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The Migrant, 60(4):93-94, 1989

ANOTHER 19TH CENTURY COMMON MERGANSER EGG SET COLLECTED IN TENNESSEE

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Kiff (1989) described five sets of Common Merganser (Mergus merganser) eggs collected in Smith County, Tennessee, from 1897-1899. These sets, consisting of 7-9 eggs each, were taken from tree cavities 2.2-5.5 m high during late April or early May. Three sets are still extant, while the other two are known from data cards. These old records represent the only known breeding evidence of this species from Tennessee and are among the few southern records (detailed in Kiff 1989). Currently, the Common Merganser is an uncommon migrant and winter visitor statewide (Bierly 1980).

Recently, another nineteenth century Common Merganser egg set from Tennessee was brought to my attention. In describing a newly acquired egg collection, Cook (1985) mentioned a Short-eared Owl (Asio flammeus) egg set from Tennessee. Upon inquiry, Cook (pers. comm.) informed me that the owl record was actually from Pennsylvania, but that a Common Merganser egg set from Tennessee was in the collection. The original label from the collection states that a clutch of seven fresh eggs of American (= Common) Merganser were taken from a "nest in a hollow tree about [4 m] up" in Smith County, Tennessee on 13 May 1896 by Jonathan Minchen, Still in excellent condition, the eggs are cream colored and long elliptical in shape, while "one of them measures 66x44 mm" (Cook pers. comm.). This description of the eggs fits Common Merganser and differs considerably from that of Wood Duck (Aix sponsa) and Hooded Merganser (Lophodytes cucultatus) (Harrison 1975), Tennessee's other cavity nesting ducks. Formerly part of the oological collection of Albert H. Frost of New York City, this egg set (#C185) is now housed at Columbia-Greene Community College, Hudson, New York (Cook, 1985, pers. comm.).

It is interesting to note that all six known Tennessee records are from a four-year period from the same county, but that three different collectors were involved. Precise locations were not given, but one nest tree was "on the bank of a river" (Kiff 1989), which is typical merganser nesting habitat. The Cumberland and Caney Fork Rivers are the major waterways in Smith County. Did these breeding records indicate a small relict population or maybe just a couple of extralimital pairs? We may never know. But, since these old records only recently were "discovered," perhaps there are more sets in other egg collections scattered across the country which could fill in some of the gaps.

I thank William E. Cook for his assistance in bringing this record to light.

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Accepted 1 August 1989.

The Migrant, 60(4):94-95, 1989

AUTUMN HAWK COUNTS -1988

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Hawkwatchers reported a total of 3,922 birds from 128.9 hours of observations in 1988. Sixty hours of the observations (with 2,657 hawks) were made at Cloudland Canyon State Park; this site is on the top and west side of Lookout Mountain, Dade County, Georgia ($35^\circ 1\ 50'\ 09''$ N, $85^\circ 28'\ 47''$ W, Durham, GA 7.5 Quad USGS). While some observations have been made from this location in the past, this is the first time for systematic observations. If the observations from this site are excluded from the totals, only 68.9 hours of observations and 1,265 birds were reported from Tennessee. The results are presented in Table 1. As usual, the huge majority of the sightings (>96%) were of Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*); the highest count was on 21 September which is the normal time for the migration of this species to peak in our area.

Please see page 96 of this issue for comments about the possible cessation of publication of autumn hawk count data in *The Migrant*.

Table 1.	Autumn	hawk	counts	-1988.
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Date	Location	Reporter (no. observers)	Hours	τv	SS	СН	UA	RT	RS	BW	UB	NH	os	AK	отн	Total
Sept 5	Signal Point	J. Patton (1)	5.0	-		1	_			1	- T	_	_	_	_	3
Sept 10	Signal Point	J. Patton (1)	2.0	_	L	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1
Sept 14	Cloudland Canyon		7.5	_	3	-	_	3	I	107	_	_	1	_	_	115
Sept 15	Cloudland Canyon		7.5	_	2	_	_	4	L	23	_	1	1	J	_	33
Sept 17	Ooltewah F.T.	L. Dubke (2)	5.8	4		I.		2	2	164	_	_	_	_	_	173
Sept 18	Cloudland Canyon	J. Rowell (1)	3.0	_	_	_	_	L	_	91	_	_	1	1	_	94
Sept 18	Johnson City	R. Knight (I)	1.5	_	_	_	_	_	_	269	_	_	_	_	1 PF	270
Sept 18	Signal Point	J. Patton (1)	5.2	_	3	1	_	_	_	17	I	_		-	-	22
Sept 19	Cloudland Canyon		8.0	_	1	1	_	1	_	232	_	_	2	-		237
Sept 20	Cloudland Canyon	J. Rowell (1)	9.0	_	4	_	_	2		413	_		2	_	_	421
Sept 20	Signal Point	J. Patton (2)	4.0		5	_	_	_		407	_	_	_	_	I BE	413
Sept 21	Cloudland Canyon	J. Rowell (2)	9.0	_	21	_	_	2		1653	_)	2	_	_	1679
Sept 21	Signal Point	J. Patton (1)	3.2	-	_	_		_	-	4	_	_	_	_	_	4
Sept 22	Cloudland Canyon	J. Rowell (1)	8.0	_	3	2	_	L	_	56	_	_	_	_	_	62
Sept 22	Look Rock	A. Hoff (1)	4.5	_	2	_	_	_	I	127	5	_	_	_	_	135
Sept 23	Cloudland Canyon	J. Rowell (4)	8.0	_	2	_	_	2	_	12	_	_	_		_	16
Sept 24	Audubon Mt.	L. Dubke (8)	2.5	3	_	1	_	3	_	52	_	_		-	_	59
Sept 24	Look Rock	A. Hoff (1)	4.0	—	4	1	ì	_	_	26	4	-	1	2	1 UR	40
Sept 24	Signal Point	J. Patton (2)	6.7	_	9	_			-	26	_	_	_)	I PF	37
Sept 25	Signal Point	J. Patton (1)	8.0	_	3	1	-	—	—	80	_	_	_	_	_	84
Sept 29	Look Rock	A. Hoff (2)	2.0	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	_	_	IPF;IBE	2
Oct 1	Signal Point	J. Patton (2)	8.0	_	1	_	_	_	—	4	_	_	—)	_	6
Oct 2	Signal Point	J. Patton (2)	6.5	_	5	_		_	_	11	_	_	_	_	_	16
TOTALS	-		128.9	7	69	9	1	21	5	3,775	П	2	10	6	6	3,922

Key to species abbreviations in tables: TV—Turkey Vulture; SS—Sharp-shinned Hawk; CH—Cooper's Hawk; UA—Unidentified accipiter; RT—Red-tailed Hawk; RS—Red-shouldered Hawk; BW—Broad-winged Hawk; UB—unidentified buteo; NH—Northern Harrier; OS—Osprey; AK—American Kestrel; OTH—other raptors; PF—Peregrine Falcon; BE—Bald Eagle; UR—unidentified raptor.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

T. DAVID PITTS

The autumn hawk migration data reported in this issue may be the last to appear in *The Migrant*. The number of Tennessee observers submitting reports and the number of hours of observations reported from Tennessee have both declined drastically. A possible reason for these declines may be the availability of other, and perhaps more appropriate, data compilation and reporting services, such as the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) newsletters. Many of the earlier hawk migration reports in *The Migrant* contained data from adjacent states, although this was not always clearly pointed out. Past editors and compilers differed in the way out of state reports were handled; the report in this issue contains data from Georgia. HMANA compiles data from a large area and is, therefore, able to present a more realistic picture of hawk migration which is truly an international event.

Currently the position of hawk count compiler for *The Migrant* is open; no one has volunteered or suggested a candidate for the position. Unless there is a resurgence of interest in publishing hawk migration data in *The Migrant* the hawk count report will be discontinued. Hawk watching is fun (at least on the days with good flights) and always worthwhile (even negative reports are of value); however, like all other TOS activities, participation is voluntary and other birding activities may be more attractive. I suggest that hawk watchers continue to observe from Tennessee sites with the results going to one or more of the organizations (such as HMANA, P.O. Box 3482, Rivermont Station, Lynchburg, VA 24503) that compile such data. Unusual sightings or numbers could also serve as the basis for short notes in *The Migrant*. Most importantly, data on hawk migration in Tennessee should continue to be gathered and made available to current and future researchers so that these birds can be better understood and conserved.

Readers of the inside front cover will note two changes in the editorial staff; John Robinson (Season Editor) has been replaced by Bob Ford, and Damien Simbeck (State Count Compiler) has been replaced by Susan McWhirter. The work of both John and Damien is gratefully acknowledged.

The Migrant, 60(4):96-97, 1989

AMERICAN AVOCETS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Don Davidson 1703 Second Ave., Manchester, TN 37355

On 22 April 1989 while driving around Woods Reservoir (Franklin County) I spotted a group of seven American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*). Observations were made in bright sunlight with 10-40x binoculars and a 15-60x spotting scope at an initial distance of 75-100 m and later at 25 m. The avocets' size (by direct comparison with adjacent Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*)), white body, black wings with white stripes, and long, slender recurved bill made identification easy. All seven birds were in breeding plumage with reddish-tan neck

and heads. The flock was first seen in deep water; after being disturbed by the busy water traffic from an adjacent boat dock, they flew in tight formation to a small strip of sand beach. Here the long dark legs, white eye rings, and white around the base of the bill could be seen. Ruth Luckado joined me in observing the birds; Harry Yeatman and Jim Peters observed the birds in the afternoon of the same day. The avocets could not be found the next day.

Avocets are only occasional migrants in middle Tennessee (Vogt, D.F., et al., 1985. Birds of the Nashville area (fourth ed.). Nashville Chapter TOS); spring observations are less frequent in Tennessee than fall observations. The observed behavior of sitting on deep water may have been induced by the lack of beach-like areas around Woods Reservoir, the large number of people present, and the heavy boat traffic in the area. To my knowledge this is the first sighting of avocets on Woods Reservoir. A fall sighting in nearby Tims Ford Reservoir was documented by Harry Yeatman (*Migrant* 46:60-61, 1975).

Accepted 9 June 1989.

The Migrant, 60(4):97-100, 1989

MINUTES OF THE FALL 1989 TOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM

The Board of Directors Meeting was held at the Ramada Inn, Crossville, on October 14, 1989, with 28 directors in person and one represented by proxy. President Barbara Finney called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and copies of the minutes of the 1989 spring meeting were distributed. Fred Carney corrected the name of Rick Taylor in the minutes to Richard Taylor. Jim Tanner moved the minutes be approved as corrected. Lois Herndon seconded it and the motion carried.

VICE-PRESIDENTS and DIRECTORS AT LARGE: There were no reports.

TREASURER: George Payne reported that from 1 May 1989 to 12 October 1989, income was \$7,190.75 and expenses were \$5,088.35. Current assets are \$61,787.13. He also presented a proposed budget for 1990. Both reports are filed with the secretary.

George Payne also reported a loss of two chapters, Bristol and Red River, leaving a total of twelve chapters with a membership of 796, a decrease of 162 members from 1988.

CURATOR: James Tanner reported that some back copies of *The Migrant* have been added to the collection, and he hopes that some of these will be sold.

EDITOR, *The Migrant*: David Pitts reported that the March, 1989, issue of *The Migrant* has been typeset and will be mailed soon. The June, 1989, issue is ready for the printer.

David Pitts said he would like to return to Hodge Printing Company in Knoxville because the Allen Press is too expensive. The estimate of the cost of the last issue was \$1,800, but the bill was \$2,800. He would also like to return to the unique colors for the different seasons.

David suggested that there be a special issue for the 75th anniversary of TOS. This would be the June, 1990, *Migrant*, and it would include pictures of the spring meeting. He would also like to include such articles as a history of TOS since the

50th anniversary to clearly document changes in TOS and in the field work results, a history of the fall meetings, a history of the bald eagles, and so on.

David asked for the Board's opinion of a new cover design to replace the 1937 one designed by Harry Ijams. Jim Tanner said that Harry Ijams himself thought the cover design should be redone because of some anatomical faults, but that other people say it is the best cover of all the bird journals. Lula Coffey suggested having a competition for a new design. Fred Carney suggested a silver cover for the 75th. There was a lengthy discussion of the various suggestions but no consensus.

A volunteer is needed to be compiler of the hawk count, and another to replace Damien Simbeck as compiler of the Christmas and spring bird counts. There has been no Christmas count at Reelfoot Lake recently, and that count needs to be reactivated and needs a compiler.

SECRETARY: Nancy Tanner asked for the names of the officers and directors of the four chapters which had not yet responded by mail.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Jim Ferguson had no report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Barbara Finney reported that the former chairman, Richard Taylor, has left Tennessee. She asked for nominations from the three divisions of the state for a two year appointment to the Finance Committee.

Fred Carney was nominated from West Tennessee by Helen Dinkelspiel.

Dan Gray was nominated from Middle Tennessee by Dick Newton.

Jim Tanner was nominated from East Tennessee by Chuck Nicholson.

Lois Herndon moved that the three nominees be accepted. Paul Hamel seconded the motion and it carried.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS: Chuck Nicholson reported that field workers made very good progress during the recently completed fourth field season. With some increase in effort, most of the blocks in middle and east Tennessee can probably be finished next year. An additional sixth field season will be necessary to complete west Tennessee and fill in gaps elsewhere. There will be two forays next year, one of which will be in Martin.

Because of the rain this past season, less money was spent for blockbusters than was budgeted. This money will be carried over to the next field season. Several fund-raising activities are planned, including more birdseed sales, an end of the year mail appeal, and a bird-a-thon in the spring of 1990. Robbie Hassler has donated to the Atlas project a carving of a hummingbird to be sold for \$200.

A proposal for publication of An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee was accepted by the University of Tennessee Press and a contract drawn up for our signature. It provides for the manuscript to be completed by July 1, 1992. TOS will hold the copyright. The book will have 350 pages on species accounts and about 100 additional pages for introduction, appendices, and index.

Chuck Nicholson moved that we approve signing the contract with the U.T. Press for publication of the Atlas following approval by legal counsel. Audrey Hoff seconded the motion. Dick Newton moved an amendment to state that the contract be subject to the approval by TOS of the financial arrangements. Louise Jackson seconded the motion. The motion to amend was defeated. The original motion to approve signing the contract was passed. The contract was given to Mike McMahan for legal approval. TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS: Barbara ascertained that the only members still on the committee were from West Tennessee. Bob Ford is the member and George Payne is the alternate. She said she would welcome suggestions of members to be appointed for three year terms from East Tennessee and two year terms from Middle Tennessee.

CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION: Ken Dubke reported that he had notified Senator Morris Udall of the TOS support voted last May to establish the American Heritage Trust Act of 1989. Ken also spoke of his efforts on behalf of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Cherokee National Forest, for a wildlife observation area in Chattanooga, for Greenways, and against channelization of the Obed River.

After distribution of a resolution written by Paul Hamel to prevent channel work in the Tuscumbia River, Ken moved that TOS adopt the resolution. George Mayfield seconded it and the motion carried. A copy of the resolution was filed with the secretary.

Ray Jordan asked for TOS opposition to a landfill on the banks of Spring Creek in Overton County. No action was taken.

FALL SYMPOSIUM: Barbara Finney thanked David Snyder and George Mayfield for their work on the Fall Symposium. George reported that 78 members were registered. George suggested that the next fall meeting be at Montgomery Bell State Park. He would be glad to call the park now for reservations.

David Snyder would like to be replaced as Fall Symposium director, a position he has held for several years.

David Snyder showed a brochure on "Amphibians and Reptiles of Land Between the Lakes." It is free to teachers from the Center for Field Biology of LBL.

EDITOR, *The Tennessee Warbler*: Jim Finney reported that the next issue will be March 1, 1990. The deadline for material will be the first week of February. Some copies of the *Warbler* were late in being delivered. George Payne explained that it is sent by third class permit and that the Post Office has thirty days to deliver such mail.

MEMBERSHIP: No new chairman will be appointed. Membership will be handled on the local chapter level.

TENNESSEE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL: No report. At the 1989 Annual Meeting, TOS Board voted to continue membership indefinitely.

OLD BUSINESS: Jim Ferguson reported that the 75th anniversary spring meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn in Memphis. Details will be in the *Warbler*. He requested that we fill out the questionnaires on interesting places to see in Memphis.

NEW BUSINESS: Helen Dinkelspiel nominated Jim Ferguson for Vice-President from West Tennessee. Lula Coffey seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous.

George Payne moved that the TOS have a competition for designs for the cover of *The Migrant* and that the present cover be entered in the competition. Dick Newton seconded the motion and the motion passed. The competition will be publicized in the *Warbler* and *The Migrant* and by word of mouth in the local chapters. Designs are to be sent to David Pitts. There could be a display at the spring meeting and a vote taken then.

Audrey Hoff spoke for Ron Hoff, whose proxy she carried. She moved that TOS institute an annual award to persons who have contributed the most to birding in Tennessee; that there be a committee to work out the details; and that the award go into effect at the 1990 spring meeting. Susan Hoyle seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

SYMPOSIUM

The program of 1989 TOS Symposium was arranged by David H. Snyder. The speakers and the titles of presentations follow.

Saturday afternoon (14 October)

Cumulative Impact Of Watershed Disturbance On Breeding Warblers In West Tennessee, by Robert P. Ford.

Bald Eagle Restoration On Dale Hollow Reservoir, by O. Ray Jordan.

Why Do Bluebirds Build Nests? by T. David Pitts.

Wintering Bird Populations In Fragmented Forests Of The Central Basin, by Joseph W. Wahl.

Results Of The 1989 Field Season Of The Tennessee Breeding Bird Atlas Project, by Charles P. Nicholson.

Foray Report, by Damien Simbeck.

Saturday evening

Swamps, Snags, And Snakes: Breeding Ecology Of The Prothonotary Warbler In Tennessee, by Lisa J. Petit (University of Arkansas).

Nancy Tanner, Secretary

The Migrant, 60(4):100-101, 1989

IN MEMORIAM: ADELE H. WEST

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

Adele H. West, the motivating force behind the organization of the Chattanooga Chapter, TOS, died in Nashville on 28 August 1986 at the age of 77. Adele was born in Boston, Massachusetts; in her teens she moved to Manchester, New Hampshire to live with an aunt and uncle. After finishing high school she was employed by the New Hampshire Public Service Company. She attended a normal school in Keene, New Hampshire. In 1932 she moved to Nashville where she worked for the *Nashville Tennessean* newspaper. Later in 1932 she took a job with TVA at Wilson Dam, Alabama; there she met her future husband Eugene ("Gene") West. They were married on 26 April 1933 at Tuscumbia.

In 1946 Gene was transferred to Watauga Dam at Elizabethton. This is where Adele and Gene met Lee and Lois Herndon. The rest is now history. Up to this time



Adele had never done any birding, but when Lee found out about her latent interest he took her under his wing and offered expert guidance based on his many years of experience. Gene later transferred to Chattanooga.

Instilled by Lee Herndon with the goals and objectives of the TOS, Adele was encouraged to organize field enthusiasts in the area. On 19 August 1953 the organization was formed as the Chattanooga Bird Study club with 21 charter members. They were officially recognized by TOS President Mrs. Robert A. Monroe as the Chattanooga Chapter at a supper meeting on 10 March 1954.

Immediately the fledgling group scheduled regular meetings and field trips to the varied habitats in the area. Adele was responsible for noteworthy observations being submitted to

The Migrant in the form of "Round Table" notes and "The Season" reports. In order to foster communication with members, Adele helped initiate a newsletter, The Chattanooga Chat, and was its editor for five years.

The first Christmas Bird Count in Chattanooga was conducted in 1953 and the first spring count in 1954. Adele, with the enthusiastic support of Gene, organized the first area Hawk Counts in 1954. Members fanned out to fire towers on Elder Mountain, the Cumberland Plateau at Morgan Springs, Fall Creek Falls State Park, Daisy and the escarpment west of Sequatchie Valley northwest of Pikeville. Some members also observed from the Oswald Dome fire tower on Chilhowee Mountain in Polk County.

With Adele's expanding interest in birds and conservation she wrote a number of nature articles for the *Chattanooga Times* newspaper as well as the *Tennessee Conservationist* and *Travel and Trailer Topics* magazines. She and Gene made a number of 16mm color films on various nature subjects. She wrote the commentaries and presented them in person when they were shown to interested groups.

Adele birded in all 48 continental states, Alaska, Canada, Mexico, Panama, and Columbia, South America. In the 1960's Adele and Gene retired to Crossville where, because of health reasons, she was relatively inactive in bird study.

The seeds of bird study and conservation sown by Adele continue to flourish and thrive in the Chattanooga area today. Prior to her arrival, bird records from the area were scant and sketchy. The observations she recorded in *The Migrant*, and elsewhere, are the historical basis for our knowledge of avian distribution in the Chattanooga area. In addition to her writings, Adele's influence and legacy will continue to live on, as Gene has graciously donated her library of books to the Chattanooga Chapter. Future students will be forever grateful for all of her contributions.

Accepted 15 October 1989.

THE SEASON

ROBERT P. FORD, Editor



SUMMER: 1 JUNE - 31 JULY 1989

This summer season was the wettest in several years, presenting birds and birders with a change from recent drought conditions. Rainfall filled most lakes to capacity, and flooded bottomland hardwood forests in west Tennessee throughout the month of June, a first in recent memory. The extent of impacts to ground nesting birds was difficult to assess, although "considerable losses" occurred in the Eastern Ridge and Valley region. Many species, however, nested successfully later in the season, as noted for Least Tern in the Western Coastal Plain and Killdeer in the Eastern Ridge and Valley regions.

Regardless of high waters, observers for the Tennessee Breeding Bird Atlas project journeyed afield and, once again, supplied much of the information found in this report. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers occurred in the eastern mountains; this is the first breeding season record in Tennessee for several years. Atlassers found new nesting locations for Grasshopper Sparrows in the Highland Rim and Basin region, and high densities were found in at least one area of the Eastern Mountain region. House Finch numbers continue to increase across the state. As this species continues to expand its breeding range, documentation of competition with other species would be valuable.

The season was especially eventful for herons, as new breeding locations were confirmed and at least one traditional heronry dissipated. Mixed species of herons and egrets were present throughout the period along the Mississippi River, a Great Blue Heron colony is suspected in the basin, and the first Great Blue Heron colony in Monroe Co., Eastern Mountain region, was documented. Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons may not have fared so well. The traditional Blackcrowned heronry at Bordeaux apparently dispersed, and the regional compiler asks all observers to search for new locations of a heronry. In Chattanooga, the Yellow-crowned colony did not produce young this year. Details may be found in regional reports.

The most notable rare bird occurrence of the season was an immature Roseate Spoonbill, found in the Highland Rim and Basin region. This individual constituted only the second state record for this species. Observation of a Franklin's Gull was among other notable rare bird occurrences. Transient shorebirds arrived as expected in July, and are duly reported by region.

Abbreviations used in the following report include: ad - adult; EOP - end of period; ers - earliest fall migrant reported; in. - inch; m - meters; max - maximum number reported from 1 county in 1 day; yg - young; * - record has been documented.

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION — The summer season was relatively cool and wet. High temperatures were below normal in June (-1.3° F) and July (-1.1° F), while rainfall was above normal in June (+3.6 in.) and July (+3.52 in.). Summer residents and transients arrived as expected with attention given primarily to shorebirds at Ensley Bottoms Sewage Lagoons. Confirmations of nesting Bank Swallows and Least Terns reaffirmed the importance of preserving the fragile environs of the Mississippi River.

Grebe - Tern: Pied-billed Grebe: 26 Jun (2 ad, 2 yg) Tatumville marsh, DYC (Mark Greene). Double-crested Cormorant: 5 Jun (2) Phillipy Pits, LKC (WGC). Heron species: Sightings of mixed species of herons and egrets along the Mississippi River from SBC to LKC have substantiated the presence of wading birds throughout the summer season. Surveys by boat, car, and foot in DYC, Obion, and LKC have provided a great deal of information regarding the presence of large numbers of Great Blue Herons, Little Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Snowy Egrets. Based on a survey by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, large numbers of herons and egrets were seen near Ensley Bar SBC in 1985 and 1989. Additional heronries in Tipton and LDC Counties at River Miles 757, 760, and 813 were observed in early Jun and Aug. Further river sightings were made in north DYC and south LKC (River Miles 842, 845). About 750 individuals of mixed heron/egret species were feeding at Phillipy Pits, LKC, River Mile 920 (WGC). Canada Goose: 2 Jun (4 eggs hatched, ad with bands) S.F. Forked Deer River, DYC (Ken Webster fide RPF). Blue-winged Teal: 5 Jun (1 male) Phillipy Pits, LKC (WGC); 29 Jun (2 ad, 8 yg) LHWR, LDC (Linda Watters, Assistant Refuge Manager), first nesting record for refuge; 10/17 Jul (1/20) Hwy 79W, LKC (WGC); 19 Jul (1) ESL (MGW, JEW); 23 Jul (7) Phillipy Pits, LKC (WGC). Hooded Merganser: 5 Jun (7) Phillipy Pits, LKC (WGC). Common Moorhen: 21 Jun (1) REL, LKC (TJW). King Rail: 7-23 Jun (2) LHWR, LDC(Linda Watters, Bobby Baker); 20 Jun (1) HWR (Glenn Harris). Osprey: 1 Jun - EOP (2 ad, nest with yg) Tennessee River and Cypress Creek, Henry Co. (Joyce North); 21 Jun (2) REL, LKC (TJW); 26 Jun (4) Markham/Hwy 78N, LKC (WGC); 25 Jul (1) HWR (Knox Martin). Cooper's Hawk: 25 Jun (1 heard) Cedar Grove, Carroll Co. (DFV). Lesser Yellowlegs: 10 Jun-19 Jul (1 - 10) ESL (CHB, VBR, MGW, JEW); 17 Jul (13) Hwy 79W, LKC (WGC). Solitary Sandpiper: 12-22 Jul (18) ESL (CHB, VBR, MGW, JEW); 17 Jul (5) Hwy 79W, LKC (WGC); 17/23 Jul (1/2) Phillipy Pits LKC (WGC). Western Sandpiper: 10 Jun (1) ESL (VBR, CHB); 10 Jul (3) Hwy 79W, LKC (WGC); 22 Jul (3) ESL (MGW. JEW); 23 Jul (5) Phillipy Pits, LKC (WGC); 24 Jul (6) Is 13 (WGC). Pectoral Sandpiper: 10 Jun-22 Jul (1-344) ESL (CHB, VBR, MGW, JEW). Stilt Sandpiper: 19/22 Jul (1/4) ESL (MGW, JEW). Long-billed Dowitcher: 19 Jul (3) ESL (MGW, JEW), identified by call. Least Tern: In early Jun, many islands with nests containing three eggs were found during a survey by small boat. However, a rising river inundated islands, and nests were subsequently destroyed. A second survey was conducted after the river began to drop in early August. Terns nested a second time with only two eggs per nest. Terns nesting on some higher islands apparently were successful, as young birds were observed. A more comprehensive report will be published later.

Date		Kilometers Surveyed	CW	W	WPW		
	County		Total	No. per km	Total	No. per km	
16/17 Jun	Madison	112	76	.68	30	.26	
19/20 Jun	Fayette	88	145	1.6	27	.31	
19/20 Jun	Hardeman	23	19	.82	4	.17	

Table 1. Results from a Chuck-will's-widow (CWW) and Whip-poor-will (WPW) Survey in southern west Tennessee

Goatsuckers: Numbers of Chuck-will's-widows (CWW) and Whip-poor-wills (WPW) were lower than those found in 1988 in west Tennessee, although different counties were surveyed this year (Table 1, BBC and LCC).

Swallow - Finch: Swallow species: 9 Jul (300+) Bank Swallow, Tree Swallow, Purple Martin, Phillipy Pits, LKC (WGC). Tree Swallow: 5/9 Jul (10/12 ad, 2 yg) Phillipy Pits, LKC (WGC). Bank Swallow: 26 Jun (150 holes) Heloise, DYC (WGC); 5 Jul (5) Phillipy Pits, LKC (WGC); 29 Jun (600 holes) east bank, MS river, 3.2 km N of Randolph, LDC, (175 holes) Chickasaw Bluff No. 2, 1.6 to 3.2 km S of Randolph, Tipton Co. (BBC, LCC, JBG); 17 Jul (130) Champey's Pocket, REL (WGC). Barn Swallow: 26 Jun (50 nests) I-55 overpass and Delaware St., SBC (BBC, LCC), fewer than 3 previous years. Bewick's Wren: 30 May (1) 3.2 km NE of Camden, about 1.6 km N of a bird taped 3 Jul 1984, Benton Co. (BBC, LCC). Loggerhead Shrike: 29 May (1) NE of Mifflin, Chester Co.; (1) SW of Lexington, Henderson Co. (BBC, LCC). Pine Warbler: 6 Jun (1) PEF (HBD, VBR); (1) SE SBC (MGW). Cerulean Warbler: 12 Jun (1) SFP (BBC). Black-and-white Warbler: 25 Jun (1) Cedar Grove, Carroll Co. (DFV). Worm-eating Warbler: 12 Jun (1) SFP (BBC, LCC). Swainson's Warbler: 28 May (1) S of La Grange N of Wolf River, Fayette Co. (BBC, LCC). Scarlet Tanager: 3 Jun (3) HWR (BBC, LCC, JBG); 23 Jul (1) Sugartree, east central Decatur Co. (CHB). Bachman's Sparrow: 9 Jun (1) Pine Top, Chester Co. (BBC, LCC), only one for this season although several areas were checked. Grasshopper Sparrow: 4/7 Jul (6/3) Hwy 79W, LKC (WGC). House Finch: Memphis, Jackson, and other west Tennessee locations reported nesting finches. BBC has banded 414 this season. Several banded birds have been reported in SBC this summer.

Locations: DYC-Dyer Co.; ESL-Ensley Bottom sewage lagoons, Shelby Co.; HWR-Hatchie Natonal Wildlife Refuge, Haywood Co.; Is 13-Island 13, Lake Co.; LDC-Lauderdale Co.; LHNWR-Lower Hatchie Natonal Wildlide Refuge, Tipton and Lauderdale Cos.; LKC-Lake Co.; PEF-Penal Farm, Shelby Co.; REL-Reelfoot Lake; SBC-Shelby Co.; SFP-Shelby Forest State Park, Shelby Co.

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HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION — In Nashville, over twice the normal rainfall was recorded in Jun and temperatures were below normal. In Jul, rainfall was .64 in. below normal and temperatures were virtually normal.

The most notable record for the season was an immature Roseate Spoonbill, present at Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge (CCNWR) for much of the period. A number of non-nesting species of ducks spent the summer there, and others arrived exceptionally early. A pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers was present for much of the period, lingering into mid-Jun before disappearing. Tennessee Breeding Bird Atlas field workers recorded encouraging numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers and Grasshopper Sparrows in the region.

The most alarming development in the region was the abandonment of the Bordeaux Heronry in Nashville. This Black-crowned Night-Heron colony, active since 1953, has been occupied by as many as 700 herons (1984). However, not one active nest was recorded this season. The presence of herons feeding on the river near the old heronry suggests that the birds may have established a new heronry in the general vicinity, or combined with a known heronry on Old Hickory Lake. Area birders are encouraged to make every effort to locate any new heronries, or to note any increases in existing heronries.

Grebe-ducks: Pied-billed Grebe: 12 Jul (1) OHL, DVC (RYN, MLM). Least Bittern: 8 Jul (1) BWMA, SWC (DWB), only report. Great Blue Heron: 23 July (83) CCNWR, SWC (DWB), max.; an unexpectedly high number of Great Blue Herons recorded across the basin by Tennessee Breeding Bird Atlas observers in Jun and Jul suggests the possibility of an unknown heronry in this region. Great Egret: 21 Jun (2) Nashville, DVC (DWB); 8 Jul-EOP (1-3) CCNWR, SWC (DWB). Snowy Egret: 18 Jul-EOP (1-2) CCNWR, SWC (DWB). Little Blue Heron: 22 June (3) I-24 S of Nashville, DVC (DWB); 30 May-25 Jun (1 im) Hendersonville, DVC (RYN); 8 Jul (5) BWMA, SWC (DWB); 23 Jul (55) CCNWR (DWB), max. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 13 Jul (9) SWC (DWB), max. White Ibis: 30 Jul (1 im) BCWMA, SWC (DWB). ROSEATE SPOONBILL: 23 Jul (1 im*) CCNWR, SWC (DWB, m.ob.), 2nd state record, 1st SWC record. Wood Duck: 18 Jul (111) CCNWR, SWC (DWB), max. Gadwall: 25 Jul (2) CCNWR, SWC (DWB), ers. American Wigeon: 1 Jun-EOP (2) BWMA, SWC (DWB), these 2 birds were present during much of the spring period, and include an injured male that is unable to fly and a healthy female. Redhead: 24 Jul (1) CCNWR, SWC (JRW). Ring-necked Duck: 18 Jul-EOP (1-2 ad) CCNWR, SWC (DWB).

Raptors: Black Vulture: 6 Jun (1 ad and 2 nestlings) near Verona, Marshall Co. (DFV), nest with yg in limestone sink; 24 Jul (1 nestling) near Kingston Springs, Cheatam Co. (Tim Higgs, fide DFV), nest under rock bluff on small creek. Turkey Vulture: 6 Jun (1 ad, 2 yg) near Verona, Marshall Co. (DFV), this nest was discovered less than 50 m from the above Marshall Co. Black Vulture nest. Osprey: 17 Jun (1) Cane Creek, Houston Co. (DWB); 8 Aug (1) Stones River, RUC (MLM). Bald Eagle: 6-7 Aug (2 ad) CCNWR, SWC (JRW, Dollyann Daily). Northern Harrier: 29 Jul (1) CCNWR, SWR (JRW, Dollyann Daily). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 17 Jun (2 ad) near Indian Mound, White Co. (DFV), agitated pair was observed in grove of Loblolly Pines calling as if nest was nearby. Cooper's Hawk: 9 Jun (1 ad) near Christiana, RUC (DFV), bird was carrying food, apparently, to feed young; 13 Jun (1 ad) Defeated Creek Campgroud, Cordell Hull Res., Smith Co. (fide DFV); 16 Jun (1 ad) near Rowland, Warren Co. (DFV), carrying food.

Shorebirds – Owls: Spotted Sandpiper: 4 Jun (1 ad, 1 yg) Metro Center, DVC (DFV), 1 ad seen with 1 chick approximately 1 or 2 days old; 1 Jul (1) CCNWR, SWC (DWB), earliest fall arrival for region. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 22 Jul (2) CCNWR, SWC (DWB), ers. Western Sandpiper: 17 Jul (3) BWMA, SWC (DWB), ers. Least Sandpiper: 17 Jul (3) BWMA, SWC (DWB), ers. Least Sandpiper: 17 Jul (3) BWMA, SWC (DWB), ers. Stilt Sandpiper: 22 Jul (2) CCNWR, SWC (DWB), ers. Stilt Sandpiper: 22 Jul (2) CCNWR, SWC (DWB), ers. Wilson's Phalarope: 23 Jul (1) CCNWR, SWC (DWB), ers. FRANKLIN'S GULL:24 Jul (1 im*) CCNWR, SWC (DWB, JRW). Caspian Tern: 8 Jul (1) BWMA, SWC (DWB), ers. Black Tern: 18 Jul (2) CCNWR, SWC (DWB), ers. Barn Owl: 11 Jun (2 ad, 2 or more yg) Murfreesboro, RUC (Richard Hunter, Wilma Hunter), observers reported Barn Owls nesting in same tree cavity for more than 6 years.

Woodpecker - Finch: Red-headed Woodpecker: several observers from various areas of the region reported this species in higher than expected numbers this season. SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: 1 Jun-16 Jun (2) Seal's Farm, Franklin Co. (Ruth W. Luckado), these 2 birds were present through much of the previous period and lingered into the summer, nesting was not detected. Willow Flycatcher: 4 Jun (4) Metro Center, DVC (DFV); 22 Jun (2) CCNWR, SWC (DWB), nest found; 23 Jul (7) CCNWR, SWC (DWB), max. Horned Lark: 23 Jun (2 ad, 1 yg) Fairview Middle School, Wiliamson Co. (ATT), this record constitutes one of only a few occurrences of nesting Horned Lark in the region in recent years. Purple Martin: 29 Jul (1090) SWC (DWB), max. Carolina Chickadee: 17 Jun (1 albinistic individual in a family group of 6 birds) Indian Mound, Dekalb Co. (DFV). Bewick's Wren: 1 Jun-EOP (2 ad) Carothers Rd., DVC (Richard H. Conners), this pair raised 2 broods at this location; 1 Jun-10 Jul (2) Cypress Inn, Wayne Co. (DJS); 17 Jun (6) SWC (DWB), 6 birds observed at 5 Westvaco Timber clearcuts. Cedar Waxwing: 17 Jun (2) McKinnan Airport, Houston Co. (DWB); 4 Jul (3) Dover, SWC (DWB); 18 Jul (4) Montgomery Co., (2) WSB, SWC (DWB). American Redstart: 14 Jun (2) near Goose Horn, Jackson Co. (DFV); 17 Jun (1) Cane Creek, Houston Co. (DWB). Dickcissel: 16 Jun (1) Belvidere, Franklin Co. (GRM); 1 Jun-EOP (10 singing males) CCNWR, SWC (DWB); 1 Jun-EOP (3 singing males) BWMA, SWC. Lark Sparrow: 1 Jun-10 Jul (10 ad, 15 yg) Cypress Inn, Wayne Co. (DJS); 26 Jun (1) Sulfer Springs Rd., RUC (DWB). Grasshopper Sparrow: Atlassing efforts resulted in several new locations for this species in the region; 7 Jun (1) near Hall's Mill, Bedford Co. (DFV); 8 Jun (1) Caters Crossroads, Bedford Co. (DFV); 16 Jun (2) Belvidere, Franklin Co. (GRM); 16 Jun (3) near Rowland, Warren Co. (DFV). Northern Oriole: 12 Jun (1 male) New Middleton, Smith Co. (DFV). House Finch: 24 Jun (2 ad,1 yg) Dover, SWC (DWB).

Addendum: Spring 1989 - Tree Swallow: 27 May 1989 (2 ad) Linclon Lake, Lincoln Co. (GRM), an active nest with young was observed in a dead tree standing in Lincoln Lake.

Locations: BCWMA-Bear Creek Waterfowl Management Area; BWMA-Barkley Wildlife Management Area; CCNWR-CrossCreeks National Wildlife Refuge; DVC-Davidson Co.; OHL-Old Hickory Lake; RUC-Rutherford Co.; SWC-Stewart Co.; WSB-Wiley's Springs Bay.

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EASTERN RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION — This was the wettest summer in several years and the wettest Jun–Jul period on record in the Chattanooga area. Rain was heaviest in the southern part of the region and declined toward the north, especially in July. Rainfall totals and deviations from the normal for the 3 main reporting stations are as follows: Chattanooga – June 9.2 in. (+5.9 in.) and July 9.9 in. (+5.4 in.), Knoxville – 9 in. ("over twice the normal amount") and 4.3 in. ("near average"), Johnson City – 6.6 in. (+3.2 in.) and 3 in. (-1.2 in.). After several years of drought, these heavy rains raised the water table and kept lakes filled to capacity, but caused local flooding. As a result, ground nesting birds suffered considerable losses. Some fared better later in the season. For example, very few early broods of Killdeer were seen in the Johnson City area, but more than the expected number in mid-Jul (pers. obs.). Temperatures were near normal, very different from last year's scorcher.

Once again, atlas work produced much of the information in this report. Numerous interesting finds are detailed below. Coverage was from slightly over half of the counties in the region, down a little from last year; but, this is still better than most summers. As expected, some wandering herons and the first wave of southbound shorebirds were encountered.

Loon - Ibis: Common Loon: 4 Jun/1-31 Jul (1/1-2) CHL (Donald L. Rush, Jr./RJH). Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Jun (5) CHL (Donald L. Rush, Jr.); 19-20 Jun (1) JNC (FJA), first local summer record; 30 Jun (1) HRA (WKJ), "no nest records yet, although reported regularly during recent summers" (CPN). American Bittern: 8 Jul (1 calling) Brainerd Levee, CHA (Paul C. Harris, Jonnie Sue Lyons). Least Bittern: 5 Jul (1) Washington Ferry, CHL, RHC portion (WKJ); 10 Jul (1) southern Morgan Co. (CPN). Great Blue Heron: no report on status of nesting colonies. Great Egret: 10 Jun (1) Tellico Lake, Monroe Co. (JAK); 17 Jun (1) CHA (RCS); 12 Jul-EOP (1) SAB (KHD, LHD). Little Blue Heron: 8/13 Jul (2) CHA (Paul C. Harris, Jonnie Sue Lyons/William C. Olson), only report. Black-crowned Night-Heron: 6 Jun (6-8) Boone Dam, SLC/WGC (FJA); 21 Jun (3) KPT (FJA); only reports. Yellowcrowned Night-Heron: 16 May (1 nest with yg) Lesser Alcoa Marsh, Blount Co. (CPN, ARH, RDH); 5 Jun (1 ad) Big Limestone Creek, WGC (RLK); "it appears no yg fledged from the Brainerd Levee, CHA, colony this year, suspected reason was constant harassment by crows" (Judy Boyles). White Ibis: 14/23 Jun (8 im/11 im) SAB (KHD, LHD).

Goose – Rail: Canada Goose: several nests flooded in JNC area (RLK). HOODED MERGANSER: 13 Jun (3 im) AUS (RLK), may represent first local breeding; 28 Jun/22 Jul (1 male) KSP (Terry J. Witt/ KHD, LHD, RJH et al.). Osprey: lower numbers on Watts Bar Lake, MEC, RHC, RNC, this year (13 nests with yg, 18 in 1988), reason for decrease unknown; nest with yg at new location on Melton Hill Lake, ANC; unsuccessful nest again at HRA; success of nest near Clinton, ANC, unknown (fide Ed Beddow, Bruce Anderson). Bald Eagle: 22 Jul (1 im) Watts Bar Lake, RNC portion (WKJ). Sharp-shinned Hawk: single reports from CIC and MEC (RDH, CPN). Cooper's Hawk: reported from at least 5 locations in HKC and CIC (RDH, George W. McKinney), 2 locations in GNC (RLK), and 1 location in SLC (BLC); 23 Jun (nest with 4 yg) Panther Creek S.P., HBC (Howard Chitwood). Peregrine Falcon: 11 Jul (1 im) downtown CHA (Ralph T. Brown). King Rail: 11 Jun (1) Blythe Ferry Goose Area, HRA, MEC portion (Johnny Parks, C. Del Blum), heavy rains 10 days later flooded area. Plover – Woodpecker: Semipalmated Plover: 22 Jul (1) KSP (RCS, RJH et al.), ers. Lesser Yellowlegs: 4 Jul (1) LST (RLK), ers. Solitary Sandpiper: 17 Jul (1) LST (BLC), ers. Willet: 28-29 Jun (1) LST (BLC). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 16 Jul (4) KSP (KHD, LHD), ers. Western Sandpiper: 22 Jul (1) KSP (RCS, RJH et al.), ers. Least Sandpiper: 22 Jul (5) KSP (RCS, RJH et al.), ers. Pectoral Sandpiper: 22 Jul (1) KSP (RCS, RJH et al.), ers. American Woodcock: 13 Jun (2) KPT (FJA). Caspian Tern: 16 Jul (9) KSP (KHD, LHD). Black Tern: 20 Jul (3) LST (RLK). Black-billed Cuckoo: 13 Jun (1) SLC (BLC); 19 Jun (1) near Glenmary, SOC (CPN), rather rare in summer. Barn Owl: 20 Jun (3 yg in nest tree) Birchwood, HLC (KHD, LHD); 2 active nest sites in JNC, 1 nest fledged at least 4 yg (LHTOS); 6 Jul (1 im) Boone Lake, SLC portion (fide Ken Ripley). Red-headed Woodpecker: 22 June (pair) McDonald, Bradley Co. (LHD, Gertrude Fleming); 10-12 regular at Hixson and Chester Frost Park, HLC (RJH); pair with 2 yg at LST (BLC).

Flycatcher - Shrike: Willow Flycatcher: 11 Jun (2-3) HRA (Johnny T. Parks, C. Del Blum), present at this site for at least 5 years, breeding not yet confirmed; 24 Jun (1) near Baileyton, GNC (RLK); 1 new location near Harrogate, CIC (ARH, RDH); also reported from several usual sites. Least Flycatcher: 3 Jun (1) near Norma, SOC (CPN) "has been found several times in general area during last few years, but no nesting evidence yet" (CPN). Horned Lark: 3 Jun (1) Roaring Creek, RHC (KHD); 8 Jun (1) Chucky Bend, COC (RLK); 29 Jun (1) strip mine near Winona, SOC (CPN); uncommon over most of east Tennessee. Tree Swallow: pair nested at AUS (FJA, RLK), 2nd nesting there; 5 Jun (1) Nolichucky River, WGC (RLK); 6 Jun (1) Tri-cities Airport, SLC (FJA); 13 Jun (pair) KPT (FJA); Jun sighting at Panther Creek S.P., HBC (Howard Chitwood); continues to expand in region. Cliff Swallow: new colony along Clinch River below Norris Dam, ANC, and previously unreported colony on Hwy. 61 bridge at Clinton, ANC (CPN); increased numbers at some other established colonies. Eastern Bluebird: good nesting season, with many broods in northeastern portion of region (fide RLK). Cedar Waxwing: "present in good numbers early in season, but much less nesting evidence reported than in 1988" (CPN); nested in CIC and again at Norris, ANC (RDH, CPN). Loggerhead Shrike: good season for this usually scarce species, with breeding evidence from Bradley, CIC, HBC, HKC, HLC, Loudon, MEC, and Monroe Cos., plus Jun sightings in COC, GNC, Hawkins, SLC, and WGC (m. ob.).

Vireo – Finch: Warbling Vireo: 5 Jun (1) Nolichucky River, WGC (RLK); 22 Jun (1) eastern GNC (RLK); 25 Jun (ad with yg) HKC (ARH, RDH), rare in region. Blue-winged Warbler: 2 singing males (1 with mate) Fiery Gizzard Cove, Marion Co. (J.N. Howard, Ella C. Howard), few summer records in region. Prothonotary Warbler: 2 pairs at AUS (RLK); 13 Jun (1) KPT (FJA); 12 Jun (1) western GNC (RLK), rare in northeastern portion of the region. Swainson's Warbler: 27 Apr-6 Jun (1 singing daily) Fiery Gizzard Cove, Marion Co. (J.N. Howard, Ella C. Howard), 1 present in 1988 also, rare in region. Dickcissel: 11 Jun (1) Newport, COC (ARH, RDH); 16/25 Jun (3/2) Daus, Sequatchie Co. (Robert L. Pierce); 17 Jun (2) Spring Branch, McMinn Co. (Robert L. Pierce, KHD, LHD); 7 Jul (4) Wetmore, Polk Co. (CPN). Northern Oriole: 3 Jun (nest) Newport, COC (ARH, RDH); 8 Jun (1) HKC (ARH, RDH); 22 Jun (1) Chuckey, GNC (RLK); 24 Jun (1) Baileyton, GNC (RLK). House Finch: "continues to increase and expand; record high numbers on some

BBS routes this year; has not yet saturated the area; more study of local movement patterns would be valuable" (CPN).

Locations: ANC - Anderson Co.; AUS - Austin Springs, Washington Co.; CHA - Chattanooga; CHL - Chickamauga Lake, Hamilton Co. portion; CIC - Claiborne Co.; COC - Cocke Co.; GNC - Greene Co.; HBC - Hamblen Co.; HKC - Hancock Co.; HLC - Hamilton Co.; HRA - Hiawasee River Area, primarily Meigs Co., but also Bradley, McMinn, and Rhea Cos.; JNC - Johnson City; KPT - Kingsport; KSP - Kingston Steam Plant, Roane Co.; LST - Limestone, Washington Co.; MEC - Meigs Co.; RHC - Rhea Co.; RNC - Roane Co.; SAB - Savannah Bay, Hamilton Co.; SLC - Sullivan Co.; SOC - Scott Co.; WGC - Washington Co.

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION — Precipitation was above normal in June (+6.65 in.), and about average in July. Temperatures were about average, with highs usually in the 80's, and rarely exceeding 90° F. Some good records were turned in this period, largely the result of breeding bird atlas work.

Loon - Swallow: Common Loon: 21-29 Jun (1, winter plumage) WIL (RLK). Great Blue Heron: new colony of about 50 nests reported at Chota Wildlife Refuge, Tellico Lake, Monroe Co. (fide WKJ), first nest record for lake and county. Ring-necked Duck: 18 Jun (1 male) WTR (RLK). Hooded Merganser: 18 Jun (1 female) WTR (RLK). Bald Eagle: 29 Jul (1 ad) TEL (ARH, RDH, CPN). Sharpshinned Hawk: 4 Jun (1) LBL (DBM), carrying food, apparently for young; 7 Jul (1) Ducktown, Polk Co. (CPN), carrying food. Solitary Sandpiper: 4 Jun (1) TEL (JAK). YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: 14-15/29-30 Jun (5+) Whigg Meadow, Cherokee National Forest, Monroe Co. (CPN), first breeding season reports in state in several years. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 Jun (1) MTC (DBM), late migrant. Willow Flycatcher: 2-3 Jun (19-20 singing males) MTC (DBM), all in one atlas block. Alder Flycatcher: 18 May-9 Jul (6-8 singing males) RNM (Brenda Hull, fide FJA); 3 Jun (1 singing male) MTC at 2800 ft (DBM). Least Flycatcher: 4 Jun (1) LBL at 2800 ft (DBM). Tree Swallow: 13/21 Jun (pair) WTR (RLK), seen entering tree cavity; pair at Butler, Johnson Co. motel sign nest site (used in 1988) (James W. Brooks). Cliff Swallows: colonies at 2 bridges (20+ and 6+) active thru period, SHL (RPL).

Raven – Vireo: Common Raven: 17 Jun (2) UMT (RLK, BLC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1-4 birds present on UMT and RNM (RLK). Brown Creeper: 3-4 Jun (1) LBL, 1031 m (DBM); 1 Jul (2) Ripshin Mt., Carter Co. (RLK), 1031 m and 1334 m. Winter Wren: birds seen at LBL, UMT, Ripshin Mt., RNM (RLK). Golden-crowned Kinglet: present on RNM and UMT (RLK). Cedar Waxwing: 1 Jun (pair building nest) Hartford, Cocke Co. (RDH, ARH); 2-3 Jun (nest with yg) MTC (DBM). Warbling Vireo: 3-4 along WTR (LHTOS); 3 near SHL (RPL).

Warbler - Finch: Blue-winged Warbler: 28 Jun (1 male) near Sam's Gap, Unicoi Co. (BLC). MAGNOLIA WARBLER: 8/17 Jun (1 singing male) UMT (FJA/RLK, BLC). BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: 3 Jun (1) LBL (DBM). American Redstart: 2 Jun (1) MTC (DBM); 9 Jun (1) WTR (BLC). Swainson's Warbler: 2 singing males thru June, Hoss Cove, Washington Co. (RPL). Vesper Sparrow: 4-5 Jun (3 singing birds plus pair with 1 yg) LBL (DBM); mid-Jun (1) Roger's Ridge, Johnson Co. (Edward H. Schell). Grasshopper Sparrow: 4 Jun (17 singing males in one atlas block) LBL (DBM). Northern Oriole: 2 Jun (nest) MTC (DBM); 11 Jun (pair) Walland, Blount Co. (JAK); 21 Jun (pair with 2 yg) Hampton, Carter Co. (RLK). House Finch: 3 Jun (recently fledged yg) MTC (DBM).

ADDENDA: Spring 1989 - Common Loon: 3/5 May (1) Parksville Lake, Polk Co. (JCW). Double-cresed Cormorant: 5 May (4) Parksville Lake, Polk Co. (JCW). Great Egret: 13 April (1) Hiawassee River, Polk Co. (JCW). Olive-sided Flycatcher: 31 May (1) 515 m near Hartford, Cocke Co. (RDH, ARH), probable migrant.

Locations: LBL - Laurel Bloomery, Johnson Co.; MTC - Mountain City, Johnson Co.; RNM - Roan Mountain, Carter Co.; SHL - South Holston Lake area, Sullivan Co.; TEL - Tellico Lake, Monroe Co.; UMT - Unaka Moutain, Unicoi Co.; WIL - Wilbur Lake, Carter Co.; WTR - Watauga River, Carter Co.

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OBSERVERS

FJA — Fred J. Alsop

- DWB Donald W. Blunk
- CHB Carolyn H. Bullock
- BBC Ben B. Coffey, Jr.
- LCC Lula C. Coffey
- WGC William G. Criswell
- BLC Brian L. Cross
- KHD Kenneth H. Dubke
- LHD Lillian H. Dubke
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