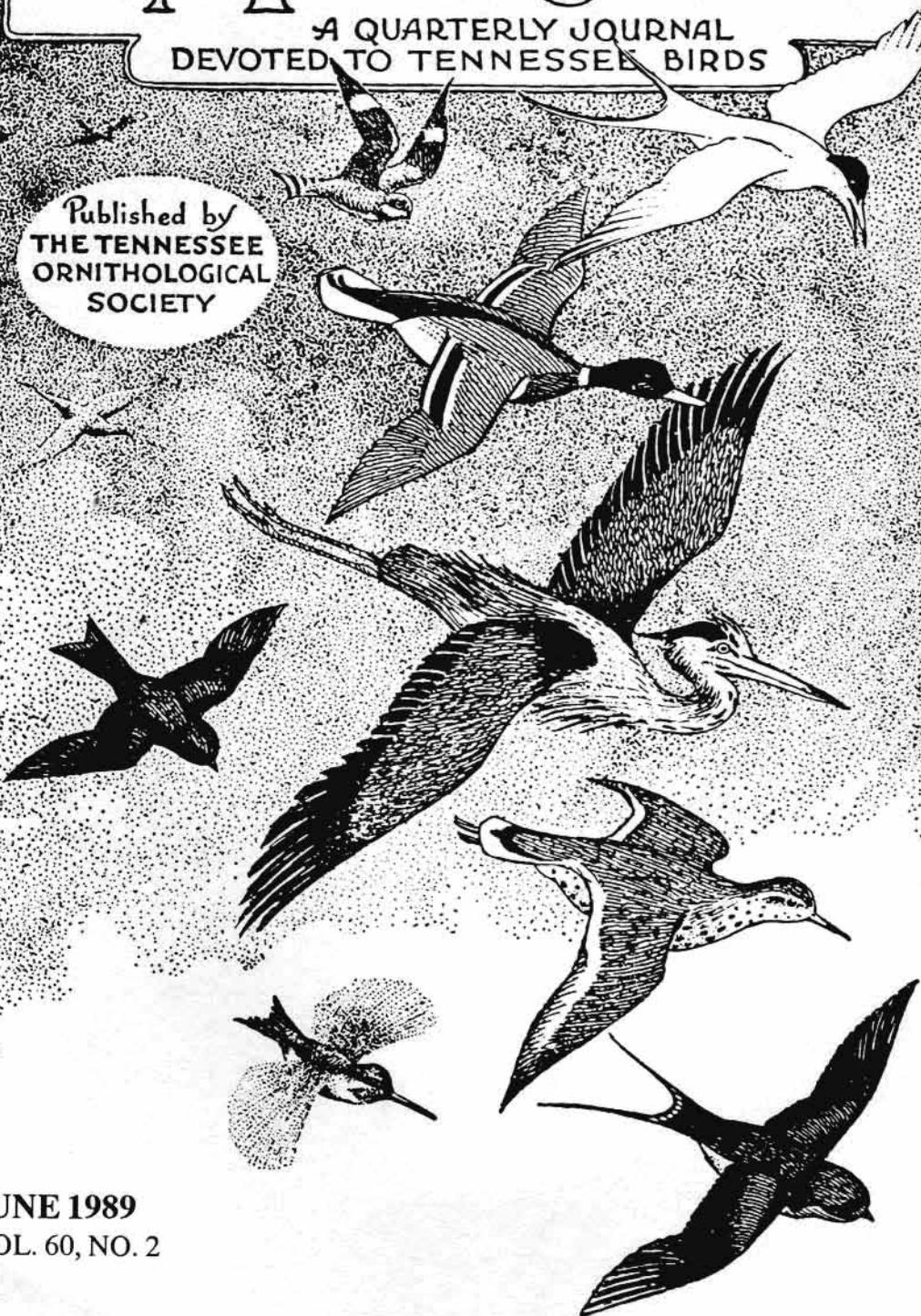


# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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## REELFOOT LAKE, TENNESSEE: SUMMER AND EARLY FALL BIRD OCCURRENCE, 1987

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In the early 1900's, bird species lists based on a season's study at Reelfoot Lake were occasionally published (e.g., Crook 1935, Ganier 1933, Pindar 1889, Whittemore 1937). However, recent records of summer bird life at Reelfoot have been published sporadically and are generally based on isolated, individual observations (e.g., Waldron 1987a). Pitts (1985) and work on the Tennessee Breeding Bird Atlas Project have recently provided more complete listings, although these were based on only a few visits during the breeding season. The purposes of this paper are to provide a list of birds found at Reelfoot Lake during summer and early fall of 1987, and to document relative abundance of each species. This information will permit a comparison with birds noted there during the early 1900's, and will provide baseline ecological data for future comparisons.

### STUDY AREA

Reelfoot Lake lies in Lake and Obion Counties in northwest Tennessee. Some adjacent wetlands lie in Fulton County in southwest Kentucky. The lake was formed by a series of earthquakes on the New Madrid fault during the winter of 1811-1812. Presently, approximately 10,000 ha of the lake and surrounding forest are in government ownership. The lake is managed by three governmental agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), and the Tennessee Department of Conservation (TDOC).

Of the 10,000 ha encompassing Reelfoot Lake, approximately 5600 are open water. The remainder is bottomland hardwood forest, swamp forest and marsh. Dominant canopy species present in forested communities are typical of lower Mississippi River Valley wetlands. These species include baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*), swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styracifolia*), hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), and cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). Early botanical investigations of the area include Hazard (1933), Davis (1937), and Gersbacher and Norton (1939). The most recent botanical survey was by Guthrie (1987). Surrounding private land use is predominantly agricultural production.

## METHODS

I made 68 trips onto the lake and into the surrounding forests from 11 June to 13 September 1987. Trips were made during all types of weather conditions, from approximately 0730 to 1300 CST. However, incidental observations were made at all hours. Forty-one (60%) of the trips were on pontoon boats along the Reelfoot Lake State Park boat routes; the boats departed from the Ellington Assembly Hall boat dock, travelled across the east end of Blue Basin, through Willow Bar Cutoff into Lost Pond, through Donaldson Ditch, along the southwest edge of Caney Island and Green Island, and returned to Ellington Hall. During the boat trips the boat engine was running most of the time; the noise of the engine may have prevented me from detecting some individuals. Although the boat roads cover a diversity of habitat types, most of the habitat covered is open water or open baldcypress forest. Most other areas of the lake were visited by boat and/or foot on the remaining 27 trips. These areas included marsh, bottomland hardwood and swamp forests, open water and edge habitats. An average of four days per week was spent in the field, ranging from two days per week (occurred twice) to six days per week (occurred twice). The trips were distributed monthly as follows: June — 14; July — 20; August — 17; September — 17.

During trips, bird species and numbers of individuals were constantly recorded on a checklist. Extremely high numbers of individuals and mobility of some species (e.g., flocking swallows) made counts unreliable on some trips. On these occasions, species were noted only as present or absent. During compilation of data, these notes were not included in the total number of individuals or the average number of individuals per trip, but they were included in the number of trips observed. Daily listing provided an accurate portrayal of species occurrence over an extended period of time, a crude index of relative abundance of common species, and occurrence of rare species.

## RESULTS

More than 11,000 individuals of 88 bird species were observed (Appendix 1). Thirty-six species were summer residents, 34 were permanent residents, 10 were winter residents, and 8 were transients (residency status follows Waldron 1987b; Pitts unpublished). The most common orders represented were Passeriformes (39 species), Charadriiformes (9 species), Ciconiiformes (7 species), Falconiformes (7 species), and Piciformes (6 species).

Seven species were represented by more than 400 individuals during the course of the study, ranging from 405 Purple Martins (scientific names in Appendix 1) to 1864 Great Blue Herons. Because of repetition of counts on boat routes, individuals of some species were undoubtedly counted twice. Totals, therefore, reflect the same individual for some species (e.g. Osprey), and average per trip is a more accurate indicator of abundance. Six species were recorded on 60 or more trips, ranging from Red-bellied Woodpecker on 60 trips to Common Grackle, American Crow, and Great Blue Heron on 65 trips. Five species were recorded only once during the course of the study. This information is summarized in Table 1.

## DISCUSSION

Reelfoot Lake has long been subject to ornithological investigation, with all observers listing a relatively high species richness. Pindar (1889) was perhaps the first to compile a species list for the area, listing 183 species for all seasons.

Table 1. Bird species with over 400 total individuals recorded, bird species seen on 60 or more trips and bird species seen only once on Reelfoot Lake, 1987.

Species		Species		Species
>400 individuals		Seen >60 trips		Seen once
Great Blue Heron	1864	Great Blue Heron	65	Black-crowned Night-Heron
Tree Swallow	863	American Crow	65	Green-winged Teal
Wood Duck	674	Common Grackle	65	King Rail
Common Grackle	644	Red-winged Blackbird	63	Broad-winged Hawk
Red-winged Blackbird	630	Carolina Wren	62	Brown Creeper
Rough-winged Swallow	415	Red-bellied Woodpecker	60	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Purple Martin	405			

Whittemore's (1937) summer study listed 116 species. More recently, Pitts (1985) compiled the Tennessee Ornithological Society's 1984 foray results. These observers listed 154 species on one May and one June weekend. I listed 88 species in my study (Appendix 1).

There are two logistical reasons for my study showing such a low number of species. First, all other authors include species found in habitats surrounding the lake, (e.g., Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) and Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*)). I did not include records of species seen off the lake. Second, others have concentrated more effort towards interior forest species. Because of the amount of time I spent on the boat routes, my records show a disproportionate occurrence of open water or edge species as compared to interior forest species.

I have grouped species into four categories for discussion. These are: (1) common and expected species; (2) "neglected" species; (3) species with unexpected occurrences (by date); and (4) rare species (i.e., state or federally endangered). Pitts (1985) made a thorough comparison of the 1984 foray results with the results of Pindar (1889) and Whittemore (1937); therefore, I will not.

#### *Common and expected species*

Great Blue Herons are one of the most abundant species on the lake and certainly the most abundant Ciconiiform. Individuals commonly feed from exposed or submerged stumps. The heronry at Reelfoot Lake (Pitts 1982) is increasing in size every year (James Cox, Park Ranger, Reelfoot Lake State Park, pers. comm.). I visited the heronry on 26 June 1987. During my stay at least 11 (eleven) fish were regurgitated by birds in the colony. Seven of the fish were shad, three were crappie, and one was unidentified.

By the end of June many of the young fledged and began foraging with adults in Blue Basin. Numbers of individuals on Blue Basin gradually increased through the summer. I made counts with a 20x scope of Great Blue Herons on Blue Basin and found 128 on 26 July, 122 on 2 August, 224 on 23 August, 113 on 29 August, and 213 on 6 September. Other common species occurring at Reelfoot are listed in Table 1 (>400 individuals).

*Neglected species*

At least 17 species were under-represented in this study, encompassing six species of rails and 11 species of interior forest residents and migrants. Both groups were neglected because of logistical constraints. Although I was often in the right habitat, time did not allow for extensive searches. American Coots were observed on several dates in June and July around Forked Pond and Willow Bar Cutoff. In July, I observed on juvenile foraging with an adult. King Rails were observed on one date only, 15 September. Pitts (1985) emphasized the need for more study on all rail species found at Reelfoot Lake. Interior forest species were neglected as well. Most time spent birding in the interior forest was well after breeding season, when most species were quiet. Little time was spent in the interior forest during fall migration.

*Species on unexpected dates*

Six species occurred on unexpected dates. These were Common Tern, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Brown Creeper, Northern Harrier, and Double-crested Cormorant. Common Terns are fairly common transients in northwest Tennessee (Pitts unpublished). Five individuals were observed on 27 June. Prior to this observation, the latest early summer observation in west Tennessee was 3 June (Martha Waldron, pers. comm.). Ring-billed and Herring Gull observations in August were also unexpected. One Ring-billed Gull was observed on 23 August and 2 Herring Gulls were seen on 19 August. Both species are winter residents, typically arriving in Tennessee in October.

I observed one Brown Creeper in Old Cranetown on 11 June. This species is increasing its range in the Mississippi River Valley (Peterjohn 1985). One breeding record (Chriswell 1979) and several nesting season records (Ford 1987a) have occurred in west Tennessee the last few years. However, breeding season status of this species in west Tennessee remains unclear. One Northern Harrier was observed by Wally Cook and Charles Gagen on 7 July. This may be the only July record for this species in west Tennessee.

Double-crested Cormorants once nested commonly at Reelfoot Lake (Whittemore 1937). The last known nest was in 1960 in Old Cranetown (TWRA file "Reelfoot Lake"). In 1987 one cormorant was observed by TWRA personnel at Big Ronaldson Slough on 15 June. One other observation of possibly nesting individuals was on 27 June in Upper Blue Basin (Ford 1987b).

*Rare species*

Three species that are designated as either state (Tennessee) or federally endangered were observed. These are Least Tern (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1985), Bald Eagle (federally endangered), and Mississippi Kite (state endangered). Least Terns nest on exposed sandbars in the Mississippi River. Open water areas of Reelfoot Lake were an important feeding area throughout the summer. I observed them on 47 of 68 trips, with a high count of 21 individuals on 2 August. During August, adults and young were observed on the lake on all but two days. None were seen on the lake in September.

Bald Eagles nested at Reelfoot Lake until 1960. Since that time the species has suffered population declines nationwide. The TWRA began a hacking project at Reelfoot Lake in 1981. In 1987, one adult was observed at Caney Island on 9 and 14 August and again on 15 September. One immature, thought to be a three-year old, was observed at the hacking towers on 15 August (Paul Harris, pers. comm.).

Sixteen Mississippi Kites were seen on 11 trips from 18 June to 30 August. All observations involved birds soaring or actively foraging from tree top level.

Other species observed that are listed by Eagar and Hatcher (undated) as threatened, in need of management, or of special concern are: Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Anhinga, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Cattle Egret, Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Harrier, American Coot, Fish Crow, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Swainson's Warbler.

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Appendix 1. Bird species occurrence on Reelfoot Lake based on 68 trips from June 11 through September 30, 1987, including number of trips observed, total number of individuals, average number per trip, and residency status.

Species	Number of trips <sup>1</sup>	Total individuals <sup>2</sup>	Average per trip <sup>3</sup>	Inclusive dates (status) <sup>4</sup>
Pied-billed Grebe ( <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> )	2	2	.03	8/10, 9/25 (PR)
Double-crested Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i> )	31	155	2.28	6/15–9/30 (T)
Anhinga ( <i>Anhinga anhinga</i> )	5	8	.21	6/18–7/2 (SR)
Great Blue Heron ( <i>Ardea herodias</i> )	65	1864	27.41	6/11–9/30 (PR)
Great Egret ( <i>Casmerodius albus</i> )	37	127	1.87	6/11–9/30 (SR)
Little Blue Heron ( <i>Egretta caerulea</i> )	23	52	.76	6/11–9/4 (SR)
Cattle Egret ( <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> )	3	48	.71	7/25, 8/1, 9/13 (SR)
Green-backed Heron ( <i>Butorides striatus</i> )	24	62	.91	6/21–9/16 (SR)
Black-crowned Night-Heron ( <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> )	1	1	.01	9/11 (SR)
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron ( <i>Nycticorax violaceus</i> )	5	6	.09	6/15–9/13 (SR)
Wood Duck ( <i>Aix sponsa</i> )	53	674	9.92	6/12–9/30 (PR)
Green-winged Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> )	2	4	.01	9/12, 9/13 (WR)
Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> )	56	317	4.66	6/11–7/30 (PR)
Blue-winged Teal ( <i>Anas discors</i> )	9	166	2.44	8/9–9/30 (WR)
Gadwall ( <i>Anas strepera</i> )	2	22	.32	9/3–9/13 (WR)
American Wigeon ( <i>Anas americana</i> )	1	18	.26	9/25 (WR)
Osprey ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> )	24	60	.88	6/20–9/30 (SR)
Mississippi Kite ( <i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i> )	11	16	.24	6/18–8/30 (SR)
Bald Eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> )	4	4	.06	8/9–9/15 (WR)
Northern Harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> )	1	1	.01	6/18 (WR)
Red-shouldered Hawk ( <i>Buteo lineatus</i> )	34	46	.68	6/16–9/25 (PR)
Broad-winged Hawk ( <i>Buteo Platyterus</i> )	1	1	.01	8/13 (SR)

## Appendix 1. Continued

Species	Number of trips	Total individuals	Average per trip	Inclusive dates (status)
Red-tailed Hawk ( <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> )	3	4	.06	6/19–8/31 (PR)
Wild Turkey ( <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i> )	3	8	.12	6/9–7/2 (PR)
King Rail ( <i>Rallus elegans</i> )	1	1	.01	9/15 (SR)
American Coot ( <i>Fulica americana</i> )	18	52	.76	6/19–9/30 (PR)
Killdeer ( <i>Charadrius vociferus</i> )	12	55	.81	6/11–9/13 (PR)
American Woodcock ( <i>Scolopax minor</i> )	2	3	.04	9/3–9/15 (PR)
Ring-billed Gull ( <i>Larus delawarensis</i> )	3	12	.18	8/23–9/19 (WR)
Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> )	1	2	.03	8/19 (WR)
Caspian Tern ( <i>Sterna caspia</i> )	10	17	.25	8/9–9/30 (T)
Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> )	3	13	.19	6/27, 8/8, 8/9 (T)
Forster's Tern ( <i>Sterna forsteri</i> )	6	25	.37	8/14–9/25 (T)
Least Tern ( <i>Sterna antillarum</i> )	47	133	.96	6/11–8/30 (SR)
Black Tern ( <i>Childonias niger</i> )	10	58	.85	7/23–8/23 (T)
Mourning Dove ( <i>Zenaida macroura</i> )	20	62	.91	6/11–9/15 (PR)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo ( <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> )	41	70	1.03	6/11–9/15 (SR)
Great Horned Owl ( <i>Bubo virginianus</i> )	3	5	.07	9/13–9/20 (PR)
Barred Owl ( <i>Strix varia</i> )	25	48	.71	6/11–9/16 (PR)
Chimney Swift ( <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> )	25	92	1.35	6/11–9/15 (SR)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird ( <i>Archilochus colubris</i> )	35	45	.66	6/11–9/15 (SR)
Belted Kingfisher ( <i>Ceryle alcyon</i> )	40	84	1.24	6/11–9/30 (PR)
Red-headed Woodpecker ( <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> )	33	64	.94	6/16–9/13 (PR)
Red-bellied Woodpecker ( <i>Melanerpes carolinus</i> )	60	171	2.51	6/11–9/23 (PR)
Downy Woodpecker ( <i>Picoides pubescens</i> )	55	201	3.01	6/11–9/25 (PR)
Hairy Woodpecker ( <i>Picoides villosus</i> )	8	7	.10	7/26–9/13 (PR)

## Appendix 1. Continued

Species	Number of trips	Total individuals	Average per trip	Inclusive dates (status)
Northern Flicker ( <i>Colaptes auratus</i> )	8	8	.12	7/1-9/25 (PR)
Pileated Woodpecker ( <i>Dryocopus pileatus</i> )	52	108	1.59	6/11-9/30 (PR)
Eastern Wood-pewee ( <i>Contopus virens</i> )	53	92	1.35	6/15-9/24 (SR)
Acadian Flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax virescens</i> )	44	109	1.60	6/11-9/25 (SR)
Great Crested Flycatcher ( <i>Myiarchus crinitus</i> )	29	75	1.10	6/11-9/13 (SR)
Eastern Kingbird ( <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i> )	6	10	.15	6/16-7/19 (SR)
Purple Martin ( <i>Progne subis</i> )	40	405	5.96	6/11-8/30 (SR)
Tree Swallow ( <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i> )	34	863	12.69	6/20-9/30 (SR)
Northern Rough-winged Swallow ( <i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i> )	37	415	6.10	6/27-9/25 (SR)
Barn Swallow ( <i>Hirundo rustica</i> )	51	272	4.00	6/11-9/25 (SR)
Blue Jay ( <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i> )	55	125	1.84	6/11-9/30 (PR)
American Crow ( <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> )	65	205	3.01	6/11-9/30 (PR)
Fish Crow ( <i>Corvus ossifragus</i> )	14	35	.51	6/11-9/30 (PR)
Carolina Chickadee ( <i>Parus carolinensis</i> )	56	174	2.56	6/11-9/30 (PR)
Tufted Titmouse ( <i>Parus bicolor</i> )	58	197	2.90	6/11-9/25 (PR)
Red-breasted Nuthatch ( <i>Sitta canadensis</i> )	1	1	.01	9/30 (WR)
White-breasted Nuthatch ( <i>Sitta carolinensis</i> )	24	27	.40	6/11-9/25 (PR)
Brown Creeper ( <i>Certhia familiaris</i> )	1	1	.01	6/11 (WR)
Carolina Wren ( <i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i> )	62	219	3.22	6/11-9/30 (PR)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher ( <i>Polioptila caerulea</i> )	41	130	1.91	6/11-9/13 (SR)
European Starling ( <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> )	24	167	2.46	6/12-9/13 (PR)
White-eyed Vireo ( <i>Vireo griseus</i> )	26	62	.91	6/11-9/16 (SR)
Yellow-throated Vireo ( <i>Vireo flavifrons</i> )	2	2	.03	6/19-7/3 (SR)
Red-eyed Vireo ( <i>Vireo olivaceus</i> )	16	25	.37	6/12-9/12 (SR)

## Appendix 1. Continued

Species	Number of trips	Total individuals	Average per trip	Inclusive dates (status)
Northern Parula ( <i>Parula americana</i> )	14	27	.40	6/11–9/30 (SR)
Black-throated Green Warbler ( <i>Dendroica virens</i> )	1	1	.01	9/12 (T)
Yellow-throated Warbler ( <i>Dendroica dominica</i> )	28	57	.84	6/11–8/10 (SR)
Cerulean Warbler ( <i>Dendroica cerulea</i> )	1	2	.03	6/19 (SR)
Black-and-White Warbler ( <i>Mniotilta varia</i> )	1	1	.01	8/30 (T)
American Redstart ( <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i> )	1	1	.01	6/19 (SR)
Prothonotary Warbler ( <i>Prothonotaria citrea</i> )	43	139	1.91	6/11–9/13 (SR)
Swainson's Warbler ( <i>Limnithlypis swainsonii</i> )	1	1	.01	7/3 (SR)
Louisiana Waterthrush ( <i>Seiurus motacilla</i> )	3	3	.04	6/16–7/21 (SR)
Common Yellowthroat ( <i>Geothlypis trichas</i> )	29	92	1.35	6/13–9/13 (SR)
Summer Tanager ( <i>Piranga rubra</i> )	28	46	.68	6/11–9/13 (SR)
Northern Cardinal ( <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i> )	59	356	5.23	6/11–9/25 (PR)
Indigo Bunting ( <i>Passerina cyanea</i> )	34	105	1.54	6/11–9/14 (SR)
Red-winged Blackbird ( <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> )	63	630	9.26	6/11–9/30 (PR)
Common Grackle ( <i>Quiscalus quiscula</i> )	65	644	9.41	6/11–9/30 (PR)
Brown-headed Cowbird ( <i>Molothrus ater</i> )	55	137	2.01	6/11–9/11 (PR)
American Goldfinch ( <i>Carduelis tristis</i> )	33	127	1.87	6/11–9/15 (PR)
House Sparrow ( <i>Passer domesticus</i> )	18	107	1.57	6/12–9/13 (PR)

1. Number of trips the species was observed out of a total of 68 trips.
2. Total number of individuals is totaled over all trips.
3. Average is total number of individuals divided by total number of trips.
4. Inclusive dates are those dates the species was first and last seen. Status denotes residency, taken from Waldron (1987) and Pitts (unpublished). Codes are as follows:
  - PR — Permanent resident
  - SR — Summer resident
  - WR — Winter resident
  - T — Transient

## 1989 SPRING FIELD DAYS

DAMIEN J. SIMBECK

Nine counts were conducted across Tennessee, tallying a total of 199 species. As usual, the counts varied from single to multiple day counts and single to multiple county areas. Therefore, little comparison can be made from count to count. Most notable this year were Laughing Gull and Red-cockaded Woodpecker at Chattanooga, the latter being found on a special field trip to Polk county during the TOS spring meeting. Also notable were American Bittern on 2 counts, Barn-Owl on 3, Least Flycatcher, Bewick's Wren on 2, and all species of vireos and warblers, including 2 counts with Connecticut and 2 with Swainson's. Unfortunately, the trend of reporting unusual species without details continues. The best example this year is the report of Long-billed Dowitchers on two counts without so much as a note.

Several counts from 1988 were received too late to be included in last year's report. These counts add three species to last year's totals. They are indicated by an "8" in the count name. As usual, the counts are tallied from west to east.

### INFORMATION ON THE COUNTS

MEMPHIS — 30 April; 0700-2000; partly cloudy to overcast; wind S 10-20 mph; temp 65-80 F; Shelby Forest S.P. in A.M., Penal Farm, Ensley and Robco Lake in P.M. 29 observers, Martha Waldron (compiler — 1626 Yorkshire Dr., Memphis 38119). Dowitchers reported as Long-billed (1), Short-billed (2), but no details on Long-billed submitted.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY 1988 — 7-8 May; mainly A.M.; clear; temp 60-80 F; 6 observers, Michael Dinsmore, Mayme Dinsmore, Annie Heilman, John Quick (compiler — Rt. 1 Box 114B, Cunningham 37052), David Snyder, Ellen Walker.

COLUMBIA — 28-29 April; partly cloudy; wind var. SW 0-10 mph; temp 60-90 F; 13 observers, Daniel Gray Jr., George (compiler — 999 Sunnyside Dr., Columbia 38401) and Cleo Mayfield, William Jernigan, Allen and Dianne Pressnell, Brad and Lloydina Hammond, Jane Oakes, Allyn Lay, Karen Stephens, Anne and Bedford Lochridge.

MURFREESBORO — 29-30 April; Saturday — partly cloudy; temp 65-80 F; Sunday — rain in P.M.; temp 60-75 F; 22 hours, 188 miles; 11 observers, Josephine Candrell, Bertha Chrietzberg, C.E. Greever, Edith Hayes, Anne (compiler — Murfreesboro) and Bob Hettish, Richard and Wilma Hunter, Gene and Ruth Odom, John Patten.

MURFREESBORO 1988 — 7-8 May; wind 5-8 mph, temp 75-83 F; 32 hours, 269 miles (35 miles by boat); 17 observers, Bertha and Jim Chrietzberg, Bill and Lou Erwin, C.E. Greever, Edith Hayes, Anne (compiler) and Bob Hettish, Richard and Wilma Hunter, David McCarroll, Pat McCauley, Gene and Ruth Odom, John Patten, Alberta Spence, Terry Witt.

LEBANON — 29-30 April; 0530-2100; partly cloudy; temp 65-83 F; 208 miles by car, 2 on foot, 1 hour owling; 10 observers, E.C. and V.C. Berry, Frank and Norma Crawford and Ruth (compiler — Rt. 2, Box 141, Lascassas 37085) McMillan, Kay and Larry Norris, Ann Reese, Jo Rook.

Good details for Least Flycatcher.

LEBANON 1988 — 7-8 May; clear; temp 50-83 F; 12.5 hours; 12 observers in 6 parties; Earline and Vernon Berry, Jean Callis, Carolyn Evans, Mildred Gaston, Tim Gorman, Kay and Larry Norris, Ruth McMillan (compiler), Ray Pope, Anne Reese, Melissa Tucker.

Good details for Common Barn-Owl and Swainson's Warbler.

HIGHLAND RIM — 29 April; partly cloudy with some rain; temp 67-75 F; 47.5+ hours, 415+ miles by car, 20+ miles on foot; 17 observers, Nicky Medley (compiler — Rt. 2, Box 173B, Hillsboro 37342).

Good details for Connecticut Warbler. DOWITCHERS were reported as Long-billeds, but no details submitted.

CHATTANOOGA (1989 TOS Spring Meeting) — 6-7 May; Ken Dubke (compiler — 8139 Roy Lane, Ooltewah 37363).

CHATTANOOGA 1988 — 7 May; 0600-1900; clear; 22.5 hours, 100 miles by car, 20 on foot; 14 observers, Ralph Brown, Bob Crawford (co-compiler — P.O. Box 613, Hixson 37343), Linda Collins, Kenton Dickerson, Ken (co-compiler) and Lil Dubke, Gertrude Fleming, Al Jenkins, Ross Kinderman, Barbara and Mike McMahan, David and Tom Patton, Charlie Tucker.

KNOXVILLE — 30 May; clear with P.M. thunderstorms; temp 57-84 F; 84 hours, 297 miles by car, 46 on foot; 26 observers, Jane Beintema, Jim and Betty Reid Campbell, Howard Chitwood, Marcia Davis, Louise Fuller, Robert Hall, Ron (compiler — 4523 McCloud Rd., Knoxville 37938) and Audrey Hoff, Susan Hoyle, Tony Koella, Beth Lacy, Bill and Alison McNutt, Gay Norton, Chuck Nicholson, Holly Overton, Truett Patterson, Don Powers, Mark Reeves, Martha Rudolph, Michael Ryon, Boyd Sharp, Jim Tanner, Craig Walker, Ralph Zaenglein.

GREENEVILLE-29 April; 0600-2130; cloudy with rain; wind SW 5-13 mph; temp 54-79 F; 25.75 hours by car, 25.25 on foot, 4 by boat, .75 owling and 12 at feeders, 389 miles by car, 12.25 on foot, 4 by boat and .5 owling. 19 observers, Ben, Mark, Orland and Phine Britton, Justino Carlos, Margaret Gaut, Juanita and Leonard Heckert, Don and Jim (compiler — 311 Colonial Circle, Greeneville 37743) Holt, Cindi Jones, Richard and Willie Ruth Nevius, Daniel Nieves, Joanne and Larry Routledge, Helen and Royal Spees, Virginia Williams.

GREENEVILLE 1988 — 16 April; 0730-0830; mostly to partly cloudy; wind SW 5-10 mph; temp 47-65 F; 42 hours by car, 12 on foot, 2.25 by boat, and 19.75 at feeders, 202 miles by car, 15 on foot, 4 by boat. 26 observers, Orland and Phine (compiler — 1750 Gott Dr., Greeneville 37743) Britton, Tio and Violet Carlos, Marjorie Earnest, King and Margaret Gaut, Juanita and Lenard Heckert, Jim Holt, Rena Johnson, Dan and Kay Nieves, Richard and Willie Ruth Nevius, Linda and Roy Northrop, Doug Ratledge, Jo Ann and Larry Routledge, Fred Simpson, Helen and Royal Spees, George and Jean Weaver, Virginia Williams.

ELIZABETHTON — 29 April; 0330-2130; cloudy, with inter rain; temp 59-71 F; 72 hours; 17 observers, Cat Bireley, Janet Brown, Linda Campbell, Brian Cross, Hal and Martha Dillenbeck, Elizabeth Funkhouser, Sally Goodin, Rick Knight (compiler — 804 N. Hills Dr., Johnson City 37604), Richard Lewis, Dick Lura, John Martin, Perry McDormond, Lynn Ray, Glenn Swofford, Gary Wallace, Frank Ward.

Good details for Olive-sided Flycatcher.

TABLE 1. 1989 Spring Counts

	Memp	Mon8	Colu	Murf	Murf8	Leba	Leb8	High	Chat	Cha8	Knox	Gree	Gre8	Eliz
Common Loon	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Pied-billed Grebe	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Double-cr. Cormorant	34	—	—	—	—	—	36	30	1	1	7	—	—	—
American Bittern	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Blue Heron	36	2	6	2	—	1	14	41	13	24	10	3	1	2
Great Egret	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Snowy Egret	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Little Blue Heron	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cattle Egret	15	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Green-backed Heron	5	5	12	8	15	2	12	2	8	2	3	8	3	10
Black-cr. Night-Heron	—	1	1	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Yellow-cr. Night-Heron	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
Snow Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Canada Goose	—	—	108	52	32	5	50	42	112	40	13	50	64	44
Wood Duck	17	3	15	6	4	—	12	17	3	4	13	43	—	50
Green-winged Teal	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Black Duck	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	6	—
Mallard	10	—	4	1	2	—	2	7	8	15	—	12	19	29
Blue-winged Teal	24	—	29	—	3	—	7	7	—	—	—	2	2	4
Gadwall	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ring-necked Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hooded Merganser	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-br. Merganser	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	6
Ruddy Duck	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Black Vulture	—	—	62	11	40	5	19	21	5	21	—	25	1	—
Turkey Vulture	—	6	25	4	15	23	33	28	20	8	7	20	76	8
Osprey	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	—	1	3	2
Mississippi Kite	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bald Eagle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Northern Harrier	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Sharp-shinned Hawk	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	1	6	—
Cooper's Hawk	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	4	—
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	4	2	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	2	—	—	—
Broad-winged Hawk	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	8	—	3	4
Red-tailed Hawk	8	7	7	12	20	6	6	10	1	2	5	3	7	3
American Kestrel	2	3	22	22	31	5	9	7	1	1	3	12	9	7
Ruffed Grouse	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	5
Wild Turkey	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Bobwhite	4	12	43	13	124	13	16	13	1	17	39	32	26	14
Virginia Rail	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sora	4	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
American Coot	4	—	3	—	4	—	3	6	1	50	22	—	—	2
Semipalmated Plover	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Killdeer	47	14	57	25	38	40	22	25	2	5	22	28	20	30
Greater Yellowlegs	4	3	3	—	3	—	2	10	1	—	—	—	2	—
Lesser Yellowlegs	83	—	16	2	5	2	1	25	1	—	—	—	—	1
Solitary Sandpiper	65	1	28	10	10	1	10	4	3	3	5	14	1	14
Spotted Sandpiper	3	5	2	10	9	—	14	8	9	1	2	5	—	9
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Least Sandpiper	110	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	8	—	1	—	1	—
Pectoral Sandpiper	420	2	10	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stilt Sandpiper	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
dowitcher sp.	3*	—	—	—	—	—	—	15*	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Snipe	13	—	5	—	—	—	2	5	1	—	7	2	—	5
American Woodcock	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Laughing Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1*	—	—	—	—	—
Ring-billed Gull	3	—	—	—	—	2	23	3	15	12	14	—	—	23
Herring Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forster's Tern	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Rock Dove	12	69	10	14	90	5	32	139	4	4	240	58	52	85

TABLE 1. 1989 Spring Counts, Continued

	Memp	Mon8	Colu	Murf	Murf8	Leba	Leb8	High	Chat	Cha8	Knox	Gree	Gre8	Eliz
Mourning Dove	46	83	70	186	93	56	68	50	31	44	247	235	137	160
Black-billed Cuckoo	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	—	5	—	—
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	9	5	7	12	1	6	2	3	8	17	1	—	1
Common Barn-Owl	3	—	—	1	—	—	1*	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Eastern Screech-Owl	—	—	8	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	2	—	1	7
Great Horned Owl	—	—	4	6	4	—	2	2	—	—	16	—	—	4
Barred Owl	1	3	10	1	—	1	16	1	2	—	3	—	—	—
Common Nighthawk	—	3	8	5	27	3	26	5	1	—	—	2	—	8
Chuck-will's-widow	—	1	18	7	2	3	10	3	—	—	15	7	—	3
Whip-poor-will	—	5	14	2	2	4	4	1	—	—	—	1	—	5
Chimney Swift	41	78	65	104	117	85	202	56	130	51	200	102	49	126
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	11	4	7	3	9	4	5	6	2	2	7	3	—	8
Belted Kingfisher	2	3	8	2	6	3	9	7	5	9	11	2	9	10
Red-headed Woodpecker	21	4	22	2	1	2	2	1	2	—	—	3	—	—
Red-bellied Woodpecker	47	29	38	19	16	12	14	13	15	14	77	40	19	15
Yel-bellied Sapsucker	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Downy Woodpecker	19	9	43	11	12	7	8	10	11	8	36	28	15	24
Hairy Woodpecker	5	—	8	3	5	2	5	2	1	2	3	3	2	1
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Flicker	6	11	5	15	19	1	7	24	3	11	37	28	17	28
Pilated Woodpecker	16	7	13	1	2	1	2	5	6	8	24	30	9	17
Olive-sided Flycatcher	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1*
Eastern Wood-Pewee	24	10	9	1	15	2	28	7	3	10	6	3	—	1
Acadian Flycatcher	31	13	11	1	—	—	—	—	4	6	3	—	—	9
Least Flycatcher	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastern Phoebe	3	13	28	3	3	9	22	3	4	5	45	12	14	24
Great Crested Flycatcher	24	12	9	23	28	5	9	9	1	9	27	29	—	8
Eastern Kingbird	5	11	24	40	96	39	31	42	1	14	25	42	—	29
Horned Lark	56	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
Purple Martin	30	29	30	112	107	34	60	151	6	36	42	51	137	195
Tree Swallow	5	—	12	2	—	—	1	5	4	2	8	10	6	18
N. Rough-wng. Swallow	159	9	56	8	37	10	17	15	35	21	30	25	39	115
Bank Swallow	—	—	—	1	—	—	6	—	8	—	2	—	—	6
Cliff Swallow	—	265	—	—	—	—	—	—	127	12	—	—	—	36
Barn Swallow	73	22	29	137	170	95	79	63	90	17	78	126	84	120
Blue Jay	26	58	29	89	72	65	68	51	28	23	239	112	112	112
American Crow	5	29	39	70	90	54	44	59	37	30	165	121	161	166
Fish Crow	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Raven	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Carolina Chickadee	45	29	39	65	41	24	7	23	26	25	141	50	72	59
Tufted Titmouse	63	42	41	39	29	27	15	32	17	13	102	62	66	80
Red-breasted Nuthatch	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	4	7	—	—	—	9	10	1	15	18	3	—	8
Brown-headed Nuthatch	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
Carolina Wren	84	36	43	15	12	11	15	18	14	26	168	41	29	72
Bewick's Wren	—	—	2	2	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
House Wren	1	6	—	14	14	—	6	—	2	—	9	23	5	16
Sedge Wren	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Marsh Wren	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Golden-crowned Kinglet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	—	5	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	28	2	—	2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	55	16	89	—	8	10	6	25	33	30	86	27	1	43
Eastern Bluebird	3	40	67	58	82	79	185	64	26	17	82	61	58	43
Veery	13	2	2	—	—	—	1	11	—	—	1	—	—	2
Gray-checked Thrush	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	6	—	—	—
Swainson's Thrush	42	5	5	—	4	—	7	2	2	2	67	—	—	2
Hermit Thrush	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Wood Thrush	28	12	18	3	—	—	8	4	3	12	75	5	—	34
American Robin	43	101	214	167	258	79	86	250	29	74	386	242	166	546
Gray Catbird	15	10	15	5	23	3	7	4	11	2	19	9	1	17

TABLE 1. 1989 Spring Counts, Continued

	Memp	Mon8	Colu	Murf	Murf8	Leba	Leb8	High	Chat	Cha8	Knox	Grec	Gre8	Eliz
Northern Mockingbird	23	34	43	157	185	104	42	59	12	14	122	72	27	66
Brown Thrasher	8	14	20	31	35	38	21	31	5	8	52	43	25	19
Water Pipit	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cedar Waxwing	79	39	236	175	2	48	—	80	54	20	260	108	58	105
Loggerhead Shrike	6	2	12	8	10	15	6	7	2	—	1	4	3	1
European Starling	151	142	148	1500	1500	282	358	175	36	55	481	896	362	695
White-eyed Vireo	64	35	35	3	—	5	5	9	12	6	39	9	1	14
Solitary Vireo	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	1	18
Yellow-throated Vireo	9	3	8	2	6	—	2	1	7	8	7	—	—	5
Warbling Vireo	12	3	6	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Philadelphia Vireo	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Red-eyed Vireo	22	19	20	12	15	—	5	10	30	34	131	16	—	137
Blue-winged Warbler	2	1	12	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Golden-winged Warbler	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tennessee Warbler	100	21	31	—	—	—	1	1	13	35	33	—	—	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Nashville Warbler	3	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	7	1	—	1
Northern Parula	73	4	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	9
Yellow Warbler	2	1	35	1	14	—	6	2	1	19	15	14	1	30
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5	1	11	—	3	—	4	2	13	—	7	—	—	37
Magnolia Warbler	—	2	1	6	14	—	1	1	2	2	10	—	—	—
Cape May Warbler	—	—	2	6	—	—	2	1	9	8	20	—	—	3
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
Yellow-rumped Warbler	8	3	49	4	4	—	28	12	25	16	143	54	75	53
Black-thr. Green Warbler	7	—	14	1	3	—	2	—	9	2	23	2	—	32
Blackburnian Warbler	1	—	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	3	1	—	1
Yellow-throated Warbler	3	4	12	—	2	—	2	1	7	25	4	—	—	11
Pine Warbler	1	—	6	5	2	—	4	1	5	6	7	7	2	8
Prairie Warbler	1	11	29	—	3	9	8	3	—	—	5	—	—	1
Palm Warbler	—	—	37	10	15	—	4	6	7	—	6	—	—	3
Bay-breasted Warbler	2	1	3	—	3	—	—	1	4	4	7	—	—	1
Blackpoll Warbler	9	—	5	—	3	—	2	—	9	4	6	—	—	1
Cerulean Warbler	11	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	1
Black & White Warbler	6	—	7	4	4	—	2	1	5	2	12	1	—	25
American Redstart	17	—	14	2	3	—	—	1	6	40	7	—	—	1
Prothonotary Warbler	37	13	25	—	2	—	—	—	3	3	4	11	—	3
Worm-eating Warbler	3	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	9	—	—	7
Swainson's Warbler	3	—	—	—	—	—	1*	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Ovenbird	14	—	4	—	2	—	3	—	2	1	21	4	—	70
Northern Waterthrush	1	—	2	—	3	—	3	—	1	1	6	—	—	2
Louisiana Waterthrush	5	4	6	2	1	—	4	2	3	2	1	2	3	7
Kentucky Warbler	37	12	17	—	3	—	2	1	7	8	13	—	—	10
Connecticut Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1*	1	—	—	—	—	—
Mourning Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Common Yellowthroat	18	24	31	1	17	25	13	23	8	10	97	24	—	13
Hooded Warbler	9	1	16	1	1	—	—	—	4	7	9	3	—	44
Wilson's Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Canada Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	6	16	24	2	20	6	11	8	3	3	33	12	1	11
Summer Tanager	70	10	26	4	11	3	15	9	6	12	10	3	—	—
Scarlet Tanager	13	4	18	3	8	—	2	1	7	11	67	9	1	30
Northern Cardinal	112	149	94	121	182	91	87	89	57	29	275	129	163	182
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	23	2	16	—	6	—	6	1	3	4	50	5	—	20
Blue Grosbeak	3	6	—	—	6	4	2	8	3	6	8	2	—	1
Indigo Bunting	119	29	63	25	66	46	49	29	32	25	170	42	—	27
Painted Bunting	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dickcissel	96	15	9	—	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rufous-sided Towhee	9	44	32	20	33	25	24	17	29	23	80	39	21	85
Chipping Sparrow	10	11	17	29	22	16	7	23	31	19	46	21	36	43
Field Sparrow	2	9	30	24	22	50	48	19	16	7	80	19	26	14

TABLE 1. 1989 Spring Counts, Continued

	Memp	Mon8	Colu	Murf	Murf8	Leba	Leb8	High	Chat	Cha8	Knox	Grec	Gre8	Eliz
Vesper Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lark Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Savannah Sparrow	2	—	6	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	10	3	—	5
Grasshopper Sparrow	3	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	5	15	9	8	—	6
Fox Sparrow	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Song Sparrow	4	—	2	6	10	—	4	13	21	17	138	42	49	170
Lincoln's Sparrow	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swamp Sparrow	9	—	19	—	—	—	16	2	—	—	1	1	1	3
White-throated Sparrow	33	14	59	2	22	3	4	11	27	5	122	46	29	22
White-crowned Sparrow	19	1	6	5	5	—	—	1	3	—	4	28	23	32
Dark-eyed Junco	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	33
Bobolink	8	2	14	—	12	—	—	100	6	15	—	—	—	3
Red-winged Blackbird	192	98	130	561	2500	85	97	102	68	46	174	110	156	136
Eastern Meadowlark	40	67	75	138	113	105	104	71	6	31	66	236	147	92
Rusty Blackbird	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	17	—
Common Grackle	119	81	184	5000	3000	124	161	177	17	72	251	447	314	512
Brown-headed Cowbird	86	34	42	78	50	42	45	—	13	9	97	84	89	47
Orchard Oriole	12	10	42	78	50	42	45	—	4	7	8	15	—	16
Northern Oriole	32	1	6	—	4	2	2	1	1	1	8	2	—	17
Purple Finch	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	2	36	3
House Finch	—	7	28	23	24	—	1	23	3	5	44	44	15	31
Pine Siskin	—	6	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	34	—	—	235	—
American Goldfinch	17	67	94	88	43	58	28	94	46	35	91	99	107	270
Evening Grosbeak	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	128	—
House Sparrow	17	84	25	186	2000	28	75	70	4	17	59	63	37	78
Total Species	147	105	138	99	107	72	135	123	141	115	127	105	84	136

*The Migrant*, 60(2): 51

## SECOND RECORD OF RUFF IN TENNESSEE

MARTHA WALDRON  
1626 Yorkshire Drive  
Memphis, TN 38119

On 21 August 1988 Virginia Reynolds and I observed a female Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) in southwestern Shelby Co., Tennessee. The bird was at the T.J. Maxon Sewage Lagoons approximately 0.8 km south of the TVA Allen Steam Plant. The Ruff was observed for 30–40 minutes as it foraged among Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), Pectoral Sandpipers (*Calidris melanotos*), and Least Sandpipers (*Calidris minutilla*). We viewed the Ruff with binoculars and variable power spotting scopes from different aspects as she turned and walked back and forth 60–80 m from us. Viewing conditions were good in the bright afternoon sunlight.

The Ruff was taller than a nearby Pectoral Sandpiper; she had a "pot-belly" and did not have the streamlined look of a sandpiper. Her back was scaly with a definite outline to the feathers. Her breast was black with splotches; this color pattern extended from her neck to the white abdomen. The side of the head was rufous to buff, and the crown was rufous with a hint of an eyeline. The bill was entirely black. The leg color was fleshy to lemon yellow, not the bright yellow of the Pectoral Sandpiper or the flesh color of the Killdeer. When the Ruff dropped one wing while preening a white band was visible on the rump. The first Ruff reported from Tennessee was in East Tennessee in 1972 (*Migrant* 43:86, 1972); this is the second record of a Ruff to be accepted by the TOS Records Committee.

Accepted 16 February 1989.

## MINUTES OF THE 1989 TOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The 1989 Spring Meeting of the TOS, consisting of many interesting field trips, a board of directors meeting, and a banquet Saturday evening, was headquartered at the Ramada Inn South in Chattanooga, Tennessee on May 5-7, 1989.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Gray on May 6 at 3:10 P.M. It was determined a quorum was present with 32 directors in attendance. Copies of the minutes of the November 1988 meeting were distributed and approved as printed.

There were no reports from the Vice Presidents for East and West Tennessee. There were no reports from the DIRECTORS AT LARGE.

TREASURER George Payne reported that during the period from November 15, 1988 through May 1, 1989, income was \$11,951.79 and expenses were \$11,048.65. Current assets are \$51,770.93. Anticipated liabilities through this year's budget are \$12,450.00 leaving a capital reserve of \$39,320.93.

George reported we are down 483 memberships from last year at this time because dues envelopes have not yet been distributed. He expects this will be rectified soon — the dues envelopes have been printed and are now ready for distribution. A detailed treasurer's report was submitted and approved as printed.

CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION chairperson Ken Dubke presented a resolution supporting the passage of Morris Udall's bill to establish the American Heritage Trust Act of 1989. A motion to support this resolution was made, seconded and carried. The TOS Board of Directors recommended supporting this resolution. A complete copy is filed with the secretary.

TENNESSEE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL chairperson Ken Dubke made a motion that we continue our membership in the Council indefinitely. The motion was seconded and carried.

CURATOR James Tanner reported that income from sales of back copies of *The Migrant* during the last 12 months was \$14.00. Copies of all issues are available.

EDITOR of *The Migrant*, David Pitts, reported that Glen Eller has resigned as compiler of the season report for the Eastern Mountain Region. His replacement will be Richard Lewis of Bristol. John Robinson has resigned as Season Editor and a replacement is needed.

A three-year species index is prepared for the December 1989 issue; all of that issue except the index has been typeset.

A membership list will be published with one of the 1989 issues if possible.

Manuscripts are usually published in chronological order. Occasional exceptions may be made. Short notes may be published prior to longer manuscripts due to space restrictions.

The matter of cover colors has not been resolved with Allen Press. Bids from other printers are being considered.

David asked for help from TOS members to point out errors, suggest changes, and submit manuscripts.

The process of publication is continually being updated in an attempt to keep the dates of issuance more regular.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE chairperson Ron Hoff presented the proposed 1989 slate of officers:

President		Barbara Finney, Knoxville
Vice President (East)		J.B. Owen, Knoxville
Vice President (Middle)		Portia MacMillan, Nashville
Vice President (West)		Virginia Reynolds, Memphis
Directors at Large	(East)	Dee Eiklor, Gray
	(Middle)	Dr. David Snyder, Austin Peay
	(West)	John R. Conder, TWRA
Treasurer		George Payne, Memphis
Secretary		Nancy Tanner, Knoxville
Curator		Dr. James Tanner, Knoxville
Editor		Dr. David Pitts, Martin

It was moved that nominations be accepted by acclamation. Motion was seconded and carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE chairperson Richard Taylor was absent so President Gray read a report from him stating that all deposits and checks written against TOS for April 1988 to April 1989 have been approved. He asked that all state treasurers check the computer roster received from George Payne against their own mailing list and make necessary corrections.

President Dan Gray read a personal letter from Richard that he is retiring and moving to Texas. That will necessitate finding a new finance committee chairman. The report and the letter are filed with the secretary.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT chairman Charles Nicholson reported that the Atlas is now into the 4th year of this 5-year project. We have finished about 1/3 of the targeted blocks. Some people will be working full time this summer; but over the years there has been a steady decrease in workers — from 200 down to 120. Participation is also encouraged in ways other than field work — financial assistance and keeping lists of birds in your own yard, etc.

There are two forays this year. The first is May 26–29 in Fayetteville, Lincoln County, and the second June 23–25 in Jackson, Tennessee. Forays are an excellent way to learn how to Atlas.

The Atlas will be hiring people this summer to do 14 blocks each — paying them \$100 a block and expecting them to spend 3 days in each. Chuck welcomes block sponsorships by individuals or chapters. Negotiations are under way with UT Press to publish the Atlas.

In the 1990 session of the state legislature, we will be asking for funding of the publication through the TWRA. We will also ask for another appropriation in 1991. Plans are being made for a possible state-wide BIRD-A-THON in the spring of 1990.

TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS OR CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE chairperson Rick Knight — The bird photo file proposed at the fall meeting is in the works. Portia MacMillan will be the curator of this file, which will be located in the Nashville area. It will have a duplicate file system. The bird photo file will be available for documentation and research, but it will not be circulated for programs. Recent photos should be submitted to your regional compiler. Older photos should be sent to the Bird Records Committee or Rick Knight. Common bird and rare bird photos are needed.

PATCHES AND DECALS chairperson was absent and no report was submitted. We believe that this chairperson is moving out of state.

RARE BIRD ALERT chairperson David Chaffin reported a general lack of interest in establishing a hot line at this time (as per results from a poll conducted by the committee). They recommend we utilize Mike Bierely's existing bird alert number: 1-800-444-BIRD.

FALL SYMPOSIUM — chairperson of the papers, David Snyder, was absent and there was no report. George Mayfield is handling the accommodations for this event. He reported that the Fall Meeting will be held October 13-15, 1989 at the Ramada Inn located on I-40 at Highway 127 in Crossville. All who wish to attend should make advance reservations.

EDITOR of "Tennessee Warbler", Ann Hettish, has resigned. She was recognized for her excellent efforts and achievements.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE chairperson Audrey Hoff reported that last fall, \$150.00 was appropriated to print new membership flyers which include current dues. With that money (\$132.25) 1,150 flyers were printed. They are available for each chapter.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

President Gray presented a letter from James Mason of Knoxville objecting to the funding of John Robinson's book, BIRDS OF TENNESSEE. His objections were noted and a copy of the letter was filed with the secretary.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

President Gray read a letter from the Memphis chapter stating they would like Nashville to host the spring meeting in the hope that attendance might be improved for the 75th anniversary meeting of TOS. Nashville will consider this and respond at a later date.

Lil Dubke moved to adjourn. The meeting was dismissed at 5:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cleo Mayfield, Secretary TOS

#### TOS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The seventy-fourth annual meeting of the TOS was called to order by President Dan Gray at 7:00 P.M. on May 6, 1989 at the Ramada Inn South, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

John Henderson, president of the host chapter, Chattanooga, introduced the head table. Special guests introduced were: Dixon Merritt's (a founder of TOS) daughter Alice Merritt Gant, and his granddaughter, Alice Gant Watkins.

President Dan Gray conducted a chapter roll call. There were 107 present from 12 of our chapters. A report of the board of directors meeting followed.

TREASURER George Payne recapitulated his report as given at the Board of Directors meeting. A copy was filed with the secretary.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS project chairperson Charles Nicholson also repeated his report.

CONSERVATION/EDUCATION CHAIRMAN Ken Dubke presented a resolution approved by the Board of Directors supporting the passage of the American Heritage Trust Act of 1989. This was affirmed by the membership. A copy of the resolution is filed with the secretary.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE chairperson Ron Hoff presented the following slate of officers for 1989–90 which was previously approved by the Board of Directors:

President		Barbara Finney, Knoxville
Vice President (East)		J.B. Owen, Knoxville
Vice President (Middle)		Portia MacMillan, Nashville
Vice President (West)		Virginia Reynolds, Memphis
Directors at Large	(East)	Dee Eiklor, Gray
	(Middle)	Dr. David Snyder, Austin Peay
	(West)	John R. Conder, TWRA
Treasurer		George Payne, Memphis
Secretary		Nancy Tanner, Knoxville
Curator		Dr. James Tanner, Knoxville
Editor		Dr. David Pitts, Martin

Helen Dinkelspiel moved to accept the slate by acclamation. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

President Dan Gray turned the gavel over to the new president, Barbara Finney. Barbara thanked Dan for his loyal service and for stepping in during a difficult time.

John Henderson returned to the podium and thanked all those responsible for putting together such a successful meeting. He then introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. Richard P. Urbanek. Dr. Urbanek — a research associate in Ohio State University's Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit — presented a slide show and lecture entitled "A Study of Migratory Sandhill Cranes in Eastern America: Implications to Recovery of the Whooping Crane."

Respectfully submitted

Cleo Mayfield, Secretary.

WILSON'S PLOVER SIGHTING IN  
SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

MARTHA WALDRON  
1626 Yorkshire Drive  
Memphis, TN 38119

On 17 April 1988 Michael Hughes, Virginia Reynolds, and I simultaneously observed a Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) at the T.J. Maxson Sewage Lagoons in southwest Shelby County, Tennessee, approximately 0.8 km south of the TVA Allen Steam Plant. The bird was observed for approximately 25 minutes feeding among Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), Pectoral Sandpipers (*Calidris melanotos*), Solitary Sandpipers (*Tringa solitaria*), and Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa favipes*). The Wilson's Plover was viewed from different aspects as it turned and walked back and forth approximately 40 m from us. It was observed with a Bushnell 20-60x spotting scope, a Swarovsk 25-75x spotting scope, Swift Audubon 8x40 binoculars, and Bausch and Lomb Elite 8x42 binoculars in above average conditions in bright afternoon sunlight. The male plover was in adult breeding plumage. Its back was a light buff that partially extended up the back of the neck to the white hind-neck collar. From the side its white forehead could be seen as well as the wide back collar starting at the side of the neck and continuing across the breast. A blackish gray stripe was observed from the back of the head continuing forward below the eyes. It had a large heavy bill and its legs showed a pinkish gray color, almost flesh-toned. It was smaller than the Killdeer which was feeding within two meters.

This is the first sighting of a Wilson's Plover in west Tennessee. There have been two other sightings in the state, both near Chattanooga (*Migrant* 32:44, and *Migrant* 43:62). The first was on 22 September 1957, and the second was on 26 June 1961. Apparently the west Tennessee plover did not stay after we observed it as repeated trips to the lagoons failed to produce the bird.

Accepted 20 July 1988.

## BOOK REVIEW

ATLAS OF WINTERING NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS: An Analysis of Christmas Bird Count Data, by Terry Root. 1988. 336 p. Paperbound \$35.00, clothbound \$60.00. University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

The primary feature of this book is a series of maps showing the relative abundance in winter of many North American birds. The data were obtained from Christmas Bird Counts made in the decade 1962/63 through 1971/72. The number of individuals of each species per party hour at each location was converted to a relative number which was then plotted on a map of the 48 states and southern Canada. Two types of maps are presented. In one the relative abundance is shown like contours on a topographic map, and in the other the abundance is indicated by a diagram appearing as if the reader were viewing mountains and valleys from high above the earth. I found the first type easier to use. The maps for each of 250 species are accompanied by comments on the apparent causes of the winter distribution and a description of the wintertime behavior.

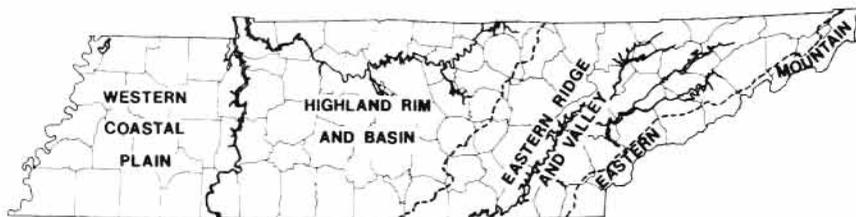
An introduction describes the history of Christmas Bird Counts and explains the methods used in preparing the maps. Additional maps in this section display information on winter climates, vegetation types, and other factors affecting bird distribution. Some of these maps are supplied also on transparent overlays which fit over the species distribution maps. Also on transparent overlays are outlines of the states and provinces and lines of latitude and longitude. One appendix supplies more information on each species, and a second contains 96 maps for additional species whose data were difficult to interpret.

The foreword states "the present publication is... an important research tool," so it is worth making some comments related to this. One shortcoming of the maps is that the method of smoothing the data resulted in a spreading-out of the range limits. This is pronounced in the maps for oceanic or salt water species — such as the Brown Pelican and Clapper Rail — where the normal range ends abruptly at the edge of salt water; the maps often show the range extending many miles inland. Using the overlay showing state boundaries, I compared the relative abundance and distribution as shown on the maps of several species with the results of my analysis of Christmas Bird Counts in Tennessee (*Migrant* 56: 85–97. 1985). For most species there was good agreement. One map, that for the Black-capped Chickadee, appears to be grossly in error. Three species (Virginia Rail, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Prairie Warbler) were shown to be present in areas where they are absent in winter or extremely rare. And on the contrary, about 10 species were shown to be absent from parts of this state where they have been regularly reported on Christmas Bird Counts.

Since this report is a pioneering effort, it is not surprising that there should be difficulties in converting the raw data from Christmas Counts to maps of relative abundance. I think that, despite the above criticisms, the author and publisher have succeeded in producing a picture of the relative abundance of many wintering North American birds and have done this in such a way that the book can be used for future research. — JAMES T. TANNER, 417 Switzerland Dr., Knoxville, TN 37920.

## THE SEASON

John C. Robinson, Editor



### WINTER: 1 DECEMBER 1988 - 28 FEBRUARY 1989

Rainfall was perhaps the major weather event of this winter season, with periods of heavy rain causing moderate to severe flooding in parts of middle and west Tennessee. Despite the rain and the expected periods of below freezing temperatures, many observers took to the field and some important discoveries were made.

The absence of winter finches and most other irruptive species was noted statewide; however, Rough-legged Hawks were reported in moderate numbers in middle Tennessee and at least one was seen in west Tennessee. Impressive counts of waterfowl were made, especially in Henry County and at the Hiwassee River Area. Large roosts of American Robins and American Crows were also documented. Yet another Ross' Goose was found, this one in Lawrence County. One Glaucous Gull and two sightings of Great Black-backed Gulls were indicative of a good Larid winter. Most astounding, however, were the 7 *Selasphorus* hummingbirds reported in east, middle and west Tennessee; no less than 4 of these birds were safely identified as Rufous Hummingbirds.

The *Migrant* welcomes Richard P. Lewis as the new compiler for the Eastern Mountain Region. In the future, all noteworthy observations in that region should be promptly sent to him at the end of each reporting season. Readers of this report should note that many areas of the Eastern Mountain Region are not sufficiently represented in these pages — a situation that can be corrected by the submission of more observations from the central and southern parts of that region. In fact, observers across the state may find it challenging and rewarding to explore and report on areas that have only infrequently been visited by birders. — John C. Robinson

The following abbreviations are used in the text: ad = adult; EOP = end of period; ers = earliest reported sighting; im = immature; max = maximum 1-day count during period; m. ob. = many observers; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; ph = photographs; CBC = Christmas Bird Count; S.P. = State Park; yg = young; \* = documented record; \*\* = specimen record.

**WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION** — Climatic conditions were wetter than usual but temperatures remained within their normal ranges. Accipiters were observed in greater numbers than in the last few years, with many sightings in suburban backyards and city parks. Short-eared Owls were reported in scattered locations throughout the region. Reports of the elusive American Tree Sparrow reaffirmed the presence of the winter season. Some species of sparrows, particularly the Field Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows, appeared to be less abundant than in previous years.

Table 1. 1989 Mid-Winter Eagle Counts (5–19 January 1989)

Compiled by Bill Yambert  
 Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency  
 6032 West Andrew Johnson Highway  
 Talbott, TN 37877

	Adults	Immatures	Unknown	Total
<b>Mississippi River Area</b>				
Reelfoot Lake	52	51	—	103
Open Lake	2	—	—	2
Big Cypress Natural area	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1</u>
	55	51	—	106
<b>Kentucky Lake Area</b>				
LBL (Barkley Portion)	2	2	—	4
(Kentucky Lake Portion)	8	10	—	18
Kentucky Lake	42 + 4*	22 + 1*	—	64 + 5*
Barkley	—	1*	—	1*
Pickwick Lake	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>8</u>
	57 + 4*	37 + 2*	—	94 + 6*
<b>Middle TN</b>				
Cross Creeks	5	—	—	5
Cheatham	1	—	—	1
Center Hill	1	—	—	1
Normandy	1	—	—	1
Tims Ford	1 + 1*	—	—	1 + 1*
Woods Reservoir	2	—	—	2
Woodbury	1*	—	—	1*
Tansai Lake	1	—	—	1
Dale Hollow	<u>27</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>49</u>
	39 + 2*	20	2	61 + 2*
<b>East TN</b>				
Cherokee	0	2	—	2
Douglas	1	—	—	1
Norris	2	—	—	2
French Broad River	2	—	—	2
Fort Loudoun Reservoir	1	—	—	1
Tellico Reservoir	2	3	—	5
Watts Bar	21	1	—	22
Chickamauga Lake	6 + 1*	1	—	7 + 1*
Nickajack Lake	1	—	—	1
Melton Hill Lake	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1</u>
	37 + 1*	7	—	44 + 1*
Statewide Total	188 + 7*	115 + 2*	2	305 + 9*

\*Golden Eagles

*Loon-Falcon*: Common Loon: 19 Jan (1) PLS (AHH, EJW); 19 Feb (38) PLS, BSU (DWB), max. Pied-billed Grebe: 19 Feb (51) BSU (DWB), max. Horned Grebe: 4 Jan (145) PLS, BSU (DWB). Double-crested Cormorant: 4 Jan (1) PLS, 19 Feb (1) BSU (DWB). Great Blue Heron: 19 Feb (42) PLS (DWB), max. Great Egret: 7 Dec (1) ESL (LCC, HBD, NMS, BHW). Cattle Egret: 24 Dec (1) Savannah CBC (Regina D. Rogers). Greater White-fronted Goose: 19 Feb (13 ad, 5 im) BRF (DWB). Snow Goose: 18 Feb (179 blue, 56 white) BRF (DWB). Gadwall: 4 Jan (135) BRF (DWB). American Wigeon: 4 Jan (377) BRF (DWB), max. Canvasback: 4 Jan (450), 12 Feb (1,627) BRF (DWB), max. Redhead: 12 Feb (442) BRF (DWB), max. Ring-necked Duck: 19 Feb (2,000) BRF, PLS (DWB), max. Lesser Scaup: 19 Feb (1,650) BSU, PLS (DWB). Common Goldeneye: 19 Feb (1,180) BSU, PLS (DWB), max. Bufflehead: 19 Feb (410) PLS, BSU (DWB), max. Common Merganser: 4 Jan-18 Feb (1-7) PLS, 19 Feb (5) BSU (DWB). Red-breasted Merganser: 19 Feb (74) PAP (DWB). Ruddy Duck: 4 Jan-12 Feb (580-1,210) BRF, PLS (DWB); 28 Jan (3,000+) REL, LKC (RLI, VLI); 26 Feb (5,000+) REL, Obion Co. (MLG). Black Vulture: 4 Jan (1) NE SBC (JMJ), uncommon in SBC. Turkey Vulture: 4 Jan (1) NE SBC (JMJ), uncommon in SBC. Bald Eagle: 4 Jan (1 ad) NE SBC (JMJ), rare in SBC. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 3 Dec (1) Kennedy Park, SBC (MTOS); 4 Dec (1) PEF (JRW); 9 Dec (2) MEM (MGW, Ray N. Wilson); 14 Dec (1) SFP (HBD, SLL, NMS, VBR); 18 Dec (7) MEM CBC (MTOS); 8 Jan (1) ELS (JRW); 20 Jan (1) MEM (CHB); 28 Jan (1) REL (RLI, VLI). Cooper's Hawk: 1, 4 Dec (1) PEF (JRW); 2 Dec (1) Coffey Grounds, MEM (Ben B. Coffey, Jr.); 12 Dec (1) MEM (CHB); 18 Dec (2) MEM CBC (MTOS); 1-30 Dec (1) Iris Hill, NE SBC (JAF); 5, 7, 10 Jan (1) MEM (JRW). NORTHERN GOSHAWK: 9, 20 Jan (1) MEM (fide Dave Vance, MGW). Rough-legged Hawk: 27 Dec (1) PEF (DJS, Steve and Rebecca Satterfield). Golden Eagle: 18 Feb (1 ad) BRF (DWB); 26 Feb (1 im) REL, LKC (MLG). American Kestrel: 29 Jan (32) LKC (RLI, VLI). Merlin: 14 Dec (1) SFP (HBD, SLL, NMS, VBR); 2 Jan (2) ESL (Martha Ramey); 19 Jan (1) SW SBC (Gil B. Beaver); 26 Jan (1) MEM (MGW); 5 Feb (1) SW SBC (JRW). Peregrine Falcon: 1 Dec-EOP (1) MEM (m. ob.).

*Crane-Lark*: SANDHILL CRANE: 19 Dec (1) PEF (EJR), rare for this area and time of year. Spotted Sandpiper: 9-11 Feb (1) ESL (JRW, RTC). American Woodcock: 27 Jan-EOP (4) Iris Hill, NE SBC (JAF, Sue C. Ferguson). Franklin's Gull: 3 Dec (1) McKellar Lake (JRW, Joe B. Guinn, DJS, Dollyann Daily); 9, 10, 12 Feb (1) McKellar Lake (JRW). Bonaparte's Gull: 4 Jan (219) PLS, BSU (DWB), max; 8 Jan (2), 4 Feb (120+), 9 Feb (144) McKellar Lake (JRW); 9 Feb (60+) ESL (VBR, MGW). Ring-billed Gull: 7 Dec (247) ESL (HBD, LCC, NMS, BHW); 8 Jan (1,200+), 4 Feb (500+), 9 Feb (720+) McKellar Lake (JRW); 9 Feb (150+) ESL (VBR, MGW). Herring Gull: 8 Jan (9), 4 Feb (3), 9 Feb (5) McKellar Lake (JRW); 9 Feb (1) ESL (VBR, MGW). GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: 15 Dec (1, 1st year plumage) PAP (DJS). Short-eared Owl: 3-26 Dec (4) ESL (JRW, DJS, m. ob.); 6-11 Dec (1) Bartlett, SBC (JRW); 23 Dec-EOP (9) Savannah Bottoms, HDC (DJS); 23 Dec (1) Savannah airport, HDC (JTP); 19 Feb (1) BRF (DWB). RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 8 Dec-7 Feb (1 female) Germantown, NE SBC (\*Dorinda Hanna, m. ob.); the bird was photographed, measured, shipped to San Diego and released. Horned Lark: 4 Feb (500/400) PEF/ESL (JRW).

*Wren-Blackbird*: Sedge Wren: 10 Feb (1) PEF (RTC). White-eyed Vireo: 25 Dec, 8 Jan (1) ESL (\*JRW). Indigo Bunting: 19 Dec (1) PEF (EJR). American Tree Sparrow: 19 Jan (1) BRF (AHH, EJW); 28 Jan (7) LKC (RLI, VLI); 18 Feb (5) BRF (DWB); 26 Feb (33) REL, Airpark area (MLG). Field Sparrow: 18 Dec-EOP — numbers on CBC and field observations were exceptionally low. Vesper Sparrow: 23, 30 Dec, 28 Jan (2, 1, 1) Savannah Bottoms, HDC (DJS, CAS, Ann Tarbell); 22 Jan (1) PEF (VBR); 4 Feb (13) PEF (JRW); 19 Feb (1) BSU (DWB). Le Conte's Sparrow: 6 Dec (1) Bartlett, SBC (JRW); 23 Dec-EOP (up to 10) Savannah Bottoms, HDC (DJS); 19 Jan (1) BRF (AHH, EJW); 19 Feb (1) BRF (DWB). Lincoln's Sparrow: 31 Jan (1) PEF (VBR, MGW). Lapland Longspur: 4 Feb (5/13) ESL/PEF (JRW). SMITH'S LONGSPUR: 3 Dec-EOP (1-13) PEF (Marvin Davis, JRW, m. ob.) [details should be published-ed.]. Western Meadowlark: 1 Dec-11 Feb (1) PEF (JRW, m. ob.); 26 Feb (1) REL, Obion Co. (MLG). Brewer's Blackbird: 20 Dec (5 males) Savannah Bottoms, HDC (DJS); 21 Feb (1) MEM (W. Robert Peebles).

*Locations*: BRF — Britton Ford, Tennessee NWR, Henry Co.; BSU — Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee NWR, Henry Co.; ESL — Ensley sewage lagoons, Shelby Co.; HDC — Hardin Co.; LKC — Lake Co.; MEM — Memphis; PAP — Pace Point, Tennessee NWR, Henry Co.; PEF — Penal Farm, Shelby Co.; PLS — Paris Landing S.P., Henry Co.; REL — Reelfoot Lake, Obion and Lake Cos.; SBC — Shelby Co.; SFP — Shelby Forest S.P., Shelby Co.;

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HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION — Weather during the period was mild and there were no extended periods of sub-freezing temperatures; nor were there any heavy, lasting snows. Perhaps the most notable weather occurrences were two periods of heavy rain in February that caused wide-spread flooding.

The scarcity of irruptive species (e.g., Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Purple Finch) was striking. These species were reported from only a few locations and primarily in low numbers. Many observers remarked on the low number of all bird species at feeders this winter. This lack of activity at feeders can, in part, be attributed to the outstanding wild food crop we experienced this year. The hackberry crop was especially impressive and probably accounts for the large numbers of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings present throughout the period.

Among the rarities recorded during the period were a Red-throated Loon and a Merlin at Percy Priest Lake, a Glaucous Gull in first winter plumage at Woods Reservoir, and unusually high numbers of Short-eared Owls and Rough-legged Hawks. In addition, a Rufous Hummingbird was discovered, perched on a wire in a yard in Nashville where it was believed to be torpid but was later determined to be dead and was collected. Over 400 Sandhill Cranes were reported in the region.

*Loon-Hawk*: RED-THROATED LOON: 25 Feb-EOP (1, ph) Percy Priest Lake, Anderson Rd. Recreation Area, DVC (Daniel R. Jacobson), first DVC record. Double-crested Cormorant: 28 Jan (10) AEDC Retention Pond, FKC (RWL, DD), max. Tundra Swan: 20 Feb-EOP (2) CCNWR (DWB), only report. Greater White-fronted Goose: 5 reports for region; 26 Dec/1 Jan (2/7) Blackman Rd., RUC (RVM, TJW, ALH/TJW), ers; 8 Jan (2, ph) Robertson Pond, LWC (DJS); Jan-Feb

(4, seen "often") AEDC Retention Pond, FKC (DD). Snow Goose: 1 Jan-EOP (up to 13 birds, including 2 "snows" on 17 Jan and 13 "blues" on 13 Feb) Robertson Pond, LWC (DJS, m. ob.); 26 Dec (1 blue) Blackman Rd., RUC (ALH, RVM); 20 Feb (100+) CCNWR (DWB), max. ROSS' GOOSE: 8-11 Jan (1, ph) Robertson Pond, LWC (DJS, Michael A. Beuerlein, m. ob.), 4th state record and 1st for LWC. Northern Shoveler: 25 Feb (20) BWMA, SWC (DWB), max. Canvasback: 4 Feb (65) CCNWR (DWB), max. Redhead: 10 Feb (50) Monsanto Ponds, MUC (O. Bedford Lochridge), max. Ring-necked Duck: 25 Feb (1,405) CCNWR and BWMA, SWC (DWB), max. Hooded Merganser: 19 Dec (200) Couchville Lake, Long Hunter S.P., DVC (MLM), max. Black Vulture: 10 Jan (46) 3.2 km W of Byrdstown, PIC (RCH), unusually high number for PIC in winter. Bald Eagle: 11 Dec-28 Jan (1 ad, 1 im) Woods Reservoir area, FKC (RWL, DD); 23 Dec-11 Feb (1-2) Normandy Lake, CFC (Frank Hernandez); a pair was observed carrying sticks to nest at the latter site on 28 Jan and 11 Feb. Rough-legged Hawk: 3 Dec (1, light phase) Big Rock, SWC (DWB), ers; 15-16 Dec (2, light phase) FCMR, SWC (DWB); 26 Dec (1) Sowell Hollow Rd., MUC (Mark H. Mayfield, George R. Mayfield, Jr.); 1 Jan (1) near Monsanto Ponds, MUC (William N. Jernigan); 2 Feb (1, dark phase) Metro Center, DVC (DFV); 15 Jan (1, dark phase) FCMR (DWB); 12 Feb (1, dark phase) LBL, SWC (DWB); 8 individuals were reported from 6 locations.

*Merlin-Hummingbird*: Merlin: 28 Dec (1) LWC (\*DJS); 2 Jan-EOP (1, ph) Anderson Rd. Recreation Area, Percy Priest Lake, DVC (CGD, CAS, m. ob.); 1 bird also wintered at the latter site in the winters of 86-87 and 87-88. Ruffed Grouse: 1 Dec (1) Star Point Resort Community, PIC (Fran Baker); 6, 16 Dec (1) BAH (RWS), only reports. Sandhill Crane: 29 Dec-EOP (1, ph) Robertson Pond, LWC (DKS, David Ihrie, m. ob.), ers; 14 Feb (60) BAH (RWS); 15 Feb (50) Millers Crossroads, CFC (Lee W. Medley); 17 Feb (20) PIC (Faye Wells); 25 Feb (60) PIC (Jessie Baker); 19 Feb (246) PIC (RCH, Oleta Davidson, Robert Baker, Rex Zimmerman), max; 20 Feb (28) PIC (Margaret Zimmerman); 23 Feb (100+) PIC (Faye Wells); 24 Feb (44) PIC (J. David Hassler, Oleta Davidson); some duplication of cranes counted in PIC is possible. Least Sandpiper: 22 Jan (1) mouth of Gum Creek on Woods Res., FKC (RWL), only report. GLAUCOUS GULL: 7-26 Jan (1, 1st winter plumage, ph) Woods Reservoir, FKC (RWL, DD, TJW, James R. Peters, m. ob.). Common Barn-Owl: 1 Dec (1) Clarksville, MTC (DWB), only report. Short-eared Owl: 18 Jan (1) Metro Airport, DVC (M. Patricia Stallings); 26 Feb (2) Ashland City, Cheatham Co. (CGD). RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 15 Dec (1) Lynnwood Blvd., Nashville, DVC (fide Michael L. Bierly), reported by a home owner on 15 Dec, the bird was believed to be in a state of torpor until 17 Dec when the bird was determined to be dead; it was collected and placed in the Bierly collection.

*Lark-Robin*: Horned Lark: 19 Dec (10) Couchville lake, Long Hunter S.P., DVC (MLM), max. Blue Jay: 4 Feb (40) BAH (RWS), max. American Crow: 26 Dec (27,000) Bells Bend, DVC (CGD, et al.), max; the roost used by these birds was located in west Nashville near I-40 and 47th Ave., DVC, and was present through most of the period. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 Nov-28 Feb (1) Loretto, LWC (DKS, Donna N. Simbeck); 18 Dec (1) SWC (CCNWR CBC), only reports. House Wren: 25 Jan (1) Clarksville, MTC (ALH), only report. American Robin: 15 Jan (100,000+) Belle Meade, DVC (DFV), max; this roost present through most of period; 1 Jan (1,350) FCMR, MTC (DWB).

*Pipit-Grosbeak*: Water Pipit: 15 Jan (28) FCMR, MTC (DWB). Cedar Waxwing: 2 Feb (100+) Clarksville, MTC (AHH), max. Pine Warbler: 12 Feb (1) LBL, SWC (DWB), only report. Chipping Sparrow: 17 Dec (1) FCMR, MTC (DWB); 12 Feb (2) CCNWR (DWB), only reports. LAPLAND LONGSPUR: 15 Jan (48) FCMR, MTC (DWB), max. Brewer's Blackbird: 29 Dec-EOP (up to 13) LWC (DWB, et al.). Purple Finch: 27 Feb (32) BAH (RWS), max. Purple Finches were very scarce across the region, with only a few occurring at feeders; most reports were of 5 or fewer individuals. House Finch: present in large numbers in the region and occurring in many locations and remote towns where they have not been found in past years. Pine Siskin: 24-25 Dec (1) MUC (George R. Mayfield, Jr.); 18 Dec (2) SWC (CCNWR CBC), only reports, numbers very low in region and virtually absent at most feeders. American Goldfinch: reported in lower than normal numbers at feeders though 140 were banded by DFV in west Nashville from 31 Dec-EOP. Evening Grosbeak: 29 Dec (2) LWC (Andy J. Augustin, W. Royce Neidem, Jane Newell, Donette Sellan); 18 Feb (7) LBL, SWC (DWB), only reports.

*Locations*: BAH — Barnes Hollow, Putnam Co.; BWMA — Barkley Wildlife Management Area, Stewart Co.; CCNWR — Cross Creeks NWR, Stewart Co.; CFC — Coffee Co.; DVC — Davidson Co.; FCMR — Fort Campbell Military Reservation, Montgomery and Stewart Cos.; FKC — Franklin Co.; LBL — Land-Between-the-Lakes, Stewart Co.; LWC — Lawrence Co.; MTC — Montgomery Co.; MUC — Maury Co.; PIC — Pickett Co.; RUC — Rutherford Co.; SWC — Stewart Co.

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EASTERN RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION — This was our third consecutive mild winter. Temperatures during December and February were considerably above normal, while January was closer to normal. For a welcome change, rainfall was slightly above normal for the period. December precipitation was somewhat low, but the other two months more than made up for it. With the mild conditions, little snowfall occurred. The rainfall total for 1988 was 27% deficient at Tri-cities Regional Airport, in the northeastern corner of the region. Other areas fared about the same. According to a TVA press release, "the last four years, 1985-88, account for four of the six driest years (in the Tennessee River Watershed) since records began in 1890." Hopefully that drought is now behind us.

As is often the case, a mild winter results in rather dull birding which, in turn, causes birders' activity to decline. Reports were very brief this season. Northern irruptive birds were very scarce or absent. Ducks were reported to be "in their usual numbers for recent years" in the Chattanooga area, which boasts the region's best waterfowl habitat; but they were very scarce in the Johnson City area. Raptors were poorly reported. Gull numbers increased and two rarities were found among them. Some lingering "half-hardy" species were found, but fewer than might have been expected.

The biggest surprise of the season was the presence of FIVE *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, three of which successfully wintered. The other two were "air-lifted" to a hummingbird expert for banding and identification — these were both Rufous Hummingbirds. Details concerning the identity of the three wintering birds had not

been passed along to this compiler, and so identification beyond the genus level can not be made. All, or at least most, of these hummers were coming to feeders belonging to casual birders and their "discovery" was just by luck. That makes one wonder how many more were out there this winter and in past years. I'd bet that more hummingbird feeders will be closely watched next fall/winter.

*Loon-Egret:* Common Loon: 10 Dec (26) CHL (KHD, RLK), max. Pied-billed Grebe: 25 Feb (161) CHL (KHD), max. Horned Grebe: 10 Dec (82) CHL (KHD, RLK), max. Double-crested Cormorant: 10 Dec (1) CHL (KHD, RLK); 1 Jan (47-some duplication possible) HRA CBC (fide RAR); 6/15 Jan (1) Nickajack Lake, MAC (JTP/KHD, LHD); only reports. Great Blue Heron: 18 Dec (126) KNX CBC (fide JTT), high number for area. Great Egret: 18 Dec (1) KNX CBC (fide JTT); 20 Dec (6) SAB (KHD).

*Waterfowl:* Mute Swan: late Nov into Feb (1) Maryville Greenbelt Lake, Blount Co. (J. Anthony Koella), origin? Tundra Swan: 1 Jan-12 Feb (1) HRA (m. ob.). Snow Goose: 6 Dec (3 white, 3 blue) Indian Mountain S.P., Campbell Co. (Eva Dolcini fide JBO); 26 Dec (1 white) KNX (Paul S. Pardue); 2-5 white and 1-2 blue regular at HRA (fide KHD). Canada Goose: 10 Feb (1,338) Watts Bar Lake, MEC, Rhea & Roane Cos. (TWRA), max; a bird shot in Greene Co. on 24 Dec (fide Phine Britton, RLK) that was banded in the James Bay area of Canada indicates that some northern geese still winter in the region. Green-winged Teal: 11 Dec (375) HRA (KHD, LHD), max. American Black Duck: 8 Dec (300) Phipps Bend, Hawkins Co. (CPN); 14 Dec (1,058) HRA (TWRA), max. Mallard: 22 Dec (3,000) HRA (TWRA), max. Northern Pintail: 12 Feb (55) HRA (KHD), max. Northern Shoveler: 19 Dec (17) HRA (KHD, LHD), max. Gadwall: 10 Dec (490) CHL (KHD, RLK), max. American Wigeon: 14 Dec (413) HRA (TWRA), max. Canvasback: 2 Dec (18) HRA (KHD, LHD), max. Redhead: 9 Feb-EOP (2-4) JNC (LHTOS); 12-19 Feb (11-45) CHL (KHD, Albert M. Jenkins); 26 Feb (10) Jefferson Co. (J. Anthony Koella). Ring-necked Duck: 2 Dec (400) HRA (KHD, LHD), max. Greater Scaup: 17 Feb (4) BOL (BLC); 25 Feb (310) CHL (KHD), max. Lesser Scaup: 25 Feb (850) CHL (KHD), max. White-winged Scoter: 6 Jan (6) BOL (BLC), only report. Hooded Merganser: 11 Dec (215) HRA (KHD, LHD); 17 Dec (260) Cove Lake, Campbell Co. (CPN, RC); 27 Dec (286) Kingston Steam Plant, Roane Co. (Audrey R. Hoff); the last 2 records were unusually large flocks for the KNX area (fide CPN). Common Merganser: 26 Dec (1) Nickajack Lake, MAC (JTP); 1 Jan (2) HRA CBC (fide RAR); 12 Jan/17 Feb (1/2) BOL (RLK/BLC); only reports. Ruddy Duck: 10 Dec (113) CHL (KHD, RLK), max.

*Vulture-Barn Owl:* Black Vulture: 1 Jan (45) Ten Mile, MEC (CPN, RC); 21 Jan (250+) coming off roost near Boone Dam, WGC-Sullivan Co. line (LHTOS). Peregrine Falcon: 15 Jan (1 im) Raccoon Mountain, MAC (KHD, LHD); 16 Jan (1) HRA (J. Craig Watson, Donald L. Rush, Jr.). American Coot: 14 Dec (2,265) HRA (TWRA), max. Sandhill Crane: about 25 wintered on Hiwassee Island, MEC & "another good spring flight" occurred in the CHA area, but numbers had not been compiled at this writing (fide KHD); 17-24 Feb (100) LOC (Julie Faulk). LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER: 4 Dec (1) Tellico Lake, Monroe Co. (Audrey R. Hoff, Ron D. Hoff), latest ever recorded in the state. Least Sandpiper: 18 Feb (10) SAB (Albert M. Jenkins), max; irregular & in low numbers at usual wintering sites of HRA, SAB (fide KHD). Dunlin: 11 Dec (100) HRA (KHD, LHD), max, numbers

declined to 40 by 28 Jan (R. John Henderson); 31 Dec (4) BOL (BLC). Common Snipe: 20 Dec (22) SAB (KHD), max, but low for this site. Bonaparte's Gull: 27 Jan (2,500) CHL (Lenny Kafka), extremely large number. Ring-billed Gull: 2,000+ on CHL (KHD) & 3,000+ on Fort Loudoun Lake, LOC and Knox Co. (JTT) are considered unusually high numbers. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: 24-26 Dec (1 im) CHL (\*KHD et al.), 4th documented state record (see *Migrant* 59:3, 1988). BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: bird found 30 Nov (see Fall report) seen irregularly to 26 Jan on Fort Loudoun Lake, LOC and Knox Co. (RC, \*DJS, et al.). Mourning Dove: 21 Feb (recently fledged yg killed by dog) JNC (fide Sally Goodin, \*\*); nest with 2 yg that hatched on 15 or 16 Feb, yg fledged 4 Mar, in CHA (Edwin E. Hughes fide KHD); both indicate earlier than normal nesting. Common Barn-Owl: fresh pellets collected regularly at 1 JNC site (fide FJA).

*Hummingbirds*: RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 3-9 Dec (1 ad female) CHA (fide LHD); 6-8 Dec (1 im male) JNC (RLK); both birds, which had been present at feeders for several weeks, were captured and flown to New Orleans, Louisiana, where they were banded and identified by Nancy L. Newfield (fide RLK); 3rd and 4th state records, details to be published. *Selasphorus* sp.: after the above records were publicized, 3 additional hummingbirds were reported and successfully wintered at feeders — 2 in CHA (fide KHD) & 1 in KNX (Jean Chesney fide JBO); at this writing, documentation had not been submitted, so for now they will be considered *Selasphorus* species; details on these sightings should also be published.

*Passerines*: Purple Martin: 24 Feb (1) KNX (fide JBO), ers. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 reports in Jan from KNX area (fide CPN); 1 Jan (1) HRA CBC (fide RAR); only reports. House Wren: 6 Dec/24 Jan (2/1) CHA (R. John Henderson); 11 Jan (1) Conklin, WGC (RLK); 26 Jan (1) Telford, WGC (BLC). American Robin: especially numerous all period in JNC area (RLK). Brown Thrasher: only 4 reports in JNC area (fide RLK). Cedar Waxwing: 1 Jan (1,406) HRA CBC (fide RAR), max. Loggerhead Shrike: 14 Dec/17 Jan (4/6) WGC (RLK, BLC), above average numbers. Orange-crowned Warbler: 3 Jan (1) Candies Creek, HRA, Bradley Co. (J. Craig Watson, Donald L. Rush, Jr.). Yellow-rumped Warbler: unusually high numbers present in KNX area (fide CPN). Common Yellowthroat: 7 Dec (1) Austin Springs, WGC (BLC). Vesper Sparrow: 22 Dec/3 Feb (1) Telford, WGC (BLC); 26 Dec (1) Sequatchie Valley, MAC (JTP); 1 Jan (2) HRA CBC (fide RAR). Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 Jan (1) HRA CBC (DJS). Northern Oriole: 18 Dec-EOP (1 im male) KNX (Lou Fuller, Don Powers), at feeder. Purple Finch: very low numbers regionwide. Pine Siskin: a few reports of up to 5 birds at feeders during Dec & Jan in KNX area (fide JBO); 1 Jan (11) HRA CBC (fide RAR), only CHA area report; 17 Feb (12) BOL (BLC), only JNC area report. Evening Grosbeak: no reports.

*Addendum*: SHORT-EARED OWL: 28 Oct 1988 (1 found injured, later died) Piney Flats, Sullivan Co. (fide JWC), 3rd JNC-Elizabethton area record.

*Locations*: BOL — Boone Lake, Sullivan & Washington Cos.; CHA — Chattanooga; CHL — Chickamauga Lake, Hamilton Co. portion; HRA — Hiwassee River Area, primarily Meigs Co., but also Bradley, McMinn & Rhea Cos.; JNC — Johnson City; KNX — Knoxville; LOC — Loudon Co.; MAC — Marion Co.; MEC — Meigs Co.; SAB — Savannah Bay, Hamilton Co.; WGC — Washington Co.

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**EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION** — This was a fairly mild winter. Temperatures in December and February were near or slightly above normal. However, January was exceptionally mild. Precipitation was less than normal for December, but amounts in January and February were a little above average. Snowfall in the mountains was well below average. Roan Mountain had two snowstorms in February resulting in accumulations of over 15 inches.

Waterfowl were down in numbers. Winter finches were almost nonexistent. After last winter's abundance of Pine Siskins, there was only one record reported for the current period.

*Loon-Hawk*: Common Loon: 1 Dec (3) WTL (RLK); 31 Dec (1) SHL (JWC). Horned Grebe: 31 Dec (2) SHL (JWC). Canada Goose: a max of 76 reported on WIL (LHTOS). Green-winged Teal: 31 Dec (1) SHL (JWC). American Black Duck: 10 Dec (6) WIL, very low; 31 Dec (12) SHL (JWC). Northern Pintail: 1 Dec (1) WIL (RLK), only report. Gadwall: 31 Dec (1) SHL (RPL, GDE). American Wigeon: none reported after the 31 Dec BRI CBC. Redhead: 16 Feb (2) Erwin, Unicoi Co. (FJA). Ring-necked Duck & Lesser Scaup: low numbers. Common Goldeneye: 10 Dec (1) Ripshin Lake, Carter Co. (FJA). Bufflehead: a max of 87 reported on WIL (LHTOS). Hooded Merganser: 10 Dec-26 Jan (15-8) Ripshin Lake, Carter Co. (FJA, James W. Brooks, CFW); 31 Dec (30) SHL (JWC); 20 Feb (7) Watauga River, Carter Co. (CFW). Ruddy Duck: 31 Dec (1) SHL (JWC). Bald Eagle: 17 Dec (1 ad) ELI CBC; 21 Jan (1 im) WTL (FJA, Cathi Sullins). Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 wintered along Watauga River (FJA, BLC); 31 Dec (1) BRI CBC.

*Snipe-Waxwing*: Common Snipe: small numbers (1-7) wintered along Watauga River (LHTOS). American Woodcock: 22 Feb-EOP (1, giving courtship flight) SHL (RPL). Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Dec (2) ELI (GDE). Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Dec (1) WIL (RLK). Red-breasted Nuthatch: only 2 low elevation records all period (RLK, BLC). Golden-crowned Kinglet: good numbers. Hermit Thrush: numerous. American Robin: numerous. Cedar Waxwing: fairly common, but no large flocks.

*Shrike-Grosbeak*: Loggerhead Shrike: 17 Dec (1) ELI CBC; 31 Dec (5) BRI CBC; 6 Jan (1) ELI (Glen W. Swofford, CFW). Fox Sparrow: low, no reports other than ELI and RNM CBC. Purple Finch: very scarce in ELI area, only 1 on ELI CBC and none on RNM CBC; 31 Dec (20) BRI CBC, max. Red Crossbill: no reports. Swamp Sparrow: 31 Dec (1) SHL (RPL, GDE). White-crowned Sparrow: unusually scarce in SHL area. Pine Siskin: 17 Dec (1) ELI CBC, only report. Evening Grosbeak: no reports.

*Locations*: BRI — Bristol; ELI — Elizabethton; RNM — Roan Mountain, Carter Co.; SHL — South Holston Lake, Sullivan Co.; WIL — Wilbur Lake, Carter Co.; WTL — Watauga Lake, Carter Co.

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## OBSERVERS

FJA — Fred J. Alsop, III  
DWB — Donald W. Blunk  
CHB — Carolyn H. Bullock  
RTC — Robert T. Casey  
RC — Richard Clark  
LCC — Lula C. Coffey  
JWC — J. Wallace Coffey  
BLC — Brian L. Cross  
DD — Don Davidson  
HBD — Helen B. Dinkelspiel  
CGD — C. Gerald Drewry, Jr.  
KHD — Kenneth H. Dubke  
LHD — Lillian H. Dubke  
GDE — Glen D. Eller  
JAF — James A. Ferguson  
MLG — Murray L. Gardler  
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*The Migrant* records observations and studies of birds in Tennessee and adjacent areas. Most articles are written by members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

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