

# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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# THE MIGRANT

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# THE MIGRANT

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*The Migrant*, 61(2):41-43, 1990.

## FIRST TENNESSEE RECORD OF THE ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER

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On 22 December 1985, I was birding in a party of five on the Kingsport Audubon Christmas Bird Count in Sullivan County. At approximately 1015 hours we parked our cars in the pulloff at the west end of Riverfront Park just off Netherland Inn Road where the North Fork and the South Fork of the Holston Rivers merge. We scattered and had birded the immediate area around the parking lot and along the river banks about 15 minutes when Rick A. Phillips called us back to the parking lot to observe a "Great Crested Flycatcher" (*Myiarchus crinitus*) he had located on the hillside above our vehicles. All five of us, Rick, Tom F. Laughlin, M. Tim Jones, Marie Jones and me (FJA), located the bird in the open and studied it from a distance of 6 m with binoculars ranging from 7 to 9x for approximately 20 minutes. Viewing conditions were excellent. The sky was overcast with a thin layer of clouds and the midmorning light was bright, but without strong shadows. The temperature was around -2.2 C (the maximum temperature for the day was 1.6 C).

The flycatcher was perched on the upper branching stems of a pokeweed plant (*Phytolacca americana*) that was part of a cluster of 20 or more of these plants ranging in height from 1 to 3 m and growing in the open at the edge of a stand of hardwood trees on the hillside. The flycatcher would leave its perch on the pokeweed to feed on the fruiting clusters of purple-black berries. While eating, the bird stood on the berry-bearing stalks and picked the fruits one at a time. It would eat several of the berries and then return to a perch on the pokeweed. In the time we observed it, it never left the pokeweed, always alternating its activities between perching on the low plants and feeding on the poke berries. We never observed it more than 3 m above the ground and we never saw it take any insects. The bird appeared stressed. It held its wings in a somewhat drooped position against its sides and its flights in the clump of pokeweeds seemed sluggish. We felt it was not healthy and that we could probably return later in the day and find its body (individually, Rick and I returned several times that day, and on several subsequent days, looking for the flycatcher, but we never saw it again).

As we began to observe the bird initially, I cautioned everyone to consider that any flycatcher other than an Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) found in Tennessee

in mid-winter was a most unusual sighting and that we should carefully note and agree upon all the fieldmarks of this *Myiarchus* species because it could be a western species instead of a Great Crested Flycatcher. The following field characteristics were scored by all five observers: The tail and wings were reddish-brown. The tail was darker near its base on the upper side and the individual tail feathers were darker brown on their outer margins. The wings showed two conspicuous whitish bars. The bill was dark. The throat, chin and upper breast were pale gray being lighter, almost white, on the chin and throat. The gray of the breast blended gradually into the pale yellow of the lower breast and belly. The underparts to the end of the undertail coverts were pale yellow. The head was grayish-brown and slightly crested. The bird appeared to us like a very pale, washed-out Great Crested Flycatcher, but none of us had ever seen one in winter and didn't know if there was an alternate plumage not described by the eastern field guides we carried (Peterson 1980). The bird made no vocalizations in our presence.

I was the only one in the party with prior field experience with the Ash-throated Flycatcher (*M. cinerascens*) and it was not until I was able to work in my home library late that night that I was convinced that the flycatcher we had studied was, indeed, an Ash-throated Flycatcher. Everything we had noted as we studied the flycatcher on the spot, and that I had recorded in my field notes, agreed only with the characteristics of an Ash-throated Flycatcher, not a Great Crested Flycatcher. Several days later I talked by telephone with Tom Imhof, regional editor for *American Birds*, for the Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee region. We discussed all the aspects of our field observation and he concurred with my contention that the species was, indeed, an Ash-throated Flycatcher (the bird was accepted by him as this species and was published as such in the Kingsport Christmas Count, 801, pages 1043-1044, *American Birds*, 50 (4)). This sighting constitutes the first known record for the Ash-throated Flycatcher for Tennessee.

This record for the Ash-throated Flycatcher in Tennessee, is, perhaps, not as unexpected as it may first appear. William L. Murphy, writing in *American Birds* (1982), states, "The Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), once considered to be an accidental visitor east of the Mississippi River, has become a regular fall and occasional spring visitor in recent years." Murphy (1982) presents an annotated list of sightings, seasonal and geographic patterns of sighting, and characteristics by which field observers can distinguish the species of *Myiarchus* flycatchers found in America north of Mexico from the Ash-throated Flycatcher. Information he lists (Murphy 1982), including visual characteristics and behavior, add to my own personal convictions as to the correct identity of the bird I observed in Kingsport.

Murphy (1982), in noting the seasonal distribution of this flycatcher east of the Mississippi River in the period from 1911 to the mid-1980's, states, "Most records are from September to December, with late November and early December accounting for peak numbers of observations." Commenting on the bird's behavior he (Murphy 1982) remarks, "The height at which most Ash-throated Flycatchers have been observed in the East is a matter that many observers have regarded as having sufficient significance to merit mention in their reports. With few exception, (*sic*) all eastern sightings have been of birds that remained within a few feet of the ground." Murphy (1982) examined many specimens of *Myiarchus* flycatchers in the collection of the U.S. National Museum and notes, "Every specimen of *M. cinerascens* has pale

yellow on the belly and has mandibles that are dark brown, almost black, to the base. Furthermore, *M. cinerascens* was the only species with a very pale gray or even whitish throat and breast. All other species had graying throats and breasts, the color of which contrasted strongly and abruptly with the lemon underparts."

The nearest known sighting of an Ash-throated Flycatcher to the Kingsport sighting was in Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina (Murphy 1982), approximately 180 km east-southeast, 15 May 1973.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Murphy, W.L., 1982. The Ash-throated Flycatcher in the East: an overview. *American Birds*, 36(3):241-247.
- Peterson, R.T., 1980. A field guide to the birds east of the Rockies. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

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#### BOOK REVIEW

ANOTHER FIELD GUIDE TO LITTLE-KNOWN & SELDOM-SEEN BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA. Ben, Cathryn, and John Sill. 1990. Peachtree Publishers, Ltd. Atlanta, GA. 80 p. \$8.95. Paper.

Well, they have done it again. The three Sillies have combined for another look at those birds everyone really sees but which never seem to be officially recognized by the A.O.U. From the Mangrove Penguin to the Rear-tailed Evader, this small illustrated volume contains descriptions and accounts of 32 "species." Each account includes a particular humorous anecdote or wry combination of impossibilities; for example, the aromagram for the Greater Noxious Grossbird, which perhaps would be more appropriately be expressed on a logarithmic scale; and the description of the Broad-billed Babbler that itself exemplifies the species. Added to this work are finer details of the phylogeny of certain species, such as the prediction that somewhere out there will be or was a caprimulgid that had the call "Will." This little, well-illustrated volume is a lot of fun, like its predecessor. I found it somewhat less plausible than the first, but am convinced that readers of *The Migrant* will enjoy it. My only reservation in recommending it heartily is that they have again ignored a prominent southern species, the Red-naped Owl, whose pellets I have repeatedly found. Maybe next time; maybe not! — PAUL B. HAMEL

## RUFF IN NORTHEAST TENNESSEE

RICHARD L. KNIGHT

804 North Hills Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604

On 10 May 1989 I observed a breeding plumaged female Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) at Austin Springs, Washington County, Tennessee. The bird associated with a small flock of Greater (*Tringa melanoleuca*) and Lesser Yellowlegs (*T. flavipes*) in a pasture field of short to medium-high grass with numerous rain puddles. This field is adjacent to the upper portion of the Watauga River prong of Boone Lake. Initial observations were through 7x binoculars and a 20x spotting scope at distances of 15-40 m for about 30 minutes. The sky was overcast and local visibility was good.

Compared to the yellowlegs, the Ruff was about the same size as the Lesser, though not quite as tall and perhaps a little plumper. The back, wings and head were a medium-dark brown. The breast was a lighter brown with several thin black bars, gradually blending into a white belly. A short dark line extended through the eye. The bill was black, shorter than the Lesser Yellowlegs' bill and thicker at the base, tapering to a slightly drooped tip. When viewed head-on, a buffy-white ring around the base of the bill was discernible. The legs were dingy yellow and appeared slightly shorter than those of the Lesser Yellowlegs. In flight, the sides of the rump were white, appearing to join distally as a U- or V- shaped band on an otherwise brown rump and tail. A faint, narrow white wingbar was visible also. The Ruff skulked through the grass and fed with a pecking action. No calls were heard. The combination of observed field marks, especially the breast and rump patterns and the bill, eliminated possible confusion with Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) and Stilt Sandpiper (*C. himantopus*). References consulted shortly after the initial observation were Scott (1983) and Hayman et al. (1986). Present for four days, the Ruff was last seen on 13 May. Over 20 people viewed the bird.

There are two published sight records of Ruff in Tennessee: 6-9 April 1972, one in Sequatchie County (Shafer 1972) and 21 August 1988, one in Shelby County (Waldron 1989).

### Literature Cited

- Hayman, P., J. Marchant and T. Prater. 1986. Shorebirds, an identification guide to the waders of the world. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.
- Scott, S.L. (ed.). 1983. Field guide to the birds of North America. National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.
- Shafer, W.L. 1972. First known record of a Ruff in Tennessee. *Migrant* 43:86.
- Waldron, M. 1989. Second record of Ruff in Tennessee. *Migrant* 60:51.

Accepted 18 July 1989.

## MINUTES OF THE 1990 TOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors Meeting was held at the Ramada Inn on Mt. Moriah Road in Memphis on May 5, 1990, with 23 directors in person and two who were represented by proxies. President Barbara Finney called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. and copies of the minutes of the 1989 fall meeting were distributed. Fred T. Carney moved the minutes be approved as written. Helen Dinkelspiel seconded it and the motion carried.

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

**TREASURER** George Payne reported that from 13 October 1989 to 1 May 1990, income was \$16,635.43 and expenses were \$9,153.96. Current assets are \$62,041.74. The report is filed with the secretary.

George Payne listed the paid membership as 775 members with several chapters still to report. A new chapter in Jackson has 26 memberships.

**CURATOR** James Tanner reported the sale of back issues of *THE MIGRANT* brought \$20. No additions were made to the archives.

**EDITOR, THE MIGRANT:** David Pitts reported that Bob Ford has replaced John Robinson as Season Editor, and Susan McWhirter has replaced Damien Simbeck as State Count Compiler. A compiler is still needed for the hawk counts.

The September 1989 issue of *THE MIGRANT* is ready and will be mailed May 16. It is a small issue of 24 pages, including the TOS Constitution and Bylaws. Four different colors will again be used for the covers of *THE MIGRANT* for the different seasons. The printer has been changed to the Tennessee Industrial Printing Services in Jackson, which charges five cents a page compared to the seventeen cents charged by Allen Press, the former printer.

David Pitts asked for pictures for the special 75th Anniversary issue. He needs photos of chapters, chapter officers, field trips, and special occasions. He would like suggestions concerning the contents and the special cover for that issue.

David Pitts reported that he had received two requests for *THE MIGRANT* to carry advertising. Don Davidson moved that there be no advertising in *THE MIGRANT*. Ken Dubke seconded and the motion passed.

Barbara Finney showed the two designs which had been submitted in the contest for a new cover for *THE MIGRANT*. Chuck Nicholson moved that we accept these as entrants but that the contest for a new cover remain open until the next annual meeting, at which time the membership would vote. Fred T. Carney seconded and the motion carried.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Jim Ferguson reported that the committee would place the name of Bob Ford in nomination for president-elect.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Jim Tanner said the committee approved the Treasurer's Report.

**BREEDING BIRD ATLAS:** Chuck Nicholson reported that field work will take six seasons. This is the fifth season, and if the weather is good, almost all the priority blocks in East Tennessee will be completed. Middle Tennessee will be about 80% finished and West Tennessee about 60% done. The project raised over \$3,500 since the fall meeting of TOS. A large portion of this money will be spent on hiring

Atlases to work blocks this summer. He also reported that the contract for publication has been signed with the UT Press.

**CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION:** Ken Dubke reported that the 1986 resolution sent by the Columbia chapter to the Monsanto Company has saved three or four of the ponds. According to Bob Hatcher, two Peregrine Falcons have been seen in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and it is hoped that they will raise young. One Red-cockaded Woodpecker is reported in Polk County. Heronries are doing well, but Barn Owls are scarce.

**PATCHES AND DECALS:** Lil Dubke reported that Susan Watson has left Tennessee and returned the patches and decals to her. There were not many left. Barbara Finney showed a new design for the TOS decals and patches that Bill Bridgforth had suggested. George Mayfield moved that we investigate getting new decals in whatever number between 100 and 1000 would be economical, and that we discuss it at the Fall Meeting. Fred T. Carney seconded it and the motion carried. George Mayfield moved and Brad Hammond seconded that we also investigate patches. The motion carried, and Barbara Finney appointed Bill Bridgforth, Fred T. Carney, and George Mayfield as the committee.

**FALL SYMPOSIUM:** George Mayfield and David Pitts are the Fall Symposium chairmen. The meeting will be on October 26-28, 1990 at the Holiday Inn at Dickson. David Pitts called for papers for the Symposium. George Mayfield will try to make reservations now for Fall Creek Falls State Park for the 1992 fall meeting, as it is necessary to book reservations over a year in advance at state parks.

**TENNESSEE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL:** Ken Dubke reported that Barbara Harris has been representing TOS at the meetings.

**TOS AWARDS COMMITTEE:** Ron Hoff sent letters to all the chapters and to the directors at large, asking for nominations of members to receive the TOS Distinguished Service Awards. The Awards Committee consisted of Ron Huff, Richard Newton, and Barbara Finney, and the recipients were chosen both on the basis of past contributions and on geographic location. The number of awards this year is ten, a large number because it is the 75th Anniversary and because it is the start of the awards. Fewer will be given in future years. Ron Hoff stated that the utmost care is taken to insure fairness in the selection process, and that eventually all deserving members will receive an award.

Ron Hoff showed a copy of the handsome certificate to be awarded, suitable for framing. He also showed a sample lapel pin designed by Michael Darr of T. Darr's Jewelry in Knoxville. The lapel pin was in the shape of a mockingbird and would cost \$12-15 in silver and \$40 in gold. Ken Dubke moved that Ron Hoff be reimbursed for his financial outlay, and that we adopt a pin in silver with a mockingbird on the letters TOS, and that it be used exclusively for the TOS Awards. George Mayfield seconded and the motion passed.

**FORAYS:** Chuck Nicholson announced a foray on Memorial Day weekend at Martin, and one at Pulaski on June 22.

**BIRD-A-THON:** Rick Knight announced a Bird-a-thon as a fundraiser for the Breeding Bird Atlas. He and Jim Brooks and Brian Cross will make an exhaustive count of the species of birds in Carter and Washington counties on May 9. They hope to get 130-140 species and ask the members to make a pledge per species.

Richard Newton, president of the Nashville chapter, issued an invitation to the TOS to hold the 1991 Annual Spring Meeting in Nashville the first week-end in May. It was accepted.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Tanner, Secretary TOS

### TOS ANNUAL MEETING 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The seventy-fifth annual meeting of the TOS was held at the Ramada Inn on Mt. Moriah Road in Memphis on May 5, 1990. Van Harris, president of the Memphis Chapter, welcomed everyone, thanked his committees, and introduced the head table. He also read a letter of welcome from the mayor of Memphis.

Barbara Finney, president of the TOS, convened the business meeting at 8:00 pm. and thanked the Memphis Chapter for a very successful meeting. Nancy Tanner, secretary of TOS, read the minutes of the 1989 Spring Annual Meeting, which were approved as read. The secretary then gave a summary of the Board of Directors Meeting.

President Barbara Finney announced that the two designs which had been submitted in the contest for a new cover for *THE MIGRANT* were on display. She called on the chapters to advertise the contest locally.

Treasurer George Payne repeated his report as given at the Board of Directors Meeting, and a copy was filed with the secretary.

Jim Ferguson, chairman of the Nominating Committee, placed the name of Bob Ford in nomination for president-elect. Ron Hoff moved that the nominee be elected by acclamation. Ken Dubke seconded and the motion carried.

Chuck Nicholson, chairman for the Breeding Bird Atlas, repeated the report he had given to the Board of Directors and announced there would be a foray in Martin on Memorial Day weekend, and one at Pulaski on June 22.

George Mayfield, co-chairman with David Pitts of the Fall Symposium, announced that the meeting will be at Dickson on October 26-28, 1990. He said to contact David Pitts with papers for the Symposium.

Ron Hoff, chairman of the TOS Awards Committee, presented the recipients of the TOS Distinguished Service Awards with handsome certificates. He gave an account of each recipient's contributions and service to TOS for which the honor was awarded. The recipients were as follows:

From Memphis: Dr. Arlo Smith, Noreen Smith, and Mary Davant

From Nashville: Katherine Goodpasture and Sue Bell

From Chattanooga: Kenneth Dubke and Lillian Dubke

From the Lee R. Herndon Chapter: Lois Herndon

From Knoxville: J. B. Owen and Dr. James T. Tanner

Richard Knight announced a Bird-a-thon to raise money for the Breeding Bird Atlas on May 9 in Carter and Washington counties. He asked members to sign pledges of money for the number of species.

President Barbara Finney conducted a chapter roll call. There were 113 members present from ten chapters and the Members at Large group. The business session was then adjourned.

Jim Ferguson, chairman of the 75th Anniversary meeting, introduced three charter members of the Memphis Chapter which began sixty years ago. They were Mary Davant, John Embury, and Ben Coffey.

Jim Ferguson then introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. James T. Tanner, Curator of the TOS, who spoke on "The T.O.S. at 75, Looking Back — Looking Forward."

After the talk, Jim Ferguson thanked the speaker and presented him with a 75th Anniversary plate designed and made by the potter, Agnes Stark.

President Barbara Finney closed the meeting at 9:20 p.m. by thanking Jim Ferguson and all the members who had cooperated and worked so well.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Tanner, Secretary

*The Migrant*, 61(2):48-53, 1990.

## 1990 SPRING FIELD DAYS

SUSAN N. McWHIRTER

The 1990 Spring Field Days is the 45th annual count as published in this format. Nine counts were held across the state for a total of 205 species, up from the 1989 total of 199 species, but still below a ten-year average of 214 species per yearly count. Most counts reported cloudy skies with many also experiencing wind and rain. Among the notable species were Sandhill Crane, Laughing Gull, Merlin, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and American Tree Sparrow.

### INFORMATION ON THE COUNTS

MEMPHIS — 29 April; 0700-1800; cloudy to clear; wind light and variable; temp. 60-80F; Shelby Forest S.P. in A.M., Penal Farm, Ensley Bottoms, and Robco L. in P.M. 36 observers, Martha Waldron (compiler — 1626 Yorkshire Dr., Memphis 38119).

COLUMBIA — 27-28 April; Friday-clear and cool, overnight thunderstorms; Saturday — intermittent rain; temp. 60-80F, wind S to SW, 5-15 MPH during storms; 11 observers in 6 parties. William Fuqua, William Jernigan, Allyn Lay, Bedford & Anne Lochridge, George (compiler — 999 Sunnyside Dr., Columbia 38401) & Cleo Mayfield, Wendell Robinson, Karen Stephens, Charges Wolfe.

MURFREESBORO — 28-29 April; overcast, intermittent sun, windy; temp. 46-58F; 36 hours, 435 miles. Bertha & Jim Chrietzberg, Bill & Lou A. Erwin, Edith Haynes, Anne (compiler — 1018 Lawndale, Murfreesboro 37291) & Bob Hettish, R.E. & W.J. Hunter, Ruth & M.R. McMillan, Eugene & Ruth Odom.

LEBANON — 5-6 May; 0630-2000; cloudy with showers to clear; temp. 54-69F; 3 miles by foot, 149 by car; 2 hrs. at feeders; 13 observers, Earline C. & Vernon C. Berry, Jean Callis, Frank & Norma Crawford, June Gelpi, Melville R. & Ruth V. McMillan (Compiler — R.R. 2, Box 141, Lacassas 37085), N. Kay Norris, Ramona See, Margie & Martin Smith, Melissa A. & Roy Turrentine.

**HIGHLAND RIM** — 27 May, 1800-2200; 28 May, 0530-1800; mostly cloudy and windy, but periods of showers, sun, calm; temp. 55-70F; 21 hrs. by car, 9 hrs. on foot, 11 hrs. at feeders, 4 hrs. owling; 250 miles by car, 10 miles on foot, 40 miles owling; 24 observers in 13 parties plus 6 at feeders; Don Davidson (compiler — 1703 2nd Ave., Manchester 37355), Marjory Harper, Frank & Marguerite Hernandez, Dot and Fred Latremore, Ruth Luckado, Agnes & H.D. Marcrom, Corinne & Joe Martinez, Nicky & Phil Medley, Annie Norvell, Chloe & Howell Peebles, Erma Rogers, Betty Stribling, Jean Sullivan, Bobbie Wood, Harry & Jean Yeatman, Grady & Willa York.

**CHATTANOOGA** — 12 May; 0700-1900; cloudy with some rain; wind S 18-29 mph; temp. 55-80F; 18 observers, Joan & Paul Bradshaw, Don Davidson, Ken (compiler — 8139 Roy Ln., Ooltewah 37363) & Lil Dubke, Paul Harris, John Henderson, Ella & J.N. Howard, Bill & Polly Lane, Ruth Luckado, Barbara & Mike McMahan, Tommie Rogers, Madeline Seefeld, Gladys Smith, Quincy Stykes. The adult Laughing Gull was identified by the John Henderson party on Nickajack Lake, Marion Co.; the Philadelphia Vireo was identified by Lil Dubke and others.

**KNOXVILLE** — 29 April; overcast skies in A.M. changing to partly cloudy by P.M.; temp. 50-80F; 23 observers in 14 parties for 95.1 party hours; 333.5 miles by car, 38 on foot, 3 by boat; Ron Hoff (compiler — 4523 McCloud Rd., Knoxville 37938).

**GREENEVILLE** — 21 April; 0530-2100; cloudy with slight rain; wind SW up to 20 mph; temp. 64-59F; 30.25 hrs. by car, 23.5 hrs. on foot, 4 by boat, 1 hr. owling, 28.25 hrs. at feeders; 345 miles 1 mi. by car, 18.75 by foot, 3.5 by boat, 1 mi. owling; 18 observers in 12 parties plus 3 at feeders, Mark, Orland, & Phine Britton, Cynthia & Herb Cragin, Juanita & Lenard Heckart, Jim Holt (compiler — 311 Colonial Cl., Greeneville 37743), Cindi Jones, Richard & Willie Ruth Nevius, Daniel J. Nieves, Linda J. & Roy Northrop, Doug Ratledge, JoAnne & Larry Routledge, Helen & Royal Spees, George & Jean Weaver.

**ELIZABETHTON** — 12 May; 0430-2130; mostly cloudy; windy; temp. 46-75F; 70 party hours; 15 observers in 5 parties; Jim Brooks, Brian Cross, Rusty Dunn, Harold Everhart, Sally Goodin, Dan Huffine, Rick Knight (compiler — 804 N. Hills Dr., Johnson City 37604), Richard Lewis, Dick Lura, Perry McDorman, Tom McNeil, Stan Strickland, Glenn Swofford, Gary Wallace, Frank Ward. Excellent details submitted for female Merlin seen by Dick Lura, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow seen by Rick Knight, Jim Brooks, & Harold Everhart (10th local record, 1st in spring).

TABLE 1. 1990 Spring Counts

	Memp	Colu	Murf	Leba	High	Chat	Knox	Gree	Eliz
Common Loon	*	*	*	*	1	1	*	*	*
Pied-billed Grebe	1	1	*	*	1	*	*	*	*
Double-crested Cormorant	325	12	*	*	1	2	1	*	2
Great Blue Heron	13	8	1	8	23	15	14	3	*
Great Egret	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	*	*
Snowy Egret	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Little Blue Heron	*	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cattle Egret	12	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Green-backed Heron	4	12	4	*	2	5	9	11	9
Black-cr. Night Heron	*	5	2	*	*	*	1	*	*
Yellow-cr. Night Heron	2	*	*	*	*	1	*	2	*
Canada Goose	14	97	29	38	43	30	58	46	41
Wood Duck	15	20	4	8	4	6	53	55	53
American Black Duck	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	11	*
Mallard	33	12	5	6	14	6	7	17	47
Blue-winged Teal	51	21	*	*	1	*	2	1	7
Northern Shoveler	*	2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Gadwall	2	1	*	*	*	1	*	*	*
American Wigeon	*	*	*	*	*	2	*	*	*
Ring-necked Duck	*	5	*	*	*	*	*	4	*
Bufflehead	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1
Hooded Merganser	*	*	*	*	*	1	*	*	*
Red-breasted Merganser	*	4	*	*	*	*	*	*	1
Black Vulture	*	25	17	13	3	6	8	29	2
Turkey Vulture	*	65	2	31	13	6	22	74	34
Osprey	*	2	*	*	*	*	6	1	*
Mississippi Kite	25	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bald Eagle	*	*	*	*	*	1	*	*	*
Northern Harrier	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	4	*
Sharp-Shinned Hawk	2	3	*	*	*	1	1	4	1
Cooper's Hawk	*	3	2	2	*	*	*	1	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	1	*	1	*	3	*	*	*
Broad-winged Hawk	4	2	*	2	2	3	7	12	5
Red-tailed Hawk	9	16	4	8	7	2	10	14	4
American Kestrel	5	13	14	11	4	1	4	12	12
Merlin	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1
Ruffed Grouse	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	3
Wild Turkey	2	*	*	1	1	*	*	*	2
Northern Bobwhite	3	39	2	14	11	6	29	44	12
Sora	*	9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Sandhill Crane	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	*
American Coot	*	4	*	2	1	4	*	*	*
Semipalmated Plover	5	*	*	*	*	1	*	*	*
Killdeer	*	50	13	20	30	10	45	41	23
Greater Yellowlegs	152	*	*	*	24	1	*	1	*
Lesser Yellowlegs	39	2	*	*	10	*	*	3	1
Solitary Sandpiper	17	23	2	*	21	3	8	3	21
Willet	*	*	*	*	8	*	*	*	*
Spotted Sandpiper	1	15	3	3	2	3	7	9	34
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2	7	*	*	*	1	*	*	*
Western Sandpiper	*	3	*	*	*	2	*	*	*
Least Sandpiper	15	5	*	*	8	3	*	*	7
Pectoral Sandpiper	50	*	*	*	10	*	*	*	1

TABLE 1. 1990 Spring Counts

	Memp	Colu	Murf	Leba	High	Chat	Knox	Gree	Eliz
Stilt Sandpiper	10	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dowitcher sp.	16	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Short-billed Dowitcher	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Common Snipe	63	7	*	*	*	*	4	1	*
American Woodcock	*	4	*	*	*	*	1	1	*
Laughing Gull	*	*	*	*	*	1	*	*	*
Bonaparte's Gull	*	4	*	*	*	*	3	*	*
Ring-billed Gull	11	1	*	*	2	30	16	3	3
Caspian Tern	*	2	*	*	*	7	*	*	*
Forster's Tern	*	*	*	*	3	*	*	*	*
Rock Dove	1	49	75	18	13	15	104	42	38
Mourning Dove	42	69	109	113	88	6	294	233	135
Black-billed Cuckoo	*	*	*	*	*	1	*	*	*
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	5	4	7	1	1	4	1	1
Barn-owl	*	*	2	*	*	*	*	2	2
Eastern Screech-owl	1	9	*	1	1	*	3	*	5
Great-horned Owl	2	7	1	*	1	*	3	*	3
Barred Owl	3	7	*	*	1	1	*	*	1
Common Nighthawk	*	6	2	4	3	2	*	*	14
Chuck-will's-widow	*	4	2	5	3	1	9	*	4
Whip-poor-will	*	5	2	2	2	*	1	1	4
Chimney Swift	28	85	32	70	32	35	169	82	184
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	17	13	5	7	7	1	8	1	11
Belted Kingfisher	5	9	2	*	3	*	10	15	7
Red-headed Woodpecker	37	7	3	3	5	*	*	1	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	82	58	11	11	17	8	81	44	21
Yel-bellied Sapsucker	*	*	*	*	1	*	*	1	*
Downy Woodpecker	6	43	7	11	10	4	40	34	7
Hairy Woodpecker	3	3	*	2	2	1	1	*	5
Northern Flicker	6	10	9	6	9	3	37	40	28
Pileated Woodpecker	11	11	1	2	3	5	20	27	23
Eastern Wood Peewee	42	15	*	4	3	4	5	3	19
Empidonax sp.	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	*
Acadian Flycatcher	64	10	*	1	1	2	1	*	15
Willow Flycatcher	*	2	*	*	*	*	*	*	4
Least Flycatcher	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	6
Eastern Phoebe	6	17	2	16	4	2	26	22	19
Great Crested Flycatcher	33	12	1	16	7	1	8	1	19
Eastern Kingbird	26	63	37	23	25	3	21	5	28
Horned Lark	14	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Purple Martin	147	61	62	183	23	18	68	8	52
Tree Swallow	27	77	12	*	5	2	15	6	6
N. Rough-wng. Swallow	13	113	*	*	23	6	46	21	114
Bank Swallow	1	*	5	*	*	1	36	*	*
Cliff Swallow	*	*	*	*	8	10	*	*	28
Barn Swallow	123	86	66	75	34	20	164	92	124
Blue Jay	34	70	42	100	51	18	314	179	79
American Crow	18	57	81	127	68	16	275	172	140
Fish Crow	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Common Raven	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4
Carolina Chickadee	46	65	14	62	24	20	162	78	46
Tufted Titmouse	112	72	15	47	26	21	109	69	36

TABLE 1. 1990 Spring Counts, Continued

	Memp	Colu	Murf	Leba	High	Chat	Knox	Gree	Eliz
Red-breasted Nuthatch	*	*	1	*	*	*	*	1	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	1	*	1	18	4	8	9	6
Brown-headed Nuthatch	*	*	*	*	*	4	*	*	*
Brown Creeper	*	*	*	1	*	*	*	*	*
Carolina Wren	119	119	12	45	8	26	193	40	84
Bewick's Wren	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
House Wren	*	3	6	2	1	*	5	8	12
Marsh Wren	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	12
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	*	2	*	*	4	*	30	3	4
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	139	106	*	11	17	10	66	10	35
Eastern Bluebird	35	110	52	143	46	25	68	91	57
Veery	4	2	*	*	*	1	3	*	3
Gray-checked Thrush	3	*	*	*	*	*	1	*	*
Swainson's Thrush	51	1	*	*	*	1	41	*	5
Hermit Thrush	*	1	*	*	*	*	2	*	*
Wood Thrush	60	12	*	6	3	5	62	*	15
American Robin	83	203	228	154	123	18	433	315	431
Gray Catbird	10	22	12	7	4	1	24	1	18
Northern Mockingbird	32	59	36	96	61	15	145	82	59
Brown Thrasher	11	42	21	27	18	6	37	36	25
Water Pipit	*	*	*	*	*	*	18	*	*
Cedar Waxwing	15	25	20	*	3	10	108	97	43
Loggerhead Shrike	5	14	4	13	6	2	1	5	1
European Starling	84	308	5165	320	128	50	683	474	956
White-eyed Vireo	73	83	*	16	4	3	30	6	12
Solitary Vireo	*	*	*	*	*	*	4	*	11
Yellow-throated Vireo	7	4	*	*	3	2	7	*	4
Warbling Vireo	1	32	*	*	*	*	*	*	6
Philadelphia Vireo	*	1	*	*	1	1	1	1	1
Red-eyed Vireo	53	57	2	17	8	25	162	2	81
Blue-winged Warbler	1	6	*	*	1	*	7	*	2
Golden-winged Warbler	*	*	*	*	*	14	4	*	3
Tennessee Warbler	72	12	*	*	1	*	25	1	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	*	*
Nashville Warbler	2	1	*	*	2	*	7	*	*
Northern Parula	104	21	*	*	2	1	7	1	8
Yellow Warbler	*	56	*	7	1	2	10	10	40
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	4	*	*	3	1	7	*	32
Magnolia Warbler	2	1	*	*	*	1	5	*	3
Cape May Warbler	*	1	*	*	2	1	18	*	2
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	*	*	*	*	*	*	3	*	25
Yellow-rumped Warbler	10	128	4	13	12	1	259	70	29
Black-thr. Green Warbler	10	5	*	*	1	1	42	*	11
Blackburnian Warbler	2	1	*	*	*	1	18	*	*
Yellow-throated Warbler	3	21	*	*	1	2	1	*	7
Pine Warbler	*	9	3	*	1	3	19	1	4
Prairie Warbler	*	28	*	11	7	*	8	*	4
Palm Warbler	*	110	15	5	6	1	12	*	*
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	4	*	*	2	1	2	*	5
Blackpoll Warbler	*	5	*	1	1	1	12	3	2
Cerulean Warbler	14	7	*	*	2	2	8	*	2
Black & White Warbler	9	4	*	2	1	1	17	*	24

TABLE 1. 1990 Spring Counts, Continued

	Memp	Colu	Murf	Leba	High	Chat	Knox	Grec	Eliz
American Redstart	33	9	*	1	*	15	8	4	5
Prothonotary Warbler	33	24	2	4	1	3	4	*	1
Worm-eating Warbler	2	2	*	*	2	1	9	*	14
Swainson's Warbler	2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1
Ovenbird	3	1	*	*	3	*	19	*	55
Northern Waterthrush	*	2	*	*	*	*	1	1	3
Louisiana Waterthrush	5	9	*	*	1	1	3	*	5
Kentucky Warbler	32	14	*	*	2	3	8	*	12
Common Yellowthroat	25	84	3	28	8	4	54	7	23
Hooded Warbler	14	20	*	*	1	*	14	*	23
Canada Warbler	*	*	*	*	*	1	1	*	3
Yellow-breasted Chat	3	45	1	14	5	2	25	*	15
Summer Tanager	52	23	*	19	4	1	16	*	*
Scarlet Tanager	18	14	*	9	2	2	34	2	38
Northern Cardinal	161	235	91	158	106	12	341	160	125
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	12	1	*	*	3	1	31	*	9
Blue Grosbeak	1	5	*	10	2	2	11	1	5
Indigo Bunting	140	89	10	86	19	6	171	*	130
Painted Bunting	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dickcissel	47	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rufous-sided Towhee	10	142	8	51	14	6	127	29	42
American Tree Sparrow	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	*
Chipping Sparrow	10	32	11	23	22	10	52	59	30
Field Sparrow	7	67	19	82	8	12	87	37	18
Vesper Sparrow	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	*
Lark Sparrow	*	*	*	1	*	*	*	*	*
Savannah Sparrow	12	25	*	*	*	*	27	12	3
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	*	*	*	1	4	6	*	3
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1
Fox Sparrow	*	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Song Sparrow	1	2	*	*	2	12	181	47	102
Swamp Sparrow	*	13	*	*	1	*	7	*	2
White-throated Sparrow	12	81	9	*	5	1	140	155	*
White-crowned Sparrow	*	37	3	*	*	*	9	16	*
Dark-eyed Junco	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	3	15
Bobolink	150	*	*	*	*	*	20	*	16
Red-winged Blackbird	404	253	56	106	41	10	304	886	93
Eastern Meadowlark	60	181	84	156	85	6	242	183	76
Rusty Blackbird	*	*	20	*	*	*	*	*	*
Common Grackle	83	268	4144	249	216	28	678	510	550
Brown-headed Cowbird	217	140	9	81	39	6	135	94	79
Orchard Oriole	21	59	6	17	4	6	10	*	14
Northern Oriole	17	2	*	7	*	1	3	*	7
Purple Finch	*	*	*	*	1	*	*	13	*
House Finch	11	9	21	13	12	17	60	101	39
Pine Siskin	6	43	7	*	11	*	214	118	*
American Goldfinch	94	154	23	159	66	25	182	147	96
Evening Grosbeak	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	22	*
House Sparrow	20	83	22	17	44	15	140	56	60
Total Species	132	150	80	85	126	125	136	104	141

IN MEMORIAM: DANIEL ROGER GRAY, JR., M.D.

George R. Mayfield, Jr., M.D.

No biographical sketch of Daniel Roger Gray, Jr., M.D. would be complete without mentioning the contributions to the Tennessee Ornithological Society of his father, Daniel R. Gray, who joined T.O.S. in 1916, only one year after it was founded. Dan R. Gray, Sr. had a keen interest in falconry, shared by his son, in addition to a broader interest in ornithology. This ultimately led him to join with several fellow birders from Columbia, Lewisburg, and Pulaski to found the "Blue Grass Chapter" of T.O.S. in 1937.

Therefore Dan Gray, Jr. grew up in T.O.S. When I moved to Columbia in 1960, Dr. Gray recalled our first meeting in 1937 on a field trip shared by Nashville and Blue Grass Chapter members at the farm of Dr. O.J. Porter on Bear Creek Pike near Columbia. Duck River was in flood and all participants were ferried to the Porter Farm in a flat bottom boat across the backwaters.

Dr. Gray was Secretary of the Tennessee Ornithological Society in 1969-71. He served as Middle Tennessee Vice-President 1981-83 and was again elected Vice President in May 1988 to complete the term of the late John Ellis. From September 1988 until May 1989 he served as President of T.O.S. following the resignation of the previous President. He was a charter member and first President of the reorganized Columbia T.O.S. Chapter in 1975. He was an active field ornithologist and participated in bird counts in the Columbia area from 1963 until his death. He served as President of his chapter again in 1987.

Dan Gray, Jr. was born October 19, 1916 in Maury County. He was raised on his father's farm located on the northern edge of Mt. Pleasant, Tn. His "Uncle Jeff" operated an iron-smelting furnace at nearby Rockdale, Tennessee. He attended Hay-Long High School in Mt. Pleasant and graduated as valedictorian in 1934. In 1938 he graduated from The University of the South at Sewanee, Tn., again as valedictorian. There he received The Algernon Sidney Sullivan Award and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He finished Harvard Medical School in 1942 and in 1943 was married to his childhood sweetheart, Gaither Frierson, who lived on the adjacent farm across Bigby Creek. He interned at Children's Hospital in Boston, then trained in surgery at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital there, and at Sloan Kettering Hospital in New York City.

After serving as a Captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and as a flight surgeon at Randolph Field in San Antonio, he spent another year in Pathology training at Vanderbilt University under the late Dr. Ernest Goodpasture, world renowned virologist, and husband of T.O.S. member, Katherine Anderson Goodpasture.

He practiced medicine in Columbia, Tn. for 34 years, beginning in 1946, specializing in surgery, but his office was always open to patients who developed problems not requiring surgery. In fact he was very conservative in his approach to surgery and was known for his judgment and skill at the operating table. Dr. Gray served as Chief of Staff at Maury County Hospital and on the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners.

Dr. Gray was a communicant member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church of Columbia, a member of the choir and vestry and served as senior warden. He died on June 4, 1990, at age 73. He is buried near his place of birth, in Ashwood, Tn. at St. John's Episcopal Church, on whose board he also served. This is the church established originally for the Polk family by Leonidas Polk, who became Bishop of Louisiana and later a Lt.-General in the Army of the Confederacy.

In addition to his wife, Gaither Frierson Gray, Dr. Gray is survived by four children: Daniel R. Gray, III, an active ornithologist now in Massachusetts, Dawson Frierson Gray of Columbia, L. Rainey Gray of St. Louis, and Jefferson G. Gray of Huntsville, Alabama.

## FIRST NESTING OF SORA IN TENNESSEE

Martha G. Waldron  
1626 Yorkshire Dr., Memphis, TN 38119

While birding at the T.E. Maxson Treatment Plant at the EARTH Complex in southwest Shelby County, Tennessee on 17 April 1990 at about 1030, I observed two small black chicks scurry from one clump of vegetation to another. I sat very still and waited, hoping to see them again. Within a few minutes an adult Sora (*Porzana carolina*) walked into the clearing, about 25 m away, with two small chicks. They walked into the vegetation and were not observed again that day.

Since no nests of Soras have been reported in Tennessee (Robinson, J. C. 1990. An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Tennessee. Univ. Tennessee Press, Knoxville) and the closest known nests of Soras were in southern Missouri (American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. Check-list of North American birds, sixth edition. Washington, D.C., Am. Ornithol. Union.), I suspected the chicks might have been King Rails (*Rallus elegans*) as they are rare nesters in this area (Waldron, M.G. 1987. Seasonal occurrences of Shelby County, Tennessee Birds. Memphis Chapter Tennessee Ornithological Society). On 18 April 1990 at approximately 1630, I returned to the area with Dianne P. Bean, Carolyn H. Bullock, and Virginia B. Reynolds. Dianne Bean and Virginia Reynolds stationed themselves on the east side of the wet area while Carolyn Bullock and I walked on the west side of the marshy area playing a tape of the call of a King Rail. We played the tape repeatedly as we walked slowly through the marsh. There was no response to the calls. I then played a tape of Sora calls; immediately a Sora answered and Virginia Reynolds observed two black chicks moving about in the vegetation. The four of us spent 20 - 30 minutes watching the area but never saw the chicks again even though the adult walked into the open and away from the area where the chicks had been seen. An attempt to capture and photograph one of the chicks was unsuccessful.

On 6 May 1990 my husband, Jim, and I approached the wet area about 1430 with excellent viewing conditions. I observed a dark bird (the size of an adult Sora) dart across the wet area about 20 m away. We both observed a second adult Sora that walked into the marshy area and followed the first into the vegetation. We moved closer to the area in the car and sat quietly for several minutes but we did not see the Soras again that evening.

The last observations of Soras were on 8 June 1990 at 0700 when Carolyn Bullock, Virginia Reynolds and I observed one adult Sora and two dark, Sora-shaped birds move into and out of vegetation at the same site where the Soras were earlier seen.

Accepted 13 June 1990.

## THE SEASON

Robert P. Ford, Editor



### WINTER: 1 DECEMBER 1989-28 FEBRUARY 1990

The winter was one of contrast, both for weather and for birds. Extreme cold temperatures during mid to late December caused most lakes, and even some rivers, to freeze. The new year, however, brought milder temperatures, and the last two months of the season were almost balmy. Precipitation rates ranged widely across the state. Average precipitation, combined with cold temperature, lead to prolonged snow cover in east Tennessee.

Winter irruptive species and waterfowl apparently responded to weather conditions, appearing in variable numbers across the state. Although fewer Pine Siskins than normal were recorded in west Tennessee, eastern observers found a major invasion of siskins. The same pattern emerged for Evening Grosbeaks. Red-breasted Nuthatches occurred in relatively high densities across the state. Waterfowl numbers seemed higher this winter than that of preceding years. While heartening, remember that continental populations of ducks have been reduced to the smallest fraction of what they once numbered.

The season also had its share of rarities, these surprises are for you to find in each regional compiler's report. I will mention, however, the Peregrine Falcon found on the Memphis Christmas Count, and two sightings of Great Black-Backed Gulls (one of which is the first observation of an adult in the state). Unfortunately, most of the Rufous Hummingbirds observed recently in the state succumbed to the extreme December temperatures.

As a last note, feeder watchers are consistently reporting fewer Purple Finches and more House Finches. Is there a correlation? Observers might take special note of interactions between these species.

Abbreviations used in the following report include: ad - adult; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; EOP - end of period; ers - earliest reported sighting; et al - and others; f - female; m - male; max - maximum number reported from 1 county in 1 day; m. ob. - many observers; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; WRRS - Winter Roadside Raptor Survey; \* - record has been documented.

**WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN** - The winter season was unseasonably mild except for two weeks of record-breaking low temperatures in December. As unusual as the weather, a Merlin and a Peregrine Falcon were sighted on the Memphis Christmas Count. Irregular visitors such as the Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, and American Tree Sparrow occurred in lower numbers than previous years. Three

Tundra Swans were shot in Gibson County. Short-eared Owls were again sighted in west Tennessee. In addition to the regular observers in west Tennessee, members of the new Jackson Chapter are now lending their assistance and have contributed to this report.

*Loon-Falcon:* Red-throated Loon: 10 Feb (1) HDC (DJS). Horned Grebe: 16 Jan (3) PLS (MAG); 26 Jan (1) Trenton GBC (MAG). Great Blue Heron: 30 Nov (6) Is 13 (WGC); 3 Dec (3) Trenton Wastewater Lagoon, GBC (MAG); 24 Jan (33) Is 13 (WGC). Great Egret: 3 Dec (3) Trenton Wastewater Lagoon, GBC (MAG). Tundra Swan: 3 swans were shot in GBC in mid-Dec, their carcasses were found under the Obion River bridge on Hwy 89 (fide MAG). Greater White-fronted Goose: 28 Dec (1) Is 13; 18 Feb (10) NYC (WGC). Snow Goose: 9 Dec-27 Dec (1-245) HDC (DJS); 2 Jan (50) Tiptonville LKC (WGC), (4) MDC (RPF); 18/26 Feb (20/50) NYC (WGC). Canada Goose: 23 Jan/28 Feb (2500+/1500+) BRF (JBC, LVC); 21 Feb (62) NYC, 26 Feb (400) LKC (WGC). Redhead: 4 Dec (40-50) PEF (MLG). GREATER SCAUP: 21-22 Dec (1-9) Savannah sewage pond, 26-27 Dec (1-8\*) Pickwick Dam, HDC (DJS), m and f present. OLDSQUAW: 16 Jan (1 m, 1 f) Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee NWR, HNC (MAG). Common Merganser: 23 Jan (1) PLS (JBC, LVC). Red-breasted Merganser: 23 Jan (5) PLS (JBC, LVC); 26 Feb (1 m) LKC (WGC). Black Vulture: 3 Jan HAC WRRS (SLL, NMS, HBD, CHB); 18 Feb (28) HAC WRRS (Jackie Utley, Lynn Williams). Turkey Vulture: 9 Dec (2) PEF (MLG); 3 Jan (68) HAC WRRS (SLL, NMS, HBD, CHB); 11 Feb (22) MDC WRRS (JBC, LVC); 26 Feb (22) LKC (WGC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 6 Dec (1) Martin, Weakly Co. (MAG); 17 Dec (4) MEM CBC (MTOS); 22 Dec (1) Savannah CBC (DJS); 8 Jan (1) Haywood Co. (JBC, LVC); 10 Jan (1) MEM (CHB, SLL, VBR, NMS); 10 Dec (1), 10 Feb (1) PEF (JEW, MGW); 17-20 Feb (1) MEM (Jere Bull). Cooper's Hawk: 17 Dec (4) MEM CBC (MTOS); 15 Jan (1) GBC WRRS (MAG); 17 Feb (1) REL (RLI, GLI); 24 Feb (1) GBC WRRS (MAG). Red-shouldered Hawk: 17 Dec (4) MEM CBC (MTOS); 22 Dec (5) Savannah Bottoms, HDC (DJS); 4 Feb (3) OBC (MTOS); 17 Feb (1) REL (RLI, GLI); 28 Feb (1) BRF (JBC, LVC). Rough-legged Hawk: 17 Dec (1), 7 Feb (1) ESL (TAF, MLG); 13 Jan (1) Savannah Bottoms, HDC (DJS, G. Ned Piper); 26 Feb (1) SE OBC (MAG). Merlin: 17 Dec (1) ESL CBC (Howard Vogel); 8 Jan (1) PEF (John Densford). Peregrine Falcon: 17 Dec (1) MEM CBC (MTOS), 21 Feb (1) MEM (WJ); 27 Feb (1) MEM (RTC).

*Turkey-Nuthatch:* Wild Turkey: 10 Feb (52), 13 Feb (46+), 21 Feb (80) SFP (VBR, SLL, NMS, HBD, CHB), although not high numbers for the park, the count is high for a group to see at one time; 26 Feb (9) NYC, (35) LKC (WGC). Lesser Yellowlegs: 9 Dec (6) ESL (JEW, MGW); 17 Dec (6) ESL (MTOS), third time for this species on a Christmas Count. Least Sandpiper: 3 Dec (544) ESL (MGW, VBR, CHB); 17 Dec (19) ESL CBC (MTOS). Bonaparte's Gull: 22 Dec (2) Savannah CBC (DJS); 16 Jan (38) PLS (MAG); 31 Jan (8) LKC (WGC); 4 Feb (25) OBC (MTOS); 17/18 Feb (39) REL, OBC (RLI, GLI); 21 Feb (50) REL, LKC (WGC). Ring-billed Gull: 30 Nov (275), 24 Jan (65) Is 13 (WGC); 3 Feb (400+) REL (JEW, MGW); 26 Feb (50+) SE OBC (MAG). Herring Gull: 2 Jan (2) Is 13; 3 Feb (1) E of Trenton (MAG); 16 Feb (1, 1st winter plumage) LKC (WGC). Barn Owl: 17 Dec (2) ESL (MGW). Common Screech Owl: 1 Feb (1) MEM (GRP, JKP); mid Dec/Jan, two rescued from fireplace MEM (Knox Martin, MGW). Great-Horned Owl: 15-26 Dec (pair on nest) NYC (WGC); 12 Feb (1) MEM (GRP, JKP).

Short-eared Owl: 1 Nov-EOP (1) Savannah Bottoms, HDC (DJS); 24 Feb (2) SE OBC (Robert Shannon); 27 Feb (1) same location in OBC (MAG); 20 Dec (1) West Sandy Creek, Tennessee NWR, HNC (PBH). American Crow: 10 Dec (63) MDC (JBC); 24 Jan (36,100) Jackson, MDC (JTOS); 26 Jan (50,000+) Jackson, MDC (RNW); 4 Feb (200) LKC (MTOS). Fish Crow: 2 Jan (1) Is 13 (WGC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: reported more often this year at feeders, numbers ranging from 1-4. White-breasted Nuthatch: 4 Feb (5) OBC (MTOS).

*Wren-Grosbeak:* House Wren: 17 Dec (3) MEM CBC (MTOS); 27 Jan (1) Savannah Bottoms, HDC (DJS). Winter Wren: 17 Dec (19) MEM CBC (MTOS). American Pipit: 17 Dec (14) MEM CBC (MTOS); 10 Feb (1) S of Trenton, GBC (MAG). Tree Swallow: 27 Feb (2) SE OBC (MAG). Pine Warbler: 9 Dec (2) PEF (JEW, MGW); 17 Dec (4) PEF (MTOS); 1 Feb (1) MEM (GRP, JKP); 10 Feb (4) PEF (JEW, MGW). Common Yellowthroat: 17 Dec (1) ESL CBC (MTOS). American Tree Sparrow: 3/4 Feb (3) LKC (Gilbert B. Beaver, MTOS); 18 Feb (6+) DYC (WGC). Chipping Sparrow: 17 Feb (1) Iris Hill, NE MEM (JAF, SCF). Vesper Sparrow: 22 Dec (2) Savannah CBC (DJS); 22 Feb (1) PEF (VBR). Le Conte's Sparrow: 9 Dec (2), 1 Jan (1) PEF (MLG); 17 Dec (2) MEM CBC (MTOS); 1 Nov-EOP (13) Savannah Bottoms, HDC (DJS), present through season with max on CBC. Lincoln's Sparrow: 22 Dec (1) Savannah CBC (DJS). White-crowned Sparrow: 1 Dec-EOP (16-35) PEF (JEW, MGW); 7 Feb (50+) mostly immature ESL (TAF); 10 Feb (22) feeder, DYC (WGC), seen more often in various locations this season. Lapland Longspur: 3 Dec (35), 20 Dec (4), 1 Jan (38+) PEF (MLG); 9, 22 Dec (2,24) Savannah Bottoms (DJS). Smith's Longspur: 3 Dec (30), 20 Dec (1), 1 Jan (1) PEF (MLG). Western Meadowlark: 4 Dec (1), 1 Jan (1), 20 Feb (1) PEF (MLG); 10 Feb (1), 11 Feb (1) PEF (JEW, MGW). Rusty Blackbird: 9 Dec (2) PEF (MLG, JEW, MGW); 22 Dec (73) Savannah CBC (DJS); 21 Jan-EOP (150+) PEF (JEW, MGW); 4 Feb (6) REL, OBC (MTOS); 25 Feb (35) PEF (VBR). Brewer's Blackbird: 1 Nov-EOP (71) Savannah Bottoms (DJS), max. Purple Finch: 10 Dec (1) 13-23 Jan (11-14) TIC (DDP); 24 Dec (3) MEM (GRP, JKP); 4 Feb (1) Trenton (MAG); 17 Feb (5) MEM (Anna Wessels). Finches and siskins were seen daily at feeders during the season. Overall numbers were lower than in previous years (RWP, VBR, MAW, RPF, GLI, RLI, DDP, Susan N. McWhirter). House Finch: 25 Dec (78) W of Trenton (MAG); Dec/Jan/Feb, Ben B. Coffey, Jr. banded 1,260 at Coffey Grounds, MEM. Pine Siskin: 23 Nov-19 Dec (6-157) TIC (DDP); 10 Jan-22 Feb (73-30) TIC (DDP); 13 Feb MEM (GRP, JKP); 2-21 Feb (3) MEM (WAJ). Evening Grosbeak: 8 Dec (3 m, 5 f) TIC (DDP).

*Locations:* BRF-Britton Ford, Tennessee NWR, Henry Co.; DYC-Dyer Co.; ESL-Ensley Sewage Lagoons, Shelby Co.; GBC-Gibson Co.; HAC-Hardeman Co.; HDC-Hardin Co.; HNC-Henry Co.; Is 13-Island 13, Joe Echles Towhead, Lake Co.; LKC-Lake Co.; MDC-Madison Co.; MEM-Memphis, Shelby Co.; OBC-Obion Co.; PEF-Penal Farm, Shelby Co.; PLS-Paris Landing State Park, Henry Co.; REL-Reelfoot Lake, Obion and Lake Cos.; SFP-Shelby Forest State Park, Shelby Co.; TIC-Tipton Co.

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**HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION** - The season's weather was generally mild with the notable exception of an extremely cold December. An extended period of cold, starting in mid-December and lasting through the end of the month, was experienced across the region. Temperatures as low as -8 degrees F were recorded in Nashville. Precipitation was significantly below normal for the period. December precipitation was less than half the normal amount, although heavy ice storms occurred during the cold snap.

Pine Siskins were reported in good numbers from all parts of the region, as were Red-breasted Nuthatches. Purple Finches were present only in small numbers and Evening Grosbeaks were virtually absent.

Rarities in the region included a White-winged Crossbill that visited a feeder in Clarksville, a Great Black-backed Gull on Percy Priest Lake, a rare winter record of a Dickcissel, also in Clarksville, and 5 Short-eared Owls that wintered on a field in Maury Co.

*Grebe-Merganser:* Horned Grebe: 16 Jan (34) WDR (MDH), max. Greater White-fronted Goose: 14 Dec (3) Manchester Industrial Park, CFC (DLD), ers; 16 Dec (3) AEDC (DLD); 23 Dec (3) Arrow Lake, MUC (GRM). Snow Goose: 7 Dec (16, 6 blues and 10 whites), ers and max. Ring-necked Duck: 10 Dec (200) Ovoca Lke, CFC (MDH), max. Greater Scaup: 15 Feb (2 f) Dyson's Ditch, Cheatham Co. (WJC). Oldsquaw: 9 Dec (1 f\*) pond at Manchester Industrial Park, CFC (DLD). **BLACK SCOTER:** 10 Dec (4\*, 3 m and 1 f) WDR (MDH). White-winged Scoter: 10 Dec (2\*, 1 m and 1 f) WDR (MDH). Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Dec (250) WDR (DLD, RWL), max. Common Merganser: 16 Jan (5) Normandy Res., CFC (MDH), max.

*Eagle-Gull:* Bald Eagle: 12 Jan (2) WDR (ELR, MDH); 14 Jan (2) Normandy Res., CFC (CWP, JHP). Rough-legged Hawk: 9 Jan (1) MTC (WJC), only report. Merlin: 1 Jan (1) PPL, DVC (WJC), this bird was present throughout much of the period, a Merlin has been observed in the same area at least three consecutive winters. Peregrine Falcon: 27 Feb (1) downtown Nashville, DVC (PBH), this bird has been observed through out the season by various observers. Sandhill Crane: 28 Dec (2) WDR (BWL); 26 Jan (2) WDR (BWL); 14 Feb (30) BAH (RWS); 17 Feb (30) Castalian Spring, RUC (BWL); 27 Feb (50) BAH (RWS), max. **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** 1 Jan (1 im\*) PPL, DVC (WJC, Joesph Stone).

*Owl-Crossbill:* Short-eared Owl: 20 Jan-25 Feb (2-5) Zion Acres, MUC (Brad Hammond, GRM), max. Tree Swallow: 24 Feb (2) WDR (DLD), ers. Red-breasted Nuthatches: reported from several locations across the region, present through out period. Bewick's Wren: 19 Feb (1) Brinkley Rd., RUC (TJW), only report. American Pipit: 27 Feb (22) Ovoca Lake, CFC (MDH), max. **DICKCISSEL:** 29 Dec -21 Jan (1\*) Clarksville, MTC (ALH, NRH). Vesper Sparrow: 6 Jan (1\*) Asbury Lane, RUC (TJW). Purple Finch: present in small numbers across the region through out period. **WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL:** 22 Feb (1\*) Clarksville, MTC (Ellen J. Walker), observed at close range as it visited a feeding station in a residential area, excellent written documentation. Pine Siskin: present in good numbers at feeding stations across the region, particularly during the early part of Dec.

*Locations:* AEDC-Arnold Engineering Development Center, Coffee Co.; BAH-Barnes Hollow, Putnam Co.; CFC-Coffee Co.; DVC-Davidson Co.; MTC-Montgomery Co.; MUC-Maury Co.; PPL-Percy Priest Lake; RUC-Rutherford Co.; WDR-Woods Reservoir, Franklin Co.

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**EASTERN RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION** - The extremes of winter weather were displayed this season, a very cold December was followed by a very mild January and February. As would be expected, conditions varied considerably from the north end of the region to the south end, but general trends were the same. December was the coldest on record for that month in the Johnson City area, with three consecutive nights below 0 degrees F on December 21-23; while in Chattanooga, "the temperature dipped to a low of 4 degrees F on the 17th and remained cold for the next several days". Five snowfalls totaling 9 inches during December in Johnson City was not unusual; but little or no melting occurred in between, resulting in a completely snow-covered landscape from December 12-30, an unusually long period. "There was no significant snowfall" in Knoxville and only a trace on two days in Chattanooga. Following this, January and February were both much warmer than normal. There were several scattered days of 60-70 degrees F and "few nights when temperatures dropped below 20 degrees F". A light snowfall in Johnson City on January 25 was the only one recorded in these two months. Precipitation for the season was above average, ranging from +7% in Johnson City (11.3 in) to +39% in Chattanooga (20.9 in.). Rainfall totals for 1989 were also above average, ranging from +13% in Johnson City (46 in.) to +36% in Chattanooga (71 in.), thus apparently ending the drought years of the mid to late 1980s. Lake levels in the Knoxville area and northeastward were kept higher than normal this winter and some were partially frozen during December.

A wide variety of birds were reported from the region this winter, from several rare northern and/or western visitors to a few "half-hardy lingerers". The cold and snow of December probably accounted for the Rough-legged Hawks, Long-eared Owl, American Tree Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, and Lapland Longspur. Other rarities included Greater White-fronted Goose, Great Black-backed Gull, and Le Conte's Sparrow. For the second year in a row, several Rufous Hummingbirds were present at feeders; but all four apparently succumbed to the cold. A phoebe, House Wren, Palm Warbler, and Dickcissel survived the prolonged cold and snowcover of the Johnson City area. There were good numbers of cormorants, most waterfowl (including three reports of Oldsquaw) and Horned Lark, among others. However, American Pipits and the locally wintering shorebirds were in reduced numbers. Two boreal irruptives, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Pine Siskin, were widespread and numerous. Four Brown-headed Nuthatches in Cumberland County were well north of their known range. These observations and more made for an interesting season. Read on!

*Loon - Heron*: Common Loon: 4-25 regular on CHL (KHD, LHD); 2 Jan (8) CRL (RLK). Pied-billed Grebe: 14 Jan (180) CHL (KHD, LHD), max. Horned Grebe: 8 Dec (37) BOL (RLK), large number for JNC area; 6 Jan (46) CHL (KHD, LHD), max. Double-crested Cormorant: 1-6 regular at CHL and HRA (KHD, LHD); 6 Dec (1) Kingsport, Sullivan Co. (Arthur Smith); 10 Jan (1) BOL (RLK); 13 Jan (7) Watts Bar Lake, Meigs, Rhea and Roane Cos. (Burt Jones, Paul Hartigan); 18 Feb (5) Tellico Lake, Monroe Co. (ARH, RDH et al.). Great Egret: 2 Dec (6) Rankin Bottoms, Cocke Co. (JAK). Green-backed Heron: 18 Dec (1) Fort Loudoun Dam, Loudon Co. (JAK).

*Waterfowl*: Tundra Swan: 1 Jan-4 Feb (2 im) HRA (m. ob.). Mute Swan: 27 Dec -6 Jan (1-7) CHL (Donald L. Rush, Jr. et al), 2nd CHA area record, origin unknown.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 2-3 Dec (1) McDonald, GNC (JAK, ARH, RDH); 26 Dec (1) NIL (RJH); 27 Jan-10 Feb (2) HRA (KHD, LHD, PCH, et al). Snow Goose: 26 Dec (2 blue) NIL (RJH); 10 Jan (1 white) Jenkins Bridge, Hawkins Co. (DCC); 30 Jan (1 blue, 1 white) Soddy Lake, HLC (AMJ); 31 Jan (6 white) HRA (TWRA). Canada Goose: 8 Feb (2345) HRA (TWRA), max. Green-winged Teal: 27 Jan (130) Douglas Lake, Jefferson Co. (JAK), max. American Black Duck: 14 Dec (1400) HRA (TWRA), max. Mallard: 14 Dec (4374) HRA (TWRA), max. Northern Pintail: 2 Dec (50) HRA (KHD, LHD), max. Northern Shoveler: 2 Dec (14) HRA (KHD, LHD), max. Gadwall: 14 Dec (738) HRA (TWRA), max. American Wigeon: 14 Dec (321) HRA (TWRA), max. Canvasback: 2 Dec (15) NIL (RJH), max. Redhead: 10 Feb (100) CHL (RJH), max. Ring-necked Duck: 14 Dec (227) HRA (TWRA), max. Greater Scaup: 14 Jan (275) CHL (KHD, LHD), max; 4 Jan -11 Mar (5) JNC (RLK et al), unusual overwintering record there. Lesser Scaup: 2 Jan (75) CRL (RLK), max. Oldsquaw: 27 Dec (2 shot) Fort Loudoun Lake, KNC (fide CPN); 21 Jan (1) CHL (KHD, LHD); 7 Feb (7) Tellico Lake, Monroe Co. (ARH, RDH). White-winged Scoter: 14-15 Jan (1) CHL (KHD, LHD). Common Goldeneye: 27 Jan (150) CHL (KHD, LHD), max. Bufflehead: 27 Jan (40) CHL (KHD, LHD), max. Hooded Merganser: 2 Dec (135) HRA (KHD, LHD), max. Common Merganser: 5 Jan (1) BOL (BLC, Frank Ward, Glenn Swofford); 28 Jan (1) CHL (LHD, Angela C. Davis); 11 Feb (8) HRA (KHD, LHD); only reports. Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Dec (235) CHL (KHD, LHD), max; 8 Dec (175) BOL (RLK), large number for JNC area. Ruddy Duck: 27 Jan (31) CHL (KHD, LHD), max, well below previous wintering numbers.

*Osprey-Crane*: Osprey: 12 Jan (1) HRA (Carl W. Campbell). Bald Eagle: 1 Feb (1) BOL (FJA). Northern Harrier: 6/17 Dec (1) GNC (Jim Holt); 8 Jan (1) Hawkins Co. (DCC); 9-10 Jan (1) AUS (BLC, RLK); all in northeastern portion of the region. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks: near normal numbers in JNC area (fide RLK). ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: 22 Dec (1 dark phase) U.T. Plant Science Farm, KNC, (JAK); 27 Dec (1 light phase) Tri-cities Airport, Sullivan Co. (BLC); 2 other reports late in the season were not documented. Golden Eagle: 18 Jan (1 im) HRA (DCC); 28 Jan (1) Chester Frost Park, HLC (PCH et al.). American Coot: 8 Feb (1055) Watts Bar Lake, Meigs, Rhea and Roane Cos. (TWRA), max. Sandhill Crane: up to 66 wintered at HRA; 11 Feb (150) HRA, earliest migrants, see Spring report (all fide KHD).

*Killdeer-Hummingbird*: Killdeer: 2 Dec (111) HRA (KHD, LHD), max, relatively low. Least Sandpiper: 8 Dec (1) BOL (RLK), first JNC area winter record; only 1-4 at usual SAB wintering site (KHD). Dunlin: 15 Jan (55) HRA and 25 Feb (5) SAB (KHD, LHD), max at usual wintering sites. Common Snipe: 25 Feb (37) SAB (KHD, LHD), max. American Woodcock: 24 Jan (6) Moccasin Bend, HLC, (RJH); 11 Feb (1) WGC (FJA); 23 Feb (1) GNC (Richard and Willie Ruth Nevius). Bonaparte's Gull: 16 Jan (300) CHL (AMJ), max. Ring-billed Gull: 2 Jan/11 Feb (1900/3400) CRL (RLK); 16 Jan (700) CHL (AMJ), max there; 13 Feb (1758) BOL (BLC), a record high count there. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: 24 Dec (1 ad) CHL (ARH, RDH), about 6th state record, first ad reported. Barn Owl: 20 Jan (2) Tusculum College, GNC (Jim Holt); 1-2 each at sites in JNC and Gray, WGC (RLK, Dan Huffine). LONG-EARED OWL: 5 Feb (1) Leesburg, WGC (RLK), number of pellets under roost indicated that it had been present for 3-4 weeks; 9th regional record, 3rd northeast of KNC. RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: ad male

reported in the fall at CHA was last seen 16 Dec (fide KHD); 22 Oct-23 Dec (1 ad female) northeast KNC (fide JBO); 2 others, probably Rufous, were reported at Morristown, Hamblen Co., from late Sep to 24 Dec and at Fairfield Glade, Cumberland Co., until 15 Dec (both fide JBO); all were last seen during very cold period and presumed dead.

*Phoebe-Pipit*: Eastern Phoebe: 5 Jan (1) AUS (RLK), survived the prolonged snowcover in northeast portion of region. Horned Lark: 17 Dec (65) Speedwell, Claiborne Co. (GWM); 23 Dec (9) Amnicola Marsh, HLC (RJH); 27 Dec (150) Doake's Pond, Campbell Co. (GWM); 28 Dec (1) Norris, Anderson Co. (CPN); regular at Limestone, WGC, max 2 Jan (354) (BLC), record high count for JNC area; 5 Jan (75) CKN (RLK); 15 Jan (30) HRA (KHD, LHD), more reports than normal. Tree Swallow: 10 Feb (1) CHL (RJH), early spring arrival. Common Raven: 14 Jan (2) CKN (RLK), low elevation near mountains. Red-breasted Nuthatch: widely reported in small numbers, even to CHA. BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH: 28 Feb (4) Fairfield Glade, Cumberland Co. (Roger S. Doxey), well out of range. House Wren: 15 Jan (1) AUS (RLK); 22-23 Jan (1) Moccasin Bend, HLC (RJH, DCC). Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, both kinglets and Hermit Thrush: all in good numbers in the JNC area throughout the season (fide RLK). Eastern Bluebird: few seen in the JNC area during the snow and cold of Dec caused concern, but fair to good numbers were seen when conditions improved (fide RLK). American Pipit: only a few reports of 1-2 in the JNC and CHA areas (fide RLK, KHD).

*Warbler-Grosbeak*: Pine Warbler: 21 Feb (1) Bays Mountain, Sullivan Co. (FJA), early arrival. Palm Warbler: 1 Dec (1) AUS (RLK), late lingerer; 5 Jan (1) CKN (RLK). DICKCISSEL: 26 Dec-19 Jan (1 female at feeder) JNC (RLK), although about the 50th winter record for the state, this was just the third for this region. AMERICAN TREE SPARROW: 5-9 Jan (2) AUS (RLK, BLC), first in JNC area since cold winters of the late 1970's. LE CONTE'S SPARROW: 13 Jan (1) Marion Co. (PCH, RJH). Fox Sparrow: 5 Jan (8) CKN (RLK), max. HARRIS' SPARROW: 19 Dec-6 Jan (2, ad and im at feeder\*) Albany, GNC (Richard Nevius, Virginia Williams, Helen Reed), 5th regional record, 2nd in GNC. LAPLAND LONGSPUR: 17 Dec (1) Speedwell, Claiborne Co. (GWM), with Horned Larks. Purple Finch: low numbers throughout region, with a modest influx during Dec (m. ob.). Pine Siskin: widespread & abundant, up to 200-400 at some feeders (m. ob.). Evening Grosbeak: 9 Dec-5 Jan (1) Sewanee, Franklin Co. (Jerry Ingles); 3-4 reports each of 1-10 birds in Blount Co. (JBO, JAK) & JNC area (FJA, JWB).

*Locations*: AUS-Austin Springs, Washington Co.; BOL-Boone Lake, Sullivan and Washington Cos.; CHA-Chattanooga; CHL-Chickamauga Lake, Hamilton Co. portion; CKN-Conklin, Washington Co.; CRL-Cherokee Lake, Grainger and Hamblen Cos. portion; GNC-Greene Co.; HLC-Hamilton Co.; HRA-Hiwassee River Area, primarily Meigs Co., but also Bradley, McMinn and Rhea Cos.; JNC-Johnson City; KNC-Knox Co.; NIL-Nickajack Lake, Marion Co.; SAB-Savannah Bay, Hamilton Co.; WGC-Washington Co.

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION - The weather for the period started out cold, but then turned into a very mild winter. December temperatures were well below normal, 4 consecutive days of below zero temperatures occurred just before

Christmas. January and February were extremely mild with average temperatures 6.6 and 7.5 degrees above normal, respectively. There were no large snowfalls during the period. Precipitation was about normal for December and January. February was above normal.

Waterfowl numbers were up from last year, but still low. The Rufous Hummingbird reported last period apparently succumbed to late December sub-zero temperatures. Brown Creepers, Winter Wrens, kinglets, and Hermit Thrushes were in good numbers. Winter finches were scattered and in low numbers, except for a major invasion of Pine Siskins.

*Loon-Merganser*: Common Loon: 9 Jan (5) WTL (RLK); 13/16 Jan (3, 5)/ 13 Feb (4) SHL (RLK/BLC). Horned Grebe: 30 Jan (2) WTL (RLK), only report. Double-crested Cormorant: 16 Jan (1) SHL (RLK). Swan sp.: 16 Jan (2) Nolichucky River, Unicoi Co. (Rad Mayfield). Green-winged Teal: 30 Dec (1) BRI CBC (KH, BH, LH). American Black Duck: 30 Dec (128) SHL BRI CBC (JWC, et al.), max, otherwise low numbers. Ring-necked Duck: 16 regular on WIL thru Dec, declined in Jan (m. ob.). Lesser Scaup: 22 Dec (1) WIL ELI CBC (RLK, BLC); 13 Feb (2) SHL (BLC), only reports. OLDSQUAW: 4 Dec (3) SHL (BLC). SURF SCOTER: 15 Jan (1) SHL (BLC). Common Goldeneye: 27 Jan (9) WTL (GOW), only report. Bufflehead: 9 Jan (105) WIL (RLK), max. Hooded Merganser: 30 Dec (42) SHL BRI CBC (JWC, RPL, BLC); 9 Jan (6) WTL (RLK); 7/11 Feb (7/4) Ripshin Lake, Carter Co. (CFW/JWB). Red-breasted Merganser: 8 Dec (83) WTL (BLC); 9 Jan (1) WTL (RLK).

*Eagle-Waxwing*: Bald Eagle: 4 Dec (1 ad, 1 im), 13 and 15 Jan (1 ad) SHL (BLC, RDL); 30 Dec (1) BRI CBC (KH, BH, LH); 8 Feb (1) RNM (BLC, CFW, RLK). GOLDEN EAGLE: 9 Jan (1) Big Bald Mtn., Unicoi Co. (Rad Mayfield); 6/11 Feb (1 ad) RNM on balds (BLC/Tom McNeil); PEREGRINE FALCON: 6 Feb (1 ad)/8 Feb (1, probably im) RNM (BLC/RLK, BLC, CFW). Common Snipe: a few, as usual, wintered along WTR (m.ob.). American Woodcock: 17 Feb (2) SHL (RPL), ers. Great Horned Owl: 30 Dec (23) SHL BRI CBC (JWC, RPL, BLC), max, encountered 22 in 1.5 hour period. RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 23 Dec (1 ad) Unicoi, Unicoi Co., bird reported last period was last seen on this date in sub-zero temperatures. Eastern Phoebe: 22 Dec (4) ELI CBC (m.ob.), during very cold conditions; 30 Dec (3) BRI CBC (JWC, RPL, BLC); 9 Jan (1) WTL (RLK). Common Raven: 23 Feb (23) RNM (RLK, BLC, CFW), all seen at one time; two seen through period at low elevation in Paperville Knobs area, Sullivan Co. (RPL). Red-breasted Nuthatch: modest numbers scattered throughout (m.ob.). House Wren: 22 Dec (1) ELI CBC (GOW, RDL). Eastern Bluebird: low in Dec, but better numbers in Jan and Feb. Brown Thrasher: 22 Dec (1) Butler, ELI CBC (GOW, RDL); 9 Jan (1) Little Milligan, Carter Co. (RLK). Cedar Waxwing: flock of 300+ in late Dec, SHL (RPL).

*Warbler-Grosbeak*: Yellow-rumped Warbler: 9 Jan (120+) WTL (RLK), max. Savannah Sparrow: 3 Feb (2) Roan Mtn. State Park, Carter Co. (KH, BH, LH, Alan Gantzhorn). Fox Sparrow: scattered reports of 1-2. Song Sparrow: 17 Feb (1) Engine Gap, RNM (RLK, et al), unusual at this high elevation. SNOW BUNTING: 3, 14 Jan, 8 Feb (1) Round Bald, RNM (RLK, m.ob.). Rusty Blackbird: 22 Dec (5 birds in 2 parties) ELI CBC, only report. Purple Finch: low, only a few scattered birds. Red Crossbill: 29 Dec (30) RNM CBC (BLC), not seen on RNM in Jan-Feb;

9 Jan (1) Cove Ridge, Johnson Co. (RLK). WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: 29 Dec (20) RNM CBC (BLC). Pine Siskin: major invasion, 100+ at many feeders. Evening Grosbeak: 29 Dec-EOP (up to 100) RNM in spruce fir forest (RLK, et al), only 3-4 lowland sightings.

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

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#### OBSERVERS:

FJA - Fred J. Alsop	JWB - James W. Brooks
CHB - Carolyn H. Bullock	JBC - Joyce B. Campion
LVC - Larry V. Campion	RTC - Robert T. Casey
DCC - David C. Chaffin	JWC - J. Wallace Coffey
WJC - William J. Cowart	WGC - William G. Criswell
BLC - Brian L. Cross	DLA - Donald L. Davidson
HBD - Helen B. Dinkelspeil	KHD - Kenneth H. Dubke
LHD - Lillian H. Dubke	JAF - Jim A. Ferguson
SCF - Sue C. Ferguson	RPF - Robert P. Ford
TAF - Tim A. Furr	MLG - Murray L. Gardner
MAG - Mark A. Greene	BH - Bert Hale
PBH - Paul B. Hamel	PCH - Paul C. Harris
KH - Ken Hale	LH - Loraine Hale
ALH - Anne L. Heilman	NRH - Nita R. Heilman
RJH - R. John Henderson	MDH - Marguerite D. Hernandez
RDH - Ron D. Hoff	ARH - Audrey R. Hoff
RLI - Robert L. Ilardi	GLI - Ginger L. Ilardi
AMJ - Albert M. Jenkins	WAJ - WalK A. Jones
RLK - Richard L. Knight	JAK - Jon A. Koella
BWL - Ben W. Layton	SLL - Selma L. Lewis
RPL - Richard P. Lewis	RWL - Ruth W. Luckado
RDL - Richard D. Lura	GRM - George R. Mayfield, Jr.
GWM - George W. McKinney	CPN - Charles P. Nicholson
JBO - J. B. Owens	GRP - George R. Payne
JKP - Jeanne K. Payne	JHP - J. Howell Peeples
CWP - Chloe W. Peeples	RWP - Robert W. Peeples
DDP - Dick D. Preston	VBR - Virginia B. Reynolds
ELR - Erma L. Rogers	DJS - Damien J. Simbeck
RWS - Richard W. Simmers, Jr.	NMS - Noreen M. Smith
MAW - Mary A. Wade	JEW - James E. Waldron
MGW - Martha G. Waldron	GOW - Gary O. Wallace
CFW - C. Frank Ward	RNW - Ray N. Wilson
TJW - Terry J. Witt	JTOS - Jackson Chapter TOS

MTOS - Memphis Chapter TOS

TWRA - Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

*The Migrant* records observations and studies of birds in Tennessee and adjacent areas. Most articles are written by members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

**SUBMISSIONS:** The original and, if feasible, two copies of the manuscript should be sent to the Editor: T. David Pitts, Biology Department, University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN 38238. Manuscripts that have been published in other journals should not be submitted.

**MATERIAL:** The subject matter should relate to some phase of Tennessee ornithology. It should be original, factual, concise, and scientifically accurate.

**STYLE:** Both articles and short notes are solicited; recent issues of *The Migrant* should be used as a guide in the preparation of manuscripts. Where more detail is needed, reference should be made to the *Style Manual for Biological Journals*; this book is available at many public libraries and from the American Institute of Biological Sciences, 1401 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22209.

**COPY:** Manuscripts should be typed *double spaced* on 8.5 x 11" paper with adequate margins for editorial notations. Tables should be prepared on separate sheets with appropriate title and column headings. Photographs intended for reproduction should be sharp with good contrast on glossy white paper; black and white photographs will usually reproduce better than color photographs. Weights, measurements, and distances should be in metric units. Dates should be in "continental" form (e.g., 16 March 1968). Use the 24-hour clock (e.g., 0500 or 1900).

**NOMENCLATURE:** The common and scientific names of a species should be given the first time it is mentioned. The scientific name should be underlined. Names should follow the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds (1983 edition or subsequent supplements).

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

**ABSTRACT:** Manuscripts of five or more typed pages should include an abstract. The abstract should be less than 5% of the length of the manuscript. It should include a brief explanation of why the research was done, the major results, and why the results are important.

**LITERATURE CITED:** List all literature citations in a Literature Cited section at the end of the text. Text citations should include the author and year.

**IDENTIFICATION:** Manuscripts including reports of rare or unusual species or of species at atypical times will be reviewed by the TOS Certification Committee before publication in *The Migrant*. Verifying evidence should include: date, time, light and weather conditions, exact location, habitat, optical equipment, distance, behavior of bird, comparison with other similar species, characteristic markings, experience of observer, other observers verifying the identification, and reference works consulted.

**REPRINTS:** Reprints are available to authors on request. Billing to authors will be through the TOS Treasurer.

**SEASON REPORTS:** Observations that are to be considered for publication in The Season section should be mailed to the appropriate Regional Compiler. Consult a recent issue of *The Migrant* for the name and address of the compilers.

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