



THE MIGRANT



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SWAINSON'S THRUSH BANDED IN MONROE COUNTY, TENNESSEE RECOVERED IN PERU

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A Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) banded with a uniquely coded leg band provided by the U.S. Geological Survey was recovered in Peru on 15 December 2019. What makes the recovery of this bird unique is not that it was killed by a cat, which sadly happens often, but that it was banded in the United States as a hatch-year (HY) of unknown sex on 26 September 2019 at Whigg Meadow in Monroe County, Tennessee.

Whigg Meadow sits at 1524 meters elevation within the Tellico Ranger District of the Cherokee National Forest, midway between Robbinsville, North Carolina and Tellico Plains, Tennessee. Birds were first banded here in 1998 by David Vogt. Although the location of this banding station has changed a little from its inception, and the number of nets and the number of days the banding station is operated each fall has varied from year-to-year, much of the banding activities at this station have remained the same.

Each fall a small group of volunteers, with support from the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, and a conservation and research grant from the Tennessee Ornithological Society, has banded birds at Whigg Meadow. Over the 21 years bird banding has been carried out at this site, more than 25,000 birds comprising 60 species have been banded. Many of these species, including the Swainson's Thrush, are not resident in Tennessee during the summer. Intercontinental migrants, like the Swainson's Thrush, make

miraculous journeys each fall and spring, with their breeding grounds in the northern United States and Canada, and their wintering areas in central and South America. The Swainson's Thrush, an approximately 30 g bird, can make this heroic journey repeatedly throughout its lifetime. Of the 25,000 birds banded at Whigg Meadow, only three have been recovered, or recaptured, at other banding stations outside Tennessee. In addition to the Swainson's Thrush, the other recaptures include a male Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) banded at Whigg Meadow on 20 September 2007 as a HY (hatched between May and July of that same calendar year) and recaptured on 2 September 2008 by a bird bander operating east of Tobermory, Ontario, Canada, and a male Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*) banded on 11 September 2014 as a HY and recaptured in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania on breeding territory on 21 June 2017.

Swainson's Thrush are closely related to the American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). They nest primarily in Canada, with small populations as far south as western New York and Pennsylvania. They pass through Tennessee only during migration, stopping over briefly on their intercontinental journey. Although Swainson's Thrush can be seen in the southeastern United States only for a few weeks each spring and fall, they come through in very large numbers, and in most years represent the second most-frequently captured species at the Whigg Meadow Banding Station.

We do not know the origin of the recovered thrush, but we do know that when this bird was less than 3 months old, it took a trip that included a stopover in east Tennessee and ended 49 days later in Peru. That is approximately 5000 kilometers. If it can be assumed that this bird flew a straight line (unlikely), that it flew every day (unlikely, due to weather), and that the bird arrived the day it was killed by the cat (also unlikely), that is an average of over 101 kilometers per day.

Sadly, it was a non-native predator that killed this bird. More sadly, this is not an unusual event. A large number of the birds we band that are encountered elsewhere have been killed by cats. It is estimated that feral cats in the United State alone kill 1.3 – 4.0 billion birds annually (Loss et al. 2018), acting as the single greatest human-related cause of mortality among this group (Loss et al. 2013).

Techniques and methodologies to study bird migrations are always evolving and providing new insights into the marvels of avian ecology. Despite advances, bird banding remains the prime means through which we can study birds, their demographics, and their movements. Bird banding remains a highly regulated discipline that requires state and federal permits. The United States, Canada, and Mexico have bird banding programs that work in cooperation with one another. Other countries, such as Peru, have their own bird banding programs which can provide information with other countries allowing birds, such as the Swainson's Thrush, to be identified and tracked.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research was made possible through the tireless efforts of numerous volunteers, specifically J. Carter, J. Dedeker, N. Edwards, J. Feura, L. Lewis, M. Miller, E. Soehren, S. Somershoe, J. Trent, D. Vogt, and H. Wilson. Funding and logistical support was provided by the USDA Forest Service, Cherokee National Forest; a Katherine A. Goodpasture research grant from the Tennessee Ornithological Society; the College of Forest Resources, Mississippi State University; and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, McIntire-Stennis project under accession number MISZ-082100.

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RED-SHOULDERED HAWK CHASES SHARP-SHINNED HAWK CARRYING A NORTHERN CARDINAL

T. David Pitts and Marion S. Pitts
Martin, Tennessee

While eating lunch in our home in rural Weakley County, Tennessee, at approximately 1315-1330 on 20 January 2021, we watched an adult Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) repeatedly chase and eventually capture a male Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) in a cluster of Appalachian Mock Orange (*Philadelphus inodorus*) bushes in our yard. The Sharp-shinned Hawk made at least five attempts to capture the cardinal, which initially eluded the hawk by moving around in the dense tangle of mock orange growth. Following each unsuccessful chase, the hawk returned to a tree limb approximately 3 m above the mock orange bushes and intently watched the cardinal. Dunne (1995) referred to Sharp-shinned Hawks as “bushwhackers,” a term that aptly described the Sharp-shinned Hawk that we watched as it maneuvered through the bushes. We also better appreciated the reality that Sharp-shinned Hawks sometimes become entangled and die when they chase prey through dense vegetation (Pitts and Bramlett 1989).

After capturing the cardinal, the Sharp-shinned Hawk made its way to the ground beneath the mock orange bushes, briefly mantled the cardinal, and then began plucking body feathers from it. A Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) suddenly appeared and swooped at the Sharp-shinned Hawk. The Sharp-shinned Hawk, while using one foot to hold the cardinal, managed to work its way from beneath the bushes and fly away with the Red-shouldered Hawk in close pursuit. The Sharp-shinned Hawk flew toward a nearby wooded area, made a 90-degree turn, and perched on a tree limb. The Red-shouldered Hawk perched momentarily, less than 10 m away, but then flew toward the Sharp-shinned Hawk, which moved to another tree and perched. The Red-shouldered Hawk again flushed the Sharp-shinned Hawk, at which point the birds flew out of our sight into the wooded area. The chase, from the point where the Sharp-shinned Hawk captured the cardinal to the last point where we saw the two hawks, covered approximately 75 m. During our last view of the Sharp-shinned Hawk, it continued to carry the cardinal. We did not see the Red-shouldered Hawk make contact with the Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Based on its ostensible size, we initially thought that the Sharp-shinned Hawk was a male, but after watching it deftly carry the Northern Cardinal, we suspected the Sharp-shinned Hawk was a female. A 45 g Northern Cardinal (Laskey 1944) could be transported more easily by a 175 g female Sharp-shinned Hawk than by a 100 g male Sharp-shinned Hawk (Dykstra et al. 2020).

A perusal of the life history accounts for Sharp-shinned Hawks and Red-shouldered Hawks in Bent's *Life Histories* (Bent 1961) and *Birds of the World* (Bildstein et al. 2020; Dykstra et al. 2020) yielded no records of Red-shouldered Hawks attacking Sharp-shinned

Hawks. However, Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), close relatives of Red-shouldered Hawks, are known to kill Sharp-shinned Hawks (Klem et al. 1985). Kerlinger and Lehrer (1982) suggested that "...predation on this species [Sharp-shinned Hawk] is probably more prevalent than reported in the literature."

Birds typically make up approximately 90% of the diet of Sharp-shinned Hawks (Bildstein et al. 2020), so the capture of a Northern Cardinal by a Sharp-shinned Hawk is not an unusual event. In contrast, the capture of either a Northern Cardinal or a Sharp-shinned Hawk by a Red-shouldered Hawk would be a relatively rare event since birds usually constitute no more than 3% of the diet of Red-shouldered Hawks (Dykstra et al. 2020). However, Burnett and Sieving (2016) presented evidence that Red-shouldered Hawks are attracted to the distress calls of birds, which might suggest that Red-shouldered Hawks more frequently pursue birds than studies of their digestive tract contents have indicated.

From our location inside the house we could not hear vocalizations from any of the birds, but Northern Cardinals frequently give distress calls when being handled by bird banders. I suspect the cardinal being chased by the Sharp-shinned Hawk gave numerous distress calls, which might have attracted the Red-shouldered Hawk to the vicinity of the mock orange bushes where it would have detected movements of the Sharp-shinned Hawk. We could not determine whether the Red-shouldered Hawk was concentrating on the Northern Cardinal or on the Sharp-shinned Hawk. Given the opportunity, the Red-shouldered Hawk would probably feed on either, or both, of them.

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ROUND TABLE NOTE

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW IN SHELBY COUNTY – For the past several years the community gardens area on Gardener Road in Shelby Farms Park, Memphis, Shelby County has been one of my most productive sparrow grounds. On 8 October 2020 I was disappointed to see that much of the habitat had been plowed for next year's gardens, so I drove down the gravel road just south of Gardener Road. I noticed a Palm Warbler (*Setophaga palmarum*) so I stopped. There were Palm Warblers working the hedgerow along with large numbers of sparrows, mostly Savannah (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), but also Swamp (*Melospiza georgiana*) and Field (*Spizella pusilla*). Another sparrow flew up, and I saw a strong facial pattern so, uncharacteristically for me, I took photos first and then looked through binoculars. The bird had an unstreaked breast, with a buffy wash to the upper chest. There was a dark auricular patch, a buffy supercilium, a pale eye ring, and a black line behind the eye that did not continue anterior to the eye. The bird also had a distinct stripe on the lateral part of the throat. The crown was dark with some white at the midline. I suspected Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) or Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*) (although the facial markings seemed too strong and the bill too large for Brewer's), but reserved final judgement until I saw the photos. I sent the photos to several others for verification, and all agreed it was a Clay-colored Sparrow (Figure 1). The next morning, accompanied by Rob Harbin, Cliff VanNostrand and Jim Varner, I birded the same area. We managed two brief looks at the Clay-colored Sparrow. On 15 October Dick Preston also reported the bird. The only previous record of Clay-colored Sparrow in Shelby County was on the Memphis Christmas Bird Count in 2011 (Hoff 2011).

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Bob Foehring, Memphis Tennessee

2020 TENNESSEE FALL BIRD COUNTS

Ron Hoff
Loudon, Tennessee

Eight Fall Bird Counts were conducted this year.. Participants logged 521 party hours in the field to record 47,980 individual birds, which represented 203 species. This was a new record high species total for a Fall Count. The recent 10-year average is 187 species. The weather was reasonably mild during the count period with few rain events and windy conditions not really an issue. Temperatures ranged from 35° F in Perry County to 84° F in Shelby County.

Bonaparte's Gull and Clay-colored Sparrow were new species for the Fall Count, bringing the species total for the state compilations to 259. Count highlights included Ruffed Grouse, American Golden-Plover, Northern Saw-whet Owl, American Pipit, and Dickcissel. Forty-two species occurred in record high numbers for this count. The only species occurring in record low numbers was Dark-eyed Junco.

Counts are placed in the table geographically from West to East. Taxonomy follows the latest revision of the AOS Checklist of North American Birds.

COUNT SUMMERIES

(F/Y = feeder/yard watcher)

Blount County (BLNT) – 27 September; 0530-2030. Weather: cloudy; wind 0-8 mph; 52-72° F. Highlights included Common Merganser, Eastern Whip-poor-will, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. Observers: Jean J. Alexander, Kathryn Barrow, Warren Bielenberg, Doug Bruce, Wanda DeWaard, Melinda Fawver, Marian D. Fitzgerald, Tom E. Fitzgerald, Paul Hartigan, Kim Henry, Stephen P. Henry, Andrea Hopkins, Joy Hopkins, Thomas D. Howe (compiler), Susan Hoyle, Bob Howdeshell, James R. Human, David M. Johnson, Evan Kidd, Jason Kyhm, Julie Labhart, Karen J. Petrey, Doug Raybuck, Logan Rosenberg, Martha Rudolph, Michael G. Ryon, Mary Tankersley, Harumi Tsuruoka, June D. Welch, Geoffrey White, Valerie Winger, and Randy C. Winstead.

Elizabethton (ELIZ) – 26 September; 0430-1930. Weather: overcast, early morning fog and drizzle in the higher mountains; wind light and variable; 55-74° F. Highlights included an early Ruffed Grouse, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, American Pipit, and Golden-winged Warbler. Observers: Fred Alsop, Rob Armistead, Betty Baily, Gary Baily, Jerry Bevins, Rob Biller, Debi Campbell, J. G. Campbell, Ron Carrico, Robin Cooper, Catherine Cummins, Diane Draper, Glen Eller, Harry Lee Farthing, Bambi Fincher, Dave Gardner, Tammy Griffey, Bill Grigsby, Jean Henson, Neal Henson, Jacki Hinshaw, Don Holt, Connie Irick (F/Y), David Irick (F/Y), David Kirschke, Rick Knight (compiler), Roy Knispel, Richard Lewis, Dianna Lynn, Vern Maddux, Joe McGuiness, Cathy McNeil, Tom McNeil, Eric Middlemass, Harry Norman, Susan Peters, Brookie Potter, Jean Potter, Sherrie

Quillen, Pete Range, Ken Rea, Judith Reid, Judi Sawyer, Chris Soto, Michele Sparks, Bryan Stevens, Peggy Stevens (F/Y), Kim Stroud, Scott Turner, Charles Warden, and Joyce Watson.

Knoxville (KNOX) – 27 September; 0457-1841. Weather: fog, light rain becoming cloudy; wind 0-10 mph; 61-79° F. Highlights included Northern Bobwhite, all three falcons, Olive sided Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow, 28 warbler species, and Grasshopper Sparrow. Observers: Caroline Ballinger, Eric Bodker, Jake Buller-Young, Gail Clendenen, Steve Clendenen, Chuck Estes, Lola Estes, Kelsey Gentry, Carol Gobert, Patricia Harmon, Paul Hartigan, Tony Headrick, Phill Henry, Ron Hoff, Angela Hoffman, Susan Hoyle, Kirk Huffstater, Jim Human, Kristine Johnson, Kaled Karnes, Bill Keeler, Pam Koontz, Jerry Ledbetter, Pasquel Lozengue, Patty Maples, Morton Massey, Dollyann Myers, Talissa Ralph, Kelly Roy, Martha Rudolph, Michael Ryon, Beth Schilling, Kurt Sickafus, Cara Simpson, Colin Sumrall, Ryan Trenkamp, Jimmy Tucker, Merikay Waldvogel, Jacob Wessels, and Shane Williams. Non-participating compiler was K. Dean Edwards.

Montgomery County (MONT) – 5 September; 0545-1250. Weather: no data. Highlights included Philadelphia Vireo, Henslow's Sparrow, and Dickcissel. Observers: Rick Shipkowski (compiler), and Sue Shipkowski.

Nashville (NASH) – 26 September; 0600-1800. Weather: fog becoming cloudy; 58-82° F. Count highlights include Peregrine Falcon, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler. Observers: Rachel Anderson, Jim Arnett, Kim Bailey, Sandy Bivens, Susan Bradfield, Trae Bradfield, Jean Buchanan, Phillip Casteel, Richard Connors, Elizabeth Cook, Laura Cook, Tammy Devine, Bonnie Fekel, Frank Fekel, Graham Gerdeman, Steve Goodbred, Chris Guerin, Joe Hall, Barbara Harris (compiler), Randy Harrod, Joan Henning, Melissa James, John Kell, Jennifer Kleine, Tim Loyd, Reba M, Kathy Malone, Camile Monohan, Amy Potter, Jordan Rex, Polly Rooker, Jan K. Shaw, Kathy Shaw, Shelia Shay, Chris Sloan, Laura Smith, Michael Smith, Tracey Stadwick, Joe Stone, LinnAnn Welch, Jane Word, and Mary Zimmerman.

Perry County (PRRY) – 3 October; 0515-1730. Weather: clear; 35-70° F. Virginia Rail, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and White-throated Sparrow were all new species for this count. Notable sightings included Black-billed Cuckoo, all 3 falcon species, and Golden-winged Warbler. Observers: Evan Beachy, Jamin Beachy, Seth Beachy, Philemon Friesen, Joe Hall, Ruben Stoll (compiler), Victor Stoll, and Alan Troyer.

Shelby Count (SHLB) – 12 September; 0700-1830. Weather: rain to mostly cloudy; wind NE 2-9 mph; 74-84° F. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon were notable sightings. Observers: Barbara Armstrong, Thomas Blevins, Chad Brown, Sue Cosmini, Gregg Elliot, J. Fields Falcone, Bob Foehring, Rob Harbin, Sarita Joshi, Pam Key, Jo Lawson, Aiden Markham, Julie Markham, Miles Markham, Melissa McMasters, Hal Mitchell, Dick Preston (compiler), Don Sanderlin, Donna Smith, Richard Smith, Norman

Soskel, Cathy Souther, Cate VanNostrand, Cliff VanNostrand, Deon VanNostrand, Ezra VanNostrand, Solomon VanNostrand, Jim Varner, Martha Waldron, and John Whirley.

Tennessee River (TNRV) – 26 September; 0450-1920. Weather: overcast; wind light and variable; 70-75° F. Highlights were numerous and included American Golden-Plover, Baird's Sandpiper, Bonaparte's (1st Fall Count record) and Laughing gulls, Black and Common terns, all 5 eastern empidonax species, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Swainson's Warbler. The total for Scissor-tailed Flycatcher tied the high daily count for Tennessee. Observers: Jamin Beachy, Joe Hall, Philemon Friesen, Nikklas Klaus, Andrew Lydeard, Ruben Stoll (compiler), Victor Stoll, Alan Troyer, and Robert Wheat.

2020 Fall Bird Counts	SHLB	TNRV	PRRY	MONT	NASH	BLNT	KNOX	ELIZ	Totals
Count Dates	12-Sep	26-Sep	3-Oct	9-Sep	26-Sep	19-Sep	27-Sep	26-Sep	
Species	113	154	126	77	114	118	125	132	203
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
Canada Goose	211	262	134	3	94	207	356	1220	2487
Wood Duck	97	35	16	-	32	51	22	71	324
Blue-winged Teal	36	103	-	-	8	-	71	27	245
Northern Shoveler	7	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Gadwall	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mallard	37	29	-	-	32	29	90	219	436
Northern Pintail	-	18	-	-	2	-	-	-	20
Green-winged Teal	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Common Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	1	-	4	5	4	10	24
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Wild Turkey	-	32	73	-	51	29	12	66	263
Pied-billed Grebe	-	3	-	-	7	4	4	11	29
Rock Pigeon	156	61	2	-	29	234	189	629	1300
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	2	7	-	-	2	-	11	22
Mourning Dove	118	95	64	14	74	362	162	355	1244
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5	9	11	1	9	2	-	4	41
Black-billed Cuckoo	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cuckoo sp.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Common Nighthawk	5	61	-	-	-	-	17	46	129
Eastern Whip-poor-will	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Chimney Swift	27	153	3	-	56	63	50	478	830
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	84	38	5	3	22	61	32	34	279
Virginia Rail	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sora	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
American Coot	1	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	16
Black-necked Stilt	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
American Golden-Plover	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Killdeer	168	49	73	-	15	11	44	54	414
Semipalmated Plover	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Stilt Sandpiper	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Baird's Sandpiper	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Least Sandpiper	2500	55	3	-	-	-	-	-	2558
Pectoral Sandpiper	56	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
Semipalmated Sandpiper	22	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Wilson's Snipe	-	9	24	-	-	-	-	-	33
Spotted Sandpiper	8	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	12
Solitary Sandpiper	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Lesser Yellowlegs	11	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Greater Yellowlegs	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	10
Bonaparte's Gull	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Laughing Gull	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Ring-billed Gull	3	1340	1	-	24	-	-	-	1368

2020 Fall Bird Counts	SHLB	TNRV	PRRY	MONT	NASH	BLNT	KNOX	ELIZ	Totals
Count Dates	12-Sep	26-Sep	3-Oct	9-Sep	26-Sep	19-Sep	27-Sep	26-Sep	
<u>Species</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>203</u>
Herring Gull	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Caspian Tern	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	3	23
Black Tern	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Common Tern	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Forster's Tern	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Double-crested Cormorant	19	630	6	-	96	21	21	62	855
American White Pelican	-	460	134	-	-	-	-	-	594
Great Blue Heron	25	207	45	1	39	25	27	37	406
Great Egret	35	750	65	-	30	1	1	5	887
Little Blue Heron	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Cattle Egret	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Green Heron	4	4	1	-	-	7	1	4	21
Black-crowned Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	17	1	-	2	20
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	5
Black Vulture	19	106	48	3	128	9	20	141	474
Turkey Vulture	29	251	15	13	65	105	22	191	691
Osprey	1	7	2	-	1	4	4	14	33
Northern Harrier	-	6	1	-	-	-	-	1	8
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	2	3	-	1	-	1	3	10
Cooper's Hawk	6	2	4	1	5	10	4	11	43
Accipiter sp.	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Bald Eagle	-	30	7	1	1	4	5	15	63
Red-shouldered Hawk	12	10	21	-	13	30	5	2	93
Broad-winged Hawk	-	-	10	-	-	5	-	4	19
Red-tailed Hawk	11	5	12	1	11	10	9	14	73
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Eastern Screech Owl	-	8	3	-	5	6	7	28	57
Great Horned Owl	3	6	1	-	2	2	8	2	24
Barred Owl	7	25	4	1	10	-	1	6	54
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Belted Kingfisher	4	8	14	-	16	14	14	29	99
Red-headed Woodpecker	12	27	9	1	4	1	8	2	64
Red-bellied Woodpecker	89	63	61	4	62	72	103	103	557
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	2	10	-	2	-	-	6	20
Downy Woodpecker	34	58	58	3	61	43	66	82	405
Hairy Woodpecker	3	8	10	1	11	3	6	18	60
Northern Flicker	6	23	75	1	20	19	33	80	257
Pileated Woodpecker	19	30	41	5	31	28	14	36	204
American Kestrel	12	22	12	1	11	2	6	17	83
Merlin	1	4	2	-	-	-	1	2	10
Peregrine Falcon	3	3	1	-	1	-	1	1	10
Great Crested Flycatcher	3	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	8
Eastern Kingbird	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	4	9

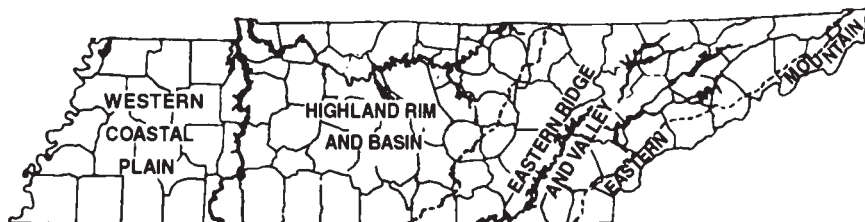
2020 Fall Bird Counts	SHLB	TNRV	PRRY	MONT	NASH	BLNT	KNOX	ELIZ	Totals
Count Dates	12-Sep	26-Sep	3-Oct	9-Sep	26-Sep	19-Sep	27-Sep	26-Sep	
Species	113	154	126	77	114	118	125	132	203
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	4
Eastern Wood-Pewee	46	53	78	11	40	36	37	34	335
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Acadian Flycatcher	22	5	2	5	3	-	2	-	39
Alder Flycatcher	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Willow Flycatcher	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
"Trail's" Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Least Flycatcher	1	2	-	-	1	-	1	2	7
Empidonax sp.	16	-	-	-	1	4	7	13	41
Eastern Phoebe	16	33	100	6	32	35	73	124	419
White-eyed Vireo	88	75	71	12	34	26	10	3	319
Yellow-throated Vireo	9	21	12	2	3	4	2	5	58
Blue-headed Vireo	-	2	3	1	1	4	-	16	27
Philadelphia Vireo	10	19	35	1	7	-	2	1	75
Warbling Vireo	3	2	3	2	1	-	-	1	12
Red-eyed Vireo	26	21	7	6	10	19	12	34	135
Blue Jay	66	148	302	6	234	227	257	578	1818
American Crow	49	320	344	16	136	157	263	503	1788
Fish Crow	4	8	-	-	-	4	2	-	18
Common Raven	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	14	16
Bank Swallow	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Tree Swallow	-	69	127	-	5	49	18	274	542
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	69	64	12	-	4	-	2	-	151
Purple Martin	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Barn Swallow	13	292	1	13	8	14	3	15	359
Cliff Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Swallow sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Carolina Chickadee	49	115	121	7	104	178	198	251	1023
Tufted Titmouse	78	135	182	8	100	91	123	208	925
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	9	4	-	3	1	15	18	51
White-breasted Nuthatch	32	46	49	3	52	40	59	80	361
Brown-headed Nuthatch	-	2	-	-	-	10	8	-	20
Brown Creeper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
House Wren	-	10	4	-	4	9	11	10	48
Winter Wren	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Sedge Wren	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	4
Marsh Wren	-	1	31	-	1	-	-	-	33
Carolina Wren	89	142	160	4	146	211	157	285	1194
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	11	19	3	11	9	7	1	10	71
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	-	15	-	-	-	2	2	20
Eastern Bluebird	44	98	200	5	136	175	122	246	1026
Veery	-	4	1	1	6	1	1	3	17
Gray-cheeked Thrush	-	10	7	-	18	-	3	10	48

2020 Fall Bird Counts	SHLB	TNRV	PRRY	MONT	NASH	BLNT	KNOX	ELIZ	Totals
Count Dates	12-Sep	26-Sep	3-Oct	9-Sep	26-Sep	19-Sep	27-Sep	26-Sep	
Species	113	154	126	77	114	118	125	132	203
Swainson's Thrush	2	40	22	10	73	59	66	193	465
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Wood Thrush	4	21	13	5	17	5	3	19	87
American Robin	51	35	43	3	89	258	179	574	1232
Gray Catbird	3	29	16	1	28	84	44	85	290
Brown Thrasher	27	16	29	2	44	39	28	27	212
Northern Mockingbird	57	50	53	1	68	113	159	126	627
European Starling	367	257	172	5	292	1049	489	1757	4388
Cedar Waxwing	-	19	3	-	191	217	123	312	865
House Sparrow	12	8	61	2	19	26	32	18	178
American Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
House Finch	12	8	32	18	47	52	76	76	321
Pine Siskin	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	12
American Goldfinch	26	47	69	29	64	157	87	303	782
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Chipping Sparrow	19	45	172	17	1	16	18	41	329
Clay-colored Sparrow	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Field Sparrow	3	12	40	17	31	33	41	26	203
Dark-eyed Junco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	26
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
Henslow's Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Song Sparrow	2	-	-	-	1	34	39	116	192
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	-	6
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	32	-	-	-	1	1	34
Eastern Towhee	15	21	28	5	37	22	38	80	246
Yellow-breasted Chat	2	2	-	4	-	5	-	-	13
Bobolink	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	7
Eastern Meadowlark	12	35	98	1	14	4	3	17	184
Orchard Oriole	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Baltimore Oriole	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Red-winged Blackbird	37	548	21	6	19	576	144	209	1560
Brown-headed Cowbird	63	88	-	16	28	6	81	8	290
Common Grackle	99	40	8	1	162	94	65	54	523
Ovenbird	-	1	6	-	-	-	1	2	10
Worm-eating Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Northern Waterthrush	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	12	16
Golden-winged Warbler	3	7	3	-	-	1	1	1	16
Blue-winged Warbler	1	3	1	-	-	1	1	-	7
Black-and-white Warbler	2	13	4	-	8	2	4	2	35
Prothonotary Warbler	8	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	10
Swainson's Warbler	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Tennessee Warbler	25	27	128	-	43	9	24	52	308
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	4	-	3	2	1	-	10
Nashville Warbler	3	3	5	1	1	-	2	-	15

2020 Fall Bird Counts	SHLB	TNRV	PRRY	MONT	NASH	BLNT	KNOX	ELIZ	Totals
Count Dates	12-Sep	26-Sep	3-Oct	9-Sep	26-Sep	19-Sep	27-Sep	26-Sep	
Species	113	154	126	77	114	118	125	132	203
Kentucky Warbler	1	4	1	4	-	-	-	-	10
Common Yellowthroat	4	29	57	12	20	25	13	32	192
Hooded Warbler	9	5	4	1	-	5	7	9	40
American Redstart	18	47	31	-	63	42	41	90	332
Cape May Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	2	7	32	42
Northern Parula	49	38	26	3	11	3	9	12	151
Magnolia Warbler	6	61	77	-	57	38	57	29	325
Bay-breasted Warbler	-	19	24	-	25	4	8	45	125
Blackburnian Warbler	-	3	3	-	-	4	10	16	36
Yellow Warbler	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	-	5
Chestnut-sided Warbler	6	13	8	1	9	10	11	15	73
Blackpoll Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4
Black-throated Blue Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	5
Palm Warbler	-	1	41	1	-	30	7	65	145
Pine Warbler	-	114	25	4	2	22	19	16	202
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	2	51	3	7	1	1	-	65
Yellow-throated Warbler	5	13	9	5	7	5	5	7	56
Prairie Warbler	-	5	3	8	1	4	1	2	24
Black-throated Green Warbler	6	5	19	-	11	6	8	18	73
Canada Warbler	-	2	-	-	3	2	2	2	11
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	6
Warbler sp.	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	-	11
Summer Tanager	42	62	41	9	35	1	11	3	204
Scarlet Tanager	-	18	13	2	9	9	7	40	98
Northern Cardinal	106	146	203	30	118	193	144	251	1191
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	76	330	-	58	11	13	119	607
Blue Grosbeak	2	7	4	2	3	5	2	-	25
Indigo Bunting	14	177	344	21	48	34	24	37	699
Dickcissel	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total individuals	5853	9261	5378	436	3989	6141	5014	11908	47980
Total species	113	153	126	77	114	118	125	132	203
Observers	30	9	8	2	42	20	40	48	199
Parties	8	7	-	1	10	14	24	18	82
Party hours	29.25	58	52	5	61.05	98.97	76.69	140	520.96
Hours by car	8	20	26	1	11.25	19.02	10.23	-	95.5
Hours by foot	21.25	33	23	4	49.8	79.95	66.46	-	277.46
Hours by boat or other	-	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	8
Miles by car	37	176	139	22	185	230.33	124.4	-	913.73
Miles by foot	19.5	18	13	1.5	37.65	42.12	50.76	-	182.53
Miles by canoe or other	-	11	2	-	-	-	-	-	13
Hours owling	0.75	5	2	-	2	5	1.22	7	22.97
Miles owling	0.5	11	1	-	0.65	10.1	0.96	-	24.21
Feeder/yard watch observers	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	3	9
Feeder/yard watch hours	-	-	-	2	-	7	6.08	-	15.08

THE SUMMER SEASON

Richard L. Knight, Editor



1 June - 31 July 2020

This has been a year unlike any other. The coronavirus pandemic that began earlier this year continued through the summer and beyond with numerous restrictions and precautions still in place across the state. This has become the most serious health crisis to face the nation in a century. However, birding on the local and regional level was one thing that provided release and comfort to many, including new birders who discovered the wonders available in their own back yard.

After hitting the Louisiana coast, the remnants of Tropical Storm Cristobal moved inland and dropped an assortment of gulls and terns at Pickwick Lake, including a large number of Laughing Gulls and four Sooty Terns. A smaller sample of this fallout also occurred at Paris Landing State Park and two Nashville area lakes..

Highlights of the early southbound shorebird flight included Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Willet, Wilson's Phalarope, and a record early Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Two Brown Pelicans were seen at Tims Ford Lake, and another was noted moving downstream along lakes on the upper Tennessee River. White Ibises were reported from three regions. A group of 14 Swallow-tailed Kites in Sequatchie County established a new high count for the state. A brilliant Mexican Violetear appeared briefly in Clarksville providing the state with its second documented record. Two Cave Swallows at Duck River Unit in late July provided the seventh state record and were the first to linger a few days. A record early fall migrant Mourning Warbler was found in Perry County. Regional breeding specialties and other sightings of note follow in the regional reports.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

ad - adult
Co - County
Cr - Creek
ers - earliest reported sighting
et al. - and others
fide - reported by
im - immature
L - Lake
lrs - latest reported sighting

max - maximum count
m.ob. - many observers
Mtn - Mountain
NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
R - River
SP - State Park
WMA - Wildlife Management Area
yg - young

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION - - Temperatures and precipitation during June were within normal parameters. July was slightly hotter, being a little over 1 degree above normal. However, rainfall in the month was off nearly 3 inches.

Typically, few reports are submitted during the hot, dry summer. However, as the coronavirus pandemic rages on and social distancing is a must, bird watching is a nearly perfect activity. Accordingly, birders have been spending more time outdoors. This may account for the more than usual number of reports of Bell's Vireo. Uncommon and shy, the species was reported several times from four counties. The single Fulvous Whistling-Duck in Shelby County was not unexpected, but the flock of nine in Lake County was a nice find. Lake County also produced a single White Ibis and Common Gallinule. A Whimbrel was a one-day wonder in Shelby County, as were two Sooty Terns in Henry County.

Thanks to everyone who submitted observations, especially those with photographs.

Duck - Phalarope: **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** thru season (40+) Ensley (m.ob.); 9 Jun (6) Union City, Obion Co (photo, fide John Stokes); 14 Jul (2) Black Bayou (DR). **Fulvous Whistling-Duck:** 3 Jun / 22 Jul (1) Ensley (JJW / DDP), continuing from May; 4 Jul (9) Phillipy (RS, VS). **Blue-winged Teal:** 3 Jun (1) Phillipy (RS). **Black-billed Cuckoo:** 2 / 15 Jun (1) Black Bayou (MAG / DR, AL). **Common Gallinule:** 15 Jun (2) Walnut Log, Reelfoot L, Obion Co (DR, AL). **Upland Sandpiper:** 30 Jul (1) Robinson Bayou, Lake Co (MAG). **Whimbrel:** 8 Jul (1) Ensley (JJW, David Hilgeman, photo). **Stilt Sandpiper:** 8 Jul (1) Ensley (JJW), ers. **Sanderling:** 30 Jul (1) Tiptonville Bar, Lake Co (MAG). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** 6 Jul (2) Phillipy (DR, AL), ers. **Wilson's Phalarope:** 22 Jul (1) Ensley (DDP).

Gull - Kite: **Laughing Gull:** 10 Jun (5) Paris Landing SP (AL). **Franklin's Gull:** 10 Jun (1) Paris Landing SP (AL). **Sooty Tern:** 11 Jun (2) Paris Landing SP (AL). **Black Tern:** 3 Jun (1) Gibson Co L (MAG), Irs; 25 Jul (1) Tennessee NWR, Henry Co (JH), ers. **Common Tern:** 28 Jul (5) Paris Landing SP (AL). **Anhinga:** 23-29 Jun (1-4, including 1 im) Bogota WMA, Dyer Co (MAG, DR, AL). **American White Pelican:** 3 Jun / 7 Jul (32 / 16) Phillipy (RS / Hap Chambers); 12 Jun (30) Mud L, Lake Co (MAG). **Least Bittern:** 2 Jun / 14 Jul (1) Black Bayou (MAG / DR); 15 Jun (2) Walnut Log, Reelfoot L, Obion Co (DR, AL). **White Ibis:** 1-4 Jul (1 im) Phillipy (Glen Criswell, m.ob.). **Mississippi Kite:** 8 Jun (1) Parsons, Decatur Co (AL); 10 / 18 Jun (2 / 1) Paris, Henry Co (Robert Wheat); 27 Jul (1) Benton Co (DR, AL).

Kingbird - Bunting: **Western Kingbird:** thru season (max 7 pairs, including 3 pairs with yg on 6 Jul) Memphis / President's Island / Ensley (m.ob.), all in Shelby Co. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** 8 Jun (1) Paris, Henry Co (Robert Wheat); 10 Jun (2) southwest Memphis (Denise Cooper); 2 Jul (1) Crockett Co (Beth Schilling et al.). **Bell's Vireo:** thru 2 Aug (1) Shelby Farms, Shelby Co (Bob Foehring); 2 Jun / 13 Jul (2) Tumbleweed WMA, Lake Co (MAG); thru 29 Jun (2-8, including 1 recently fledged yg on 29 Jun) Thorny Cypress WMA, Dyer Co (MAG, DR, AL); 20 Jul (2) John Tully WMA, Lauderdale Co (DR). **Lark Sparrow:** 19 Jun (10 at 4 sites) Gibson Co (MAG); 23 Jun (5 at 2 sites) Henry Co (DR); 28 Jun (2) Macedonia Rd, Carroll Co (RS). **Painted Bunting:** thru season (1-2) Ensley (DDP, m.ob.).

Locations: Black Bayou - Lake Co; Ensley - Shelby Co; Paris Landing SP - Henry Co; Phillipy - Lake Co.

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HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION - - This summer was slightly warmer than average, with temperatures in June 1.8 degrees above normal and in July 3.6 degrees above normal. Rainfall was average for the period. The most interesting birds this summer were a Mexican Violetear seen on just one day and a couple of Cave Swallows that lingered for several days. Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, and Mourning Warbler set early fall arrival dates. A modest fallout from a tropical storm occurred on 9 June. A Swallow-tailed Kite was photographed in Cheatham County.

Duck - Phalarope: **American Wigeon:** 12 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (AT). **Greater Scaup:** 9-13 Jun (1 male) Old Hickory L (FF, Mike Smith). **Lesser Scaup:** 9-11 Jun (1 male) Percy Priest L (GG). **Bufflehead:** 2-11 Jun (1 male) Old Hickory L (Jerry Webb, m.ob.). **Common Goldeneye:** 9 Jun (1 female) Pickwick L (RS, VS). **Hooded Merganser:** 23 Jun (1) Percy Priest L (GG). **Pied-billed Grebe:** 9-30 Jun / 21 Jul (2 / 1) Old Hickory L (FF / GG); 9-19 Jun (1) Percy Priest L (GG). **MEXICAN VIOLETEAR:** 17 Jul (1) Clarksville (Cyndi Routledge, photo). **American Coot:** 2 Jun - 21 Jul (1-3) Old Hickory L (Jerry Webb, m.ob.). **Sandhill Crane:** 23 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (RS). **American Avocet:** 23 Jul (3) Duck R Unit (RS). **American Golden-Plover:** 31 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (JH). **Semipalmated Plover:** 6 Jun (1) Duck R Unit (RS), lrs. **Ruddy Turnstone:** 30 Jul (2) Duck R Unit (AT). **Stilt Sandpiper:** 16-28 Jul (2-10) Duck R Unit (RS, VS). **Baird's Sandpiper:** 23 Jul (2) Duck R Unit (RS). **Least Sandpiper:** 27 Jun (1) Barkley WMA, Stewart Co (JH), ers. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** 6 Jun (14) Duck R Unit (RS), lrs. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 21 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (RS, VS, DR, Jamin Beachy), new early fall arrival date in state. **Western Sandpiper:** 12 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (AT), ers. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** 12 / 16 Jul (1 / 2) Duck R Unit (AT / RS, VS); 23 Jul (1) Cross Cr NWR (AL). **Solitary Sandpiper:** 21 Jun (1) Duck R Unit (AL, DR), new early fall arrival date in state. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** 27 Jun (1 / 2) Barkley WMA, Stewart Co / Cross Cr NWR (JH), ers. **Willet:** 28 Jun / 16 Jul (2) Duck R Unit (DR / RS, VS). **Wilson's Phalarope:** 19-28 Jul (1-2) Duck R Unit (RS, VS); 31 Jul (1) Eagleville, Rutherford Co (Stephen Zipperer).

Gull - Kite: **Laughing Gull:** 8 / 9 Jun (24 / 40) Pickwick L (DR, AL / RS, VS, DR, MCT), 2nd highest count in state; 9 Jun (1-3) Old Hickory L (FF, Mike Smith); 9 Jun (3) Percy Priest L (GG). **Franklin's Gull:** 8 / 9 Jun (1 / 2) Pickwick L (DR, AL / RS, VS, DR, MCT). **Ring-billed Gull:** 9 Jun (2) Old Hickory L (FF, GG); 18 Jun - 15 Jul (2) Drakes Cr, Old Hickory L, Sumner Co (GG, m.ob.). **Herring Gull:** 9 Jun (1 im) Pickwick L (RS, VS, DR, MCT). **Sooty Tern:** 9 Jun (4 ad) Pickwick L (RS, VS, DR, MCT). **Least Tern:** 9 Jun (2) Pickwick L (MCT, RS, VS, DR); 5 Jul (1) Franklin, Williamson Co (Scott Russom, photo); 23 Jul (1) Cross Cr NWR (AL); 31 Jul (2) Woods Reservoir, Franklin Co (Paige O'Neal). **Caspian Tern:** 9 Jun

(4) Pickwick L (RS, VS, DR, MCT); 11 Jun (2) Percy Priest L (GG); 18 Jun / 15 Jul (1 / 3) Drake's Cr, Old Hickory L, Sumner Co (GG / JH); 19 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (RS). **Black Tern:** 9 Jun (7) Pickwick L (RS, VS, DR, MCT); 28 Jul (4-8) Percy Priest L (Jim Arnett / GG); 31 Jul (8) Woods Reservoir, Franklin Co (Paige O'Neal). **Common Tern:** 9 Jun (4) Pickwick L (RS, VS, DR, MCT); 9 Jun (1) Percy Priest L (GG). **Forster's Tern:** 11 Jun (5) Percy Priest L (GG). **Common Loon:** 9-19 Jun (1-3) Percy Priest L (GG); 11 Jun (1) Brentwood, Davidson Co (Randy Harrod, m.ob.), on retention pond; 22 Jun - 13 Jul (1) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo); 30 Jun (1) Laurel Hill L, Lawrence Co (Jim Williams, photo). **Anhinga:** 6 Jun / 16 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (RS). **American White Pelican:** 6 Jun - 30 Jul (10-60, down to 2 by late Jul) Duck R Unit (RS, m.ob.); 30 Jul (2) Pickwick Dam (Jacque Woodward). **Brown Pelican:** 5 Jul (2) Tims Ford L, Franklin Co (RS). **Little Blue Heron:** 19-20 Jun (1 im) Radnor L, Davidson Co (Helen Kornblum, GG); 12 Jul (1 im) Hendersonville, Sumner Co (Tim Loyd, photo); 19 Jul (1 im) White Co (Doug Downs). **White Ibis:** 24 / 28 Jul (1 im) Duck R Unit (RS / DR). **Swallow-tailed Kite:** 31 Jul (1) Cheatham Co (Jared Roessler, Elizabeth Cavagnolo, photos on eBird). **Mississippi Kite:** 1 Jun (nesting pair) Clarksville (Stefan Woltmann); 6 Jun (1) Perry Co (RS); 17 Jun (1) Davidson Co (DR); 20 Jun / 25 Jul (3) Duck R Unit (RS); 16 Jul (1) DeKalb Co (Jan Hansen, photo).

Flycatcher - Dickcissel: **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** 8 Jun (1) Murfreesboro (Stephen Zipperer); thru season (pair / 3 yg in nest on 20 Jun) Lytle Cr Rd, Rutherford Co (m.ob. / SHu); 25 Jun (2 ad, 2 yg) jct Hwy 243 / Trilogry Lane, Maury Co (Tommy Edwards); 8 Jul (1) Marshall Co (AT); 22 Jul (28, mix of ad / im) Wartrace, Bedford Co (Melissa Turrentine); 30 Jul (2) Pickwick Dam (Jacque Woodward). **Bell's Vireo:** 12 Jun (2) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo); 13 Jul (2) Fort Campbell (DMo). **Fish Crow:** 9 Jun (2) Pickwick L (RS, VS); 14 Jul (4) Duck R Unit (refuge staff); 24 Jul (2) Defeated Cr, Smith Co (Ron Hoff, Dollyann Myers). **CAVE SWALLOW:** 22 Jul - 4 Aug (1-2) Duck R Unit (RS, m.ob.). **Swainson's Thrush:** 4 Jun (1) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo), new late spring date in state. **Lark Sparrow:** 18 Jun (1) Nashville Superspeedway, Rutherford Co (Chris Agee). **White-throated Sparrow:** 16 Jul (1) Rutherford Co (Carole Swann, photo on eBird). **Henslow's Sparrow:** thru 5 Jun (3) Shelton Ferry WMA, Montgomery Co (Stefan Woltmann); 11 Jun (19) Fort Campbell (DMo); 12 Jun (7) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo); 23 Jun -18 Jul (pair / 2 ad with 3 yg on 4 Jul) Bell's Bend, Davidson Co (Colin Andrew, m.ob. / GG, photo). **Mourning Warbler:** 25 Jul (1 ad female) Perry Co (RS), sets a new early fall arrival date in state. **Dickcissel:** 11 Jun (25) Fort Campbell (DMo), max.

Locations: Cross Cr NWR - Stewart Co; Duck R Unit - unit of Tennessee NWR, Humphreys Co; Fort Campbell - Montgomery Co (unless specified otherwise); Old Hickory L - Davidson Co (unless specified otherwise); Percy Priest L - Davidson Co; Pickwick L - Hardin Co.

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CUMBERLAND PLATEAU / RIDGE and VALLEY REGION - - June temperatures were near average. However, July was the fifth hottest on record in the Tri-cities area. Rainfall in June was slightly above average. The rain in July varied due to the scattered nature of thunder storms with some areas being rather dry for the month, but in the Tri-cities, July rainfall was nearly 2 inches above average.

A White-winged Dove in Roane County was an unexpected fly-by. A Common Gallinule lingered in Kingsport for two weeks. An immature Brown Pelican was seen on three lakes as it moved downstream along the Tennessee River. Least Bitterns occurred at two sites. Good numbers of dispersing Little Blue Herons arrived, with reports from 14 sites in ten counties. White Ibises were found at two sites. An impressive concentration of Swallow-tailed Kites in the Sequatchie Valley set a new high count in the state. This flock also contained a couple Mississippi Kites. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers nested at two traditional sites in the Sequatchie Valley. Reports of Loggerhead Shrike came from seven counties

Duck - Kite: **Blue-winged Teal:** 1 Jun (1 male) Middlebrook L, Sullivan Co (Adrianna Nelson); 3-15 Jun (1 male) John Sevier L (SHu); 5-18 Jun (1-2) Gupton Wetland (Eric Bodker, RoK); 22 Jul (2) Limestone, Washington Co (RRK). **White-winged Dove:** 23 Jun (1) Gupton Wetland (Eric Bodker). **Rufous Hummingbird:** 31 Jul (1 ad male) Clinton, Anderson Co (Pat Howard), returning bird. **American Coot:** 6 Jun (1) John Sevier L (SHu); 26 Jun (1) Cherokee L, Grainger Co portion (MM); 13-22 Jul (1) Waterfront Dr, Hamilton Co (BD). **Common Gallinule:** 25 May - 9 Jun (1 ad) Kingsport (BFi, SQ, m.ob.). **Spotted Sandpiper:** 7 Jul (1) Seven Islands SP (Howard Haysom, photo), ers. **Ring-billed Gull:** 27 May - 7 Jul (1) Chickamauga L (BD). **Caspian Tern:** 17 Jun (1) John Sevier L (SHu). **Common Loon:** 1 Jun (1) Fort Loudoun L, Loudon Co (MM); 5-13 Jun (1) Warrior's Path SP, Sullivan Co (BFi, SQ, m.ob.); 21 Jun - 4 Jul (1) John Sevier L (SHu). **American White Pelican:** 11 Jun (5, flying over) Lookout Mtn, Hamilton Co (BD). **Brown Pelican:** 13 Jul (1 im) Fort Loudoun L, Knox Co (fide Dan Ellsworth, photo); 17 Jul (1 im) Chickamauga L (BD, m.ob.); 18 Jul (1 im) Nickajack L, Marion Co (Gary Brunvoll); all apparently represent one bird continuing downstream on Tennessee River. **Least Bittern:** thru 24 Jun (1) Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton Co (m.ob.); 9-14 Jun (1) Kyker Bottoms (RW, m.ob.). **Little Blue Heron:** 24 Jun (1 im) Hamilton Co (RHo), ers; also reports of 1-2 im from Blount (2 sites), Bradley, Campbell, Hamilton (2 sites), Hawkins (2 sites), Knox, Loudon, Meigs, Roane (2 sites), and Union Cos; 22 Jul (3 im) Holston R, Hawkins Co (SHu), max. **White Ibis:** 19 Jul (6 im) Swan Pond, Roane Co (Robert Hunt et al.); 24-25 Jul (1 im) VW Wetland (Wolf Jedamski, photo, m.ob.). **Swallow-tailed Kite:** 24-31 Jul (2-14) near jct. East Valley Rd / Stone Cave Rd, Sequatchie Co (Allen Barker, m.ob.), new high count in state; 28 Jul (1) Hiwassee Refuge, Meigs Co (Charles Murray). **Mississippi Kite:** 27-31 Jul (1-2) Sequatchie Co (J.D. Johnston, m.ob.).

Flycatcher - Dickcissel: **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** 6 / 24 Jun (pair, nest) Nine-Mile Crossroad, Bledsoe Co (EKL / Howard Cox, Laura Tappan); 10 Jun / 1 Jul (1 ad / 4 ad, 2 fledged yg) East Valley Rd, Sequatchie Co (RSh, DSh); traditional nest sites. **Loggerhead Shrike:** thru season (1-2) Washington Co (RLK); thru season (pair) Brushy Cemetery,

Bledsoe Co (EKL, RSh, DSh); 7 Jun (2 ad, 2 yg) Gum Springs Rd, Sullivan Co (SHu); 10 Jun (1) Hamilton Co (RHo); 24 Jun (1) Meigs Co (MM); 28 Jun (1) McMinn Co (RSh, DSh); 30 Jun (1) Monroe Co (MM). **Fish Crow:** thru season (2+) Kingsport (m.ob.); 20 Jun (1) Cherokee L, Grainger Co portion (SHu); 25 Jun / 8 Jul (1 / 3) separate sites in Bristol, Sullivan Co (Ron Carrico / Adrianna Nelson). **Common Raven:** 10 Jun (1) Phipps Bend, Hawkins Co (SHu); 12 Jun (1) Cross Mtn, Campbell Co (Bob Howdeshell). **Bank Swallow:** 4-11 Jun (6-8) Mascot, Knox Co (Mike Ryon, m.ob.), known nesting area; 25 Jun / 10 Jul (ca. 100) Holston R, downstream from Cherokee Dam, Grainger Co (Mike Winck, m.ob.). **Brown-headed Nuthatch:** 8-9 Jun (2) Camp Howard Rd, Morgan Co (Bill Pirzer). **Lark Sparrow:** 30 Jun (1) Washington Pike, Monroe Co (Steve Clendenen, Gail Clendenen). **Henslow's Sparrow:** 3 Jun (1) Bridgestone / Firestone Centennial Wilderness WMA, White Co (EKL). **Savannah Sparrow:** 20 Jun (1) Conklin, Washington Co (RLK), traditional nesting site; 31 Jul (1) Paddle Cr Pond, Sullivan Co (RRK). **Scarlet Tanager:** 19 Jul (male feeding yg Brown-headed Cowbird) Kingsport (BFi, SQ), few records in Tenn of this species as cowbird host. **Dickcissel:** reported from Bledsoe, Bradley, Greene, Hamilton, Hawkins, Loudon, Meigs, Monroe, Polk, and Washington Cos.

Locations: Chickamauga L - Hamilton Co; Gupton Wetland - Roane Co; John Sevier L - Hawkins Co; Kingsport - Sullivan Co; Kyker Bottoms - Blount Co; Seven Islands SP - Knox Co; VW Wetland - Hamilton Co.

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION - - June temperatures were normal, but July was considerably warmer than usual. Precipitation for the period was slightly above normal.

Three broods of Common Mergansers totaling 22 young birds on the Little River in Blount County was a great find. Ten Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers near Ripshin Lake in Carter County set a new state summer season high count. Brown-headed Nuthatches continue their expansion into Northeast Tennessee, as do Fish Crows. Two separate reports of Laughing Gull were unusual for summer; also notable was a Mississippi Kite in Cades Cove.

Merganser - Falcon: **Common Merganser:** 21 Jun (1 female) Hiwassee R, Powerhouse boat ramp, Polk Co (RHo); 8 Jul (3 broods, totaling 22 yg) Little R, Blount Co (RW), continued breeding in this area. **Mourning Dove:** thru season (2-3) Carver's Gap on Roan Mtn (RLK, m.ob.), unusual at high elevation. **Laughing Gull:** 16 Jul (1 ad) South Holston L (RRK, Jim Anderson); 18 Jul (1 im) Roan Cr, Watauga L, Johnson Co (RS, VS). **Ring-billed Gull:** 29 Jul (1) South Holston L (RLK). **Forster's Tern:** 16 Jul (1) South Holston L (RRK, Jim Anderson). **Common Loon:** 9 Jun / 21 Jul (1) South Holston L (Mike Sanders); 8 / 20 Jul (1) Chilhowee L, Blount Co (Doug Raybuck / RW). **Great Egret:** 17 Jul (1) Watauga R, Carter Co (LCM), ers. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 1 / 14 Jun (1) Elizabethton, Carter Co (DK / TSM, CLM). **Osprey:** 15 / 28 Jun (1) Sycamore Shoals SP, Carter Co (TSM, CLM / DK); 18 Jul (1) Roan Cr, Watauga L, Johnson Co (RS, VS). **Mississippi Kite:** 19 Jul (1)

Cades Cove, GSMNP (Tom Howe). **Northern Saw-whet Owl**: 13 Jun (1) Clingman's Dome Rd, GSMNP (Craig Watson, Pam Ford); 18 Jun (1) Roan Mtn (TSM, CLM). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: 13 Jun (10) Ripshin Lake area, Carter Co (Fred Alsop, Richard Lewis et al.). **Peregrine Falcon**: 3-8 Jun (1) Alum Cave Bluff, GSMNP (MM, Mike Ryon); 11 Jun (1 ad male) Doe R Gorge, Carter Co (PGR, RLK, Bill Bridgforth).

Flycatcher - Warbler: **Alder Flycatcher**: thru season (2-4) Roan Mtn (RLK, m.ob.). **Fish Crow**: 13 Jun into Aug (2) Watauga Point on Watauga L, Carter Co (Debi Campbell, m.ob.); 3 Jul (4) Holston Valley, Sullivan Co (Richard Lewis); continued expansion in Northeast Tenn. **Bank Swallow**: 18 Jul (1) Carver's Gap on Roan Mtn (RS, VS), a migrant. **Brown-headed Nuthatch**: 16-17 Jun (1) Watauga Point on Watauga L, Carter Co (TSM, CLM, photo, m.ob.), 2nd record in Co; 27 Jul into Aug (2 ad, 1 yg) Painter Cr, South Holston L (Cade Campbell, m.ob.), 1st Co record; 28 Jul into Aug (1) Hwy 421 bridge, South Holston L (Adrianna Nelson, m.ob.). **Winter Wren**: 21 Jun (2) Birch Branch Preserve, Shady Valley, Johnson Co (Merrill Lynch), at 2600 ft elevation. **Hermit Thrush**: thru season (2-8) Roan Mtn (RLK, m.ob.); thru season (2-3) Unaka Mtn (PGR, Harry Lee Farthing, m.ob.). **Vesper Sparrow**: 1 Jun thru season (1-2) Round Bald on Roan Mtn (RRK, m.ob.). **Savannah Sparrow**: 13 Jun (1) Cross Mtn, Johnson / Carter Co line (DK). **Red Crossbill**: thru season (1-12) Roan Mtn (RLK, m.ob.); 6 Jun (2) Emerts Cove, Sevier Co (Keith Watson); 6 Jun (1) Unaka Mtn (PGR, Harry Lee Farthing); 13 / 16 Jun (14 / 22) Walnut Mtn, Carter Co (Joe McGuinness, Vern Maddux / TSM, CLM); 14 Jun (2) GSMNP, near Newfound Gap (Beth Schilling). **Pine Siskin**: thru season (2-10) Roan Mtn, in spruce-fir belt (RLK, m.ob.); 13 Jun (15, at feeders) Roan Mtn, at 4450 ft (RLK). **Prothonotary Warbler**: 27 May - 13 Jun (1) Watauga R, Carter Co (LCM, m.ob.), few Co records. **Swainson's Warbler**: 11 Jun (8 territorial males) Spring Cr, Polk Co (Mathan Beachy), max. **Magnolia Warbler**: 2 May thru season (1-3 males) Unaka Mtn (Joe McGuinness, m.ob.); 9 Jun (1 male) Holston Mtn, Carter / Sullivan Co line (DK); 13 Jun thru season (2-6 males) Roan Mtn (RLK, LCM, Rob Biller, m.ob.). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: 9 Jun (1 male) Holston Mtn, Carter / Sullivan Co line (DK); 13 Jun thru season (2 males) Roan Mtn (RLK, LCM, Rob Biller, m.ob.).

Locations: GSMNP - Great Smoky Mtns National Park; Roan Mtn - Carter Co; South Holston L - Sullivan Co, Unaka Mtn - Unicoi Co.

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OBSERVERS

BD - Bruce Dralle
FF - Frank Fekel
BFi - Bambi Fincher
GG - Graham Gerdeman
MAG - Mark A. Greene
JH - Joe Hall
RHo - Rick Houlk
SHu - Susan Hubley
DK - David Kirschke
RLK - Richard L. Knight
RRK - Roy R. Knispel
RoK - Roger Kroodsma
EKL - Edmund K. LeGrand
AL - Andrew Lydeard
MM - Morton Massey
LCM - Larry C. McDaniel

CLM - Cathy L. McNeil
TSM - Thomas S. McNeil
DMo - Daniel Moss
DDP - Dick D. Preston
SQ - Sherrie Quillen
PGR - Peter G. Range
DR - Daniel Redwine
DSh - Debbi Shannon
RSh - Roi Shannon
RS - Ruben Stoll
VS - Victor Stoll
MCT - Michael C. Todd
AT - Alan Troyer
JJW - John "Jay" Walko
RW - Randy Winstead

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PHOTO GALLERY



Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*), Stewart County, Tennessee.
Photo by Cyndi Routledge.

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