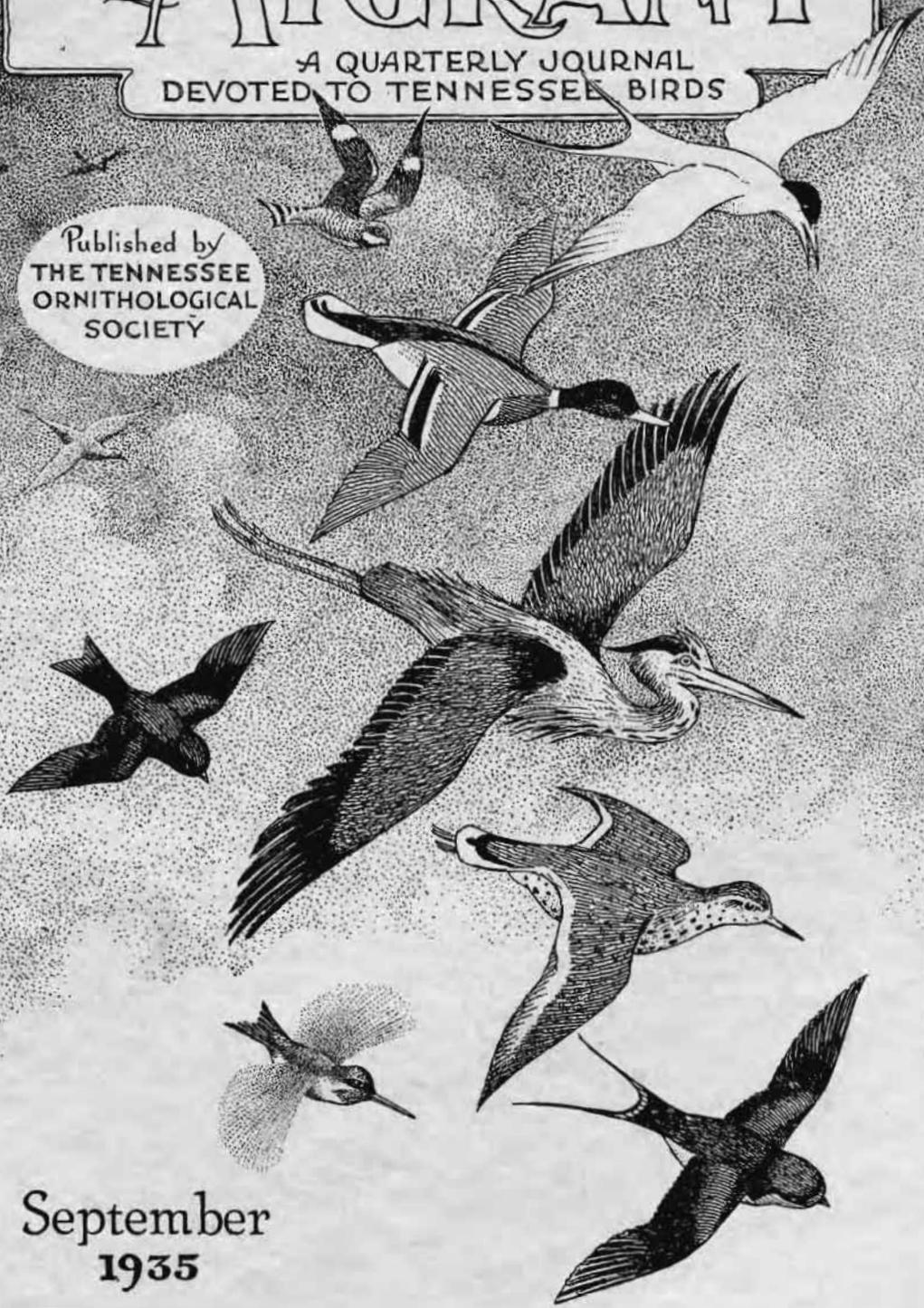


THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by
THE TENNESSEE
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HISTORY OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BY A. F. GANIER, G. R. MAYFIELD, DIXON MERRITT AND A. C. WEBB

Twenty years ago, October 7, 1915, five Nashville "bird-men" gathered one evening at Faucon's French Restaurant and launched the T. O. S. It all transpired somewhat as follows, if our respective memories have not failed us.

Merritt, then Editor of *The Morning Tennessean*, had been running a series of brief sketches on birds, entitled "Tales of a Tenter", and after a few of these had appeared, Ganier, a life-long bird student, called on him and made his acquaintance. It developed during the conversation that each knew of others who were interested. There was Mayfield of Vanderbilt University whose interest had begun at Atlanta, Webb who had written a little book on birds used as a supplemental reader in the schools, and Judge H. Y. Hughes of the Court of Appeals who had formed an excellent library of bird books. Another visit followed the first and it was then agreed that all should know each other, that a meeting should be held and perhaps a club organized for mutual pleasure and benefit. So, the meeting was arranged and, with dinner over and personal experiences exchanged, the matter of forming an organization was broached and at once decided upon. A committee was appointed to prepare a constitution and by-laws while the others agreed to look up any available literature on Tennessee birds. The group adjourned to meet together two weeks later, at the Tulane Hotel parlors, for formal organization. At that meeting Webb was elected president, Hughes was made vice-president, Ganier curator and Merritt secretary-treasurer. A sixth member was added in the person of Dr. George M. Curtis of the Vanderbilt School of Medicine.

Those who had volunteered to find books or lists of Tennessee birds found that there was practically nothing available and that the State offered practically a virgin field for ornithologists. It was therefore apparent that the first task of the Society, and a most interesting one, would be to form a comprehensive list of the birds of Tennessee. At the meetings which followed, a hypothetical list which had been prepared was checked off, from the literature and from past observations of the members, while the balance were left to be discovered during the course of future field work. In this way, the list of the birds of Tennessee grew from 218 in 1915 to more than 300 at the present time.

The group, or as many of them as possible, met together for field work each Saturday afternoon. Some favorite trips were, into the waste lands beyond the Belmont car line, the Webb farm, or from Glendale, through the Overton Hills to Radnor Lake. Meetings were usually held at the downtown office of the president during the winter but later it became a pleasant custom for the Society to convene at the homes of the members who were prepared to receive them. So intent were the five members on their work of finding the birds that little thought was given to finding new members and it was not until the following year that any new members were added. During

that year, Messrs. Dan R. Gray, Harry S. Vaughn, Jesse M. Shaver of our present membership were elected. At the beginning there was a common understanding that membership was to be reserved for the sterner sex, but when some of the members began to bring or invite their interested lady friends to meetings, there was finally a partial capitulation and they were admitted as Associate Members, which classification did not carry with it the privilege of voting. Needless to say they "proved their meta." and were soon advanced to full membership. Among our present members those who came in during 1916 were Mrs. Wm. P. Morgan of Columbia and Miss Lillie Haslock who became Mrs. Mayfield in 1920. On our present roster, those who joined at an early date were R. A. Wilson 1917, H. C. Monk 1919, Mrs. A. Loveman 1920, Mrs. Sanford Duncan 1921, Dr. J. H. Phillips 1921, J. A. Robins 1921, Vernon Sharp 1921 and Miss Alma Hollinger 1922. Dr. R. M. Strong, one of those who founded the Wilson Ornithological Club in 1888, was stationed at Nashville from 1916 to 1919 and was one of our valued members during that time.

To realize its ambitious program of listing the birds of Tennessee, it became evident at an early date that expeditions must be carried out to the various corners of the State where variations might be expected. The first of these was to Reelfoot Lake where during three days, at Thanksgiving, 1915, Garner, Mayfield, Webb and a hunter friend, J. D. Blankenship, listed 59 species of birds and made up a study collection of 35 bird skins. An account of this trip appeared in *The Wilson Bulletin* for March, 1916. This was followed each year thereafter by one or more of such exploratory trips until at the present time, most of the 95 counties in the State have been searched more or less frequently by one or more of our members.

The initial list, prepared during the first autumn was steadily added to and by 1917 sufficient data had been accumulated to justify getting out a printed list for the use of the public. The Curator was delegated the task and with the financial assistance of the State Department of Fish and Game, "A Preliminary List of the Birds of Tennessee" came off the press in 1917. In the 32-page pamphlet, there were listed 270 species and sub-species of birds, their status being shown separately for each West, Middle and East Tennessee. In January, 1933, the same author completely rewrote the 1917 list, adding to it all new information available and it appeared as Tennessee Avifauna No. 1, "A Distributional List of the Birds of Tennessee". In this 64-page pamphlet the State list was brought up to 302 forms, the status of each being presented for each of the three regions above mentioned. As evidence of continued activity it may here be mentioned that nearly a dozen new species have been added since the 1933 list appeared.

By 1930 it became evident that, if the work of the Society was to be made state-wide in its fullest sense, there must be an official organ to bind the membership together. *The Migrant* thereupon made its appearance, George B. Woodring being chosen for editor with the assistance of Miss Vera Kearby and an advisory committee. Due to lack of funds the first issues were mimeographed and when in 1931, it was found possible to print it, the numbers consisted of only eight pages and cover. After five volumes had been completed Mr. Woodring passed the work over to the present editor who had been assisting in the capacity of Associate Editor. *The Migrant* is published without the aid of any subsidies whatever, being entirely sustained by the small fees paid by members and subscribers. At the present time our little journal represents the Society's most tangible accomplishment, its contents being made possible by the hearty co-operation of its many contributors.

A project which the Society is looking forward to is the preparation of a comprehensive book on the birds of the State. It expects to sponsor nothing

less than a thoroughly accurate, fully illustrated volume such as has been brought out in Massachusetts, Minnesota, Florida and New Mexico. Sufficient data concerning the rarer species of birds has not as yet been gathered and financial backing has not been available. Meanwhile, the Society is confident that such a work can be brought out in the not far distant future and in the interval its members are building up a literature in the columns of *The Migrant* and other journals. A number of our members are proficient photographers and are making photographic collections of wild birds, their nests and eggs. Arrangements are being made for the reproduction of some of their work.

The keeping of written notes by members has always been stressed. In 1916, small (3x5) printed card lists of birds were made available to members and these have proved very popular for listing species seen during a day or trip. These are filed by month and year and may be filed along with plain cards on which are written more complete observations. Some members also use notebooks. In the bird-banding method of study, the keeping of full written records is quite necessary. The interesting banding contributions that have been made by Mrs. Laskey, for example, would not have been possible without proper records.

The value of adequate reference books on the subject of ornithology has been stressed and as a result, most of our members are building up working libraries on the subject. There are but few worth while books on birds which are not available somewhere in Tennessee. Among other rarities in the State are six sets of Audubon's "Birds of America". The Editor's library of ornithological books and periodicals is perhaps the most complete in the South at the present time.

In the fall of 1923, bird students at Knoxville, under the leadership of Harry P. Ijams, formed a local chapter of the T. O. S. and have met regularly since that time for evening meetings or field excursions. In 1929, shortly after Ben B. Coffey took up his residence in Memphis, he organized a chapter in that city and much worth while work has been done there as a result. The parent chapter at Nashville has met regularly every two weeks since the beginning, except during the summer months. Spring and Fall Field Days are held each year near Nashville and are usually attended by members from a distance. Local chapters also have their Spring and Fall Field Days. One of the most valuable concerted efforts of the Society is the annual Christmas Census. During recent years this mid-winter bird list has been made up of observations taken at as many as ten points throughout the State, with a maximum of 90 species listed. These are published each year in the *March Migrant*.

There are no museums of consequence in Tennessee and for this reason particularly, a number of our members have formed their own study collections. At the beginning, the then Curator began to gather specimens of all species and sub-species indigenous to the State and this task is nearing completion. The birds are kept in cabinets in the form of study skins and number more than 600 specimens. He has also the eggs, in sets, of practically all of the birds which nest in Tennessee. These collections are frequently referred to by members as well as by ornithologists from a distance and have proved to be very valuable. Other collections of birds, in mounted form, are owned by the Knoxville Chapter and by Dr. Earl Henry of Knoxville. A few of our members have formed beautiful study collections of eggs and among these are Dr. H. S. Vaughn of Nashville, Robt. B. Lyle of Johnson City, A. F. Ganier, H. C. Monk and Vernon Sharp of Nashville, Henry O. Todd of Murfreesboro, and one or two others. The first two collections mentioned are not restricted to Tennessee, but contain eggs from all over North America. These collec-

tions have served to sustain the interest of their makers, have led them to engage in highly intensive field work and have been the source of great interest to non-collectors. Their formation has therefore been justified, particularly when it is considered that the few thousand specimens thus acquired and preserved for scientific study comprise only an infinitesimal portion of the bird and egg production of one season. It is also of interest to note that those who are collectors are also among the leaders in movements for general bird protection and conservation.

The T. O. S. has been ever mindful of its duty as an agency for education and conservation. It has worked hand in hand with the succession of Wardens of the State Department of Fish and Game, with the U. S. Biological Survey, with the National Association of Audubon Societies and other organizations. It has helped to shape the gradual evolution of our game laws and to secure their respect. Through its efforts, the study of birds is becoming popularized as a pleasant avocation for adults. In another article in this issue, a more detailed account is given of these activities. Some years ago the T. O. S. affiliated itself with The Wilson Ornithological Club, a national organization, and more recently, with the Tennessee Academy of Science. It acted as host for The Wilson Club on the occasion of the annual meetings of that organization at Nashville in 1924 and 1927 and it actively assisted in arranging for the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Nashville in 1927.

From the beginning, the Society has made a conscientious effort to cultivate and sustain the interest of members in all sections of the State who were isolated from the main groups. The circulation of its little journal among all members has done much toward bringing them closer together. The organization looks forward to a varied program of endeavors yet to be accomplished. A large percentage of its members retain their interest year in and year out and since ornithology—the study of birds—holds an inexhaustible supply of new facts to be learned, the Society and its members have much to look forward to in the years to come.



A T. O. S. ANNUAL FALL FIELD DAY

By JOHN CRAIG

To the uninitiated, perhaps, the T. O. S. Annual Fall Field Day means nothing. To the ornithologist, however, it has a world of significance.

This article is being written by one of the formerly uninitiated. In fact, suffering from lack of knowledge whatsoever concerning the "doings" of the Tennessee Ornithological Society on their Annual Field Day, I am thoroughly equipped to display about all the ignorance there is about birds. However, I would like to tell something about the proceedings of these highly specialized ornithologists who have kept this organization wide awake and going in Tennessee for eighteen years. There is, necessarily, something intensely interesting about a group that could convert a whole state, for the most part indifferent to bird lore, to a community of bird lovers.

It concerns me alone just how I managed to get my invitation to "tag along." Plain, good old-fashioned luck, I'd call it. The Field Day was held on October 22. A party of about sixty met at the intersection of Sixteenth and Broad Streets at 8:00 a.m. College professors, bankers, engineers, ladies, Boy Scouts and so on. I claim the distinction of being the only layman in the party. Despite the glowering clouds overhead, it was one of the happiest groups I have ever had the good fortune to join.

A blue-print itinerary was handed to me. While good, wholesome humor shouted at you from the sheet, no detail of the trip had been omitted. Birds a-twitter were pictured all over the sheet. They were merrily shouting the route we were to take. "Cross this ford, follow this detour, keep out of the State Penitentiary, turn off here." A sketch of a quacking wild duck was labeled in his exciting flight, "Rain or shine we go like ducks."

But with all the cheerful bustle I continued to wonder just how a field day could be held with birds. Now, if it had been a track meet or a dog fight I'd have been right there. But birds?

Then we hustled into our cars and whizzed merrily down Highway 100 following the indicated flight of the duck. But what was this? The leading car suddenly stopped beside a miniature lake. Looking ahead we saw its eager occupants rolling out and unheating their field glasses. Evidently the field day was under way. As the succeeding cars were halted the happy buzz of satisfaction began anew as new arrivals peered eagerly through their binoculars. Why not? There were three Wilson's Snipe on the lake.

Now to you or to me this discovery, perhaps, would have meant nothing in our young lives. In lots of cases out of ten we'd never have seen the snipe. But to these trained in the study of bird life, this discovery of three Wilson's Snipe appeared to be a worthwhile occurrence.

Right here permit me to digress and draw a conclusion by one who has hunted most of his life. Not with camera and field glasses, mind you, but with a gun. As a hunter the presence of those snipe would have stirred me with a lust to kill. At once I would have attempted pitting my wits against that of the birds in order to get within shooting distance. If successful I would have been rewarded by an opportunity to match my skill as a marksman against the birds' adroitness at evasion.

The resulting possibilities, from the standpoint of the hunter, would have been exciting enough, not to say exhilarating. There would have been breathless moments of stealthy stalking. Then would have come the whipping of wings, the zigzag flight and the deft training of the gun. Verily the possibilities are intriguing enough, from the standpoint of the hunter.

But I am grateful to have been permitted to experience the thrill enjoyed by the ornithologist who hunts with his field glasses, his camera and most important of all, his knowledge of his quarry. I am trying to give my reaction at hunting for the first time with no weapon with which to destroy. Suddenly I found myself eagerly peering through field glasses at those timid birds. And peculiarly enough, the desire to kill never entered my mind. On the other hand, I began to ask questions about the Wilson Snipe, keenly anxious to know more about him. Where did he winter? Where did he nest? On what did he feed? There were questions and questions. Was it an inspiration received from these bird lovers that caused me later to read with the keenest satisfaction and pleasure everything I could find on the Wilson Snipe? Verily, looking through field glasses has given me a new slant on game birds in general and the Wilson Snipe in particular.

I no longer see him only with the eyes of a sportsman. He presents something else other than a game bird rising in terror from bog or lake and frantically fighting for his life. I see something other than the crumpling of wings and the lifeless little bundle of feathers that had once sheltered a game, proud spirit.

But I started out to try to give some idea of a bird field day and not to comment at such length on the benefits and satisfaction I received.

I might explain that this stop was not according to schedule. It happened on account of the discovery of the Snipe. At the new bridge over the

Harpeth River we stopped in accordance with the directions of the blue print. Systematically the cars were lined up to be well out of traffic. In businesslike manner the leader distributed cards on which was printed at the top, "Field List of Tennessee Birds." Under this heading was the place for date, temperature, locality, wind, weather, start, return and place for the name of the observer. Then followed a list of the birds we might expect to find. Just for example: Bluebird, bobwhite, bobolink, redwing blackbird, indigo bunting, catbird, cardinal and so on. I think there was listed something in the neighborhood of one hundred and thirty that we might expect to find.

Field glasses again leaped from their cases. At once they were sweeping the skies, trees, hedges, fence rows, cornfields, everywhere. I felt utterly at a loss. Why should we stop there anyway? There wasn't a bird within forty miles, according to my way of thinking. While I was foolishly fingering my glasses and wondering what it was all about, members of the party were listing the names of the birds that flirted, flitted, fed and frolicked all about us. The exclamations about me were something like this: "Over there is a flock of Starlings. Look, two Carolina Wrens. Here are five Myrtle Warblers. There are some Carolina Chickadees and a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher." So it went on and on. Where I hadn't seen a bird, these bird lovers were picking them out of the air, from weed patches, from trees, from everywhere. And what was most surprising, interesting and satisfactory to me was, they were getting a measure of joy and satisfaction out of this pastime that few sportsmen ever experienced by slaughtering.

Right here at this same stop an incident occurred that put me to further shame. Did you know that we had a bird named for Tennessee? I didn't and when his presence was discovered from the top of the bridge there was an exclamation of pleasure from the entire group. Everyone gravitated to this spot where the birds were feeding in a cluster of tall rag-weeds underneath the bridge. At first I couldn't see anything, but on close inspection the weed tops were found to be alive with them. Shy little creatures they were, gliding gracefully up and down the weed stalks and feeding contentedly from brown pods laden with luscious seed.

At once there was a transformation of this apparently uninteresting spot. The tops of those obviously prosaic, brown weeds became a gorgeous banquet table resplendent with color, exuberant with gaiety, and overflowing with music and laughter and song. Verily a party of Tennessee Warblers were at feast. Not as trenchermen, mind you, but as fine Tennesseans in happy accord and grateful appreciation.

Yea, we could linger long at this spot. For thousands of motorists that rush past it each week it holds nothing. To that group of ornithologists it held tremendous treasures. Treasures that might be had at no cost at all by everyone just for the reaching out and taking. But we must journey on and explore some of the other activities of the T. O. S. on its Annual Fall Field Day.

The final rendezvous was, in accordance with the blue print, to be at the South Harpeth School down in a bend of the South Harpeth River. To reach this location the South Harpeth must be forded. This sounds ominous if it is not explained to those who have never been there that the South Harpeth, in the true sense of the word, is only a beautiful, clear, rippling little stream that flows tranquilly along in wobbly fashion except, that is, for some of its big moments. At such times, under lash of weeping clouds it can indulge in violent temper.

To the driver of the leading car the ford appeared harmless. The stream, however, was swollen and the car was drowned out in mid-stream. Now for

loaded and the occupants were crowding merrily along the bank. With no ado about something, shoes and socks were discarded and trousers rolled. In some instances no respect at all was shown wearing apparel. By the time two naked feet protruded from the stalled car sturdy shoulders were being applied and shortly the car was on its way. I had good reason to recall with satisfaction the motto under the flying duck on the blue print.

At the school house the party was divided into groups and the field day began in earnest. I chose a group headed by a leader whom, I felt pretty sure, would answer a volley of assinine questions before he murdered me. My selection was wisely made.

Have you ever gone out, deliberately, to locate birds? A bird lover must, necessarily, know a great many things. That is, he must know a great many things about a great many things before he begins acquiring a real knowledge of birds and bird life. For instance our guide knew all about the trees and vegetation that furnished food, shelter and protection for the various kinds of birds. In hunting them the true ornithologist is versed in preferred habitats and in food bearing plants, vegetation and all the various sources from which birds obtain food.

My questions were the ones that would naturally be asked by the untutored, everyday individual who loves birds. Here are some of the questions which I asked. Apply these questions to any of the numerous kinds we saw that day. Is it migratory? Where does it nest? How is its nest built? How many eggs does it lay? What are its favorite foods? What are its worst enemies? Is it classed with the song birds? Is it protected by the state law? And so on. May I remark right here, to the everlasting credit of that group of bird lovers, that none of them at any time lost patience with me. It was as if they had something sacred and beautiful that they earnestly desired to share with a blind man.

If you are not already versed in the pursuit of bird knowledge perhaps it may be interesting to know just how these ornithologists approached their subjects for inspection. My method at first proved so crude and unsuccessful that I soon began watching our leader. It appeared to me from observing him that he did not approach by stealth. His movements were casual. Might I say, kindly? It was as if he were taking the timid little fluttery bit of glorious life into a well deserved confidence. His approach was slow but bold. There was no movement of menace in his advance. Gentleness, sympathy and understanding might be said to have been incorporated in his every action. There was nothing unexpected or sudden in sound or movement. To sum up his methods of approach I would say that his whole attitude was that of utter unobtrusiveness. As a result of this friendly advance, it may be fancy, but I really believe that the birds enjoyed those moments of human nearness. Suffice it to say that they almost invariably continued right along undisturbed in their birdly occupation of feast and frolic and song.

After hours of this fascinating pastime we finally returned to the school house where lunch was to have been prepared in the open. Unfortunately, the clouds that had threatened all day suddenly swooped into vigorous action. The tripod for the coffee-pot had to be folded, the watery barbecue trenches abandoned and the eagerly anticipated festivities transferred to the shelter of a nearby summer resort.

Inside our adopted host made us welcome in a manner that put to shame the weepy proceedings outside that would have dampened the ardor of most anyone but the true ornithologist. Everybody was hungry and happy. Soon, through the efforts of the lunch committee, the tantalizing odor of fragrant coffee was circulating around causing much excitement in the way of sniffs the spirit of the true ornithologist. In a moment the ensuing cars were un-

and comment. The cheerful bustle that heralds the near advent of good food was to be heard "round and about."

Later followed the lively drawing up of chairs, and lightsome chatter of cheerful people who find the great outdoors immensely to their liking. Nor did this timely diversion interfere with the business of summing up what had been accomplished during the morning.

After happy sighs of contentment could be heard generally throughout the big dining room, the leader called the meeting to order. Score cards were produced and a census was taken. Each member of the party consulted his or her card as the names on the Tennessee Bird List were called, each giving the number of each kind of bird seen as listed on the individual card. At the close a total of each kind of bird seen was recorded in order that each member would have a composite list of the day's finds. For illustration I give results of a few kinds of birds seen as they appear alphabetically on my card. Bluebird 15, Bobwhite 26, Cardinal common, Carolina Chickadee fairly common, Cowbird flock of about 150, Crow fairly common, Brown Creeper 2. And so it went throughout the entire list.

In the meantime the rain had begun to pour in torrents. To my surprise quite a number of the party donned raincoats and ventured forth. Filled with amused curiosity I took a stand on the front porch. I am too incredulous, anyway. To my way of thinking they couldn't find a bird with all the glasses in christendom.

Almost at once a pair of field glasses were being trained at the top of a nearby tree. Other glasses came up. Following the direction I was surprised to see a gay colored bird on one of the topmost branches. Another one joined him. Then another and another. I wondered if they were feeding while the wind roared through those swaying branches sweeping a downpour mercilessly across those feathered silhouettes. And then through that gray, weeping day came to me the hilarious notes of a gay song.

Yes, I have often wondered what an ordinary layman could get from a Bird Field Day. There are lots of things I did not understand. From a scientific standpoint I might as well have been looking through a stained glass window. But I am satisfied.

Through the kindness of these bird lovers I had been swept for a day out upon an irresistible tide of joyous forgetfulness. Through them I had been enabled to commune with the beautiful spirits of another, finer world. With them I had wandered through songland where tragedy and heartbreaks are accepted as a part of the Divine Plan.

NASHVILLE, TENN. From *The Open Trails* of December, 1933.



A COLLECTION OF BIRDS FROM COCKE COUNTY, TENN.

By WILLIAM M. WALKER, JR.

Three new birds for the Tennessee list as well as other rare species, were the result of a careful examination of the collection of Mr. N. F. Stokeley at Del Rio, Tenn. The Knoxville Chapter of the T. O. S. journeyed to his home on July 21, 1935, and view the several glass cases of mounted specimens.

Del Rio is located on the French Broad River, eight miles west of the North Carolina line. Here the stream cuts a deep east-west valley through the mountains and forms the north boundary of the Great Smokies range. No doubt the river has been instrumental in developing a regular migration route through the mountains and this is borne out by the number and variety of water birds in the collection. The specimens were mostly taken by Mr. Stokeley or by his neighbors and all are from Cocke County. They were mounted

by his mother, a most talented woman, and make a very attractive display. Notations where given are from the recollection of Mr. Stokeley, a register of the collection having been lost. Mr. A. F. Ganier visited the collection on Sept. 1, verified our identifications and has furnished notes and the several measurements given below.

Common Loon, 2. An adult and a small immature.

Pied-billed Grebe, 2.

Great Blue Heron, 3.

American Egret, 1.

Little Blue Heron, 1. In white plumage.

Little Green Heron, 3.

Black-crowned Night Heron, 2. Taken recently.

American Bittern, 3.

Eastern Least Bittern, 2. From cat-tails at small pond.

Canada Goose, 1.

Blue Goose (*chen caerulescens*), 1. A mature specimen, taken in the fall 6 or 8 years ago. This is a first record for East Tennessee.

Shoveller Duck, 1.

Wood Duck, 2. Said to breed along the river.

Pintail Duck, 1.

Greater Scaup (*Nyroca marila*), 1. A new record for Tennessee. The color patch on side of neck is distinctly greenish, the flanks are unbarred and the following measurements complete the evidence that the bird is not the Lesser Scaup. Length in inches 19.7, wing 8.50, tail 1.70, and bill 1.75. This bird was taken about 30 years ago and though Mr. Stokeley has shot many ducks, he says he never saw another of these. American Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, and several other of the more common varieties of ducks.

Hawks. He has specimens of Broad-winged, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, Cooper's, Marsh, Sharp-shinned and Sparrow Hawks. He has no knowledge of the Duck Hawk.

Golden Eagle, 1. Shot in summer.

Osprey, 2. Taken on the river.

Ruffed Grouse, 3. Said to be fairly common.

King Rail, 2. He also has several of their eggs.

Virginia Rail, 1. New record for East Tennessee.

Sora Rail, 1.

Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis stoddardi*), 1. A new record for Tennessee. Mr. Stokeley secured this specimen between June 10 and 20th, 1915, while cutting wheat. It would only fly a short distance and getting close to it, he knocked it down with a hay fork. The locality was a mile south of Del Rio in the river valley. At the date taken, it would seem that this bird must have been on its nesting grounds. It has been found breeding in North Carolina, near Raleigh, in wet meadows. This is the smallest of the rails, being not much larger than an English Sparrow. The specimen is nicely mounted.

Wild Turkey, 1, also some of their eggs. Still present, some shot three years ago.

American Coot, 1.

Wilson Snipe, 1.

American Woodcock, 1. Three sets of four eggs each were found in 1935 of which a set was collected.

Western Willet, 1. (*Catophrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*.) Shot by Mr. Stokeley in the late summer of 1934, after it had alighted in the road a hundred feet from his house. Plumage very light. Measure-

ments in inches: wing 8.3, tail 2.90, bill 2.30. A new bird for the Tennessee list.

Amer. Herring Gull, 2.

Ring-billed Gull, 1.

Laughing Gull, 1 (with head black). Taken on the river about twenty years ago. Second State record.

Bonaparte's Gull, 4. One spring adult, one fall adult and two fall immatures. The last three were taken about six years ago from a flock of thirty or forty on the river.

Forster's (or Common) Tern, 1. An immature bird.

Black Tern, 1, in mottled fall plumage.

Owls: Barn, Great-horned, Barred and Screech.

Among other land birds of interest were Cliff Swallows, Bobolink, Pileated Woodpecker and Purple Grackle including eggs of the last mentioned. There are many others of the common varieties.

No specimen of the Raven was among the birds and Mr. Stokeley says that none have been seen in recent years.

Nearly all of the local mammals were represented by nicely mounted specimens, including Little Striped Skunk 3 (all taken together and said to be rare), Weasle 2, Mink, Wild Cat, Black Bear, etc., etc.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., September, 1935.



EARLY REMINISCENCES

BY DIXON MERRITT

All history has its roots in the prehistoric.

The beginnings of the Tennessee Ornithological Society are far back of that historic meeting of five men at Faucon's in October, 1915—as far back, at least, as the first bird work done, and the inspiration for it, by A. C. Webb, H. Y. Hughes, Albert Ganier, and George Mayfield.

Webb's experiences went fartherest back, but all of the others went, probably, farther than my own. They ought to be told in this journal. All of us can tell them—all except Hughes who, wing-weary and worn, flew out into the night on his long migration years ago.

So far as I am concerned, and, by the accident of being in position to speak through a newspaper rather than with my own voice, I became the atom about which the nucleus formed, and my interest in birds had come about through an earlier interest in developing the history of Audubon in Kentucky.

For seven years at the beginning of the century, I was city editor of the *Daily Messenger* at Owensboro, Ky. It was along that reach of the Ohio River—along it and out from it for great distances—that Audubon did his pioneer work on the birds of America. At Henderson, a few miles below, he lived and operated a grist mill, a sort of general store, a crude steamboat; there that he lost his patrimonial fortune and, leaving his family to such mercies as were, went tramping as a sign painter. But the popular accounts of his life laid emphasis on New Orleans, New York, Norristown, Pa., all the places where he did comparatively little, and barely if at all mentioned Henderson.

It was no devotion to birds—which I had known only from Arm & Hammer Brand soda cards in my childhood—but my interest in the vindication of history that started me to work in an effort to supply a deficiency in the biographical data of Audubon.

I encountered in Henderson, Ingram Crockett, a bank cashier, the most sympathetic bird student that I have ever known, and an intimate of the Audubon haunts. I commend to you his "A Yearbook of Kentucky Woods and Fields"—though perhaps you cannot find it now. When I had finished extracting the Audubon data from Crockett, I had absorbed from him a love for and a smattering knowledge of birds that made me the desultory writer of bird bits in the Nashville papers.

Those bits brought to my office, first, Herman Yates Hughes, of the bench of the Court of Appeals, a lonesome bird student. They brought next, Albert F. Ganier, desirous of meeting a kindred spirit, and George R. Mayfield, equally lonesome and equally a student of birds. Ganier it seems had previously hunted up A. C. Webb who had done pioneer bird work of an educational character in the Nashville schools. And so it came about that the T. O. S. was set afoot, as told in our history on another page. You know the rest—except the prehistoric portion that only Webb, Ganier and Mayfield know.

Our delight in the companionship of one another—so long had they been hermit hunters and I a sort of Solitary Sandpiper—was such that, for some time, we did little on week-ends but talk and tramp together. Not until months afterward did we do much about bringing in new members.

There comes to me with particular zest of memory, a frosty evening in front of a log fire at Mr. Webb's house in East Nashville; a night spent in a cabin somewhere in Cheatham County and a dawn-time hunt among the crags along the Cumberland; a twilight under the black brow of the Overton Knobs when Ganier collected the first Winter Wren that I ever saw; an afternoon of spring snow and blow when Mayfield and I ran against each other around the bend of a blackberry jungle beyond Centennial Park, hunting for—and finding—the Brown Thrasher on his first arrival.

Webb and Hughes—but *The Migrant* is a very small magazine and there will be no stopping if I get properly going on these memories. The rest of you have done as much as we in making the organization. But you have never known, and never are to know, the joy of companionship in the work we had in those first days.

NASHVILLE, TENN., September, 1935.



AUGUST NOTES FROM NORTH LAKE

By FRANKLIN M'CAMERY

North Lake is a shallow body of water, a half mile long and nearly as wide, lying in the southwestern corner of Tennessee, about two miles north of Lakeview, Miss. Its shallow waters make an excellent feeding ground for Herons and Egrets, and a much smaller lake just southeast of it, having filled with soft mud to within a few inches of the water-level, is a place where several hundred shorebirds may be found during their migration season.

As the writer, with George Foster of Knoxville, approached this smaller lake early on the morning of Aug. 1, we heard the guttural croaking of feeding birds, and soon saw the glistening white plumage of 70 Little Blue Herons (20 in adult plumage) and 80 American Egrets, feeding in the soft mud. They made a beautiful picture against the light green willow background as their plumage reflected pinkish hues from the rising sun and forty sandpipers, with almost as many each of Killdeer and Least Terns, lent noise and motion to the scene. The Sandpipers were: Least 18, Semipalmated 4, Spotted 6, Solitary 12, and Pectoral 10. A Bald Eagle soaring over the south side of the

lake, a few Great Blue Herons and three Lesser Yellowlegs were interesting sights on North Lake. Our list was swelled by 2 Wood Ducks, 2 King Rails, 4 Least Bitterns and 60 Starlings (unusual at this time of year), seen at the barrowpits in Mississippi, just below the state line.

On August 6 a valuable record was secured at the pit in Mississippi, a half mile south of Tennessee. A Dowitcher, evidently the Eastern because of a relatively short bill, was feeding with some Pectoral Sandpipers at the pit. Foster had seen the bird twice at St. Louis, and there was no doubt as to the identification here, since the bird was carefully studied at a short distance with our binoculars.

The next day was a profitable one at North Lake. The first thing Foster saw was a Western Sandpiper (*Erreunetes maurii*), new for the state list; careful study of the flock of 170 Sandpipers revealed at least three more of these birds, easily identified at the close range by their long bills. (Since these Sandpipers closely resemble the Semipalmated, two of them were collected on August 11 by Mr. A. F. Ganier who verified our observations.) Other birds on the small lake were: Sandpipers—Spotted 3, Solitary 5, Pectoral 30, Least 70, Semipalmated 50, Stilt 2 (seen at same place Sept. 9, 1934); Lesser Yellowlegs 3, Little Blue Heron 35, Egret 40, and Least Tern 50 (the last three species on North Lake). A late afternoon trip to the first barrowpit in Mississippi (a half mile from Tennessee) netted a beautiful Wilson Phalarope in fall plumage. It was easily identified by the white rump, grayish back, snowy white breast, long neck, thin short bill, brownish legs and yellowish feet, and the peculiar manner of feeding by carefully stalking its prey, unlike the nervous actions of the other shore birds.

On August 11, our party of four spent a morning in unsuccessful search for shorebirds at their usual haunts (then mostly dried up). We undertook the long walk through the woods to the small lake, and there found the birds, though in slightly diminished numbers. Efforts at collecting did not frighten them, and all members of the party (Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coffey, Jr., Mr. Ganier, and the writer) had good chances to observe the 6 Westerns, 2 Stilts and others, including Sandpipers (Semipalmated 60, Least 50, Spotted 6, Solitary 8, Pectoral 25), Semipalmated Plover 1, Lesser Yellowlegs 10, Little Blue Heron 40, Least Tern 30, and of course, King Rails and Bitterns at the Mississippi pits. The Great Horned Owl, the sight of which has been a regular climax to every Mud Lake trip the past six months, was seen perched in the same general location again. On this trip, a flock of over 2,000 Purple Martins in a cypress tree at the west end of the Harahan Viaduct at 8:00 A. M. was an interesting sight, and good pictures were secured.

On Sept. 2, Bert Powell and the writer made another trip to North Lake, finding things pretty much the same. There were fewer Least Sandpipers, about 15 Westerns, and the usual numbers of Spotted, Solitary, Pectoral and Semipalmated. The high spot of the trip was the White Ibis (see the foregoing item), with a beautiful adult Bald Eagle, observed as he made two attempts to catch a fish in North Lake, running a close second. Other water birds noted on this lake were 18 Great Blue Herons, 40 Egrets, 110 Little Blue Herons (12 adults), 1 Double-crested Cormorant, 80 Least Terns, and 2 Black Terns. At the Mississippi pits, 9 Blue-winged Teal, 1 female Baldpate, and numbers of Barn Swallows brought the day's list to 80 species.

The last trip on Sept. 8 showed that the height of the season was past. The usual birds were found in greatly reduced numbers, except the Egret, of which there were 80 on North Lake and 100 on Mud Lake, which had finally begun to get low enough to be attractive to the wading birds. Stilt and Western Sandpipers were seen again (2 of each).

Other interesting notes from Memphis include the following: Observed by Foster and the writer, Wilson Snipe at Lakeview on July 28, and the last Painted Bunting in Memphis on that date. At Riverside Park on July 21, we saw a Prairie Warbler, which must have been an early transient, as we have no summer records, and 2 juvenal Black-throated Green Warblers (early). On Aug. 4, a hike up the south side of Hopefield (Mound City) Chute, which, though west of the river is in Tennessee, netted a few Terns, Egrets, and Herons, the most important being 4 juvenal Yellow-crowned Night Herons flying across the river from the east side. Of hawks, 1 Cooper's, 4 Red-shouldered, and 1 Broad-winged were also seen. A short trip to Ensley Bottoms, by the same two on Aug. 5, brought us a female Blue Grosbeak, the first record for this species here in four years.

Mississippi Kites are either becoming more common here, or move about more in August, for during the first ten days of that month they were seen in six scattered localities on successive days, in numbers ranging from one to six in view at one time.

MEMPHIS, TENN., September, 1935.



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF FOUNDER MEMBERS

As mentioned in the first article in this issue, the organization of the T. O. S. was effected October 7, 1915, by five men who therefore became its founders. With the exception of Judge Hughes, who died in 1921, these members are still living and retain their early interest in ornithology. They not only conceived but carried thru to execution their plans for an organization to develop the study of bird life. The following biographical sketches are set forth as a matter of record:

A(lonzo) C. Webb (T. O. S. 10-7-'15, Pres. 1915-19, V.-Pres. Mid. Tenn. 1920). Artist and teacher, Nashville, Tenn. Born 1859 at Chariton, Iowa. For many years Supervisor of Writing and Drawing in the city schools. Professor Webb's interest in birds began in the late nineties at which time he contributed a series of articles to the Nashville Banner on the common birds of this section. These articles were directed chiefly to school children and appeared at a time when bird protection was in its infancy. In 1898 they were brought together in book form under the title "Some Birds and Their Ways" and were illustrated by the author. The volume was used as a supplemental reader in the schools and was succeeded in 1917 by a similar volume entitled "Our Bird Book." Mr. Webb during his supervisory rounds of the schools began to be called on to make talks on birds and so interestingly did he present the subject that he gave them to all the schools with regularity. To illustrate these talks, he mounted a number of birds which were collected and brought to him by friends. He relates that he "literally wore these birds out" in taking them around to use in his lectures. In but few communities in the land have the birds had so effective and ardent a champion as Nashville has enjoyed in A. C. Webb. His election as our first President was in appreciation of his earlier work.—G.

Dixon (Lanier) Merritt (T. O. S. 10-7-1915, Sec'y 1915) was born at Baird's Mills in Wilson County, Tenn., on July 9, 1879. He is a writer by profession and has had a varied and successful career in journalism, chiefly in Nashville, New York and Washington. Finally, realizing that there was no place like home, he returned to Wilson County, became Editor of the Lebanon Democrat, rebuilt the paternal cedar-log home and hung out a

"WELCOME" sign for T. O. S. members. When stationed at Owensboro, Ky., Mr. Merritt became interested in Audubon and there, in 1909, prepared an extended paper on "Audubon in Kentucky." He states, however, that his greatest claim to ornithological prominence emanates from his authorship of a certain famous limerick, the first line of which reads, "A wondrous bird is the Pelican," etc., etc. But his fellow bird-men know that his qualifications are based upon an ardent love and appreciation of birds and all nature and trust that his gifted pen may chronicle an increasing number of his observations upon bird life. He is a member and officer of many local and national organizations but values none more highly than the T. O. S.—G.

George Radford Mayfield (T. O. S. 10-7-15, Sec'y 1916-17, Pres. 1920-21, 1934-35), Professor of German, Vanderbilt University, Nashville. Born at Lawrenceville, Ga., March 21, 1877. A.B., Emory University, '00; A.M., Vanderbilt, '04; Ph.D., '15. Belongs to Am. Ornith. Union, Wilson Ornith. Club, A. A. A. of S., Tenn. Acad. of Science (Editor '26-29, etc. Dr. Mayfield is one of our most consistent field workers and has done more work in recording the movements of migratory birds than any other member. His observations afield have been permanently recorded on our standard listing cards and these, to the number of about 2,000, he has one file for reference. His is an entertaining speaker and is called upon very frequently to make bird talks before various organizations. We credit him with being our best authority upon bird notes and songs and with being able to identify more than 35 species of warblers by their mere "chirp." ("Where birds are concerned, Dr. Mayfield has a keen eye and a trained ear, and can accurately name a bird which is apparently not there so far as the untrained observer is concerned. This faculty has been highly developed by spending his leisure hours, for many years, with the birds in the open country."—R. A. WILSON.)

Herman Yates Hughes (T. O. S. 10-7-'15, V.-Pres. 1915-1918) was born in Lee County, Virginia, Jan. 8, 1863, and died at his home at Tazewell, Tenn., Feb. 25, 1921, aged 52 years. Judge Hughes received his early education at Tazewell College and later taught school. Not having the means to attend college he read law at home and was later admitted to the bar. His popularity at home was attested by the fact that he was elected mayor of Tazewell three times and later county judge, which office he held six years. In 1910 he was elected to the court of civil appeals which office he held until 1918. Overwork, due to a highly conscientious regard for his duties and long hours of application brought about a breakdown from which he never recovered. It was while the court of appeals was meeting at Nashville in 1915 that Judge Hughes became a founder of the Society and his fellow members found in him a most enjoyable and congenial companion. He had accumulated an excellent library of bird books, among which was a set of Audubon's Birds of America. At one of our early meetings he presented each of his fellow workers with a copy of Chapman's Color Key to North American Birds.—G.

Albert F(ranklin) Ganier (T. O. S. 10-7-1915, Pres. '22-'23, 30, Curator 1915-'21, '24-'30, Editor 1935), born Sept. 9, 1883, Vicksburg, Miss. B.S.C.E. Purdue Univ., '08. Civil engineer, N. C. & St. L. Ry., Nashville, Tenn. Amer. Ornith. Union (member), Wilson Ornith. Club (Sec'y 1918-1922, Pres. 1924-1926), A. A. A. of S., Tenn. Acad. Science (Pres. 1926), Bird-love's Advisory Council 1917. (It was the writer's pleasure to nominate Mr. Ganier for curator at our beginning because he had already begun to gather his comprehensive collections of the birds and eggs of Tennessee species and to keep systematic notes. He had begun his bird study at the age of ten and by taking the various bird magazines had become acquainted with the

work of ornithologists all over the country. He has had an active part in practically all phases of the Society's work. During all of the twenty years of its existence he has regularly made field trips of an exploratory nature into all sections of the State and has written nearly a hundred papers as the result of his studies. One of these, "A Distributional List of Birds of Tennessee," 1933, is the only comprehensive publication on the birds of the state. By correspondence and visits to our members he has assisted materially in building up the Society on a state-wide basis. Mr. Ganier's work in behalf of *The Migrant* is rendering an invaluable service to our organization and for the advancement of ornithological knowledge.—DIXON MERRITT.)



WORK OF THE T. O. S. IN PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION

BY GEORGE R. MAYFIELD

From the beginning, it has been realized that properly conducted publicity work would be a most important factor in achieving the conservation and educational program of the Society.

One of our founders, Mr. Dixon Merritt, was already running "a column" of bird stories in *The Morning Tennessean* at the time of our first meeting. Mr. R. A. Wilson, another columnist and one of our early members was conducting his widely read "Fin, Fur and Feathers" department in *The Sunday Nashville Banner*. This column, which is still running, has accorded us generous space and has contributed much to the standing and influence of the Society. The co-operation of these two writers opened the columns of the two Nashville newspapers to the articles which were later prepared by other members.

Soon after the founding of the organization, full page articles with illustrations by Mr. A. C. Webb appeared in *The Tennessean* and in *The Banner*. From 1916 on, the local press has been generous with space in connection with the Society and its activities. At Knoxville, Mr. H. P. Ijams has published full page features and many news articles have appeared in the newspapers published there during the past twelve years. Mr. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., has had many articles in the two Memphis papers, since he transferred there in 1928. Mr. Robert Spark Walker is a member of the staff of *The Chattanooga Times* and has written many bird features for this paper. Dr. Jessie Atkins publishes a weekly column in *The Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle* entitled "Wings and Stings and Other Things". Bird students have found co-operation not only with the metropolitan dailies but also with the weekly newspapers. Thousands of articles have been read throughout the State in these less widely-circulated sheets. And finally, scientific articles have appeared in *The Auk*, the *Wilson Bulletin*, in *Bird-Lore*, in the *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science* and in other scientific magazines.

For the past six years the Society itself has published a quarterly journal of bird study called *The Migrant*. This little magazine, first edited by Mr. George Woodring, and now edited by Mr. A. F. Ganier, is recognized as probably the best state bird journal in the country. It has been the means of placing on permanent record not only the occurrence of rare birds but of the studies of the habits of the more usual kinds. It serves as a tie to bind our more than two hundred members together. The Society has also inaugurated another series of publications to take care of articles too long for its quarterly. This series is entitled *Tennessee Avifauna* and two numbers have been issued to date.

The campaign for the selection of a State Bird gave an opportunity for wide publicity in connection with the work of the Society. The metropolitan dailies carried a picture of and a short article concerning the fifteen bird "candidates" selected as most characteristic of bird life in Tennessee. Naturally, many of the weeklies carried news notes from time to time and some of them published the pictures of the birds as well as the articles. The interest in the campaign grew to such an extent that 75,000 votes were cast and thousands of letters came in from every section of the State as a result of the publicity and consequent interest in the choice of a State Bird.

Passing from the publicity to the educational work of the Society, we find equally marked success in achieving the ends for which this organization was formed. For twenty years there has been a bi-weekly meeting of the Society, to which its regular members have come and also hundreds of people interested in birds, some of whom later became members. From these meetings in Nashville the interest passed on to Knoxville, to Memphis, and to other cities of the State. Young people were welcomed and during this time many active bird students have been developed and some of our members are now engaged in the teaching of ornithology, zoology and kindred subjects. The annual Field Days in the fall and in the spring have brought together a large number of bird lovers and out of these groups have come many promoters of bird conservation. The members of our Society have visited in schools, in boys' clubs, in girls' clubs, and in garden clubs, and have succeeded in arousing a personal interest in bird life on the part of members of these clubs.

Many of the officers of the Society have had extensive correspondence with bird students not only throughout Tennessee, but throughout the South and this correspondence has brought a number of Corresponding Members to the Society and caused many people to become active workers in the cause of conservation. From the teachers of schools and presidents of science groups, as well as other organizations, have come requests for information and literature and personal correspondence has contributed much to the present interest in the State of Tennessee for all forms of wild life. The Kentucky Ornithological Society and the Georgia Naturalist Club have looked on the Tennessee Ornithological Society as the parent organization.

From time to time talks have been made over radio by members of the

KEY TO THE PICTURES

Number 1—A. C. Webb, 2—A. F. Ganier, 3—Dixon Merritt, 4—G. R. Mayfield, 5—H. Y. Hughes, 6—Four Founders (Merritt, Ganier, Webb and Mayfield), 7—H. S. Vaughn and George Woodring (who appear to be swapping buzzard eggs), 8—Frank McCamey (we don't know him in this role), 9—Mrs. F. C. Laskey banding a Cardinal, 10—J. M. Shaver, 11—Mrs. W. P. Morgan, 12—H. C. Monk, 13—R. B. Lyle and B. P. Tyler have surely found something here, 14—H. P. Ijams, 15—R. A. Wilson, 16—John Bamberg, 17—"Jack" Calhoun, 18—H. O. Todd, at Goose Pond, 19—These were too timid to wade (Craggie Hope), 20—Too many cooks, etc. (Coffey, Mayfield, Hicks, Vaughn and Shaver), 21—Banding Chimney Swifts at Memphis (Mrs. Barefield, Mrs. Coffey, Miss Smith, Erie Henrich, Frank McCamey and Fred Carney), 22—Wayland Hayes, 23—Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coffey in the "jungles", 24—Sycamore (among "those present" are Misses Kearby and Ross, Messrs. Sharp, Shaver, McNish, etc.), 25—"Jim" Trent, Jr. (caught not looking for water birds), 26—A lot of ex-presidents (Ijams, Ganier, Coffey and Hayes), 27—Mrs. Coffey at the Reelfoot "Crane-town", 28—Knoxville Chapter 1934 Field Day at Island Home, 29—Spring Field Day of 1934 at Nashville, and 30—Spring Field Day of 1935 at Nashville.



Founders
Webb ↘
Gomer ↙



Merritt ↙
Mayfield ↘
Hughes ↘



Four Founders



7



8



9



10



11



12



14



15



13



16



17



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19



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23



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26



29



Society on bird life. During the severe freezes of winter both WSM and WLAC, as well as other stations, have sent out appeals to all persons to have pity on the birds and to provide them with food. In the spring time and summer talks have been made urging people to protect the birds from cats, from snakes, from crows and other enemies, and to encourage people to increase the number of birds around their homes.

Another phase of our educational work has been through the Department of Game and Fish. During all of these years the Society has kept in close touch with the State Game Warden and encouraged this department to protect not only the game birds, but song birds as well. Not much co-operation was attained until the late Mr. George Calhoun became head of this department. His co-operation was greatly appreciated. The present Game Warden, Mr. Damon Headden, is a former educator and has worked with the Society in all of its plans. He has taken one of our members, Mr. John Caldwell, and placed him at the head of educational work in the State. This is one of the greatest achievements in the interest of the organization and promises to bring about results of which we have long dreamed, but had little expectation of seeing realized. If the plans that have been developed can be carried out, our Society will feel amply rewarded for its many years of disappointment and seemingly fruitless labor. The most comforting thought of all is to think back on the situation in Tennessee with regard to bird life in 1915 as contrasted with the present attitude. When the officers and members of the Society do this, they take courage and gather fresh inspiration to go on with their plans for the future.*

NASHVILLE, TENN., September, 1935.

**Editor's Note:* Dr. Mayfield, as author of the above article, has modestly refrained from mentioning his own part in our educational and publicity work. It should be made a matter of record, however, that he, more than any other member, has been most assiduous and effective in these activities. He has prepared more newspaper copy than any of us, he was chairman of the committee which conducted the State Bird campaign in 1933, and at present he is actively assisting the State Department of Fish and Game in developing its educational campaign designed to reach the younger generation.—A. F. G.



BIRD BANDING BREVITIES NO. 6

By MRS. F. C. LASKEY

Since June 1st, almost 600 birds have been banded and several species have been added to my list, making a grand total of 5,628 individuals of 88 species. One of the most unexpected captures was a King Rail on August 11th at a small pond on the outskirts of North Nashville. It was the first bird taken in a shore bird trap, made and set by Jack Calhoun. King Rails apparently are rather difficult to trap for, according to the Biological Survey reports, only 15 have been banded in the past few years in North America. Other shore birds trapped included Green Herons, Solitary Sandpipers, Spotted Sandpipers, and Killdeer, all of which were taken at a shallow pond in Belle Meade, a few yards from a much traveled highway. A rather significant capture was that of my first Cowbird, a lone female, that fed at the traps during the snow of late January although this species has been rarely seen at my home banding station. However, this summer 4 immature Cowbirds have been trapped here, at least one of them having been reared by a Warbling

Vireo that was much agitated and distressed while the young Cowbird was entrapped. Life history studies of banded Mockingbirds are proving more interesting each year, and this past season more time has been spent afield, in addition to studying the color banded individuals near my home. About 50 young birds were banded on their nesting grounds in this area with the objective of obtaining data, through recovery records, on the dispersal of these young birds that disappear as soon as they are able to feed themselves. Since late August transient immature Mockingbirds are being trapped at my home; pokeberries are the lure. A Bronzed Grackle banded June 17, 1932, was again trapped July 24, 1935, when she brought her fledglings to the garden and carried bread from the drop trap to them. Her plumage though ragged was more iridescent than the average female; she had two bald spots on her head and was afflicted with ecto parasites, some of which were collected and sent to the Entomology Department in Washington for identification. A Cardinal, banded December 17, 1932 (adult male), was found dead on the road July 14, 1935, about 800 feet from the station by Mrs. Ed Sullivan. An interesting detail of this recovery is the fact that this bird was color banded and though he evidently occupied territory near the station, he had not visited our grounds in more than a year. For sometime two color banded male Cardinals have occupied our garden, one on each side of the house and this year they have furnished interesting family history. One is A292705 (called "A," banded February 2, 1932) that mated with B234857 (banded on left tarsus February 4, 1933) this spring for the third year; the other male is 34-224709 (banded September 8, 1934, also a green band) and is known as "G." Early this spring A was frequently seen chasing the trespassing, unmated G back to his own territory. By April 12th, G had secured a mate and the A's had two young hatching which left the nest April 22nd (known to have stayed at the station until June 4th). The first egg in the second nest of the A's was laid May 1st, but the nest was robbed and deserted. In the meantime G had young hatching on May 6th, but they evidently came to grief for when the nest was visited a week later to band the young, it was empty and neither they nor the mother bird were seen later. A also disappeared sometime early in May and when the left banded female hatched her two young in her third nest about June 6th, it was found that G was now her mate and was carrying food from the drop trap to feed the young. One nestling was killed by a Blue Jay when about a week old; the other left the same day and was seen at the station until late July. On July 30th, G and this same mother bird successfully brought off two more young which at the present date (September 9) are still following the parents, begging occasionally but apparently no longer being fed. Distinctive banding proved this female laid four sets of eggs, successfully reared three broods, from which five birds reached adult size and that she secured her neighbor as a mate very quickly after the probable death of her old mate. A pair of Bluebirds occupying a nest box in the garden remained together for at least two nestings this year through they occupied different nest boxes for each brood. This contrasts with the record of the other male mentioned previously that had occupied the same nest box three years but for the four known broods raised in that time, he had four different mates.

NASHVILLE, TENN., September 9, 1935.

AMONG OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Whatever success may have accrued to *The Migrant* is due to those of our members who have contributed their writings to its columns. With the thought that our readers would be interested in knowing something of the personal side of these contributors, the following sketches have been prepared. Lack of space and information makes it necessary to postpone the completion of this list until a future issue.

John Bamberg (joined the T. O. S. in 1928.) He was born at Paducah, Ky., Dec. 9, 1902, and has been studying birds about fifteen years. He lived at Memphis when he first joined but later moved to Knoxville and just recently has accepted a position in educational work for the T. V. A. at Wheeler Dam, Ala. He is the author of a useful little booklet on identifying birds afield.

John B. Calhoun (T. O. S. 2-8-32) of Nashville has entered the University of Virginia this fall to take a course in biology. He was born at Elkton, Giles County, Tenn., May 11, 1917, and is therefore one of our youngest members. "Jack" is endowed with tireless energy and enthusiasm and lets no obstacles stop him when in search of new birds. We will miss him.

Ben B. Coffey, Jr. (T. O. S. 1-21-27, Pres. 1933-'34, V-Pres. West Tenn.) of Memphis is a fire insurance inspector by profession. By avocation he is an ornithologist and a leader in Boy Scout work and in the latter capacity has developed the interest of many Scouts along the line of bird study. He was born at Nashville April 28, 1904, and has been studying birds for eleven years. Our subject is a Trojan for field work and no trip or weather is too arduous or strenuous to deter him from having his day with the birds. His chief interests are distribution, migration, conservation and bird banding.

Mrs. Ben B. Coffey (T. O. S. 1931) is a Mississippian by birth and has been studying birds for five years. In off hours at home she does a bit of bird banding but is happiest when searching with her husband for water birds in the sloughs and swamps south of Memphis. The Coffeys have an excellent library of bird books for reference.

Dr. Cynthia Cunningham Counce (T. O. S. 5-15-1931) is associate physician at Lynnburn Sanatorium, Oakville, near Memphis. She was born at Princeton, Ky., and has been interested in observing birds for ten years. Her chief interests are in song birds and in feeding birds in winter.

John L. Craig (T. O. S. 10-22-1933) of Nashville is connected with the promotion department of the Nashville Banner. He was born in 1881 at Culleoka, in Maury County, Tenn. While at Vanderbilt he established a reputation as one of the greatest halfbacks in Southern football history. Mr. Craig, a gifted writer, during 1933 founded and edited *The Open Trails* (now suspended) in an effort to develop interest in outdoor sports.

Compton Crook (T. O. S. 12-12-'27, Sec'y. Treas. 1929-1931), was born June 14, 1908, at Rossville, Fayette County, Tenn., and is a graduate of Peabody College at Nashville where he majored in biology. This fall he has joined the faculty of Western Reserve University at Cleveland, Ohio. He took up bird study about twelve years ago, has built up a good library and is most interested in migration and distribution.

Miss Mary Davant (T. O. S. 1929) is Reference Librarian at the Cossitt Library in Memphis. She was born in that city and has been interested in birds since childhood. Miss Davant was President of the Memphis Chapter in 1932-'33 and is interested in the literature of birds.

George Davis (T. O. S. 1-20-1931) is head of the Department of Science at State Teachers College, Murfreesboro. He was born in Knox County, Tennessee, Nov. 19, 1870, and has been studying birds about seventeen years. Professor Davis is particularly interested in field observation and methods of identification.

Mrs. Sandford Duncan (T. O. S. 1-28-1921) of Nashville lives out on the Gallatin Pike in one of those rural settings where the birds and their observers like to get together. An invitation to "Duncana" always means a pleasant outing with a hostess who knows her birds.

Dan R. Gray (T. O. S. 10-20-1916) is one of our very earliest members. He is a native of Pennsylvania and was formerly engaged in the manufacture of iron. He now owns a splendid farm near Mt. Pleasant and spends his leisure time in hunting and in observing birds. He essayed falconry for a time with some success.

Vera Kearby (Mrs. E. L.) Fox (T. O. S. 10-28-1923, Sec'y. 1931) now of Beaumont, Texas, joined the Society when a student at Peabody College. She had an enviable attendance record at meetings, helped make the Field Day outings a success, assisted in producing the first volume of *The Migrant* and served as our capable Secretary before returning to Texas in 1931.

Wayland J. Hayes (T. O. S. 2-7-1930, Pres. 1931) is a member of the faculty of Vanderbilt University at Nashville. Dr. Hayes spends his summers at the University of Virginia where he teaches ornithology during the summer session. He is interested in all phases of bird work.

Damon Headden (T. O. S. 4-21-1933) is our State Director of Fish and Game Conservation. He is a native of West Tennessee and has always been interested in wild life. T. O. S. members are pleased with the administration of Mr. Headden and particularly so with the educational program being sponsored by his department which is designed to mould a greater appreciation for wild life than now exists.

Harry P(earle) Ijams (T. O. S. Sept., 1923, Pres. 1932, V.-Pres. East Tenn. 1923-'30) is a commercial artist and lives at Knoxville. He was born in that city July 20, 1876, and has been a student of bird life for thirty years. He and his charming wife, Alice Yoe Ijams, are the owners of "Island Home" bird sanctuary where they live close to nature. Their place has been "bird headquarters" for our Knoxville members for many years and there they find an excellent library of bird books as well as the collection of mounted birds that have been taken locally from time to time. His specialties are conservation and migration.

Amelia R. (Mrs. Fred C.) Laskey (T. O. S. 2-27-1928, Sec'y. 1932-'34) of Nashville is a home-maker, coming to us in 1911 from Chicago but being a native of Indiana. We are very proud of Mrs. Laskey's work and regard her as the foremost exponent of bird-banding in the South today. More than 5,600 birds has she banded to date and her station list shows that these embrace 88 species. Best of all is her ability to weigh the results of her work and to write up her findings in accurate as well as entertaining style.

Robert B. Lyle (T. O. S. 12-1-1931) of Johnson City is connected with the mercantile business. He was born at that city August 24, 1888, and has been interested in birds since a boy. At an early date he began the formation of what has become a very fine collection of eggs. These he keeps with immaculate care for study and comparison.

Franklin McCamey (T. O. S. 7-9-1931) of Memphis, was born in that city April 5, 1919, and is a student in Central High School. Frank began his bird study under Scoutmaster Coffey and is one of the most diligent and accurate of our younger observers. His particular interests are shorebirds, migration and bird-banding.

Harry C. Monk (T. O. S. 2-28-1919, Sec'y. 1920-25, Pres. 1926, V.-Pres. 1928) of Nashville became a member when a Boy Scout of 17. Being an energetic field worker, with a propensity for writing up his notes and records, he has contributed substantial information on the birds of the Nashville area. He owns a good reference library.

Nancy Lee (Mrs. Wm. P.) Morgan (T. O. S. 3-14-1916) lives on a Maury County farm close to Columbia and says she has been interested in birds as far back as she can remember. By providing her bird friends with food, water and attractive home sites, she has them with her the year round in unusual numbers.

Samuel A. Ogden (T. O. S. Sept. 1923) is connected with the Fidelity Trust Co. of Knoxville. He was born at that city Aug. 22, 1876, and has been interested in birds for about twenty years. Mr. Ogden is chiefly interested in field observation and is a skillful taxidermist.

James A. Robins (T. O. S. 11-27-1921, V.-Pres. 1921-'28) of Nashville, Tenn., was born Feb. 3, 1868, at Guntown, Miss. Until a few years ago Professor Robins was stationed at McKenzie, Tenn., where he was head of the McTyeire School for Boys. He is interested in bird study from a recreational standpoint.

Vernon Sharp, Jr. (T. O. S. 11-18-1921, Pres. 1928-'29, Curator 1935) of Nashville is in the general insurance business but finds time to coach Vanderbilt's freshmen football team during the fall. During his college days Vernon made a great reputation playing center on the varsity and his fellow T. O. S. members attributed his success to his method of spring training. This consisted of tramping the Overton Hills forest and climbing the biggest, toughest trees in order to pry into the nesting affairs of Great Horned Owls, Red-Tailed Hawks and Pileated Woodpeckers.

Jesse M(ilton) Shaver (T. O. S. 10-20-1916, V.-Pres. 1925-'26, Pres. 1927) is head of the Department of Biology at Peabody College at Nashville. He was born at Gerber, Walker County, Georgia, Nov. 29, 1888. Dr. Shaver is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and of Vanderbilt University. In 1928 he received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. In designing his courses in biology at Peabody College he has included ornithology among the electives and it has proven to be a popular subject with those taking the course. As Editor of *The Journal of the Tenn. Academy of Science* he frequently includes articles on ornithology in that publication.

Henry O. Todd (T. O. S. 2-15-1935) of Murfreesboro is Supervisor in the Wellwood Silk Mills. He was born near Satterfield, in Cannon County, and has been interested in birds for nineteen years. He is building up a representative collection of eggs of the birds of his county.

James A. Trent, Jr. (T. O. S. 1926) of Knoxville is engaged in the printing business. He was born at that city on Christmas Day, 1908, and has been interested in birds since a small boy. He is most interested in water birds and is the author of the paper which appeared in our last issue on the water birds of East Tennessee.

Bruce P. Tyler (T. O. S. 4-11-1932, V.-Pres. East Tenn. 1934-'35) of Johnson City is Land Agent for the Clinchfield Coal Corporation. He was born at Brooklyn, Pa., Sept. 17, 1874, and says he has been studying birds "always." Mr. Tyler, together with his co-worker, Mr. Lyle, has made many valued contributions to our columns on the birds of his section. He is very successful as a bird photographer and is interested in all phases of ornithology.

Harry Scott Vaughn (T. O. S. 11-10-1916, V.-Pres. 1921-'23, Pres. 1924-'25) of Nashville is a general contractor, specializing in residential work. He was born at Summerfield, Ala., Jan. 4, 1870, and says he has been interested in bird study since he was a boy of 15. At that time he began a collection

of bird eggs and when he revived his interest, on coming into the T. O. S. in 1916, he set about remaking his collection. He now has one of the most complete collection of the kind in the entire country, there being 633 species represented by one or more clutches of eggs. He is an expert photographer of bird nests with both movie and still camera, an interesting speaker and one of our most active members.

William M. Walker, Jr. (T. O. S. 2-17-1922, Sec'y. 1926-'28) of Knoxville is a chemist on the staff of the Tenn. Valley Authority. He was born at Hopkinsville, Ky., Sept. 20, 1900, and has been a student of bird life since 1916. His specialty is the study of bird life of definite areas.

Benjamin R. Warriner (T. O. S. Jan., 1933) is in the insurance business at Corinth, Miss., which is so close to the state line that we have "annexed" him to Tennessee. He was born at Corinth June 10, 1882, and has been studying birds for twelve years, although he says he was interested in them since boyhood. His chief fort is migration.

Robert A(dams) Wilson (T. O. S. 10-26-1917) of Nashville is on the staff of the Nashville Banner and has been editor of its "Fins, Furs and Feathers" Sunday feature for twenty-five years. He was born at Cannonsburg, Pa., July 8, 1954, and so far as we know is our oldest member. He is a finished writer and says his chief interest in birds lies in their aesthetic contribution to the cheer of life.

George B. Woodring (T. O. S. 12-12-1927, Editor 1930-34) of Nashville is a bank teller by occupation. He was born at Nashville August 5, 1904, and has been interested in birds about fifteen years. Mr. Woodring was The Migrant's first Editor and recalls with pleasure "the midnight oil" he burned while trying to get it out on time. He is chiefly interested in life history studies and in the water birds of Radnor Lake.



LARGE FLOCKS OF DOVES: After the nesting season, Doves usually gather together in small flocks of from six to twenty and are generally observed in those numbers during the winter. Frequently, however, singles or twos and threes are encountered. There are times, however, when the presence of much feed in fields will attract many of these scattered groups with the result that an immense flock is assembled. Mr. L. C. Jacobs, Chairman of the Tennessee Fish and Game Commission, relates that on Jan. 1, 1935, near Manchester, he saw at least 500 Doves in a buckwheat field and that in another field nearby in which sorghum had been raised, there was another very large flock. Mr. W. O. Tirrill of Nashville saw a flock of about 400 on Dec. 14, 1934, near the eastern line of Sumner County. They were feeding in a corn field in which many of the ears had been left ungathered. In Sunflower County, Mississippi, on Jan. 22, 1935, Mr. W. L. White reports seeing a flock which he estimated at more than 1,000, during a spell of very cold weather. A large flock that was very unusual, because of the lateness of the date, was seen on April 9, 1916, feeding on the ground in an open wooded pasture. At this date, many of the local Doves were nesting so it is probable that the flock consisted of northern birds engaged in migration. This last mentioned flock, about 200 in number, was seen by the Editor.

A LIST OF T. O. S. OFFICERS

BY HARRY C. MONK

Examination of the Minutes of the Society gives the following list of officers since the beginning. Prior to 1930, elections were held on the Fall Field Day but after that date they were held on the Spring Field Day and terms of office begin on July 1st following.

Year	President	Vice-Pres. East Tenn.	Vice-Pres. Mid. Tenn.	Vice-Pres. West Tenn.	Secty. or Sec.-Treas.	Curator
1915	Webb	-----	Hughes	-----	Merritt	Ganier
1916	"	-----	"	-----	Mayfield	"
1917	"	Hughes	Strong	Maury	"	"
1918	"	"	"	"	Haslock	"
1919	"	McDonald	Mayfield	"	"	"
1920	Mayfield	"	Webb	"	Monk	"
1921	"	"	Vaughn	Robins	"	"
1922	Ganier	"	"	"	"	McNish
1923	"	Ijams	"	"	"	"
1924	Vaughn	"	Mrs. Mayfield	"	"	Ganier
1925	"	"	Shaver	"	Sterry	"
1926	Monk	"	"	"	Walker	"
1927	Shaver	"	McNish	"	"	"
1928	Sharp	"	Monk	"	"	"
1929	"	"	"	Coffey	Crook	"
1930	Ganier	"	Hayes	"	"	Monk
1931	Ijams	Bamberg	"	"	"	Ganier
1932	Coffey	Crouch	"	-----	Laskey	"
1933	"	Ijams	Mayfield	-----	"	"
1934	Mayfield	Tyler	Vaughn	Coffey	"	"
1935	"	"	"	"	Bamberg	Sharp

Editor-Treasurer, G. B. Woodring (1930-1934), A. F. Ganier (1935—).

THE ROUND TABLE

BELL'S VIREO AT MEMPHIS: The small "unimproved" area between the rear of some North Parkway homes and the L. & N. R. R. tracks, and in the shadow of the Sears-Roebuck building, has proved an unusual bird haven. A clump of trees, bushes, vines, and back-yard hedges, along a creek, shelter quite a number of nesting birds. Since the Painted Bunting (pair No. 4 of last summer) nests here, this spot has been often visited. The song of a Warbling Vireo was also pointed out to bird students and an occasional Red-eye or White-eye Vireo noted. However, the short song of a vireo, apparently the Warbling with "off" notes, finally brought realization of a bird song different from the others. The song seemed to be a cross between that of the Warbling and that of the White-eyed and I determined to identify its owner. The singer proved to be a small vireo closely resembling the White-eyed species. It possessed white wing-bars and the yellow underneath was less intense than that of the White-eyed. The eye was conspicuously dark and the eye-ring was faint if present at all. Its song was studiously learned and later seemed more to resemble that of the Bluebird and of the Warbling Vireo. This bird was seen many times and was shown on June 24th to Messrs. Eugene Odum and Coit Coker, of Chapel Hill, N. C., who later wrote

from the West that the "Sears-Roebuck Vireo" closely resembled the Least Vireo (*Vireo belli pusillus*). The nest and two spoiled eggs of this vireo was found on June 30, built four feet up in an elm bush in the thicket. It was abandoned shortly after, and I was unable to locate another although the pair scolded from likely places. Following our local precedent (as set in the case of the formerly very rare Painted Bunting), we did not collect one of the birds to substantiate a first Tennessee record of what we feel sure was the Bell's Vireo (*Vireo belli belli*). Rather we hope to find it here again next spring at the same locality. Knowing the other vireos by sight and song, we feel that no mistake has been made here; the bird tallies with the description of the Bell's, especially as to its song. BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

A WHITE IBIS NEAR MEMPHIS: On the morning of September 2, while struggling through the foot of soft mud that overlies a small shallow pond just south-east of North Lake, about eight miles south-west of Memphis, I noticed a peculiarly shaped heron-like bird, sitting on a dead snag about 100 yards away. With the glasses, it appeared to have reddish-orange legs, and a very long, down-curved reddish bill, with which it was preening its feathers; the rest of the plumage was a grayish white. Disregarding the two hundred shore birds that fed in the shallow water nearby, I was attempting to approach closer to this queer bird, when, with a loud squawk, he left his perch, circled over my head, and then struck out over the lake. This manoeuvre clearly showed his black-tipped primaries, entirely white plumage, and curved bill; he flew with neck outstretched and was slightly larger than a Little Blue Heron. A thorough search of the lake failed to flush the bird again, but the light was good, the distance (when he flew over) less than fifty feet, and there is no other bird which this description would fit except the White Ibis (*Guara alba*). This bird is a summer resident in South Carolina, Florida and along the Gulf Coast. The present record is the first for this species in Tennessee.—FRANKLIN MCCAMEY, Memphis.

BIRDS ABOUT A FARM HOME: We live in summer in a log cottage on a Giles County farm, and the birds which nest about the place are numerous and afford us much pleasure. The house is set in a two-acre grove of black locust trees which in turn is surrounded by pastured lands. A never-failing spring flows from the hillside near the house and this perhaps is one reason we have so many birds nesting near. The birds which nest in and about the grove are as follows: Orchard Orioles 10 pairs, Mockingbirds 5 pairs, Catbirds 3 pairs, Doves 4 pairs, Brown Thrashers 2 pairs, Summer Tanagers 2 pairs, Blue-jays 5 pairs, Bluebirds 3 pairs, Bewick's Wrens 2 pairs, Carolina Wren, Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Chimney Swift, Chipping Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1 pair each. Birds seen daily but whose nests have not been located are Carolina Chickadees, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Black-and-White Warblers, Wood Pewees and Field Sparrows. From a thicket across the field comes the song of a Chat and Meadow Larks and Killdeers live in the open fields about. Down near the creek, in a grove of beech trees, near the barn, a pair of Barn Owls have their headquarters, and an old darkey tenant who lives there hears the young give their odd calls during the summer. Many other sorts of birds of course make occasional visits to the place.—SARAH OGLEVIE (MRS. SAM H.) ROGERS, Buford.

THE DOVE HUNTING SEASON: The season for hunting these birds, which has heretofore been from September 1st to December 15th, has been set forward in the South to from September 21st to January 5th, by the U. S. Biological Survey. The chief reason is because of the fact that some doves

extend their nesting into September and late reared birds are of small size and offer easy targets. Some further reasons which occur to us are as follows: Many hunters will not resist the temptation to shoot other game, such as quail, if allowed afield with a gun; while doves have held their own fairly well, still the advent of fast highways and auto transportation now puts ten hunters in the field to one two decades ago and the doves can scarcely continue to stand the strain; the usual hot dry weather of September 1, brings doves to water holes and shooting them there, as is a favored custom, partakes of the nature of "baiting", now outlawed for ducks; the hunters who contend that the doves will all be gone by October 1, are in error for these birds will not leave a grain growing state like Tennessee to go south into cotton country. Giving up the custom of hunting doves on the Labor Day holiday is a point that has been raised with some merit and about the only counter we can offer to that is that the first of September usually finds the weather too hot to hunt.

We referred the question to our fellow member, Dan R. Gray, of the Maury County grain belt, because as a keen bird student and lover of hunting as well, we felt him best qualified to size up the situation. Mr. Gray's reply, in which we concur, is given below:

"In regard to the new limits for the dove season. The way I feel about it, the sportsmen ought to favor the season that would be more likely to perpetuate the shooting, and while it is true that it would be easier to kill the limit on Sept. 1 than it would be on Oct. 1, I am in favor of the later season, and most of my friends here seem to feel the same way, although a friend or two in Columbia, when I was there last week, seemed to feel the other way, in fact, one of them said if they would open the season Sept. 1, and make it last only two weeks, he would like it better than a season from Sept. 21 to Jan. 5. You are right about the numbers of young doves on Sept. 1; also the old ones have not completed their moult by that time, and of course fly faster later on. It is true, however, that they do not feed in the wheat stubble after the weeds and vines cover the ground, for they do not like to feed in heavy cover. But as wheat is cut in June and July and the weeds have six weeks or more to grow, they are generally about as thick on Sept. 1 as they are on Oct. 1. The point they make about Labor Day I think is not worth much. If a man wants to shoot doves, he will buy a license, no matter when the season opens.

"In regard to the doves being 'all gone' by October 1; if they were not shot at in September, I think they would stay. I expect a lot of the talk the sportsmen are putting up is due to disappointment in having to wait a month longer. Everybody who has shot doves knows that any grain field where they congregate is only good for a few days shooting, as they get wild quickly and will leave any place where they are persistently shot at. I think that doves around here have decreased some, but not very much, in the last 20 years. There are not as many as usual this year, due to the fact that the ground was covered with ice and snow for a couple of weeks last winter, and many of them froze and starved to death.

"Personally, I would much rather work hard all day and get the limit, than to sit under a bush and kill the limit in an hour. When I do that, I feel like I have lost a day's sport—a sort of 'nothing to do 'till tomorrow' feeling. I believe the later season will result in our having more doves in the State, and that is what the sportsmen ought to want."—DAN R. GRAY, Mount Pleasant.

SCARCITY OF BIRDS IN LATE SUMMER: This bird note is for the purpose of telling what I do not know rather than what I do know. My purpose is to invite from readers of *The Migrant* notes and articles that will tend to solve my question: What becomes of the birds in July-August-September? What becomes, more particularly, of the Orchard Orioles in late summer? This bird arrives in the Mid-South in April, and nests here. During the month of June it is common along the roadsides, in yards, and orchards almost everywhere. Suddenly, say the last of July or sooner, the bird disappears. Where does he go? Also, what happens to many other kinds of birds at this season? Of course, it is generally understood that after the nesting season nearly all of the birds grow quiet. They sing less, indeed many kinds seem to leave off singing entirely. But surely many of them leave the country. In the early summer here in North-east Mississippi, four miles from Tennessee, the Indigo Buntings are among the most abundant of the migrants. A walk through their usual haunts in early September reveals only a few scattered ones. The same is true of the warblers. In the woods an occasional wood thrush is seen or heard, but they are not to be compared in numbers with their abundance of early summer. Summer Tanagers are still found, though rarely. Is an answer found in the fact that the birds are still here, but dull and listless and therefore difficult to find? Or do they actually leave the country? If they leave, where do they go?—BENJAMIN R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

RADNOR LAKE NOTES: The Loon that was first seen on Radnor Lake Dec. 13th, was recorded there each Sunday until it was found nearly dead on July 10th, floating upon the surface of the water. Upon examination, the bird was found to be very emaciated, there being very little flesh on its body. There was no apparent reason for this condition as the bird was observed a few weeks before its death, feeding upon a small sun fish. This explains the unusually late records for this Loon as have been recorded in these notes before. There were seven Terns, believed to be Least Terns, flying over the lake on Sept. 1st. The first water fowl seen on the lake this fall were observed on Sept. 22nd, 4 Horned Grebes. A few late nesting records as taken from my note book; a colony of Barn Swallows feeding young in their nests on June 30th, Kingbird with young June 30th, Chat nest with 1 egg and 1 small young on July 14th.—GEORGE B. WOODRING, Nashville.

HOW A CUCKOO ATE A CATERPILLAR: On September 9, while out looking for birds, I saw a Yellow-billed Cuckoo light on a large electric wire about twenty feet away. I noticed that the bird had a hairy caterpillar about one and a half or two inches long in its bill. Instead of giving the caterpillar a few sharp blows against the wire to kill it before swallowing it, I noticed that the cuckoo was working it up into a pulp by releasing it and then catching it again a little nearer one end. By this means the caterpillar was worked through the bill from one end to the other several times until it was literally a pulp. All this time I was wondering if the Cuckoo was not just sucking the juice from the caterpillar and did not intend swallowing it at all. But, after the caterpillar was thoroughly pulped up, it was swallowed in the usual fashion.—GEORGE DAVIS, Murfreesboro.

REELFOOT LAKE improvements are under way, by C.C.C. forces, which will make the attractions of the Lake and its swamps more accessible to naturalists. Boatways, trails, foot-logs and markers are planned and these will enable visitors to penetrate at any season into places where one must now wade and employ a guide. The creation of an herbarium about the Biological Station at Walnut Log is one of the objectives.

A TRIP TO A HIGHLAND MARSH: About seven miles north of Springfield there is a thirty-acre marsh in a low area of the more or less level country which surrounds it. In early spring, the low woods adjacent are also flooded to a shallow depth. The marsh proper is well grown with cat-tails and other sorts of marsh grasses, interspersed with thick patches of button-bushes and occasional dead tree trunks and stumps. The place holds water the year round and has small fish and minnows in it.

During the afternoon of May 18 and the morning of May 19, I spent a number of pleasant hours at this interesting place. The bird life here is of such variety as can only be found in a few other spots in Middle Tennessee. From the Red-shouldered Hawk, soaring with its young, to the Prothonotary Warbler, building its nest in a knot hole, there is an unexcelled array of avian life. Most of the afternoon of the eighteenth I spent in hunting for the King Rail or its nest, but to no avail (see *Migrant* June '34, p. 28). However, a better discovery was made. As I came through a patch of button-bushes, a female Wood Duck whistled over my head. It undoubtedly had young for as I searched the plot that it had arisen from it repeatedly flew over my head. My belief was substantiated when, on the following morning, from the railroad at the other extremity of the marsh, I saw another Wood Duck lead six ducklings across some open water in the cat-tails. These six brown, downy youngsters followed their mother in double file until I plunged in after them, whereupon they disappeared into the rushes. In all probabilities these birds nested in the Pileated Woodpecker holes that adorned the dead trees. The evening of the eighteenth, as I walked toward my camp (an abandoned cabin), a Woodcock arose in a twisting flight from the shaded bog where it had been feeding. That night I was entertained by the peepings of the tree frogs, the resonant bellowings of the bull frogs and the distant laughing call of the Barred Owl.

A pouring rain awoke me the following morning, and, to my dismay, it continued with scarcely a stop until eleven o'clock. While waiting for the rain to abate, I spent some time in watching a Wood Pewee build its nest, which is an enlargement of that of a Hummingbird, in a sweet gum tree near the cabin. At ten o'clock I realized that the rain had no intention of stopping, so I started out to see how the birds were faring. As I entered the marsh I was greeted by a sweet song that was quite unfamiliar to me. There were five notes in the song, which resembled that of the Carolina Wren; the two last notes were on a descending scale. For nearly fifteen minutes I followed this elusive songster through the button-bushes, but was unable to get even a glimpse of it. Finally, I decided that I might as well stop and let it make the next move. Its curiosity soon caused it to fly into a cottonwood tree overhead to get a look at me. Although I remained there for only two or three seconds, its appearance was thoroughly imprinted in my mind. It was neither heard or seen again. Its size, a yellow breast, a grey hood, and a black band at the base of the hood in front, identified it as a Mourning Warbler, one of Tennessee's rarest transients. The three or four other local spring records also occur during the middle of May.

Through the small trees on the west side of the marsh a family of five White-breasted Nuthatches searched diligently up and down the trunks for insects. Leaving the wooded area I again entered the more open part. It was surprising to note the scarcity of Red-wing Blackbirds. Only five pair were seen. In every dead tree there were Downy and Red-bellied Woodpecker holes, some of which contained the nests of the Crested Flycatcher, Chickadee, Titmouse, Prothonotary Warbler, and Sparrow Hawk. Reluctant though I was to leave this fertile field of observation, a glance at my watch told me that I must be on my way. As I left, a Red-shouldered Hawk circled overhead to bid me a final farewell.—JACK CALHOUN, Nashville.

BARN OWLS AND OTHER NOTES: For the last three years we have had a pair of Barn Owls nesting in the hollow trees on my lawn. This year they came off about the first of July, and the old ones seem to be still feeding the two young ones, as we can hear them crying every night. The young ones have a rasping cry different from the scream of the old birds. In 1933 these owls raised two broods, one, of three, coming off late in June, and one of two coming off in November. The November brood were still crying about nearly to Christmas. I don't know whether this is usual or not, but it is the only instance I know of. Last year, 1934, the owls only had one young one. In 1933 there was another nest of Barn Owls at a neighbor's farm, about a mile distant. A pair of Screech Owls nest near the house every year, but the different owls do not seem to interfere with each other. . . I see the pair of Pileated Woodpeckers every day or two about the place, but they do not come very near the house, and probably will not until the magnolia seeds are ripe. . . I have seen no Upland Plover so far this year but heard one passing over late one evening. Mr. Scott tells me that he heard one last week, but could not locate it.—DAN R. GRAY, Mount Pleasant.

NESTING NOTES FROM MURFREESBORO: Some late season nesting dates are as follows: Chuck-Wills-Widow, June 27, 2 eggs, incubation 8 days, one egg nearly unmarked; Prairie Warbler, July 2, 4 eggs, 1 fresh; King Rail, July 2, 12 eggs; Black Vulture, July 7, 1 addled egg and 1 young a week old (on Sept. 15 this young bird was still in the nest); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, July 8, 3 young a week old; Cooper's Hawk, July 10, 4 young, left nest July 29, nest very large and had been used for three years; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, July 17, 1 fresh egg, nest very small; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, July 17, 4 eggs with 1 of the Cowbird, all eggs spoiled; Goldfinch, July 11, 3 eggs, fresh, and another on July 19 with 5 fresh eggs; Indigo Bunting, Aug. 4, 3 fresh eggs. Of the Wood Pewee, 8 nests with fresh eggs (2 or 3) were found on these dates: June 13, 14, 16, July 5, 8, 15, 17 and 29. Most of the latter were second sets. The one on July 29 was the third set for this pair and the one egg was laid in the first nest, in which young were reared. A second nesting in early July was unsuccessful. Eight pair of Lark Sparrows have been located along the Hall's Hill Pike; in addition to the nests described in June *Migrant*, a nest with 4 eggs was found on June 8. On June 27 nests of the Killdeer and Nighthawk were found within 10 feet of each other; they were on a rocky glade and held 2 eggs each. A Killdeer nested on the flat graveled roof of the one-story Wellwood Silk Mills at Murfreesboro and on May 23, the four young were seen running along the edge of the roof. Possibly assisted by a gusty breeze, they soon fell the 15 feet to the graveled road below; one was killed by the fall but the others got up and trotted off. Being but a few days old, they had sprouted no wing feathers to help lighten their fall. The female nested again on the building and about six weeks later another brood was seen on the roof but I had no opportunity to check up on their fate.—HENRY O. TODD, Murfreesboro.

GOLDEN EAGLE IN CLAY CO.: On my rounds, on July 4, I found a Golden Eagle that had been shot by a boy of 14 at close range. This was in Clay County on Line Creek near the Kentucky line. The only injury this bird received was that the end of one wing was completely shot off making it impossible for it to ever fly again. This eagle is a beautiful full grown bird and I confiscated it for the Department of Fish and Game.—L. G. REED, District Game Protector, Gainesboro, Tennessee.

Note: This eagle was shipped by Mr. Damon Headden, State Director of Fish and Game, to a small zoo at Columbia where he will be well taken care of. The boy was given a lecture by Mr. Reed.—Editor.

AN ALBINO RED-TAILED HAWK: About January 5, there was caught in a trap about 20 miles south of Chattanooga, at McLemore Cove, an albino Red-tailed Hawk. The plumage of the bird is entirely pure white except for a small blackish speck on the left shoulder. About ten days later the bird was brought to Chattanooga and I took the opportunity to examine and measure it. The bill is white, somewhat pinkish at the base; the pupil black; the iris apparently yellowish, though I was not able to see it clearly in the dim light available; the tarsi yellow and the claws mostly black. The measurements are as follows; length 19.5, wing 14.75 and tail 9.0, all in inches. These agree with the measurements of the male Red-tailed Hawk; the female of the Red-shouldered, the only hawk with which it might be confused, is appreciably smaller. The captive had been fed a squirrel and a chicken when I saw it, the owner no doubt thinking it was the standard diet for this bird. I urged him to release it, but have been unable to learn of its final disposition. WILBUR K. BUTTS, Chattanooga.

[NOTE:—There is a published record, with photo, of a perfect albino Red-tailed Hawk, captured near Nashville in 1930. This was reported on by Dr. H. C. Sanborn in *The Wilson Bulletin*, Vol. 42, p. 220.—Editor.]

A SEPTEMBER CENSUS AT KNOXVILLE: The annual (all day) fall migration census by the Knoxville group was taken on Sept. 15. Seventy species of birds were listed by the twenty-five observers who took the field. The Island Home bird sanctuary served as the focal point for the listing, which also included the Island Airport and the Tennessee River. Since no September bird lists have appeared in *The Migrant* the species noted are recorded below.

Green heron, turkey vulture, Cooper's hawk, sparrow hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, bob-white, killdeer, spotted sandpiper, mourning dove, yellow-billed cuckoo, screech owl, nighthawk, chimney swift, hummingbird, kingfisher, hairy woodpecker, downy woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, flicker, kingbird, phoebe, wood pewee, Acadian flycatcher, blue jay, purple martin, crow, tufted titmouse, chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren, Bewick's wren, brown thrasher, mockingbird, catbird, wood thrush, olive-backed thrush, robin, bluebird, blue-gray gnatcatcher, cedar waxwing, starling, red-eyed vireo, yellow-throated vireo, white-eyed vireo, black and white warbler, Tennessee warbler, magnolia warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, pine warbler, Wilson warbler, prairie warbler, Kentucky warbler, Maryland yellowthroat, yellow-breasted chat, Canadian warbler, red-start, meadowlark, orchard oriole, purple grackle, summer tanager, English sparrow, American goldfinch, field sparrow, song sparrow, towhee, cardinal, indigo bunting.—H. P. IJAMS, Knoxville.

OBSERVATIONS FROM NORTH-EAST TENNESSEE: The Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) put in its appearance near Johnson City, Tennessee, April 20, 1935. This bird had been expected and long was the vigil for it. There were reports, a year or more ago, of its appearance in North Carolina, which added zest to the search. The observation was made along the edge of a "rainy weather" lake. Ample time was had for the inspection with binoculars and I was able to approach within ten feet before provoking flight. This is a casual occurrence of interest. It may indicate a tendency toward extending its breeding ground eastward from that originally occupied west from the Mississippi Valley. The identification is not difficult; the male bird resembles the Red-winged but without red on the wings and has whitish eyes and purplish head. The female is not striped, resembling more the female of the Rusty but is more grayish. This species appears to have the combined characteristics of the Rusty and the Red-winged. I do not like

the names of persons applied to birds. The Brewer's Blackbird does not say much to the student. If the scientific name had been followed, it would have been called the Purple-headed Blackbird. The specific portion of the scientific name, *cyancephalus*, is derived from the Greek *ciano*, meaning purple and *cephalus*, head, so scientifically speaking we have the purple-headed Euphagus as contrasted with the Carolina Euphagus or Rusty Blackbird.

The Eastern House Wren appeared at Johnson City, Tennessee, April 25, 1935. This species is regularly observed during migration but nests here only with extreme rarity. A few miles to the north, in Virginia, it nests regularly. Perhaps, in time, it will extend its habitat to include this locality. . . . The Northern Water-Thrush was observed at Johnson City, Tennessee, May 5, 1935, a very rare bird in this section. . . . The Yellow-Throated Vireo was found nesting May 19, 1935, on Indian Ridge, about four miles northwardly from Johnson City. The nest was located in an oak tree on the southern slope of a dell just north of the top of the ridge, about twenty feet up and ten feet out, on one of the lower limbs. The nest was made in the usual vireo form, covered with lichens and lashed between forking branches. The nest contained a full clutch of four eggs incubated about four days. This was a rare find.

The Starling continues its useful life here though in somewhat reduced numbers. Since the advent of the Starling there has apparently been a marked reduction in the number of insect pests in our gardens. For instance, I have raised potatoes for two years without applying poison to control the bugs, and this year I have gathered sweet corn unblemished by the corn borer, something not done here for many years. One has but to observe the feeding habits of the Starling to be assured of their value to agriculture. Watch them as a flock of hundred or more birds glean the insects from the farmers fields, strutting along, they turn over each small stone, chip or leaf to find their food. Highly insectivorous, they are a blessing to the farmer. It seems to be the consensus of opinion that we are short about one-third of our native birds. Perhaps this shortage will be replaced by the Starling, resulting in a better control of noxious insects.—BRUCE P. TYLER, Johnson City.



HOW A BOY SCOUT EARNS HIS MERIT BADGE FOR BIRD STUDY:

To obtain a Merit Badge for Bird Study, a Scout must:

1. Produce a list of forty species of wild birds which have been personally observed, and positively identified in the field.
2. Produce a list showing the greatest number of species that he has seen in the field in one week.
3. Produce a list, derived from personal observation, of twenty species of birds particularly noted for their value to agriculture in the destruction of insects.
4. Produce a list, derived from personal reading, of ten birds of prey particularly useful in the destruction of rats and mice.
5. Name ten species of birds particularly useful in protecting the trunks of trees from borers, bark-lice, and scale insects.
6. Describe at least two bird boxes and two food tables that have been erected by him, the species of birds that have been attracted by them, and how many of the birds have nested in these boxes.
7. State what he has done to protect birds from wicked and unjust slaughter; to promote long, closed seasons for vanishing species; and to promote the creation of bird preserves and sanctuaries.

To the experienced bird student these requirements from the "Handbook

for Boys" must seem elementary indeed, and this they really are when we consider how broad and complex the bird field may become for the advanced student, but the beginner, the Scout who has determined to earn his Merit Badge for Bird Study, looks at these requirements with an entirely different aspect. To him they symbolize hours of study over bird books and days of tramping fields, woodlands, and farms. He knows that, although all of the work will be interesting, it will be difficult.

The first requirement which calls for the production of "a list of forty species of wild birds which have been personally observed, and positively identified in the field," has been termed by William T. Hornaday, "a test that will determine the taste and ability of any beginner in the practical study of birds". It is certainly a test that, if completed, will give the Scout an entrance into the bird world. At any rate, all Scouts consider it the most difficult of the seven requirements, probably because of the fact that in completing this one requirement much progress is usually made toward the completion of the other six.

When I first began work on this requirement, I knew only fourteen birds, but by much field work and by the study of books on the subject, I was able to effect a steady increase in the number of my bird acquaintances. I found Chester A. Reed's "Bird Guide" with its colored plates to be an excellent field guide for the beginner, and I am sure that there are other good ones with which I am not familiar. A reliable guide of one sort or another is essential to the progress of every beginner.

While I was working on this first requirement, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to go on a bird hike with Mr. Bruce P. Tyler and Mr. Robert B. Lyle of Johnson City. There is nothing in the course of study of a beginner that is so helpful as an association with a living teacher, who can go in the open with him and name the birds accurately, and I was especially fortunate in having an association with these men, who have had so much experience in the field of bird study.

The third requirement which calls for the production of "a list, derived from personal observation, of twenty species of birds particularly noted for their value to agriculture in the destruction of insects," is a test that calls for some definite work on the part of the Scout in the form of accurate personal observations of the birds of the vicinity to determine which are useful in the destruction of insects. It is not really a difficult test; all that is required is patience. In the woods and in my own yard I was able to see the birds busy at this most useful occupation of destroying man's enemy, the insect.

The other requirements, as I have said, are met naturally as progress is made on the first one, and none of these caused me any particular trouble.

The last two requirements, which state that the scout must have erected bird boxes and food tables and have done something definite "to protect birds from wicked and unjust slaughter," seem to me to require a type of work that is most important and one that should be stressed even more in order that we may keep our bird friends with us.

Now that I have fulfilled the requirements and have qualified for my Merit Badge for Bird Study, I realize that my work has not been without its remuneration. I have had the satisfaction of seeing a difficult task completed, and, because of my study, I shall always have an invaluable personal relationship with nature.—RUSSELL B. DRIVER (*Eagle Scout*), Bristol.



THE MIGRANT

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*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,
it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

EDITORIALS

October 7th marks the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, the first State organization of its kind to be attempted in the South. Since that time, we have witnessed the organization of similar societies in Kentucky (1923), in Virginia (1929) and such an organization is now being effected in Georgia. It is hoped that other states will fall in line. National organizations for the study of birds, such as the American Ornithologists' Union and the Wilson Ornithological Club, have been friendly toward the formation of state and local organizations, knowing that they reached and developed new human material by reason of closer contacts.

The Migrant has consistently reserved its pages for the publication of matter pertaining to birds rather than to their observers. On the present occasion, however, it seems fitting to devote the major portion of our space to telling something about the people who have made or who are making the Society possible—who by their organized efforts have enabled those of us who have, in birds, a common interest to know each other. We do not choose to be hermits and no game is worth the playing without the companionship of our fellows.

The accomplishments of the T. O. S. are reviewed on other pages. Cumulatively they are large and although it has sometimes been difficult to perceive them, from month to month, yet we can look back and see a steady and definite development. More people are becoming interested in birds and increasingly do they form the topic of conversation. They are being given notice by far more people, who are anxious to learn something about them. Birds are being regarded as fellow beings rather than as inanimate objects unworthy of notice. Conservation, however, while it ranks high in our program, is not our greatest end for being. Bird protection now an assured reality, the Society may give more attention to the interests of its members with a view of increasing their pleasure by assisting them toward finding pleasant recreation in the study of birds.

The Society's annual Fall Field Day will be held at Nashville on Sunday, Oct. 13, 1935. The day has been designated as the occasion for celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Society's founding and members from all parts of the State and elsewhere are urged to be present. Cars will meet at 16th and Broad at 8:15 A. M., from whence they will go to Idlewild Wood on Stones River. Luncheon will be served on the grounds.

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