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## THE MIGRANT A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGY PUBLISHED BY

#### THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The TOS is a non-profit, educational, scientific and conservation organization.

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The Migrant 90(4): 109-111, 2019

#### WINTER DIET OF A LONG-EARED OWL IN NORTHEAST TENNESSEE

Richard L. Knight Johnson City, Tennessee

The Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) is a widespread Holarctic species whose normal breeding range in eastern North America extends south from Canada to southern Wisconsin, southern Michigan, and into Pennsylvania (Marks et al. 1994, Weidensaul 2015). The species is both migratory and nomadic (Weidensaul 2015). In the East, its winter range extends south to Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina, and rarely farther south to Georgia and the Gulf coast (Weidensaul 2015). In Tennessee it has generally been considered to be a rare winter resident (Somershoe and Sloan 2015). A search of *The Migrant* revealed 56 records scattered statewide in at least 25 counties dating from the 1920s through 2018, attesting to its status as rare in Tennessee. However, it is likely that others go undetected due to this owl's nocturnal habits, retiring nature, poorly known calls, and preference for roosting in dense vegetation.

Analysis of pellets is a standard method of studying the diet of owls. Most large and medium-sized owls, including Long-eared, typically swallow small vertebrate and invertebrate prey items whole. Undigested parts, such as bones, fur, feathers, and chitinous arthropod exoskeletons, are cast into a pellet that is regurgitated. Long-eared Owls specialize on small mammalian prey (Marti 1976), thus pellet analysis should yield accurate diet composition. While food studies of the Long-eared Owl in North America are numerous (Marti 1976, Marks et al. 1994, and references therein), most are from Canada or the northern and western United States, with few from the southeast. Two diet studies come from Kentucky (Abel and Ritchison 1995, Machniak and Elliot 1997), but there is just one from Tennessee. Klippel and Parmalee (1982) examined 71 complete pellets and numerous loose bones taken from underneath a Long-eared Owl roost in Maury County in middle Tennessee. The roost was used for parts of three consecutive winters. The following is a pellet analysis for a site in northeast Tennessee occupied by a Long-eared Owl for part of one winter.

A Long-eared Owl flushed from a row of red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) as I walked along a farm lane at Leesburg in Washington County on 5 February 1990. An inspection beneath the roost site revealed a small pile of whole and broken pellets which were collected at that time. Subsequent visits failed to find the owl or any new pellets at that site or at other suitable roosting sites nearby. The habitats around the roost site consisted of a large hay field drained by a small stream and a hillside covered with broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*) and scattered thickets of mixed cedar and deciduous trees. This mosaic of habitats provided dense cover for roosting near open fields for hunting, as favored by this owl (Marks et al. 1994). The elevation at the site is 485 m (1590 ft).

Seventeen whole pellets and several fragments, probably representing an additional 10-12 pellets, from the Washington County site were examined. Marti (1973) calculated the rate of pellet formation in this species to be about 1.4 pellets per day; thus, this individual probably had been using the roost for about three weeks prior to its discovery. The whole pellets from this site averaged 44 x 18 mm in size. The pellets and fragments were picked apart, with the skulls used to identify prey species. No arthropod remains were detected in the sample. Fifty-five prey items were found (Table 1), comprising four mammal species plus the partial skulls of two unidentified passerine birds. All mammal species present in this sample are common in low elevation grasslands of northeast Tennessee, including Washington County (Smith et al. 1974). In a similar study, Huffine (1993) found that these same four mammal species made up 90.7% of the prey items in Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) pellets from Washington and adjacent Greene counties.

Mammals made up 96.4% of the remains from this sample, predominantly Meadow Vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) and Least Shrew (*Cryptotis parva*). Indeed, mammals comprised 98.2% of the prey of Long-eared Owls in a review of North American studies (Marti 1976), with birds forming 1.7%. Similarly, two studies in Kentucky (Able and Ritchison 1995, Machniak and Elliot 1997) and one in Tennessee (Klipple and Parmalee 1982) found a very high frequency (93-99%) of small mammals in the winter diet of this owl. Furthermore, Marti (1976) reported that voles, such as *Microtus* species, dominate the diet of Long-eared Owls in many areas. This is the case in the sample presented here (69.1%), as well as the other Tennessee study (48%) and the two from Kentucky (93% and 63%, respectively) cited above. The remaing three mammal species reported from Washington County were also prominent in the Maury County sample (Klipple and Parmalee 1982). Marks et al. (1994) suggest that Long-eared Owls are opportunists, preying upon whatever small mammal is most readily available.

Species	Number	Frequency (%)
Short-tailed Shrew ( <i>Blarina brevicauda</i> )	2	3.6
Least Shrew ( <i>Cryptotis parva</i> )	11	20.0
Eastern Harvest Mouse ( <i>Reithrodontomys humulis</i> )	2	3.6
Meadow Vole ( <i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i> )	38	69.1
unidentified songbird ( <i>Passeriformes</i> )	2	3.6
Total	55	99.9

Table 1. Long-eared Owl prey from pellets collected in Washington County, Tennessee.

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#### BOOK REVIEW – FASTEST THINGS ON WINGS: RESCUING HUMMINGBIRDS IN HOLLYWOOD

*Fastest Things on Wings: Rescuing Hummingbirds in Hollywood.* Terry Masear. First Mainer Books, 2016. 296 pages.

"Although diving Peregrine Falcons can reach a higher speed in miles per hour, when measured in body lengths per second, hummingbirds travel almost twice as fast making them the fastest things on wings"

Attention grabbing facts like these draw the casual or serious birder into Masear's informative book about hummingbird rescue and rehabilitation. Who knew that these tiny jewels of nature could be rehabilitated (including everything from nestlings of a few days old to adults with injured backs or wings), coddled under intensive feeding and care, graduated from feeding ICUs to an enclosed backyard aviary, then released to the open sky? Or that an occasional individual would return to buzz a grateful thank you past its caregiver's ear?

Masear's book details her sunup to sundown days, especially intense during breeding season: early morning feedings; exercising injured birds by encouraging them to fly from lower perches to higher perches; matching a pair of individuals (one role model and one student) in a cage; separating bullies from a group cage to help weaker birds overcome their fear; filling tiny feeders, collecting nectar producing flowers; endless sanitation of cages and perches; and all interspersed with fielding frantic phone calls from rescuers who hope she can drive across heavily trafficked freeways to pick up birds they have found.

Her boundless love and concern for the hummers is equally matched by her patience in attempting to educate humans about not disturbing nests when the observer has mistakenly concluded the mother has abandoned the young. She also recites telephone conversations with those who are certain they can handle the minute feeding and care of a hummingbird in their home, although the would-be protector has already jeopardized the bird's likely survival by overfeeding it or blocking its craw with inappropriate food.

The book not only describes her devotion to the task, but also the heartache of losing and burying one of her charges, and the support and advice she is given by other rehabbers of both hummingbirds and other species over her 15 year career. A UCLA professor, she describes philosophical readings that inspire her when tasks seems overwhelming.

This well-written account describes rescues of some 5,000 hummingbirds on Southern California over a 10 year period. Reading the book, we witness the author's growth as her knowledge of rehabilitation increases through experience and observation. A great gift for any nature lover, especially those with an affinity for hummingbirds.

Camille Monohan, Fairview, Tennessee

*Editor's note: These minutes are subject to final approval at the Fall 2020 state meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.* 

### MINUTES OF THE 2019 FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

28 September 2019 Elizabethton, Tennessee

The Fall Meeting was held 28 September 2019 and hosted by the Lee and Lois Herndon Chapter in Elizabethton, Tennessee. Field trips were to Sycamore Shoals State Park, Roan Mountain, Unaka Mountain, Hampton Creek Cove, Carver Gap, and the Big Bald banding station.

President Danny Gaddy called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm; Secretary Cyndi Routledge determined there was a quorum. The minutes of the Spring 2019 meeting were approved as corrected.

#### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT:** Danny Gaddy reported that since the last meeting, with the approval of the Executive Committee, \$1500 was released from the conservation reserve and donated to Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc., for the purchase of vital migratory bird habitat.

**WEST TENNESSEE VICE PRESIDENT:** Dick Preston reported that the Spring 2020 meeting will be held in Memphis the last week of April.

**TREASURER:** Pam Lasley reported the Society remains in good financial shape with revenue and expenses running as expected. Our investment balance has grown by \$38,345 since 2018 and currently stands at \$381,526. The Conservation and Research fund awarded \$9318 in grants this year. As required by the constitution, an examination of the 2018 financial records was performed by Susan Hollyday, former Finance chair. The results were a clean audit.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**CONSERVATION POLICY COMMITTEE:** On behalf of the committee, Co-chair Dick Preston asked that members contact their Representatives to urge their support of H.R. 919. This is a bipartisan bill designed to reduce bird mortality by calling for Federal buildings to incorporate bird-safe measures.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Danny Gaddy announced that Cyndi Routledge is now in charge of development of the new TOS website.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

In light of recent reports on the drastic decline of bird populations, Mac McWhirter made the motion that TOS increase the annual funding for Conservation and Research from \$10,000 to \$20,000 in calendar year 2020. Passed unanimously.

Rick Blanton made the motion that we strongly encourage anyone leading a bird hike enter the data in eBird, beginning with the Spring 2020. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndi Routledge, Secretary

#### **2019 TENNESSEE FALL BIRD COUNTS**

Ron Hoff Loudon, Tennessee

There were eight Fall Bird Counts conducted this year with 193 species reported. The Tennessee River Count was a new count. The weather was reasonably mild during the count period with no major rain events and windy conditions affecting only a couple of counts. Temperatures ranged from 50° F in Perry County to 92° F in Shelby County.

Neotropic Cormorant, Baird's Sandpiper, and Lesser Black-backed Gull were new species for this count, bringing the species total for the Tennessee Fall Bird Count compilation to 258. Count highlights also included Northern Pintail, Ruffed Grouse, American Avocet, Black-bellied Plover, Laughing Gull, Eastern Whip-poor-will, and Swainson's Warbler.

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 SUMMARIES**

(F/Y = feeder/yard watcher)

**Blount County (BLNT)** – 21 September; 0400-2100. Weather: sunny to partly cloudy; wind 0-5 mph; 63-86° F. Northern Bobwhite, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Barn Owl, Least Flycatcher, and Baltimore Oriole were notable. Observers: Jean J. Alexander (compiler), Kathryn Barrow, Warren Bielenberg, Wanda DeWard, Melinda Fawver, Marian D. Fitzgerald, Tom E. Fitzgerald, Paul Hartigan, Kim Henry, Stephen P. Henry, Thomas D. Howe, James R. Human, David M. Johnson, Evan Kidd, Bridget McNew, Karen J. Petrey, Logan Rosenberg, Stephen Rothschild, Michael Ryon, Mary Tankersley, Harumi Tsuruoka, Ken Voorhis, Janet Webber, Ralph Webber, June D. Welch, Valerie Wininger, and Randy Winstead.

Elizabethton (ELIZ) – 5 October; 0400-1900. Weather: clear to partly cloudy, fog in the higher elevations; wind E 10-15 mph; 51-82° F. Highlights included an early Common Loon, all three falcons, Brown Creeper, and Marsh Wren. Observers: Fred Alsop, Jim Anderson, Rob Biller, Dallas Brooks, Kevin Brooks, Harry Lee Farthing, Dave Gardner, Mark Hopey, Rick Knight (compiler), Roy Knispel, Richard Lewis, Vern Maddux, Frank McCollum, Larry McDaniel, Joe McGuiness, Cathy McNeil, Tom McNeil, Brookie Potter, Jean Potter, Pete Range, Ken Rea, Brenda Richards, Chris Soto, Michele Sparks, Amber Stanley, Bryan Stevens, Kim Stroud, Scott Turner, and Charles Warden.

**Knoxville (KNOX)** – 6 October; 0540-2052. Weather: cloudy; wind NW 0-5 mph; 66-76° F. Highlights included Black-crowned Night-Heron, 14 Great Horned Owls, and Marsh Wren. Observers: Robert Abercrombie, Mark Armstrong, Frank Bills, Sharon Bostick, Doug Bruce, Gail Clendenen, Steve Clendenen, Howard Cox, Michael Crouse, Melinda Fawver, Beverly Gyllenhaal, Paul Hartigan, Howard Haysom, Angela Hoffman, Susan Hoyle, Kristine Johnson, Bill Keeler, Don Lima, Stephany McNew, Doug Mitchell, Michael Plaster, Talissa Ralph, Martha Rudolph, Michael Ryon, Beth Schilling, Kurt Sickafus, Colin Sumrall, Laura Tappan, Shane Williams, and Michael Winck. Non-participating compiler was K. Dean Edwards.

**Montgomery County (MONT)** – 21 September; 0615-1250. Weather: clear; wind SSE 0-5 mph; 61-89° F. Highlights included Canada Warbler and Dickcissel. Observers: Daniel Moss (compiler), Rick Shipkowski, and Sue Shipkowski.

Nashville (NASH) – 21 September; 0515-2000. Weather: sunny and breezy; 52-90° F. Count highlights include Bank Swallow, Sedge Wren, Mourning Warbler, and Purple Finch. Observers: Kristy Baker, Susan Bradfield, Trae Bradfield, Jean Buchanan, Ed Byrne, Phillip Casteel, Richard Connors, Laura Coulam, Owen Coulam, Nancy Garden, Steve Goodbred, Chris Guerin, Mark Hackney, Joe Hall, Barbara Harris (compiler), John Kell, Julia Liggett, Denis Lovell, Kathy Malone, Amy Potter, Julie Ridge, Polly Rooker, Sarah Scott, Jan K. Shaw, Shelia Shay, Michael Smith, Joe Stone, Pandy Upchurch, LinnAnn Welch, Yuwei Zhu, Zhikun Zhu, and Mary Zimmerman.

**Perry County (PRRY)** – 5 October; 0300-1730. Weather: sunny and warm; 50-80° F. Pectoral Sandpiper and Song Sparrow were new species for this count. Other highlights included Black-billed Cuckoo, Barn Owl, and Golden-winged Warbler. Observers: Tammy Devine, Joe Hall, Ruben Stoll (compiler), and Victor Stoll.

**Shelby County (SHLB)** – 15 September; 0730-1830. Weather: partly cloudy; wind S 3-17 mph; 75-92° F. White Ibis and Buff-breasted Sandpiper were notable. Observers: Kenneth Bishop, Betty Blaylock, David Blaylock, Thomas Blevins, Chad Brown, Judy Dorsey, Margaret Jefferson, Georges McNeil, Mary Schmidt, Norman Soskel, Ed Thomas, Jim Varner, Jay Walko, and Jacob Wessels. Non-participating compiler was Dick Preston.

**Tennessee River (TNRV)** – 24 September; 0300-2001. Weather: mostly clear and warm; 68-89° F. The area for this new count is 20 miles wide along the Tennessee River from Henry County south to Hardin County and includes small portions of seven counties. Four hours were spent monitoring nocturnal flight calls. Highlights included Neotropic Cormorant, American Avocet, and Black-throated Blue Warbler. Observers: Joe Hall, Andrew Lydeard, Daniel Redwine, Ruben Stoll (compiler), Victor Stoll, and Alan Troyer.

2019	THE MIGRANT	117
Totals 193	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	1 815 173
ELIZ 5-Oct 118	- 635 97 30 30 30 56 3 3 - - - 1 153 - -	- 244 7
KNOX 6-Oct 104	- 191 29 89 89 89 89 - - 109 - - 199 -	- 67 4
BLNT 21-Sep 104	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	- 88 41
NASH 21-Sep 114	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	- 155 25
MONT 21-Sep 65	· · 4 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	- 17 18
PRRY 5-Oct 113	28	- 7 7
TNRV 24-Sep 161	- 1 62 35 9 35 9 1 1 1 1 1 2 6 2 1 1 1 1 1 2 5 8 1 2 5 8 1 2 5 7 2 5 7 2 5 7 2 5 7 5 1 1 1 1 2 5 7 5 1 2 5 1 2 5 1 2 5 1 2 5 1 2 5 1 2 5 2 5	1 155 12
SHLB 22-Sep 107	74 348 67 18 17 77 47 77 80 106 98 98	- 87 64
2019 Fall Bird Counts Count Dates Species	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck Canada Goose Wood Duck Blue-winged Teal Northern Shoveler Gadwall Mallard Northern Pintail Green-winged Teal Duck sp. Northern Bobwhite Ruffed Grouse Wild Turkey Pied-billed Grebe Rock Pigeon Eurasian Collared-Dove Mourning Dove Yellow-billed Cuckoo Black-billed Cuckoo Common Nighthawk	Eastern Whip-poor-will Chimney Swift Ruby-throated Hummingbird

118		THE MIGRANT	DECEMBER
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PRRY 5-Oct 113	89		
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SHLB 22-Sep 107	188	2 39 1 35 35 2 1 1 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	25 5
2019 Fall Bird Counts Count Dates Species	Sora American Coot Black-necked Stilt American Avocet Black-bellied Plover American Golden-Plover Killdeer	Semipalmated Plover Stilt Sandpiper Baird's Sandpiper Least Sandpiper Buff-breasted Sandpiper Pectoral Sandpiper Vestern Sandpiper Wilson's Phalarope Spotted Sandpiper Solitary Sandpiper	Lesser Yellowlegs Greater Yellowlegs Laughing Gull Ring-billed Gull Herring Gull

Totals 193	12 18	8	55	1	1	818	139	317	403	21	5	5	493	552	22	7	9	37	1	42	67	286
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2019 Fall Bird Counts Count Dates Species	Lesser Black-backed Gull Caspian Tern	Common Tern	Forster's Tern	Common Loon	Neotropic Cormorant	Double-crested Cormorant	American White Pelican	Great Blue Heron	Great Egret	Green Heron	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Black Vulture	Turkey Vulture	Osprey	Northern Harrier	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Cooper's Hawk	Accipiter sp.	Bald Eagle	Red-shouldered Hawk	Broad-winged Hawk

120		THE MIGRANT DEC	CEMBER
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SHLB 22-Sep 107	11		28
2019 Fall Bird Counts Count Dates Species	Red-tailed Hawk	Barn Owl Eastern Screech Owl Great Horned Owl Barred Owl Belted Kingfisher Red-beaded Woodpecker Red-bellied Woodpecker Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Downy Woodpecker Hairy Woodpecker Hairy Woodpecker American Kestrel Merlin Peregrine Falcon Great Crested Flycatcher Eastern Wood-Pewee Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Acadian Flycatcher

2019	THE MIGRANT	121
Totals 193	10 1 444 70 29 32 32 12 1315 19 11 10 110 112 19 10 10 112 1228 16 6 112	60 925 699 6
ELIZ 5-Oct 118	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	- 141 82 6
KNOX 6-Oct 104		60 124 74 -
BLNT 21-Sep 104	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	- 182 85 -
NASH 21-Sep 114	5 - 5 89 89 11 - 1 - 1 156 30 - 5 5 2 30	- 126 88 -
MONT 21-Sep 65	20 20 18 18	- 1 4 -
PRRY 5-Oct 113	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	- 81 91 -
TNRV 24-Sep 161	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	- 215 207 -
SHLB 22-Sep 107		- 49 68
2019 Fall Bird Counts Count Dates Species	Least Flycatcher Empidonax sp. Eastern Phoebe White-eyed Vireo Yellow-throated Vireo Blue-headed Vireo Blue-headed Vireo Warbling Vireo Red-eyed Vireo Vireo	Swallow sp. Carolina Chickadee Tufted Titmouse Red-breasted Nuthatch

122	THE MIGRANT	DECEMBER
Totals 193	284 22 5 5 964 97 69 697 69	1148 186 152 475 3024 317
ELIZ 5-Oct 118	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	212 23 56 555 70
KNOX 6-Oct 104	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	310 35 22 175 1507 68
BLNT 21-Sep 104	54 6 193 5 193 1 19	253 44 21 72 207 15
NASH 21-Sep 114	46 7 7 3 5 11 1 25 11 25 11 25 11 25 11 25 11 25 11 25 12 25 12 25 2 13 25 2 13 25 2 13 25 2 2 13 25	204 17 20 283 94
MONT 21-Sep 65	6 6 1 1 6	73 - 4 - 23 - 3
PRRY 5-Oct 113	$35 \\ 6 \\ 1 \\ 41 \\ 1 \\ 85 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ $	17 17 12 12 21 21
TNRV 24-Sep 161	64 7 - 7 192 192 192 192 107 107	48 42 51 80 49
SHLB 22-Sep 107	27 	31 8 47 357 -
2019 Fall Bird Counts Count Dates Species	White-breasted Nuthatch Brown-headed Nuthatch Brown Creeper House Wren Winter Wren Sedge Wren Sedge Wren Carolina Wren Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Golden-crowned Kinglet Ruby-crowned Kinglet Ruby-crowned Kinglet Bastern Bluebird Veery Gray-cheeked Thrush Swainson's Thrush Wood Thrush	American Robin Gray Catbird Brown Thrasher Northern Mockingbird European Starling Cedar Waxwing

2019	I HE MIGKAN I I	2
Totals 193	111 309 2 2 325 325 325 178 325 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 3 8 60 6 06 633 14	
ELIZ 5-Oct 118	19 36	
KNOX 6-Oct 104	12 133 133 14 14 12 133 133 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12	
BLNT 21-Sep 104	10 46 64 19 67 1 1 11 1 11 1	
NASH 21-Sep 114	23 39 39 12 12 40 57 - 2 25 - 4 22 25 4	
MONT 21-Sep 65		
PRRY 5-Oct 113	- 15	
TNRV 24-Sep 161	5 8 1 0 1 7 7 8 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0	
SHLB 22-Sep 107	12 12 3 23 7 1 8 1 6 3 3 2 2 2 2 5 2 5 2 	
2019 Fall Bird Counts Count Dates Species	House Sparrow House Finch Purple Finch Pine Siskin American Goldfinch Chipping Sparrow Field Sparrow Dark-eyed Junco Savannah Sparrow Song Sparrow Song Sparrow Lincoln's Sparrow Sarrow Sparrow sp. Lincoln's Sparrow Eastern Towhee Sparrow sp. Yellow-breasted Chat Bobolink Eastern Meadowlark Baltimore Oriole Red-winged Blackbird Brown-headed Cowbird Common Grackle Ovenbird	

#### THE MIGRANT

124		THE MIGRANT	DECEMBER
Totals 193	3 13	12 4 1 178 178 178 151 3 112 23 1 231 234 224	64 19 62
ELIZ 5-Oct 118	- 0	4 <sup>2</sup> 0 % 4 %	36 4 - 4
KNOX 6-Oct 104	- 1		m 1 0 n
BLNT 21-Sep 104	- 73	5 3 1 7 20 7 1 7 20 7 1 7 20 7 1 7 20 20 7 1 7 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	
NASH 21-Sep 114	1 1	6 4 8 8 6 - 6 - 6	701 7
MONT 21-Sep 65	1 1	мини и поредини и поред Поредини и поредини и по	
PRRY 5-Oct 113	- 1	30 14	15 - 2 S
TNRV 24-Sep 161	ςς cς	, 88 , 88 , 88 , 99 , 90 , 10 , 10 , 10 , 10 , 10 , 10 , 10 , 1	6 12 37
SHLB 22-Sep 107	1 1	6 3 1 8 4 1 - 3 - 2 4 1 2 - 3	• • • •
2019 Fall Bird Counts Count Dates Species	Worm-eating Warbler Northern Waterthrush	Golden-winged Warbler Blue-winged Warbler Black-and-white Warbler Prothonotary Warbler Swainson's Warbler Swainson's Warbler Tennessee Warbler Mourning Warbler Mourning Warbler Kentucky Warbler Kentucky Warbler American Redstart Cope May Warbler American Redstart Cape May Warbler Cape May Warbler Corulean Warbler Cerulean Warbler Northern Parula Magnolia Warbler	Bay-breasted Warbler Blackburnian Warbler Yellow Warbler Chestnut-sided Warbler

2017											112 11		510	,	-											120
Totals	193	5	10	109	81	79	23	6	79	4		9	51	171	77	892	275	13	552	6	37096	193		161	74	390.39
ELIZ 5-Oct	118	4	8	56	3	4	2	ı	7	I		ı	ı	ı	5	120	67	1	27	ı	6037	118	ç	67	8	73
KNOX 6-Oct	104	ı	,	29	5	9	1	ı	8	ı		ı	1	·	1	219	9	1	32	ı	6184	102		30	22	72.88
BLNT 21-Sep	104	ı	1	11	18	ı	2	1	ı	I		ı	ı	1	11	142	4	ı	47	ı	3645	104	č	74	17	84.76
NASH 21-Sep	114	I	·	1	1	1	1	ı	5	2		ı	ı	30	6	165	3	4	31	ı	4168	114	ç	32	6	45.25
MONT 21-Sep	65	ı			1	ı		2	ı	1		·	ı	8	·	37	1	3	34	2	542	65	ć	7	1	6.5
PRRY 5-Oct	113	I		7	7	68	·	1	38	I	-	1	ı	13	5	33	127	ı	143	ı	2570	113	-	4	2	25
TNRV 24-Sep	161	1	1	5	46	ı	16	Ŋ	17	1	L	Ū.	50	97	46	100	65	4	204	4	8298	161		0	9	58
SHLB 22-Sep	107	I	ı	ı	I	ı	1	ı	4	ı		ı	I	22	ı	76	2	ı	34	ı	5652	107	č	74	6	25
2019 Fall Bird Counts Count Dates	Species	Blackpoll Warbler	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Palm Warbler	Pine Warbler	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Yellow-throated Warbler	Prairie Warbler	Black-throated Green Warbler	Canada Warbler	1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.	Wilson's Warbler	Warbler sp.	Summer Tanager	Scarlet Tanager	Northern Cardinal	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Blue Grosbeak	Indigo Bunting	Dickcissel	Total individuals	Total species	2	Ubservers	Parties	Party hours

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120									11	11.	01101
Totals	C/1	82.5	226.89	8	906.57	158.77	13.5	29.3	45.45	10	17.55
ELIZ 5-Oct	011	ı	ı	ı	ı	·	ı	10	·		I
KNOX 6-Oct	101	10.21	61.67	1	133.03	53.38	0.5	1.75	1.2	ı	7.05
BLNT 21-Sep	F01	18.54	64.22	2	267.04	38.34	2	4.17	1.5	7	4
NASH 21-Sep	¥11	13.75	31.5	ı	209	30.8	ı	3.25	10	ı	I
MONT 21-Sep	0	2.5	4	ı	48	2.5	ı	1.13	ı	2	2.5
PRRY 5-Oct	C11	11	14	ı	45	5	ı	33	ı	ı	ı
TNRV 24-Sep	101	20	33	5	176	18	11	5	32	1	4
SHLB 22-Sep	101	6.5	18.5	ı	28.5	10.75	ı	1	0.75	ı	·
2019 Fall Bird Counts Count Dates	operies	Hours by car	Hours by foot	Hours by boat or other	Miles by car	Miles by foot	Miles by canoe or other	Hours owling	Miles owling	Feeder/yard watch observers	Feeder/yard watch hours

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DECEMBER

#### THE SUMMER SEASON



In early July a minimal hurricane named Barry formed off the Florida panhandle and churned along the northern Gulf Coast. Remnants of Barry slowy moved inland through Louisiana and up the Mississippi River valley bringing rain to western Tennessee during 13-16 July. Expectations for storm waifs from this tropical system were not very high due to its weakness, short track, and slow pace. Despite that, a fallout of coastal waterbirds, including Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Black Skimmer, and Magnificent Frigatebird, occurred at Pickwick Lake. The Sandwich Terns represent the first for Tennessee, pending acceptance. Additionally, a Great Shearwater was seen on the Mississippi River. An American Flamingo in Lake County may have been steered our way by this system, as well. This was an unexpected first record for the state, pending acceptance, and joins very few inland records in North America. A Cave Swallow in Henry County a few days later might have been associated with this weather system, too.

Efforts were rewarded for those birders who ventured out into the summer heat, as seen by the examples noted above and below. Common Gallinules were seen in Shelby County and the Reelfoot Lake area, plus a pair in East Tennessee at Phipps Bend. Summering American White Pelicans now appear regularly in the two western regions. Increasing numbers of Mississippi Kites have been found in Middle Tennessee in recent years. Peregrine Falcons nested again at two mountain sites. Bell's Vireos were reported in Shelby, Dyer, and Perry counties, and at Fort Campbell. Red Crossbills in the Smokies and at Roan Mountain are expected, if somewhat irregular, but one at Fort Campbell was surprising at this time of year. Other interesting observations appear in the summaries that follow.

#### STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

ad - adult	max - maximum count
Co - County	m.ob many observers
Cr - Creek	Mtn - Mountain
ers - earliest reported sighting	NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
et al and others	R - River
fide - reported by	SP - State Park
im - immature	WMA - Wildlife Management Area
L - Lake	yg - young
lrs - latest reported sighting	

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION - - Bucking the trend from around much of the globe, cooler temperatures prevailed across the region, but precipitation was well above historic norms. June was 2 degrees below normal, and July was lower by a little over 1 degree. Rainfall in June was a whopping 6 inches above normal, and July followed with more than 3 inches above normal.

The usually dull summer season was enlivened by several excellent finds. An American Flamingo in Lake County will furnish a first state record, if accepted by the Tennessee Bird Records Committee (TBRC). While the identification is not in doubt, there may be a question about provenance. A Great Shearwater, seen over the Mississippi River in Shelby County, will be only the second state record if accepted by the TBRC. A Cave Swallow in Henry County was a nice pickup. A pair of Bell's Vireos, nicely photographed in Shelby County, may provide the first documented nesting of the species in the county in more than 75 years.

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

*Waterfowl - Shorebirds*: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: 1 Jun (2) Newbern, Dyer Co (MAG); 24 Jun / 14 Jul (2 / 1; flying over) Paris, Henry Co (Robert Wheat). Fulvous Whistling-Duck: 4 Jul into Aug (1) Ensley (RH, Hal Mitchell, m.ob.), continuing from May. Northern Pintail: 14 Jul (2) Dyer Co (SA, JH, photo). Greater Scaup: 15 Jul (1 male) Mud L, Lake Co (MAG, RS). Lesser Scaup: 15 Jul (1 male) Mud L, Lake Co (MAG, RS). Lesser Scaup: 15 Jul (1 male) Mud L, Lake Co (MAG, RS). AMERICAN FLAMINGO: 13 Jul (1) Hwy 79 (RS, VS, AT, m.ob., photos), 1st state record. Common Gallinule: 17 Jun (1) Walnut Log, Obion Co (AL, DR); 27 Jun (1) Ensley (DJS); 6 Jul (1) Burnt Woods, Reelfoot WMA, Lake Co (Daniel Estabrooks). American Avocet: 26 Jul (2) Eagle L, Shelby Co (Jim Varner, Cliff VanNostrand). Stilt Sandpiper: 15 Jul (3) Robinson Bayou (MAG), ers. White-rumped Sandpiper: 19 Jul (1 ad) Robinson Bayou (MCT). Western Sandpiper: 13 Jul (1) Hwy 79 (MCT et al.), ers. Short-billed Dowitcher: 15-19 Jul (1-10) Robinson Bayou (MAG, AT), ers. Wilson's Phalarope: 17 Jul (3) Robinson Bayou (AT); 26 Jul (4) Ensley (Bob Foehring). Spotted Sandpiper: 27 Jun (1) Ensley (DJS), ers. Willet: 17 Jul (1) Robinson Bayou (AT).

*Gull - Falcon*: Laughing Gull: 15 Jun (1) Gibson Co L (Steve Yarbrough, photo). Ringbilled Gull: 11 Jun - 21 Jul (6-8) Hwy 79 (DR, MCT, m.ob.); 2 Jul (5) Fritz Landing, Lake Co (DR); 31 Jul (55) Paris Landing SP, Henry Co (RS). Least Tern: 5 / 19 Jun (2 / 1) Gibson Co L (MAG); 27 Jun (72, with 32 active nests) Ensley (DJS); 17 Jul (1) Kentucky L, Benton Co (RS). Caspian Tern: 5 / 19 Jun (2 / 1) Gibson Co L (MAG). Black Tern: 27 Jun (1) Robinson Bayou (MAG); 17 Jul (1) Mud Island, Shelby Co (AT); 17 Jul (2) Ensley (AT); 17 Jul (7) Robinson Bayou (AT); 29 Jul (2) Gibson Co L (MAG). Common Tern: 29 Jul (2) Gibson Co L (MAG). GREAT SHEARWATER: 17 Jul (1) Mud Island, Shelby Co (AT), 2nd state record. Anhinga: 6 Jul (1) Burnt Woods, Reelfoot WMA, Lake Co (Daniel Estabrooks). American White Pelican: 7 Jun (14) Tiptonville Slough, Lake Co (MAG); 7 / 11 Jun (61 / 85) Robinson Bayou (MAG / DR); 24 Jun (16 / 1) Gibson Co L (Leo Payne / MAG); 2 Jul (11) Fritz Landing, Lake Co (DR); 14-17 Jul (50-68) Hwy 88 bottoms, Lauderdale Co (AL, AT); good numbers of summering birds. Least Bittern: 7 Jun (1) Walnut Log, Obion Co (MAG); 20 Jul (1) Robbins-Halle Nature Preserve, Shelby Co (Cliff VanNostrand). **Roseate Spoonbill**: 14 Jul (1 im) Moss Island WMA, Dyer Co (MCT, photo), later on first day moved to Hwy 88 bottoms, Lauderdale Co where it stayed thru 17 Jul (RS, VS et al.). **Mississippi Kite**: 17 / 31 Jul (14 / 28) Camden WMA, Benton Co (RS). **Peregrine Falcon**: 31 Jul (1 ad) Paris Landing SP, Henry Co (RS).

*Flycatcher - Bunting*: Western Kingbird: 1 Jun - 4 Jul (4-11) President's Island, Shelby Co (DR, Hal Mitchell, m.ob.); thru season (1-2) Ensley (Jim Varner, m.ob.). Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 2 Jun (1) Ensley (Virginia Reynolds); 23 Jul (1) Chic Rd, Dyer Co (DR). Willow Flycatcher: 11 Jul (1) Thorny Cypress WMA, Dyer Co (SW). Bell's Vireo: from May thru 14 Jul (max 3 pairs on 17 Jun) Thorny Cypress WMA, Dyer Co (DR, AL, m.ob.); 4-26 Jul (1-2) Shelby Farms (fide DDP, Martha Waldron). Fish Crow: 4 Jul (5) Paris, Henry Co (Robert Wheat). CAVE SWALLOW: 22 Jul (1) Britton Ford, Henry Co (RS, VS, photo), 6th state record. Lark Sparrow: thru Jun (1-2 at several sites) Gibson Co (MAG); 5 Jul (2) Crockett Co (AT); 6 Jul (1) Shelby Farms (fide DDP). Dark-eyed Junco: 30 Jun (1 ad female) Shelby Farms (Norman Soskel, Judith Barrie, photo). Painted Bunting: thru season (1-2) Ensley (DR, AT, Bob Foehring); 4 Jul (2) President's Island, Shelby Co (Maureen Ellis).

*Locations*: Ensley - Shelby Co; Hwy 79 - Lake Co; Robinson Bayou - Lake Co; Shelby Farms - Shelby Co.

DICK D. PRESTON, Munford, TN dickpreston@rittermail.com

HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION - - Summer weather was warmer and wetter than normal in Middle Tennessee. Temperatures were 1.3 degrees above normal in June and 2.0 degrees above normal in July. Precipitation was above normal by 4.3 inches in June and by 1.7 inches in July. Remnants of a slow moving hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico brought some terns and other seabirds to the area. A Wood Stork and some White Ibises were also found this season. Mississippi Kites continue to increase in the region. A Red Crossbill was seen at Fort Campbell.

*Goose - Coot*: **Snow Goose**: 16 Jun (1) Rutherford Co (Hugh Barger). **Ross's Goose**: 9-25 Jul (1) Cane Cr Park, Putnam Co (Michele Ramsey, photo). **Blue-winged Teal**: 18 Jul (2) Barkley WMA (JH). **Green-winged Teal**: 17 Jun (1 male) Hillsboro Pond, Coffee Co (RSh, DSh). **Ring-necked Duck**: 6-7 Jun / 19 Jul (1 male) Cross Cr NWR (Stanley York, JH); 28 Jul (1) Barkley WMA (JH). **Hooded Merganser**: 15 Jun (8) Duck R Unit (RS, AT). **Ruddy Duck**: 17 Jun (1 male) Hillsboro Pond, Coffee Co (RSh, DSh); 27-28 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (RS, VS). **Northern Bobwhite**: 28 Jun (24) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo), max. **Pied-billed Grebe**: 1 Jun (2) Percy Priest L, Davidson Co (GG); 7-12 Jun (1) Old Hickory L (GG, m.ob.). **American Coot**: 6 Jun (11, including 2 broods of yg) Centennial Park, Davidson Co (GG); 7 Jun - 23 Jul (2-4) Old Hickory L (GG, m.ob.); 22 Jul (4) Barkley WMA (RS, VS).

Stilt - Skimmer: Black-necked Stilt: 20 Jul (1) Barkley WMA (SA, JH). American Avocet: 17 Jul (5) Pickwick L (RS, VS); 22 Jul (13) Barkley WMA (DR, AL). Stilt Sandpiper: 22 Jul (1) Barkley WMA (RS, VS), ers; 27 Jul (10) Duck R Unit (RS, VS). White-rumped Sandpiper: 7 Jun (1) Cross Cr NWR (JH), lrs. Pectoral Sandpiper: 7 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (AT), ers. Western Sandpiper: 22 Jul (1) Barkley WMA (RS, VS), ers. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 15 Jun (1) Duck R Unit (RS, AT), lrs; 17 Jul (14) Old Hickory L (GG), ers. Short-billed Dowitcher: 7 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (AT); 18 Jul (1) Cross Cr NWR (AL); 22-27 Jul (1) Barkley WMA (RS, VS, m.ob.). Greater Yellowlegs: 15 Jun (1) Duck R Unit (RS, AT). Laughing Gull: 16 Jul (2 ad) Bruton Branch, Pickwick L (RS, VS, AT). Ring-billed Gull: 7 Jun into Aug (1, plus 2nd bird on 16 Jul only) Old Hickory L (GG, m.ob.); 16 Jul (1) Bruton Branch, Pickwick L (RS, VS, AT); 27 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (RS, VS). Herring Gull: 16 Jul (1) Bruton Branch, Pickwick L (RS, VS, AT). Lesser Black-backed Gull: 16 Jul (1 im) Pickwick L (RS, VS, AT), 1st summer record in state. Least Tern: 15 Jul (1) Old Hickory L (PDC, FF, GG). Caspian Tern: 3 Jun (1) Couchville L, Davidson Co (GG); 14 / 24 Jun (1) Duck R Unit (refuge staff / AT); 16 Jul (2) Bruton Branch, Pickwick L (RS, VS, AT); 22 Jul (2) Barkley WMA (RS, VS); 22 Jul (3) Cross Cr NWR (DR, AL); 28 Jul (3) Duck R Unit (RS, VS, AT). Black Tern: 16 Jul (6) Fowler Rd, Lincoln Co (DJS); 28 Jul (13) Duck R Unit (RS, VS, AT). Common Tern: 15 Jul (1) Old Hickory L (GG, FF, PDC). Forster's Tern: 7 Jul (3) Fowler Rd, Lincoln Co (Dan Snell); 15 Jul (2) Old Hickory L (PDC, GG, FF); 16 Jul (3) Bruton Branch, Pickwick L (RS, VS, AT). ROYAL TERN: 16 Jul (1) Bruton Branch, Pickwick L (RS, VS, AT), 7th state record. SANDWICH TERN: 16 Jul (1-3) Bruton Branch, Pickwick L (RS, VS, AT, m.ob., photo), 1st state record. BLACK SKIMMER: 16 Jul (1) Bruton Branch, Pickwick L (RS, VS, AT, m.ob.), 6th state record.

Stork - Falcon: Wood Stork: 6-7 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (AT, DR, m.ob.). MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: 16-17 Jul (1) Bruton Branch, Pickwick L (RS, VS, AT, m.ob., photo), 5th state record. Neotropic Cormorant: 29 Jun / 12 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (AT / DR, AL); 20-25 Jul (1) Cross Cr NWR (SA, JH). Anhinga: from May thru 15 Jul (1-4) Duck R Unit (DR, AT, GG, m.ob.). American White Pelican: 24 Jun (30, flying over) Nolensville, Williamson Co (Hugh Barger); 29 Jun (2) Percy Priest Field Trial Area, Rutherford Co (Kristy Baker); 7 / 27 Jul (52 / 60) Duck R Unit (GG / RS, VS); 14-17 Jul (2) Pickwick Dam (Randy Schultz, m.ob.); 19 Jul (40) Barkley WMA (JH). Least Bittern: 27 Jun (1) Duck R Unit (AL, DR). Snowy Egret: 15-23 Jul (1-2) Fall Cr, Wilson Co (Justin Nation). Little Blue Heron: 28 Jun (1) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo); 29 Jun (7) Warren Co (Susan McWhirter); 17 Jul (4) Davidson Co (GG); 19-28 Jul (1) Fall Cr, Wilson Co (Justin Nation). White Ibis: 29 Jun - 25 Jul (2-6 im) Duck R Unit (AT, DR, AL); 19-30 Jul (1 im) Barkley WMA (JH). Mississippi Kite: 6 Jun / 4 Jul (1) Clarksville, Montgomery Co (Steve Routledge, Cyndi Routledge); 15 Jun - 7 Jul (2-3) Duck R Unit (RS, AT); 29 Jun (2) New Johnsonville, Humphreys Co (AT); 30 Jun / 22 Jul (1) Barkley WMA (JH / RS, VS); 16 Jul (1) Bruton Branch, Pickwick L (RS, VS, AT); 18 / 23 Jul (1) Sumner Co (RS, VS); 29 Jul (2) Dickson Co (RS). Barn Owl: 31 Jul (1) Fort Campbell (DMo). Peregrine Falcon: 24 Jun (1) Duck R Unit (AT).

Flycatcher - Warbler: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 1 Jun (2) Hwy 141, Lebanon, Wilson Co

(GG, Chris Agee); 8 Jun / 6 Jul (4, nest / 5) Lytle Cr Rd, Rutherford Co (AL / FF); 23 Jul (1 ad, 3 yg) Pickwick Dam (Randy Schultz); 16 Jul (2) Clifton, Wayne Co (RS); 25 Jul (3) Wartrace, Bedford Co (MTT). Least Flycatcher: 28 Jul (1) Perry Co (AT), early migrant. Bell's Vireo: 28 Jun / 3 Jul (2 / 1) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo); 24 Jul (1) Perry Co (RS), 1st Co record; 31 Jul (3) Fort Campbell (DMo). Fish Crow: 7-28 Jul (1-8) Duck R Unit (AT, RS, VS); 18 Jul (3) Barkley WMA (AL). Sedge Wren: 31 Jul (2) Fort Campbell (DMo), ers. Red Crossbill: 6 / 25 Jun (1) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo). Lark Sparrow: 14 Jun (2) Hwy 108, Warren / Coffee Co line (Susan McWhirter); 17 Jun (2) Fountain Grove Rd, Coffee Co (RSh, DSh); 1 Jul (1) Wilson Co (Stephen Zipperer); 6 Jul (1) Lytle Cr Rd, Rutherford Co (FF). Henslow's Sparrow: 4 Jun - 3 Jul (1-5) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo); 5 Jun (1) Shelton Ferry WMA, Montgomery Co (SW); 12 Jun / 31 Jul (2 / 4) Fort Campbell (DMo). Blue-winged Warbler: 10-13 Jun (1) Fort Campbell (DMo); 12 Jun (1) Bedford Co (MTT). Cerulean Warbler: 12 Jun (1) Port Royal SP, Montgomery Co (Cyndi Routledge, Steve Routledge); 15 Jun (2) Bedford Co (MTT). Yellow Warbler: 5 Jun (3) Shelton Ferry WMA, Montgomery Co (SW).

*Locations*: Barkley WMA - Stewart Co; 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; Pickwick L - Hardin Co.

STEPHEN C. ZIPPERER, Murfreesboro, TN stczipperer@gmail.com

CUMBERLAND PLATEAU/RIDGE and VALLEY REGION - - Temperatures were near normal to slightly above normal for the summer. Rainfall in the Tri-cities area during June was 4 inches above normal, but was slightly below normal in July.

Several summering ducks were found, including reports of Hooded Merganser that suggested local breeding. Shorebirds were highlighted by three reports of American Avocet and a Willet. Two separate summering Common Loons were unusual. An American Bittern at Kyker Bottoms in mid-June may have been lingering from spring. Little Blue Herons were reported from 10 counties and in good numbers, including a breeding record from Watts Bar Lake. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers returned to two known nest sites. Range expansion of Fish Crows and Common Ravens continued. Bank Swallows were seen near a traditional nest site in Knox County. A Lark Sparrow in southeast Tennessee in late July may have been a migrant or post-breeding disperser.

*Duck - Coot*: **Blue-winged Teal**: 12 Jun / 6 Jul (1 male) Lakeshore Park, Roane Co / Gupton Wetland (RoK). **Gadwall**: 1-30 Jun / 27 Jul (pair / 1) Gupton Wetland (RoK). **Redhead**: 1 Jun into Aug (1 female) Gupton Wetland (RoK). **Ring-necked Duck**: 2-30 Jun (1) Heritage Center Greenway (RoK). **Hooded Merganser**: 6 Jun (1 female) Brainerd Levee (BD); 6 Jun (2 im) Doak's Pond, Campbell Co (NeM); 12 Jun (2 im) Lakeshore Park, Roane Co (RoK); 14 Jun (2 females) White's Cr, Roane Co (RoK); 16 Jun (1 female) Gupton Wetland (RoK); 27 Jun (1 female) Rankin Bottoms, Cocke Co (Ron Shrieves, photo). **Common Merganser**: 11 Jul (2 females) Cove Lake SP (NeM); 14 Jul (1 female) Cove Cr, Campbell Co (Beth Schilling), possibly one of previous birds. **Ruddy Duck**: 11 Jun / 11-30 Jul (1 female) Eagle Bend (Ron Shrieves, photo / NeM, m.ob.). **Pied-billed Grebe**: 8 Jun / 3 Jul (1) Lenoir City Park, Loudon Co (Colin Sumrall); 20 Jun (1) Nickajack L, Marion Co (RSh, DSh). **Common Gallinule**: from May thru 10 Jun (2) Phipps Bend, Hawkins Co (SHu et al.), see fall report for breeding confirmation. **American Coot**: 1 Jun (1) John Sevier L (SHu); 8 Jun - 14 Jul (1) Gupton Wetland (RoK).

*Shorebirds - Tern*: **American Avocet**: 7 Jul (4) John Sevier L (SHu); 17 Jul (5) Cove Lake SP (NeM); 23 Jul (1) Claiborne Co (Colleen Warren fide NeM). **Semipalmated Plover**: 1 Jun (2) Alcoa (VW); 2 Jun (2) Brainerd Levee (BD); lrs. **Least Sandpiper**: 1 Jun (4) Alcoa (VW); 6 Jun (1) Brainerd Levee (BD), lrs; 8 Jul (2) Brainerd Levee (BD), ers. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 2-3 Jun (1) Brainerd Levee (BD, m.ob.), lrs. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: 1 Jun (1) Alcoa (VW); 2 Jun (12) Brainerd Levee (BD); lrs. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 12-15 Jul (1) Brainerd Levee (BD, m.ob.); 13 Jul (2) Alcoa (VW, photo, m.ob.). **dowitcher sp.**: 17 Jul (1) Cove Lake SP (NeM). **Spotted Sandpiper**: 2 / 7 Jun (1) Brainerd Levee (BD); 10 Jun (2) Eagle Bend (NeM). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 10 Jul (1) Brainerd Levee (BD), ers. **Willet**: 17 Jul (1) Alcoa (VW, m.ob.). **Black Tern**: 23 Jul (1) John Sevier L (SHu). **Forster's Tern**: 15 Jun (5) Watts Bar L, Meigs Co portion (RSh, DSh); 14 Jul (1) Cherokee L, Grainger Co portion (SHu); 23 Jul (2) Cove Lake SP (NeM); 23 Jul (3) John Sevier L (SHu).

*Loon - Ibis*: **Common Loon**: 2 / 29 Jun (1) Watts Bar L, Meigs Co portion (RSh, DSh / Rick Houlk); 19 Jun into Sep (1) Huntsville Reservoir, Scott Co (Betty Dunn). **American Bittern**: 21 Jun (1) Kyker Bottoms (RW, photo). **Least Bittern**: thru 7 Jul (1) Heritage Center Greenway (RoK, m.ob.); 2 Jul (1) Kyker Bottoms (RW). **Great Egret**: 11 Jul (46) Brainerd Levee (BD), max. **Snowy Egret**: 16-18 Jul (1) Brainerd Levee (BD). **Little Blue Heron**: 15 Jun (5 ad, 2 yg in nest) and 7 Jul (1 ad, 4 yg) Barker Island, Watts Bar L, Rhea Co (RSh, DSh); 21 Jun / 6 Jul (1 im / 3 im) Kyker Bottoms (RW / Doug Raybuck); 26-27 Jun (1 im) VW Wetland, Hamilton Co (Michael Yablick); 6-27 Jul (1-3 im) Gupton Wetland (RoK); 6-29 Jul (1-12 im) Brainerd Levee (BD); 10 Jul (2 im) Kingsport (Rack Cross); 14 Jul (1 im) Cherokee L, Grainger Co (SHu); 14-17 Jul (1 im) Cove Lake SP (NeM); 16 Jul (1 im) Eagle Bend (Laura Tappan, Bill Keeler); 17 Jul (1 im) Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton Co (Kent DuBois); 19-23 Jul (1-2 im) South Chestuee Cr, Bradley Co (Rick Houlk); 20 Jul (1 im) John Sevier L (SHu). **Cattle Egret**: 29 Jul (1) John Sevier L (SHu), rare east of Knoxville. **White Ibis**: 9 Jul (1 im) Brainerd Levee (BD).

*Flycatcher - Dickcissel*: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 4 / 17 Jun (1 / 1 on nest) Dunbar Rd, Cumberland Co (RSh, DSh / Ed LeGrand); 22 / 29 Jun (nest with yg / 5 fledged yg) Ninemile Crossroad, Bledsoe Co (RSh, DSh). Willow Flycatcher: 4-6 Jun (1) Brainerd Levee (BD); 6-21 Jun (2) Heritage Center Greenway (RoK); 19 Jun (1) Huntsville Reservoir, Scott Co (Betty Dunn); 21 Jun (2) Kyker Bottoms (RW); 30 Jun (1) John Sevier L (SHu). Loggerhead Shrike: 4 Jul (1 ad, 2 yg) Roane Co (RoK). Fish Crow: thru season (1-4) Johnson City and Kingsport (m.ob.); 31 Jul (4) Patriot Park, Pigeon Forge, Sevier Co (James Flynn). Common Raven: 11 Jun (1) Hancock Co (SHu); 24 Jun (1) Johnson City (Gary Bailey);

27 Jun (2) Norris, Anderson Co (Charles Nicholson); 29 Jun (1) Phipps Bend, Hawkins Co (SHu et al.); 5 Jul (1) Boone Dam, Sullivan Co (Cade Campbell). Horned Lark: 18 Jun (1) Scott Co (Betty Dunn). Bank Swallow: 8 / 15 Jun (11-14) near Mascot, Knox Co (Beth Schilling / Colin Sumrall), known nesting locale. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 9 Jul (1) Point Park, Lookout Mtn, Hamilton Co (BD). Lark Sparrow: 25 Jul (1) Old Mount Harmon Rd, Bradley / Polk Co line (RSh, DSh, photo). Henslow's Sparrow: 6 Jun (2) Bridgestone / Firestone Centennial Wilderness WMA, White Co (Ed LeGrand, Harry LeGrand). Golden-winged Warbler: 6 Jul (1) Scott Co (Betty Dunn). Cerulean Warbler: 22 Jul (2) Lookout Mtn, Hamilton Co (BD), migrants. Yellow-throated Warbler: 28 Jul (ad feeding im Brown-headed Cowbird) Warrior's Path SP, Sullivan Co (BFi, SQ), seldom reported as a cowbird host in Tennessee. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 3 Jun (1) Cross Mtn, Campbell Co (Bates Estabrooks). Dickcissel:reports from Bledsoe, Blount, Greene, Grundy, Marion, Polk, Rhea, Roane, and Washington Cos.

*Locations*: Alcoa - Blount Co; Brainerd Levee - Hamilton Co; Cove Lake SP - Campbell Co; Eagle Bend - fish hatchery in Anderson Co; Gupton Wetland - Roane Co; Heritage Center Greenway - Roane Co; John Sevier L - Hawkins Co; Kyker Bottoms - Blount Co.

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION - - Temperatures were near normal for June, but were 2 degrees above normal in July. Precipitation was nearly 4 inches above normal in June and about 1 inch below normal in July.

A new nest site for Osprey was found at South Holston Lake as the breeding population in northeast Tennessee grows. Breeding activity for Peregrine Falcons continued in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and in Carter County. Fish Crows continued their expansion with one found in Carter County. A Dickcissel in Shady Valley was the first there.

*Duck - Falcon*: Hooded Merganser: 3 Jun (1 im) Watauga R, Carter Co (RRK). Northern Bobwhite: only consistent reports were from Cades Cove in GSMNP (max 2). Horned Grebe: 11 Jun (2) Watauga L, Carter Co (RRK et al.). Mourning Dove: 4 Jun thru season (1-2) Carver's Gap on Roan Mtn (RLK et al.). American Woodcock: 8 Jun (1) Carver's Gap on Roan Mtn (RLK); 11 Jun (1) Clingman's Dome, North Carolina side, GSMNP (KW). Forster's Tern: 23 Jul (1) South Holston L, Sullivan Co (RRK, JDA et al.). Great Egret: 22 Jun (8) Elizabethton, Carter Co (Harry H. Farthing). Osprey: 28 Jun thru season (pair with nest on communication tower) South Holston L, Sullivan Co (RLK, m.ob.), 1st nest on this lake; 20 Jul (3) upper Chilhowee L, Monroe Co (VW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 8 Jun (pair with 1 yg) Ripshin Lake, Carter Co (Tom McNeil, Rob Biller); 15 Jun (4) Unicoi Co (m.ob.); 25 Jul (1) Roan Mtn SP (Cade Campbell). Peregrine Falcon: 11 Jun (pair with 2 fledged yg) Alum Cave Bluff, GSMNP (KW, Kathleen Wynegar), male seen bringing prey to yg; 13 Jun (pair with 1 fledged yg) Doe R Gorge, Carter Co (Pete Range); continued nesting at both sites.

Flycatcher - Dickcissel: Alder Flycatcher: thru season (1-7) Roan Mtn (RLK, m.ob.). Fish Crow: 8 Jun (1) Wilbur L, Carter Co (Debi Campbell), 1st Co record; 28 Jun (2) Cades Cove, GSMNP (VW). Hermit Thrush: thru season (1-4 singing males) Roan Mtn (RLK et al.), with a pair and one fledged vg seen 24 Jul (Will Johnson); 15 Jun (3) Unaka Mtn, Unicoi Co (RRK, Jerry Bevins). Brown Thrasher: 15 Jul (1) Carver's Gap on Roan Mtn (RLK). Vesper Sparrow: 17 Jun (1) Round Bald on Roan Mtn (RRK, JDA et al.). Savannah Sparrow: 14 Jun / 1 Jul (1) Shady Valley, Johnson Co (Cade Campbell). House Finch: 8 Jun (1, at feeder) Roan Mtn, at 4450 ft (RLK), unusual at high elevation. Purple Finch: thru mid Jun (2, at feeders) near Milligan College, Carter Co (Fred Alsop), both birds with conjunctivitis. Red Crossbill: 3 Jun thru season (1-3) Roan Mtn (BFi, SQ, m.ob.); 3-4 Jun (1-7) Indian Gap, GSMNP (DR, RH); 13 Jul (5) Alum Cave trail, GSMNP (Michelle Hamner); 19 Jul (3) Cades Cove, GSMNP (VW). Pine Siskin: 3 Jun thru 9 Jul (2) Carver's Gap on Roan Mtn (BFi, SQ, RRK et al.); thru season (2, at feeders) Roan Mtn, at 4450 ft (RLK, m.ob.); 4 Jun (2) Indian Gap, GSMNP (RH). Golden-winged Warbler: 5 Jun (1) Conasauga R, Polk Co (Jake Bones, Ryan Headrick). Magnolia Warbler: 8 Jun (6 singing males) Roan Mtn (RLK, JDA), max there; 15 Jun (1) Unaka Mtn, Unicoi Co (RRK et al.). Yellow-rumped Warbler: 8 Jun (1 male) Roan Mtn (RLK, JDA); 11 Jun (1 singing male) Alum Cave Bluff, GSMNP (KW, Kathleen Wynegar), new summer site; 16 Jun (1) Clingman's Dome, GSMNP (Steve Patterson). Dickcissel: 1 Jul (1) Shady Valley, Johnson Co (Cade Campbell), 1st valley record.

Locations: GSMNP - Great Smoky Mtns National Park; Roan Mtn - Carter Co.

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#### **OBSERVERS**

JDA - Jim D. Anderson SA - Sharon Arnold PDC - Phillip D. Casteel BD - Bruce Dralle FF - Frank Fekel BFi - Bambi Fincher GG - Graham Gerdeman MAG - Mark A. Greene JH - Joe Hall RH - Rob Harbin SHu - Susan Hubley RLK - Richard L. Knight RRK - Roy R. Knispel RoK - Roger Kroodsma AL - Andrew Lydeard NeM - Nell Moore

DMo - Daniel Moss DDP - Dick D. Preston SQ - Sherrie Quillen DR - Daniel Redwine DSh - Debbi Shannon RSh - Roi Shannon DJS - Damien J. Simbeck RS - Ruben Stoll VS - Victor Stoll MCT - Michael C. Todd AT - Alan Troyer MTT - Melissa T. Turrentine KW - Keith Watson VW - Valerie Wininger RW - Randy Winstead SW - Stefan Woltmann

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