBS, GYC/WRC (DRJ); 28-29 Jun (1) near Johntown, TRC (CPN); all season (12+) RUC (TJW); all season (3 singing birds) ACA (CGD); 21 Jul (21, including 17 singing males) DRU (SJS, BHS); 29 Jul (5 singing males) CCNWR (SJS, BHS); an encouraging and regionally diverse number of reports, though species is still in longterm decline (see introduction).

Sparrow-Finch: Lark Sparrow: 2 Jun (nest with 4 eggs) Simmons Bluff Rd., WLC (TJW, RVM, m.ob.), nest empty shortly thereafter (TJW). Grasshopper Sparrow: 4 on 3 BBS's (see introduction); 6 May (2) near Rockhouse, TRC (CPN); 4 Jun (2-3) W of Franklin, WMC (SJS); 28-29 Jun (4) near Johntown, TRC (CPN); fewer reports than expected. Song Sparrow: 28 Apr (1 carrying nest material) MOP (OBL), seen same site 28 May (SJS, BHS); 24 Jun (1 singing) LEP (DTC, JPC); in July (4 singing) GSP (DTC, JPC); 21 Jul (1 singing) DRU (SJS, BHS), site later bulldozed; all season (30+ pairs) MC (DFV); BBS reports were concentrated in eastern portion of region, as species continues its expansion. White-throated Sparrow: 4 Jul (1 singing) Nashville (Ed Gleaves), few NA summer records. Northern ("Baltimore") Oriole: 5 on 4 BBS's (see introduction); 9 Jun (1) Buffalo Fork, Cordell Hull L., SMC (RPF). House Finch: 18 Jun (male feeding brown bird which displayed wing-fluttering behavior), 22 Jul (pair feeding 3 y) Belmont Blvd., DVC (DFV); all summer (4) Galen Lane, DVC (Frances Abernathy); first NA breeding record.

Locations: ACA — Ashland City Area, Cheatman Co.; BAH — Barnes Hollow, Macedonia Community, Putnam Co.; BAS — Basin Spring, Williamson Co.; CCNWR — Cross Creeks Nat. Wildl. Refuge, Stewart Co.; CFC — Coffee Co.; CHC — Cheatham Co.; CNC — Cannon Co.; DRU — Duck River Unit, Tennessee Nat. Wildl. Refuge, Humphreys Co.; DVC — Davidson Co.; EWP — Edwin Warner Park, Davidson, Co.; GAL — Gallatin, Sumner Co.; GSP — Gallatin Steam Plant, Sumner Co.; GYC — Grundy Co.; HIC — Hickman Co.; LBL — Land-Between-the-Lakes, Stewart, Co.; LEF — Leiper's Fork, Williamson Co.; LEP — Lewis Pond, Sumner Co.; LWC — Lawrence Co.; MC — Metro Center, Davidson, Co.; MOP — Monsanto Ponds, Maury Co.; MTC — Montgomery Co.; MUC — Maury Co.; NA — Nashville Area (includes all of Davidson Co. and parts of 7 surrounding counties); OHD — Old Hickory Dam, Davidson Co.; PPL — Percy Priest Lake (in Davidson, Rutherford, and Wilson Counties); PWP — Percy Warner Park, Davidson Co.; RUC — Rutherford Co.; SMC — Smith Co.; SUC — Sumner Co.; SWC — Stewart Co.; TRC — Trousdale Co.; WLC — Wilson Co.; WMC — Williamson Co.; WRC — Warren Co.

STEPHEN J. STEDMAN, Rt. 6, Pinewood Rd., Franklin, TN 37064.

EASTERN RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION—All areas reported a normal period with no unusual conditions or weather patterns noted. However, there were several noteworthy observations that will be touched on in this introduction. Of special interest was the late July invasion of White Ibis into the area. This was the first observation of the species since 1981 and signaled the largest movement ever recorded in the region other than a flock of 25 noted flying over Lookout Valley near the Tennessee/Georgia line on 22 July 1977.

The sighting of 44 Ring-billed Gulls at Cherokee Dam on 4 June certainly represented a large number of gulls this late in the migration period. Nesting Tree Swallows were again reported this breeding season, but probably the most noteworthy event for the period was the confirmation of Bank Swallows nesting at both Mascot and the Kingston Steam Plant. In Knox County, Bank Swallows were recorded nesting in the 1950's and have been sporadic nesters at Austin Springs from 1969 to as recently as 1980.

All reports of summering Loggerhead Shrikes are included in this report and future sightings should be forwarded so that we can establish their relative abundance in the region. Reports continue to be received on summering House Finches as they establish themselves throughout the region. Finally, note the date of the last Pine Siskins lingering from last winter's invasion—8 June!

Grebe-Hawk: Pied-billed Grebe: 17 Jul (1) Nickajack Dam (CPN). Double-crested Cormorant: 13 Jul (2) WBL (WKJ). Great Egret: 19 Jun (1) Cherokee L. (Marcia L. Davis, CPN); 21 Jun (1) HRA (WKJ, BPP); 2-31 Jul (1-3) SAB (KHD, LHD); 18 Jul (1) NRL (JCH); 26-31 Jul (2-3) AUS (LHTOS); 21-31 Jul (1-8) HRA (KHD, LHD). Little Blue Heron; 14 Jul (1) SOD (PDR *et al.*); 15-31 Jul (2-3) SAB (KHD, LHD). Black-crowned Night-Heron: 4-26 Jul (1-3) AUS (LHTOS). **WHITE IBIS**: 10-15 Jul—at least 1 ad and 4 imm present Poe Branch area, SOD (RJH); 15-31 Jul (1 imm) Clinton (W.H. Redmond, *fide* CPN); 31 Jul (8 imm) Harrison (A. Boyd Sharp) — these sightings were the first of a heavy invasion which will be reported on in the next period. Osprey: 5 nests down on WBL produced 12 young, down from 7 nests and 15 young in 1983 (T. Ed Beddow). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 15 Jul (1) JEC (JAK); 29 Jul (1) JNC (MD, SG). Cooper's Hawk: 12 Jul (3, family group nesting nearby?) SAB (KHD, LHD); 29 Jul (1) Speedwell, Claiborne Co. (PBH).

Moorhen-Swallow: Common Moorhen: 28, 30 Jul (1 ad) HRA (J.W. Knott, PCH). American Coot: one all period JNC (LHTOS); 23 Jun (2) KSP (KHD, LHD); 27 Jul (1) SAB (KHD, LHD). Semipalmated Plover: 4 Jun (1) AUS (RLK); 22 Jul (2) KSP (ARH). Lesser Yellowlegs: 18 Jul (1) NRL (JCH); 21-22 Jul (1-4) KSP (KHD, LHD, ARH). Spotted Sandpiper: 14-31 Jul (1-23) KSP (KHD, LHD, ARH); 18 Jul (1) NRL (JCH). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 21 Jul (3) KSP (KHD, LHD). Western Sandpiper: 14, 21 Jul (1) KSP (KHD, LHD). Least Sandpiper: 21 Jul (10) KSP (KHD, LHD). Pectoral Sandpiper: 21-22 Jul (8-26) KSP (KHD, LHD, ARH). Stilt Sandpiper: 22 Jul (2) KSP (ARH). Short-billed Dowitcher: 21 Jul (2) KSP (KHD, LHD). Ring-billed Gull: 3 Jul (44) Cherokee Dam, Grainger/Jefferson Co. (JAK). Common Tern: 7 Jul (1) SAB (KHD, LHD). Forster's Tern: 7 Jul (1) SAB (KHD, LHD). Common Barn-Owl: 27 Jun (2 ad, 2 imm about 5-6 weeks old) belfry of church, JNC (Fred J. Alsop III, Pam Demko, Malcolm Jones, Donna Ledford, Cathi Sullivan); 16 Jul (1 road kill) Bristol (GDE). Eastern Screech-Owl: continued in low numbers in the Elizabethton-Johnson City area (LHTOS) (no supporting data received - Editor). Red-headed Woodpecker: pair all period Jonesborough (RLK *et al.*); pair nesting at Seymour (*fide* PDH). Willow Flycatcher: 2-3 pairs all period AUS (LHTOS). Tree Swallow: nesting pair DOL, JEC, 1 Jul (3 y), 15 Jul (3 ad, 4 y) (JAK); 29 Jun (20+) Phipps Bend, Hawkins Co. (WKJ) - appeared to be nesting, new location for the state. **BANK SWALLOW**: colony discovered in zinc mine tailings pile at Mascot, Knox Co., approximately 250 nest holes (PDH), in area where birds are present, but nests not located, in 1983; 23 Jun (at least 65 active nests) large ash pile at KSP (KHD, LHD); Bank Swallows were also noted at this site in 1983, but no nests observed; 22 Jun (1 pair) at hole in bank, Blount Co. (JAK); 15 Jul (400+) JEC (JAK). Cliff Swallow: 22 Jun (4 active nests) new location near Boone L. (RLK).

Wren-Finch: Carolina Wren: no sign of winter mortality in Knoxville area with populations on BBS routes as high as ever (CPN). House Wren: only 2 birds noted singing in Newport and 2 at Maryville (JAK). Sedge Wren: 25-31 Jul (1-2 singing) SAB (KHD, LHD). Cedar Waxwing: present through period in small numbers in Knoxville area (CPN). Loggerhead Shrike: at least 2 pairs in Knoxville area (PHD, CPN); 23 Jun (ad, 3 y) Snow Hill, Hamilton Co. (KHD, LHD); 23 Jun (2) Meigs Co. (KHD, LHD); pair with 3 y in Chattanooga (Robin A. Rudd). Solitary Vireo: 16 Jun (1 singing) Tennessee River Gorge, Signal Mtn. BBS (KHD, LHD). Prothonotary Warbler: no nests located, but 1-4 birds along Watauga R. from 1-22 Jun (LHTOS). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 30 Jun (male found dead) Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga. (PDR). Blue Grosbeak: increasing in Elizabethton-JNC area after decline in last 2 years (LHTOS). House Finch: no nests reported JNC, but 4 pairs present

(LHTOS); continued increase in Knoxville area, with birds summering in at least 3 new locations (LJF, J.B. Owen). Pine Siskin: 8 Jun (3) Norris (LJF), latest report from last winter's invasion.

Locations: AUS — Austin Springs; DOL — Douglas Lake; HRA — Hiwassee River Area; JEC — Jefferson Co.; JNC — Johnson City; KSP — Kingston Steam Plant, Roane Co.; NRL — Norris Lake; SAB — Savannah Bay; SOD — Soddy-Daisy, Hamilton, Co.; WBL — Watts Bar Lake.

KENNETH H. AND LILLIAN H. DUBKE, 8139 Roy Lane, Ooltewah, TN 37363.

EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION—The weather for this period was hot and dry for all of June and the first half of July. The last half of July saw above average rainfall and continued hot temperatures.

Several species appeared to be present in lower than normal numbers during this period, among them the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, and Loggerhead Shrike. Birds that seem to be making modest increases or comebacks include Purple Martin, Cliff Swallow, Blue Grosbeak and Grasshopper Sparrow. Two unusual observations were a Least Bittern found freshly killed in downtown Elizabethton on 5 June, and a Northern Harrier seen on 15 June near Elizabethton.

This report continues to be dominated by reports from the northern portion of the region. Other parts of the region are birded regularly—please send these observations to the compiler.

Bittern-Cuckoo: Least Bittern: 5 Jun (1 found dead) downtown ELI (*vide* GOW). Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 1-3 throughout period ELI (GDE, GOW). Black Vulture: 7 Jul (1) Erwin (GWS). **NORTHERN HARRIER:** 15 Jun (1) near ELI (Richard Hegler, MD). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1-2 through period WatL (GDE); 1 irregular in ELI (Harry L. Farthing). Wild Turkey: good nesting results on Holston Mountain near South Holston Lake (*vide* TWRA personnel). Black-billed Cuckoo: 8 Jun (1) Iron Mountain Gap (Glen W. Swafford, MD).

Flycatcher-Shrike: Willow Flycatcher: 5 singing birds located in Carter, Sullivan, and Johnson Counties (RL, GDE, RLK). Alder Flycatcher: 1 Jun-mid Jul (minimum 7 singing males) RNM above 5000 ft. (RLK *et al.*). Olive-sided Flycatcher: 7 Jun (1) North Carolina side of state line, 1 mi. W of Newfound Gap, GSNMP (CPN). Purple Martin: "the best nesting season in several years" (GDE). Cliff Swallow: 14 Jul (3-7 young birds) WatL (GDE). Common Raven: 12 Jun, 9 Jul (1-3) Siam Valley, low elevation (GOW). Black-capped Chickadee: 2 Jul (2) CLD (RLK). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 Jul (10+) CLD (RLK); none reported from RNM. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 Jul (12, including y being fed) CLD (RLK). Loggerhead Shrike: no reports.

Vireo-Sparrow: Warbling Vireo: 2 Jun (1 pair) ELI, 26 Jun (1 pair) Bluff City (GDE *et al.*). Swainson's Warbler: 7 Jun (1 singing) Shady Valley (RLK). Summer Tanager: 5 Jun (1) Blountville (Helenhill Dove), only report. Blue Grosbeak: at least 8 singing males in ELI area (GDE, RLK, RL). Vesper Sparrow: 12 Jun (1) Round Bald, RNM (RLK). Grasshopper Sparrow: reported from 5 locations in ELI area (RLK, Richard Clarke).

Locations: ELI — Elizabethton; CLD — Clingman's Dome, Great Smoky Mountains Nat. Park; RNM — Roan Mountain; WatL — Watauga Lake.

GLEN D. ELLER, Route 9, Box 1340, Elizabethton, TN 37643.

OBSERVERS

- DPB—Diane P. Bean
 SDB—Sandra D. Bivens
 DWB—Donald W. Blunk
 BBC—Ben B. Coffey, Jr.
 LCC—Lula C. Coffey
 DTC—Dot T. Crawford
 JPC—J. Paul Crawford
 MD—Martha Dillenbeck
 CGD—C. Gerald Drewry
 KHD—Kenneth H. Dubke
 LHD—Lillian H. Dubke
 SCF—Sue C. Ferguson
 RPF—Robert P. Ford
 LJF—Linda J. Fowler
 SG—Sally Goodin
 KAG—Katherine A. Goodpasture
 RG—Randy Gray
 PBH—Paul B. Hamel
 PCH—Paul C. Harris
 PDH—Paul D. Hartigan
 RJH—R. John Henderson
 ALH—Anne L. Hettish
 ARH—Audrey R. Hoff
 JCH—Joseph C. Howell
 DRJ—Daniel R. Jacobson
 WKJ—Wesley K. James
 RLK—Richard L. Knight
 RL—Richard Lewis
 ARL—Anne R. Lochridge
 RVM—Ruth V. McMillan
 m. ob.—many observers
 RJM—Rocky J. Milburn
 CPN—Charles P. Nicholson
 HEP—Henry E. Parmer
 BPP—Burline P. Pullin
 PDR—Peter D. Robinson
 ELR—Erma L. Rogers
 DJS—Damien J. Simbeck
 RWS—Richard W. Simmers, Jr.
 AIS—Arlo I. Smith
 BHS—Barbara H. Stedman
 SJS—Stephen J. Stedman
 RCS—Randy C. Stringer
 ATT—Ann T. Tarbell
 DFV—David F. Vogt
 MGW—Martha G. Waldron
 GOW—Gary O. Wallace
 JRW—Jeff R. Wilson
 TJW—Terry J. Witt
 LHTOS—Lee R. Herndon Chapter,
 TOS

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