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DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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## SOME JUNE BIRDS OF THE GREAT SMOKIES

BY ALBERT F. GANIER AND ALFRED CLEBSCH

Experiences with birds that are rare in one's own State or which can only be found there in very limited areas, must always bring a thrill to the bird student. It was the good fortune of a group of T.O.S. members\* to enjoy such experiences when from June 13 to 20, 1938, they spent the time observing and listing birds in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, chiefly at the higher altitudes.

Our group made headquarters at Gatlinburg, being comfortably housed there in tourist cottages, for which arrangements and other favors, we were indebted to our fellow member, Mr. Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist. Early each morning our party motored to "the tops," usually to Newfound Gap, and from there worked the State-line ridge which forms a lengthy backbone, extending for many miles.

On these trips we covered Mt. Le Conte—6593 feet above sea level, Alum Cave and Peregrine Cliff—4700, The Jump-off and Mt. Kephart—6200, Newfound Gap—5045, Indian Gap—5265, Mt. Collins—6125, Andrews' Bald—5860, Clingman's Dome—6642 and the State-line ridge to Siler's Bald—5620 feet. June 16 was spent in and about Cade's Cove and from there a part of our group hiked to the nearby tops where, on Spence Field Bald—4886, they had the pleasure of flushing two Golden Eagles from the ground, the spot being marked by the bones and fur of a fox. The eagles arose, when surprised at close range, and majestically soared away. We were told later, by Miss Agnes Milger of Cleveland, who with her father had been on this 'bald' on June 12, that on that day they had found the torn body of a fox lying on the ground and that a large bird was seen circling overhead—doubtless the same scene that our party was to come upon four days later. Several of these birds, which had been trapped near Nashville a few years ago, were 'exiled' to the Park and it is hoped that the pair seen on Spence Field were of those that had been released.

The Duck Hawk, or Peregrine Falcon, is one of those rare and spectacular birds which all ornithologists who visit the Park hope to see and

\*Those who composed the party were Alfred Clebsch and his son Alfred, Jr., Ben B. and Mrs. Coffey, George Davis, Albert F. Ganter, Robert Mengel, Chas. F. Pickering, Misses Willie Ruth Reed, Evelyn Schneider, Mabel Slack and Emilie Yunker, Arthur Stupka, Eugene Wallace, W. M. and Mrs. Walker, Mrs. C. A. Barefield and son, Leroy. A series of photo reproductions to illustrate this article will be found on another page.

our group was not disappointed. On June 13, we were on the observation tower on top of Clingman's, looking over the pointed tops of the fir trees and into the ragged gorges to the northwest, when suddenly we caught sight of one of the falcons sweeping across the landscape with the speed of an arrow. As we looked, it was joined by another and then a third one. For twenty minutes they gave us a demonstration of meteoric aerial prowess, at times diving downward from far above, then rapidly soaring across or wheeling about the mountain spurs with the aid of the stiff breeze. On the 18th, at Alum Cave, we saw another pair; they soared for a few minutes about the great cliff and over the cove where they breed each year, then disappeared.

Ravens, too, are always among the hoped for rarities and we were treated to a sight of three of these birds late one afternoon, on the Skyline Drive near Indian Gap. They were leisurely flying northward, on their way to roost, and passed us only a few hundred yards distant, croaking as they flew. One or two were recorded here on two other occasions and once at Collins Gap. What a relief it must be to these rare birds to realize that the Smokies are now a safe haven where they are no longer menaced by shotgun and rifle. The Skyline Drive also yielded us a flock of ten Red Crossbills, a species which was new to most of our party. They were within fifty feet of the road feeding upon spruce cones as we sat and watched them. Some Northern Pine Siskins were observed at close range on the summit of Clingman's Dome picking about in the granite gravel under the fir trees. Siskins were also seen at other locations.

Twenty species of the warbler family were recorded during the week at various altitudes. Several Golden-winged Warblers at above 5000 feet were a surprise to us; a pair of these were at Indian Gap and the male was heard singing every day but the day we visited Cade's Cove. Perhaps the most interesting of our warbler finds was a nest of the Canada Warbler, containing three nearly fresh eggs, on June 15. It was found by Miss Slack, just off the trail to Andrew's Bald from Clingman's. This species is not uncommon but to find the nest, tucked back in the moss on the ground amid a jungle of undergrowth, is a very difficult matter. It was found by patiently watching the female as she returned to the nest after feeding. The nest, built of soft, fibrous materials on the foundation of green moss and leaves, was tucked into a steep, dry slope, under dense shade.

The Carolina Juncos or "Snowbirds" furnished us continuous entertainment for they were easily the most common birds of the high altitudes and were abundant on the sunny, grassy tops as well as in the sunless, virgin forests lower down. Looking for their nests, built in the "cuts" alongside the trails, proved to be an irresistible pastime and many were found. They were also found built into the roots of upturned trees and in the little fir trees that had sprung up in burned-over areas. Many nests held fresh eggs while most of the others had been vacated by the young of the year which were abroad and being fed by their parents.

Among the other species peculiar to these high altitudes and which were therefore of particular interest to us, were the Red-breasted Nuthatch,

Black-capped Chickadee, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Veery, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Mountain Vireo, Winter Wren, Blackburnian, Cairns's and Chestnut-sided Warblers, a just-completed nest of the last mentioned being found in a briar on Clingman's. Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen and heard on eight occasions, most often along the Skyline Drive where the habitat is quite different from the coniferous swamps in which they are found breeding in Canada.

Possibly the highlight of our trip was that of discovering three nests of the Southern Brown Creeper, the nest of this new sub-species not having heretofore been recorded. The first of these nests was found on June 14, watching one of these birds among the conifers until it suddenly disappeared under the loose bark of a large dead spruce. It was built eight feet above the ground and ten feet from The Jump-off trail. A quantity of fresh nest material protruded from under the bark and it was quickly realized that we had found a nest. The bird remained within only briefly, but returned in a few minutes with more nesting material. Our group watched the pair for some time as they busily engaged themselves with nest building. One of our party then advanced, hopeful of photographing one of the Creepers at the nest while standing against a nearby tree, but they would not venture so close, although remaining near and making some protest. Several photos were made of the nest in situ, one of which is reproduced on another page. The body of this nest was made almost entirely of the light, corky sapwood of dead spruce, which had been torn off in strips the length of a match. We presumed this nest would have been ready for eggs within a few days. The second nest was also in process of construction and was similarly located, in a ravine near Newfound Gap.

The third nest was along the Skyline Drive, in a large dead spruce on which the bark was still completely intact. At one point, however, about forty feet from the ground, the bark had buckled out so as to provide a space within, about two inches across. The birds were entering thru a crack to one side and there was no external evidence of a nest. It's presence was discovered by watching one of the birds fly to the tree and enter the crack. It did not leave so it was assumed to be incubating. Upon securing a permit from Park authorities to examine the nest in detail, the senior author (A. F. G.) climbed to it on June 19 and found it to contain five eggs, nearly fresh. The nest, unlike the one described above, was composed externally of the tips of dead spruce branches from which the leaves had fallen, then a half inch layer of the dead sapwood strips and finally, a thick lining of the soft, silky, silver-colored inner bark shreds from the spruce trees. The eggs were white, flecked with small dots of reddish brown, chiefly about the larger end but not in the form of a wreath.

The appended list will show the distribution and relative abundance of the 87 species of birds found within the Park by our party. The names conform to those given in the A. O. U. Check-list, 1931 edition. The compilation and tabulation of the various lists was done each night by the junior author and upon the completion of our stay, he made up the summary which follows below.

- A—1500 ft. to 2500 ft. elevation: To top Siler's Bald; Little River Gorge; Laurel Falls trail; Road to Cade's Cove; in Cade's Cove.  
 B—2500 ft. to 3500 ft.: Foot of the Chimneys; Anthony Creek trail.  
 C—3500 ft. to 4500 ft.: From Grassy Patch to Alum Cave; Bote Mt. trail.  
 D—4500 ft. to 5000 ft.: Highway at head of valley, third tunnel, and Newfound Gap; Spence Field Bald.  
 E—500 ft. to 6000 ft.: Newfound Gap to the Jump-off; Alum Cave to Le Conte; Newfound Gap to Indian Gap to Forney's Ridge, Andrew's Bald, Siler's Bald.  
 F—6000 ft. to 6000 ft.: Top of Mt. LeConte; Clingman's Dome.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
Turkey Vulture				1	2	
E. Red-tailed Hawk	1				1	
Broad-winged Hawk				2	2	
Golden Eagle					2	
Duck Hawk					2	3
E. Ruffed Grouse	1	1	2	1	11*	
E. Bob-white				1	2	
American Woodcock	2					
E. Mourning Dove	3					
N. Barred Owl		1	1			1
E. Whip-poor-will	1					
Chimney Swift	2	2	3	3	8	4
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	8		4	1	4	
E. Belted Kingfisher	3					
N. Flicker	6	1		1*		
N. Pileated Woodpecker	1			1	1	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				2		
E. Hairy Woodpecker			1	2	4	2
N. Downy Woodpecker	1			1	2	
N. Crested Flycatcher	1					
E. Phoebe	19	1			2	
Acadian Flycatcher	10	3				
E. Wood Pewee	6	2		4	1	
Olive-sided Flycatcher			2	2	4	
Rough-winged Swallow	11					
Purple Martin	4			2		
S. Blue Jay	4	1	2		11	
N. Raven					3	
Crow	15	3				
Black-capped Chickadee			1	3	20	1
Carolina Chickadee	7		2*			
Tufted Titmouse	2	1				
White-breasted Nuthatch	1					
Red-breasted Nuthatch			3	2	22	3
Brown Creeper	1			5	29	
E. Winter Wren			4	8	17	5
Carolina Wren	8					
Catbird	4	1	2	1	5	
Brown Thrasher	1					
Robin (subsp?)	10	5	1	4	10	2
Wood Thrush	12	3	7			
Veery			9	17	50	
E. Bluebird	2			2		
Golden-crowned Kinglet			3	3	16	
Cedar Waxwing	2		3		8	
Starling	2					

	A	B	C	D	E	F
White-eyed Vireo	8	1				
Yellow-throated Vireo	3					
Mountain Vireo		1*	3	6	15	
Red-eyed Vireo	17	15	1			
Black and White Warbler	3	1				
Worm-eating Warbler		3*				
Golden-winged Warbler				2	4	
E. Yellow Warbler	3			1		
Cairns's Warbler		2	11	2	25	
Black-throated Green Warbler	5	2	9	2	9	
Cerulean Warbler		(1)?				
Blackburnian Warbler					2	
Yellow-throated Warbler	1					
Sycamore Warbler	2*					
Chestnut-sided Warbler			2	7	39	5
N. Pine Warbler	2					
N. Prairie Warbler	4					
Oven-bird		4	3		3	
La. Water-thrush	5	2				
Kentucky Warbler	8	8				
N. Yellow-throat	3				4	
Yellow-breasted Chat	16					
Hooded Warbler	11	3				
Canada Warbler			3	3	18	
American Redstart	4					
S. Meadowlark	2					
E. Red-wing	2					
Scarlet Tanager	3		1			
Summer Tanager	1	2				
E. Cardinal	11	1				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			1		3	
Indigo Bunting	28			3	1	
N. Pine Siskin				4	4	8*
E. Goldfinch	26			5		
Red Crossbill					10*	
Red-eyed Towhee	9		5	2	16	2
E. Grasshopper Sparrow	3					
Carolina Junco		1*	9	19	116	18
E. Chipping Sparrow	7					
E. Field Sparrow	5					
E. Song Sparrow			1			

NASHVILLE, TENN. (A.F.G.) AND CLARKSVILLE, TENN. (A.C.)

\*E. Ruffed Grouse—includes 8 young. N. Flicker—on Spence Field Bald. Carolina Chickadee—these 2 may have been Black-capped Chickadees. Mt. Vireo—to 2600 feet. Worm-eating Warbler—plus immature birds being fed. Sycamore Warbler—with young. Carolina Junco—at 2600 feet.

## SUMMER RESIDENT LISTS

BY OUR MEMBERS

In our June issue we suggested that lists of our most common summer residents be compiled for our respective localities so that a cross-section of our summer bird life could be presented in these pages. Another objective was to secure some new contributors to our publication and to encourage our members to notice some of their bird neighbors from this standpoint. For this reason a list of only five species thought to be the most common summer residents in one's area was set as a minimum. The suggested list was one that included the ten most common species in relative order for the contributor's home county or some part thereof. From representatives of our larger and older chapters whose home territory had been worked more by a larger number of observers and over a longer period of time, we were glad to receive larger lists. These were accompanied by notes and other comment which we felt should be included. Thus we abandoned our idea of a comparative tabulation even before we attempted to work out a possible way to publish the data in that form. Instead, we leave the reader to make the comparison and to note the variation in the summer birdlife of our state. Speaking for the Shelby County list and possibly many others, the data presented should be considered as only preliminary due to natural limitations. We desire to express our sincere thanks to those members who co-operated with *The Migrant* in making the necessary observations and notes and preparing such lists.

**Reelfoot Lake**—Lake proper and wooded fringes. Am. Egret, Double-crested Cormorant, Coot, Least Bittern, Little Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Red-wing, Prothonotary Warbler, Wood Pewee, Bronzed Grackle. After mid-July the Least Bittern should possibly be replaced by the Pied-billed Grebe.—TOM SIMPSON, Southwestern, Memphis.

**Shelby County**:—In order, but to be considered only as preliminary: Mockingbird, Meadowlark, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Blue Jay, Orchard Oriole, English Sparrow, Wood Thrush, Bronzed Grackle, Chimney Swift, Brown Thrasher, Maryland Yellow-throat, Mourning Dove, Red-eyed Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, Carolina Wren, Robin, Red-wing, Bluebird, Killdeer, Summer Tanager, Wood Pewee, Flicker, Carolina Chickadee, Bob-white; also Nighthawk, Purple Martin, Tufted Titmouse, Loggerhead Shrike, and Hooded Warbler.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis

**Humboldt**.—Cardinal, Mockingbird, Indigo Bunting, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Bluebird, Bronzed Grackle, Chimney Swift, Red-wing, Killdeer.—ALBERT J. MARSH, Humboldt.

**Decaturville**:—Area south of town. Carolina Wren, Indigo Bunting, Mourning Dove, Bob-white, White-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Carolina Chickadee, Cardinal.—BEN WELCH, JR., Memphis.

**Hardin County**—Pleckwick Dam Park and vicinity of Counce.—In order: Pine Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bluebird, Mockingbird, Purple Martin, Orchard Oriole, Chipping Sparrow, Meadowlark, Wood Thrush, Brown Thrasher.—HOWARD COUNCE, Hardin County.



**Mt. Pleasant.**—Dan R. Gray farm.—200 acres with fields interspersed with cover; small stream and a half-acre pond. In order: Robin (nests all over the place), Meadowlark, Blue Jay, Brown Thrasher, Cardinal, Catbird, Carolina Wren, Bewick's Wren, Mourning Dove, Indigo Bunting. Additional notes follow in the 'Round Table'.—DAN R. GRAY, Mt. Pleasant.

**Pulaski and Environs.**—Crow, Field Sparrow, Robin, Cardinal, Bronzed Grackle, Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, Catbird, Mockingbird, Bluebird.—MRS. SARAH ROGERS, Pulaski.

**Rutherford County.**—In order: English Sparrow, Starling, Field Sparrow, Bewick's Wren, Meadowlark, Mockingbird, Robin, Chipping Sparrow, Bluebird and Brown Thrasher.—GEORGE DAVIS, DR. JAMES B. BLACK, AND H. O. TODD, JR., Murfreesboro.

**Nashville Area.**—In compiling such a list as this, some limits must be set and many factors considered. In the first place, I have eliminated 'city area' by excluding all territory within 4 miles of the court house and this tends to cut down the ranking of such birds as the Robin, Mockingbird, Wood Thrush and English Sparrow. The extreme limit set is 15 miles from the court house, thereby embracing large tracts of woodland as well as cut-over land, thickets, wooded pastures, meadows, cultivated and abandoned fields. The hilly and often rocky nature of much of this area has been the cause of a very large percentage of it being covered by thickets or else uncultivated. 'Clean cultivation' has been the exception rather than the rule because much of the tilled land is occupied by tenant farmers. For these reasons, the most abundant breeding birds of the area are those which prefer thickets, and next are those which prefer wooded pastures and cut-over lands. When one considers how many such habitats are available and that each has its quota of birds that prefer such conditions, he will realize that perhaps the birds most often seen are not necessarily the most common. The Mockingbird, for instance, is conspicuous in flight, might be given higher rank than they deserve; these include the Carolina Wren, Chimney Swift, Blue Jay, Crow, Bronzed Grackle, etc. The writer has specialized upon the nesting habits of birds for many years and the ranking given below comes largely from the general 'impressions' of relative abundance rather than from a tabulation of census lists. A final check upon the ranking given comes from observations made upon the number of old nests found during the winter months for they may be readily identified by an experienced observer.

The list is given below but it may frankly be stated that almost any species might be moved up or down one position, and possibly more toward the end of the list. In order, I would place them as follows: No. 1.—Field Sparrow, 2.—Cardinal, 3.—Northern (Maryland) Yellow-throat, 4.—Indigo Bunting, 5.—White-eyed Vireo, 6.—Yellow-breasted Chat, 7.—Towhee, 8.—Mockingbird, 9.—Brown Thrasher, 10.—Carolina Wren, 11.—Prairie Warbler, 12.—Bluebird, 13.—Red-eyed Vireo, 14.—Blue Jay, 15.—Carolina Chickadee, 16.—Downy Woodpecker, 17.—Orchard Oriole, 18.—Flicker, 19.—Catbird, 20.—Bob-White, 21.—English Sparrow, 22.—Robin, 23.—Tufted Titmouse, 24.—Mourning Dove, and 25.—Wood Pewee.—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville.

**Paris.**—Blue Jay, Cardinal, Mockingbird, Chimney Swift, Carolina Wren, Towhee, Crow, Robin, Catbird, Carolina Chickadee.—PAUL CROSSWY, Paris.

**Clarksville.**—The task of listing the commonest summer residents among the birds of our county seems simple, but it has shown to us members of the Clarksville Chapter that our studies have not yet brought us to the point where we can give a dependable answer. Montgomery County, in which we live, is principally a farming area, but changes from flat and gently rolling terrain in its north central section to hilly territory in the southern, eastern and western parts, where wooded slopes outnumber the tilled acres. To strike a proper balance for these different bird habitats in our county has been another difficulty. We are unanimous that the Indigo Bunting is the most abundant of our native summer residents, closely followed by the Cardinal and Field Sparrow. On each farm there is such a horde of the English Sparrow that we must place him in a group with these three members of the Sparrow family. Next in order we rank the Catbird, the Robin and the Towhee, and in the third group we place the Carolina Wren and the Maryland Yellow-throat. As fourth in the scale of abundance during the summer we would name the White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos and the Chipping Sparrow. This is a total of 12 species that seem to us outstanding in the number of individuals by which they are represented.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville.

**Springfield.**—Cardinal, Field Sparrow, Crow, Indigo Bunting, Mourning Dove, Bob-white, Meadowlark, Bronzed Grackle, Catbird, and Tufted Titmouse.—FORREST V. DURAND, Springfield.

**Bon Air.**—Camp grounds only. Very common—Chipping Sparrow, Goldfinch, Field Sparrow, Pine Warbler. Common—Cardinal, Bluebird, Towhee, Wood Pewee, Carolina Chickadee, Ruby-throated Hummingbird.—SARAH O. ROGERS, Pulaski.

**Knox County.**—In order: Field Sparrow, Carolina Wren, Chimney Swift, Starling, Titmouse, English Sparrow, Carolina Chickadee, Crow, Blue Jay, Mourning Dove, Towhee, Wood Thrush, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Bluebird, Song Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Downy Woodpecker, Meadowlark, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Black and White Warbler, Summer Tanager, Redstart, Phoebe and (25.) Mockingbird. We have followed the suggestions as set forth by Mr. Ganier and readily admit that any species could be rerated either way by one or more positions.—W. M. WALKER, WILLIAM M. JOHNSON, Knoxville.

**Knox County—Island Home Pike section.**—In order: Purple Martin, Itobin, Carolina Wren, Bluebird, Wood Thrush, Cardinal, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Brown Thrasher, Red-eyed Towhee. These have been more common this year than usual. The following less common species have nested this year in about the usual numbers: Phoebe, Field and Chipping Sparrows, Blue Jay, Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Bob-white, Mockingbird, Prothonotary Warbler, Screech Owl, Wood Pewee, Crested Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, Mourning Dove. There has been a definite shortage of the more uncommon species which are listed herewith: Black and White Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Maryland Yellow-throat, La. Water-thrush, Ovenbird, White-eyed, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cowbird, Indigo Bunting and Song Sparrow.—H. P. JAMS, Knoxville.

**Lake Andrew Jackson (Knox County).**—It has been my plan for several years to follow the bird life of some particular locality; and since Lake Andrew Jackson has received the major part of my "bird-time," this present project called for little extra work on the part of Charles Baird, Mrs. Walker, and myself. Once each week from July 16 to August 21, inclusive, we spent the early morning at the lake and vicinity. Our area included approximately 150 acres roughly divided into 40 acres in water, 10 in pasture, 52 in thickets and woodland, and the remainder in land subject to cultivation. The route over this territory covered the best habitats available and was selected with the idea of visiting the most densely populated areas in such a manner that duplication in counting was at a minimum.

Trips were made on July 16, 24, 30, Aug. 8, 13, and 21. Species listed numbered 47, 53, 37, 32, 37, and 26 respectively, and a grand total of 65 for the period. After each trip the ten most numerous species were listed,—with surprising results. Twenty species were included one or more times in the six lists with only the Song Sparrow and English Sparrow in every "high-ten" list. Originally we planned to submit only our final list with a few comments, but because of some unusual results we wish to develop our results a little more fully.

Red-wings were very numerous in mid-July but were all gone by Aug. 7. Starlings were abundant when in flocks but scarce as individuals yet the flocks were not consistent in appearance. On July 24 we found a flock of Chickadees, Titmice, Black and White Warblers, and White-breasted Nuthatch in our area where the Yellow-throated Vireo stayed. These birds behaved very similar to the winter feeding flocks in that they were alternately active and quiet. The Purple Martin which was reported in flocks on July 30 were found in flocks by us on Aug. 13 and 21. The Martins roosted in the dead trees in and around the lake. One flock of Crows on Aug. 21 was sufficiently large to make this bird rank sixth for the entire period.

Trip Ranking: July 7.—Starling, Red-wing, Mourning Dove, Carolina Chickadee, Blue Jay, Song Sparrow, Tufted Titmouse, Kingbird, English Sparrow, and Bluebird. July 24.—English Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Chickadee, Goldfinch, Titmouse, Red-wing, Black and White Warbler, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Kingbird. July 30.—Starling, Song Sparrow, Dove, Bluebird, Blue Jay, Field Sparrow, English Sparrow, Purple Martin, Kingbird, and Chimney Swift. Aug 7—Song Sparrow, Starling, Dove, Bluebird, Blue Jay, Robin, Field Sparrow, Cardinal, Green Heron, and English Sparrow. Aug. 13—Purple Martin, Starling, Song Sparrow, English Sparrow, Chimney Swift, Bluebird, Dove, Green Heron, Field Sparrow, and Kingbird. Aug 21—Purple Martin, Crow, Dove, Song Sparrow, English Sparrow, Bluebird, Blue Jay, Kingbird, Cardinal, and Starling. Final rating—Purple Martin, Starling, Song Sparrow, Mourning Dove, English Sparrow, Crow, Bluebird, Chickadee, Red-wing, and Field Sparrow.

The weak point in this rating is that the territory was not sufficiently large to give the gregarious birds a true status but this is counter-balanced by the fact that the smaller area can be studied more thoroughly.—Wm. WALKER, Knoxville.

**Johnson City Area.**—So much depends on circumstances and locations that it is very difficult to name the most common of our birds. I have seen 500 Crows in a single flock most common for that day's observation; also 100 or more Prairie Horned Larks in one day but the average I should list somewhat as follows: Starling—resident, breeding throughout up to about 5000 ft. elevation but more numerous in the lowlands as low as 1100 ft. (our floor). English Sparrow—resident in Upper Austral and Transition Zones. Conditions in our Canadian Zone are not conducive to its propagation. E. Robin—summer resident, breeds abundantly throughout N. E. Tenn. in all zones. 1100 to 6300 ft. elevation (our ceiling). Mockingbird—resident, breeds freely in Upper Austral and Transition Zones observed as high as 3000 ft. Catbird—summer resident throughout this region. Wood Thrush—very common summer resident in woodlands of the Upper Austral and Transition Zones. Meadowlark—Resident, breeds freely in Upper Austral and Transition Zones. Song Sparrow—Resident, breeds abundantly throughout this region. The subspecies breeding is the Mississippi race, but in winter it is replaced to considerable extent by the Eastern type. It is my opinion that the former migrates to a great degree. Bluebird—Resident, breeds throughout. Carolina Junco—Breeds in the Canadian Zone and winters in the lowlands of the Upper Austral and Transition Zones. This is the most common bird on its breeding ground in summer.

The Flicker is a close contestant for any of the last four positions.  
--BRUCE P. TYLER AND ROBERT B. LYLE, Johnson City.

**Greeneville:**—An area of two square miles, north of town, consisting of open woods and thickets broken by rolling upland pastures and extending down to Lick Creek. English Sparrow, Mockingbird, Cardinal, Brown Thrasher, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Song Sparrow, Catbird, Carolina Wren, Field Sparrow.—WILLIE RUTH REED, Greeneville.

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park—Camp Margaret Townsend:**—About 20 acres; a small open field slopes upward from Little River into the forested slopes of Rattlesnake Ridge below Tremont. Heavy logging near camp. In order: Chipping Sparrow, Catbird, Phoebe, Goldfinch, Acadian Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush, Carolina Wren, Black and White Warbler, Sycamore Warbler.—WILLIE RUTH REED, Greeneville.

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park—Gatlinburg (1200-2000 feet elevation):**—Cardinal, Field Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Wood Thrush, Goldfinch, Phoebe, Catbird, Carolina Wren, Robin, Bluebird.—ARTHUR STUPKA, Park Naturalist.

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park—Spruce-fir region (4,000-6,600 feet elevation):**—Carolina Junco, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Veery, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Mtn. Vireo, Cairns's Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Hairy Woodpecker, Winter Wren.—ARTHUR STUPKA, Park Naturalist, Gatlinburg.

## BIRD BANDING BREVITIES—NO. 13

BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

In seven years systematic trapping, during which more than twelve thousand birds of 110 species have been banded, there has been only one of these birds trapped and released by a bird bander in another state. On April 14, 1938, Dr. K. Christofferson trapped **Junco** No. 37-84478 at his station in Blaney Park, Michigan. This bird had been banded at Blossomdell substation on November 29, 1937.—During the past year I have been experimenting with 'plume' marking,—that is, fastening colored feathers in the tails of resident birds with Duco cement. This method has been found satisfactory as a means of field identification by bird students at Cornell but here it did not work so well for the plumes that were not lost became so sooty and bedraggled that many of the colors were indistinguishable. One objective was to mark all the Chickadees and Tufted Titmice that came to the feeding shelves in order to determine whether the twosomes that fly together in winter are mates or merely chance companions. Two colors did survive sun bleaching and soot darkening and two **Carolina Chickadees** marked with red and orange came together all winter. The red-plumed one occasionally chased others from the sunflower seeds. In April their courtship behavior proved they were mates. On a limb above the feeding shelf, the orange-plumed individual was seen posturing like a begging juvenile with quivering wings while the red-plumed male fed her. Later in the season the male was trapped, minus his plume, when he brought some youngsters to the station. Although this pair happened to be of the same size, the male averaged a few grams heavier throughout the non-breeding season.—Dr. Cynthia Counce of Memphis used some of the plumes at her feeding station and found that a pair of **Carolina Wrens** remained together during the winter and mating seasons.—A late migrant **White-Crowned Sparrow** was banded May 18.—**Bronzed Grackle** B394136, an adult male banded March 28, 1934, at the Belle Meade substation was retaken there March 22, 1938, with no intervening recapture records.—**Mockingbird** B270752, banded September 15, 1933, was trapped a quarter of a mile from the banding station by Miss Ann Hamilton on May 27, 1938. It had not been retaken in the five year interval.—**Blue Jay** B353963 banded at Belle Meade April 25, 1933, was found shot to death there on June 3, 1938, at least six years old.—Some very interesting **Indigo Bunting** returns were obtained this spring although this species was very scarce at the station, only five new ones being banded. No. H73036, a male, banded August 30, 1933 was a return—4 on May 19, 1938, aged 5 years. No. 34—8180, a female banded August 21, 1934, spent July and August of 1936 at the station, repeating frequently. She reappeared May 16, 1938 and again had the trap habit, sometimes repeating several times a day and dropping an egg while entrapped on the 24th. A few days later she died apparently from strangulation caused by a millet seed in the trachea. The plumage of this old bird was unusual as her head and breast were heavily marked with blue. Mr. Ganier now has the skin in the collection. The other males, No. 34—87190 and No. 34—87213, were returns—3 in May, 1938. The former is three years old and

the latter four years or more.—**Goldfinches** have been difficult to trap. Of the ten banded, two were taken in 1933 and eight in 1935. Therefore it was a rare treat to get two this summer; one was an adult male in brilliant summer plumage on August 31, the other, a female trapped September 3rd which had been banded August 7, 1935. Both were trapped between 5 and 6 P.M. the male weighing 11 grams and the old female 13.8 grams.—An unusual record for the **Canada Warbler** was obtained when one flew through an open window of a Nashville hotel in the central business section, about 7:30 P.M. July 31, after a heavy rain. It was brought to the banding station on the next day, in good condition except for the loss of its tail incidental to catching it. After banding it was weighed, given a drink of water and released. From plumage markings, size, and weight, it was identified as an adult male.—A few recovery records of special interest have been received from the Biological Survey. **Golden Eagle** No. 36—802822 caught in a steel trap at Watertown, Tenn. and released February 26, 1936 at Gatlinburg by Mr. Stupka, Smoky Mountains Park naturalist, was killed at Head Waters, Virginia on March 10, 1938.—**Red-shouldered Hawk** No. 34—661450 banded January 14, 1937 (mentioned in the March, 1937 Brevities) was caught (and probably killed) at Lansing, Michigan on March 20, 1938.—**Screech Owl** No. 34—509922, banded March 30, 1934, at the home station, was deported at the time to woods about 2 1-2 miles out. On March 6, 1936, it was again captured at the home station and once more deported, being released at Chapel Hill, Tennessee, about 40 miles north. On December 8, 1937, it was caught in a hollow tree at Eagleville, Tenn. about ten miles north of Chapel Hill. Unfortunately there can be no further record of the travels of this bird because the misinformed finder removed the band, sending it to Washington instead of reading the number. He held the bird sometime awaiting a new band from the Biological Survey, and finally released the owl unbanded.

NASHVILLE, TENN., September 7, 1938.

## RAMBLING WITH THE BIRDS

DR. CYNTHIA C. COUNCE

The period of June 7 to 21, 1938, was spent at Pickwick, which is located on the Tennessee River southeast of Shiloh National Park. Birds were plentiful and Howard Counce and I were able to list 64 species during our stay. Many of the warblers found here earlier in the spring had already moved on to their favorite nesting grounds farther north.

We enjoyed our breakfasts about 5:30 A.M. each morning in a pavilion on the reservation about forty feet from the lake. Often this meal was interrupted when some new water bird would splash into the water near us. After breakfast it was our custom to follow the trails made by the C.C.C. boys around the lake and make an annotated list of our land birds. On some occasions when we wanted glimpses of the Pileated Woodpecker or Barred Owl, we would take to the deep woods. One morning we were exploring the high bank of Chambers Creek, when suddenly a "ball of fire" came flying through the heavy foliage just over our heads—"Redstart!" we acclaimed. This beautiful warbler was quite a treat to the eyes. We then

turned towards the Tennessee River which was only a few paces away. From beneath the cool willows, we could watch the Kingfisher skim the waves for food, or scan the sky for the Osprey searching for his tasty repast. He seems to haunt this region since the erection of the dam.

Pickwick Lake formed by the Tennessee River at this point, should become a very attractive locality for waterbirds of all kinds as well as the Bald Eagle and the Osprey which feed on rough fish.

The "Turkey Knob" in the vicinity of Pickwick Dam, towers higher than any of the surrounding hills. Its lofty peak has always beckoned to me, since its area was about the only territory in that region that I had not explored. One morning Howard suggested that we explore this knob in hopes of finding the Scarlet Tanager or something unusual to give us another thrill, so we began our long climb to the top. All was quiet on the summit much to our disappointment, so we ambled down the farther side. Suddenly we came upon a house in a clearing. There on the back fence was erected a rugged box, made for Purple Martins. As we paused to rest on the back porch we observed to our utter surprise that a pair of Crested Flycatchers were nesting in the box. This box was about twelve feet high and was almost inaccessible, but with the aid of boxes and tubs we finally, with much difficulty, managed to climb to the nest and bring out two fledglings. We placed them on the porch and attempted to photograph them. The nest consisted of a few pine needles, dried sticks and fragments of snake skin. Both parent birds made frequent calls to this single room bird house, bringing grasshoppers and other insects.

Later, at Natural Bridge, near Waynesboro, we found the Louisiana Water-thrush wading thru the rippling shallows of a small hill branch, teetering his tail continuously. We were fortunate enough to hear him give his wild ringing song which thrilled all who came within its sound. This was also an ideal place to observe the Thrushes and Phoebe which were then so busily engaged in their struggle for existence with the appetites of their young ever crying for more and more.

MEMPHIS, TENN.

## BIRD BANDING STARTED AT CLARKSVILLE

BY MRS. JOHN Y. HUTCHINSON

Under a Biological Survey permit issued to the writer, this interesting phase of bird study was initiated in Clarksville on March 11, 1938. This followed much preliminary work as a result of visits to Mrs. Laskey's banding station at Nashville by some of our local members and of the many valued suggestions made by her. In addition to the home station and Mr. Clebsch's substation, Dr. Pickering began trapping two months later; the delay being due to a shortage of traps and bands,—the latter resulting from the full success of our initial efforts. His station adjoins the premises of Mr. Clebsch. All stations now have about five traps each and are getting good results. During the winter we found millet to be ideal bait but have used chiefly bread this summer, with pokeberries, canary seed, and sunflower seed for variety.

In our first six months about 600 birds of 33 species have been banded.

More Bronzed Grackles.—namely, 88—have been banded than any other species; 65 were by Mr. Clebsch and 20 by Dr. Pickering. Runners-up were the Catbird, 74, and the Brown Thrasher, 67. 56 Field Sparrows were banded, all at the home station. Next in order were: Cardinal, 44; Towhee, 42; White-crowned Sparrow, 32; Bewick's Wren, 28. The only warblers were: Md. Yellow-throat, 1; Yellow Warbler, 1; and Chat, 5. Only 8 White-throats and 7 Juncos were banded. A single Gambel's Sparrow was of special interest and during spring migration a Gray-cheeked Thrush was banded by Mr. Clebsch.

Our most consistent repeaters were Brown Thrashers (highest for one individual—21 times, next—17), Catbirds (15 and 12), Tufted Titmice (19 and 12 times), Cardinals, Towhees, Bewick's Wrens, Carolina Wrens, and the champions themselves,—the Field Sparrows. Out of 56 of this species banded about 50% have repeated from 1 to 10 times and some as high as 18, 20, 24, and 30 times each,—all within the period of Mar. 17 to Apr. 15, 1938. I am now beginning to trap a few immature Field Sparrows but not a single adult has been near the traps since that period altho there seemed to be many in the vicinity all summer. An unusual incident on Sept. 12, proved that at least one of my banded adults had been near the station. A Black Snake, about 4½ feet long, was found in my 'tunnel' trap located near the tall weeds in adjacent vacant lots. A .22 rifle ended his career and he was tossed far into the weeds. I'm sure there had been no birds in the trap when the snake entered but as I went about my housework I couldn't forget that big reptile. Earlier in the morning I had banded and released nearby a very wet and bedraggled immature Catbird and the thought now struck me that perhaps my Catbird had been a victim of this snake. So I looked nearly an hour to find the snake, which to my relief, did not contain the Catbird. But the tears came to my eyes at the sight of a nearly digested but still recognizable small mass of wet feathers and two tiny legs. The band 38-72399 around one tarsus identified the bird as my own special little Field Sparrow that had repeated 30 times from Mar. 25 to Apr. 16, this spring.

In all, six banded birds have been found dead and reported,—all near the stations. From our traps we have 7 records classed as 'returns' under the standard arbitrary definition that lists as such all records with a lapse of at least three months since previous trapping. In our limited period of operation we have not, of course, had time to have any 'recoveries' or interesting 'returns'. We look forward to the advent of our winter birds again, awaiting as all bird banders have at one time or another, the thrill of first re-trapping those of 'our own' birds which may return after a season's sojourn in far places,—perhaps the farther portions of our continent.

CLARKSVILLE, TENN., Sept. 17, 1938.

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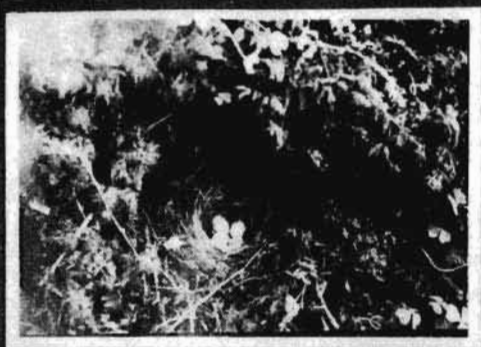
OUR ILLUSTRATIONS:—The 20 photos on the next four pages, illustrate the article on the birds of the Great Smokies. Numbers 1 and 2 show members of the party on Andrew's Bald and on Clingman's Dome lookout tower. No. 3, a little Red Squirrel at lunch. No. 4, how the squirrel was photographed (Schneider, Davis and Slack.) No. 5, group under Alum Cave cliff, watching Duck Hawks. No. 6, group in Cades Cove. No. 7 and 8, nest of Brown Creeper, protruding from under dead bark. No. 10, inspecting a Brown Creeper's nest, forty feet up. No. 11, nest of Cairns Warbler in rhododendron. No. 12, nest of Carolina Junco, tucked in fern moss. No. 13, nest and eggs of Ruffed Grouse, at foot of beech. (continued on page 59)







7-Nest of Brown Creeper.





14



15



16



17



18



19



20

## BLACKBIRD BANDING IN THE MID-SOUTH—I

BY BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

This is a tabulation of recoveries of blackbirds banded at Nashville, Pulaski, Memphis and Water Valley, Miss., and Monticello, Ark. With data on Bronzed Grackles, Cowbirds, Red-wings, and Rusty Blackbirds, we include that on Starlings because the latter, altho not scientifically classified with the blackbirds, are for convenience commonly grouped with them because of various similarities and frequent mutual association. Because of lack of time and space, local repeats and returns for Bronzed Grackles and Starlings, trap behaviour and analyses of the data in the tables, are not included at present but will follow in later issues. We are indebted to fellow-banders for their data so kindly furnished. These are: Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey of Nashville, Mrs. Sarah O. Rogers of Pulaski, Mr. C. M. Owens of Monticello, Ark., and Mr. E. Earl Bell of Water Valley, Miss.

Migrating flocks of Grackles and Starlings in late winter and early spring furnish the bulk of the trappings and the bulk of the recoveries. Winter flocks of Starlings also appear at times and start a run on a banding station. Because these species are generally without legal protection, and also are killed because of ignorance and because their flocking habits make them attractive targets to many gunners, the proportion of recoveries secured and reported is higher than for most other passerine species. The tables below are to some extent self-explanatory. Since the sub-stations at Memphis handled 'loads' equal to or greater than the home stations, the name of the operator is also tabulated. In fact, some of these stations were operated for and during blackbird migration periods only. Terms such as 'Coffey-1' refer to a separate location, as differentiated from '-2' or '-3'. We tried to list the recoveries systematically but succeeded perhaps, only with the Cowbirds.—We might call attention at this point to an unusual coincidence,—the recovery of separate Grackles at Altheimer, Ark. from Water Valley, Miss. and Monticello, Ark., respectively.

We are indebted to Messrs Hugh McCain and Tom Simpson for the reproduction of the maps of recoveries which are attached at the end of the issue. Places not listed are: Table I—McKim, Sask, not located on atlas; Table III—Newell, Ont., unable to locate on atlas or thru correspondence. Table Iib—None shown.

### BRONZED GRACKLES

Number banded	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	Total
Nashville .....1—1931	59	22	30	11	55	80	51	309
Pulaski .....					77	111	192	380
Memphis .....4—1929			5	173	184	950	32	1348
Water Valley .....		24				20		44
Monticello .....						113		113

Note: Pulaski—includes preceding winter months. Nashville—adults only. Memphis—migrating adults only (differentiated as far as possible).

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS (continued)—No. 14, view from the trail on Mt. LeConte. No. 15, road near Newfound Gap. No. 16, 17, 18, some peaks and valleys of the Smokies. No. 19, Chimney Tops, most beautiful peak. No. 20, nest of Carolina Junco in tree roots. Photos No. 16, 17, and 18, were taken by Mr. Coffey; No. 4, 5, 6, 11, 13, 14, 19 and 20, by Mr. Ganler; No. 1, 2, and 15, by Dr. Pickering; No. 3, 8 and 10, by Miss Schneider, and No. 7, 9 and 12, by Miss Slack.

**TABLE I. BRONZED GRACKLES—DATES OF BANDING AT MEMPHIS  
DATES AND PLACES OF RECOVERIES ELSEWHERE**

RECOVERIES SHOWING MIGRATION AND SUMMER RANGE				
A314137	Coffey	Feb. 24, 1929	Oct. 27, 1929	Highland, Ill.
34-340821	Coffey-1	Jan. 22, 1935	Apr. 1, 1935	Charleston, Ill.
34-340887	McCamey	Jan. 24, 1935	May 17, 1935	Cooter, Mo.
34-353426	Coffey-2	Feb. 27, 1935	July 7, 1935	Webberville, Mich.
34-353428	Coffey-1	Feb. 27, 1935	May 5, 1935	Rock Co., Wis.
34-354401	Coffey-2	Mar. 11, 1935	Apr. 16, 1935	Paulding, Ohio
34-354422	Coffey-1	Apr. 9, 1935	May 18, 1935	Pleasantville, Iowa
34-354507	McCamey	Mar. 19, 1935	June 1, 1935	Carp Lake, Mich.
34-354516	McCamey	Mar. 28, 1935	May 15, 1935	Killarney, Man.*
34-354406	Coffey-2	Mar. 21, 1935	Oct. 30, 1935	Kansas City, Mo.
34-354423	Coffey-1	Apr. 9, 1935	May 5, 1936	Staceyville, Iowa
34-354501	McCamey	Mar. 15, 1935	Mar. 13, 1938	LaCenter, Ky.
35-333519	McCamey	Feb. 19, 1936	Apr. 5, 1936	Nashua, Iowa
34-367752	Roost	Mar. 15, 1936	July 26, 1936	Brownton, Minn.
37-312022	Wallace	Feb. 26, 1937	March, 1937	Toledo, Ohio.
37-312156	Coffey-2	Mar. 9, 1937	Apr. 22, 1937	Treloar, Mo.
36-333435	Wallace	Feb. 21, 1937	May 12, 1937	Indianapolis, Ind.
37-312730	Shaffer	Mar. 12, 1937	May 29, 1937	Springfield, S. D.
37-312071	Wallace	Mar. 8, 1937	June 1, 1937	McClure, Ohio
37-312076	Wallace	Mar. 9, 1937	June 17, 1937	Oxford, Ind.
34-367389	McCamey	Feb. 26, 1937	Last week of July, 1937	Dubuc, Sask.
37-312110	Wallace	Mar. 2, 1937	Aug. 3, 1937	Laird, Sask.
37-312776	Coffey-2	Mar. 2, 1937	Aug. 20, 1937	Shelbyville, Ind.
34-367359	McCamey	Feb. 19, 1937	Sep. 8, 1937	Galena, Ill.
A395213	Wallace	Feb. 14, 1937	Sep. 29, 1937	Goldfield, Iowa
37-312546	Coffey-2	Mar. 16, 1937	Nov. 7, 1937	Farmland, Ind.
A395176	Wallace	Feb. 4, 1937	Mar. 27, 1938	Mequon, Wis.
A395221	Wallace	Feb. 14, 1937	Apr. 13, 1938	Huntington C. Ind.
37-312091	Wallace	Mar. 13, 1937	Apr. 23, 1938	Beach Grove, Ind.
34-367856	Vardaman	Feb. 2, 1937	May 21, 1938	Easton, Ill.
37-312610	Wallace	Mar. 21, 1937	May 28, 1938	Rockport, Ky.
37-312798	Coffey-2	Mar. 30, 1937	June 1, 1938	Modesto, Ill.
36-333486	Coffey-2	Feb. 24, 1937	June 13, 1938	Pana, Ill.
37-310942	Coffey-2	May 1938	June 25, 1938	McKim, Sask.

\*This bird had a nest with 6 young therein; released alive.

**RECOVERIES SHOWING RETURN TO WINTER AND EARLY SPRING MIGRATION RANGE**

34-340875	McCamey	Jan. 22, 1935	Feb. 15, 1936	Waterford, Miss.
34-340893	McCamey	Feb. 18, 1935	Mar. 27, 1937	Lepanto, Ark.
34-354505	McCamey	Mar. 17, 1935	Dec. 29, 1935	Helena, Ark.
35-319089	McCamey	Jan. 29, 1936	Mar. 6, 1938	Ashport, Tenn.
35-333583	McCamey	Feb. 20, 1936	Feb. 9, 1938	Parchman, Miss.
37-312183	Park	Feb. 25, 1937	Mar. 6, 1937	Osceola, Ark.
37-312059	Wallace	Mar. 5, 1937	Mar. 29, 1938	Tyronza, Ark.
37-312836	Shaffer	Apr. 10, 1937	Apr. 10, 1938	Dimple, Texas

**TABLE II BRONZED GRACKLES—DATES OF BANDING—DATES AND PLACES OF RECOVERIES**

MONTICELLO (ARK.)	37-305309	Feb. 26, 1937	May 20, 1937	Laura, Sask.
	37-305362	Mar. 9, 1937	May 25, 1937	Elkhorn, Neb.
	37-305392	Mar. 16, 1937	Sep. 2, 1937	Alzheimer, Ark.
	37-305373	Mar. 11, 1937	Mar. 30, 1938	Superior, Iowa
WATER VALLEY (MISS.)	B307991	Apr. 5, 1933	Apr. 1, 1934	Alzheimer, Ark.
PULASKI	35-328453	Jan. 16, 1936	Apr. 20, 1936	Gladesville, Tenn.
	35-335111	Feb. 18, 1937	Aug. 19, 1937	Lakeside, Ohio
NASHVILLE	B331828	Apr. 2, 1932	Feb. 9, 1933	Savannah, Tenn.
	B331825	Apr. 1, 1932	Nov. 27, 1933	Centerville, Ala.
	B394176	Oct. 3, 1934	Jan. 25, 1935	Rienzi, Miss.

**IIB RECOVERIES OF 'FOREIGN' GRACKLES AT STATIONS**

A253311	Madison, Wis.	Fall of 1930	Mar. 15, 1931	Water Valley
A281883	Kansas, Ill.	May 25, 1934	Mar. 15, 1936	Lakeview, Miss.
34-300373	Cincinnati, O.	May 24, 1935	Feb. 21, 1937	Pulaski

**STARLINGS**

	Number banded	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	Total
Nashville	.....	207		86	5	5	303
Pulaski	.....			142		11	153
Memphis	.....			415	30	2	447

Note: Pulaski—includes preceding winter months; likewise Memphis, '37.

**TABLE III STARLINGS—DATES OF BANDING—DATES AND PLACES OF RECOVERIES**

<b>MEMPHIS</b>				
35-333684	Powell	Jan. 29, 1936	Mar. 19, 1936	Athens Co., Ohio
35-336555	Wallace	Feb. 7, 1936	Apr. 6, 1936	Fairbanks, Pa.
35-333591	McCamey-3	Feb. 24, 1936	May 20, 1936	Newell, Ont.
35-333667	Powell	Jan. 24, 1936	Jun. 1, 1936	Ripley, Ohio
35-319069	McCamey	Jan. 27, 1936	Jun. 28, 1936	Kalkaska, Mich.
35-333590	McCamey-2	Feb. 23, 1936	Aug. 13, 1936	Chatham, Ont.
35-212791	McCamey	Feb. 21, 1936	Mar. 1, 1937	Clarksdale, Miss.
35-213111	Wallace	Feb. 21, 1936	Nov. 11, 1937	Russelville, Ohio
35-319035	Powell	Jan. 20, 1936	Jun. 1, 1937	Bay City, Mich.
35-333664	Powell	Jan. 23, 1936	Jul. 10, 1937	Acton, Ont.
35-336546	Wallace	Feb. 20, 1936	May 8, 1938	Harlem, Ont.
<b>PULASKI</b>				
35-217705		Dec. 28, 1935	May 5, 1937	Canton, Ohio
35-208213		Jan. 26, 1936	Feb. 20, 1936	Fayetteville, Tenn.
35-217750		Jan. 10, 1936	May 8, 1936	Coshocton, Ohio
35-217744		Jan. 7, 1936	Nov. 16, 1936	Vienna, Ohio
36-208218		Jan. 30, 1936	Apr. 26, 1937	Wilbur, W. Va.
<b>NASHVILLE</b>				
B394006		Feb. 24, 1934	Apr. 27, 1934	Dunkirk, N. Y.
B394020		Feb. 24 & 26 '34	May 20, 1934	Wilson Co., Tenn.
34-200139		Feb. 24, 1934	Feb. 7, 1936	Norton, Va.
34-200119		Feb. 22, 1934	Jul. 29, 1936	Marathon, Ohio
B394012		Feb. 24, 1934	Aug. 27, 1936	Swanton, Ohio
34-200090		Feb. 11, 1934	Oct. 15, 1936	Clifton Spr. N. Y.
36-200437		Feb. 18, 1936	Feb. 4, 1937	Pleas. Unity, Pa.

Cowbirds are common transients in the Mississippi Valley and particularly, it appears to the writer, in the eastern Arkansas delta section. In late winter large flocks appear along highways, feeding where rice has been spilled from moving trucks. In past years large numbers have been banded at Mount Belvieu, Texas, by Dr. A. R. Shearer, and it was natural that Mr. C. M. Owens at Monticello, Ark. should be our leading Cowbird trapper. Devoting considerable time to his trapping,—in fact, most of the daylight hours during a period of six weeks in 1937, he found his only limit was his number of traps which was remedied before the migrating wave was over. In 1937 he banded 1,349 Cowbirds, in 1936—43, A large number of repeats were obtained but it was impossible to record them due to the large number of birds handled in such a short period.

Cowbirds banded at Memphis were all caught at night in the Lakeview, Miss. blackbird roost as follows: Mar. 22, 1936—19; Mar. 13 & 27, 1937—39. No repeats, returns or recoveries recorded. The birds banded were evidently all transients. No Cowbirds were reported for Pulaski. At Nashville 13 have been banded since Jan. 22, 1935. A female repeated the same day (Jan. 22) and the next day. An immature bird banded June 24 repeated 9 times from June 28 to July 8, inclusive. No return or recovery records.

TABLE IV COWBIRDS—DATES OF BANDING AT MONTICELLO, ARK.

DATES AND PLACES OF RECOVERIES ELSEWHERE.			
35-328528	Feb. 11, 1936	Jan. 16, 1937	Centerville, Tex.
37-224022	Mar. 8, 1937	Mar. 15, 1937	Arp, Tenn.
37-128930	Feb. 10, 1937	Mar. 22, 1937	Sikeston, Mo.
37-220012	Feb. 12, 1937	Mar. 23, 1937	Gould, Ark.
37-224058	Mar. 9, 1937	Mar. 23, 1937	Gould, Ark.
37-139484	Feb. 25, 1937	Apr. 5, 1937	Baldwin, Ill.
37-139483	Feb. 25, 1937	Apr. 27, 1937	Momence, Ill.
37-224044	Mar. 9, 1937	May 9, 1937	Ottumwa, Iowa
37-210271	Feb. 6, 1937	May 22, 1937	Timbo, Ark.
37-129995	Feb. 25, 1937	Sep. 23, 1937	Savanna, Mo.
(SEE IVb		Nov. 19, 1937	Monticello)
37-224067	Mar. 9, 1937	Nov. 26, 1937	Sulphur, La.
37-139762	Mar. 4, 1937	Dec. 1, 1937	Corpus Christi, Tex.
37-139453	Feb. 25, 1937	Dec. 19, 1937	Orange, Tex.
37-224027	Mar. 8, 1937	Jan. 7, 1938	Lacassine, La.
37-210235	Feb. 2, 1937	Jan. 13, 1938	Gilmer, Tex.
37-139713	Mar. 2, 1937	Jan. 15, 1938	Houston, Tex.
37-210295	Feb. 17, 1937	Jan. 24, 1938	Otey, Tex.
IVb RETURNS AT MONTICELLO			
37-220110	Feb. 19, 1937	Retrapped	Nov. 19, 1937
IVc RECOVERIES OF BIRDS BANDED AT THE OTHER POINTS—NONE			
IVd RECOVERIES AT MID-SOUTH STATIONS OF OTHER BANDED COWBIRDS—NONE			



### RED-WINGS

None banded except near Memphis and no repeat, return, or recovery records. With one exception all were banded at Lakeview, Miss. A few juveniles were banded in the so-called 'highway bar-pit' while all others, juvenile and adults, were banded at or near the large 'bar-pit' used as a roost. Juveniles banded in or just off the nest numbered: 1933—2, 1934—24, 1935—33, 1936—10. Adults caught by hand in the roost at night numbered: 1934—13, 1936—69, 1937—58.

### RUSTY BLACKBIRDS

Monticello, Ark.—4 banded in 1937. No further records. Memphis—All banded at the Lakeview, Miss. roost: 1934—4, 1936—6, 1937—52.

One recovery record as follows (the band was removed but no further details available): 36—225169 Mar. 13, 1937—Apr. 12, 1937, Lake City, Ark.

Nashville and Pulaski—None banded.

MEMPHIS, TENN., September, 1938.

## THE SEASON

**MEMPHIS AREA:**—The Painted Buntings seem to be holding their own, without any noticeable increase in the last two years. A pair evidently nested along the railroad in the next block from our yard as at intervals we could faintly hear the male singing. On July 14 this flaming bit of color appeared nearby and could be heard singing all thru the day. He moved into our yard and on the 18th we discovered the reason for his continuous presence when we saw the female feeding two young birds. They were 10 or 12 days old and escaped our efforts to catch and band them. After the 19th we did not see them.—Wallace noted Red-eyed Vireos feeding young in Overton Park on July 9. On Aug. 15, he found a Blue-winged Warbler and a Black-throated Green Warbler there. Walker and Welch found Black and White Warblers and Parula Warblers common in the Park thruout the last half of July. On the 22nd they listed 4 of the former and 37 of the latter, including young.—The Municipal Airport was practically devoid of bird life on July 17, since the turf is kept closely cut. However, among the few Meadowlarks there the slim, trim lines of an Upland Plover were noted and afforded some of the Scouts their first view of this species. A few were heard occasionally, passing over at night during late July and early August.—An albino swallow in company with Rough-winged Swallows and thought to be one of them, was seen Aug. 16, just south of Lakeview, by Bob Shaffer and Robt. Hunt. It had pure white wings, head, tail and upperparts and light pinkish-brown underparts.—Several trips were made in July in an unsuccessful hunt for Short-billed Marsh Wrens and Grasshopper Sparrows in the open portions of the Ensley-Darwin bottoms, southwest of town, and across the state line

along the Lakeview Levee. The former is the traditional breeding ground of the Mississippi Kite and on July 17, we saw one at close range, just as we turned back from our search. One wren was found near the levee by Wallace on Aug. 19, but none on Sept. 5 and 25th. Two Cliff Swallows were seen there July 17 as well as the first of the Bank Swallows.—A single Coot and a L. Scaup were recorded July 7 at Lakeview; also Am. Egret, 14. Due to the Mississippi River being slightly higher than usual, the water level at Mud Lake remained unsuitable for herons or shorebirds, while the 'bar-pits' inside the levee dried up from lack of rain locally. As a result, few trips were made and still less recorded. A trip across the river into Arkansas was made on Aug. 14 and in the 'bar-pits' along Harahan viaduct 25 Wood Ibis were noted with an equal number of Am. Egrets and a lone Snowy Egret. A single Wood Ibis was seen there Sept. 3. On the 11th we pushed on to Mound City Chute but saw little besides about 20 Little Blue Herons going to roost in the willows. Meanwhile, Wallace recorded 20 at Mud Lake on Aug. 19 the highest number for the period. On Sept. 5 we ranged the levee south to Norfolk Landing near which large number of shorebirds bordered two large 'pits' but closer examination disclosed about 250 to be Killdeers with 2 Semi-palmated Sandpipers, and 15 unidentified 'peeps' (Least, Semi-palmated, or Western Sandpipers). At Mud Lake 15 Am. Egrets, 3 Little Blues, and 5 Great Blues were seen. By Sept. 25 conditions were more favorable and on that date Whittemore and Pond, et al, noted 19 Great Blues, 32 Little Blues (including 2 adults), 350 Am. Egrets, 95 Wood Ibises, 1 Black-bellied Plover, 6 Semi-palmated Plovers, 400 Semi-palmated and 100 Least Sandpipers, one or more Western Sandpipers, 15 Pectoral Sandpipers, 10 Blue-winged Teals, 2 Wood Ducks, 400 Tree, 15 Bank, 1 or more Cliff and 60 Rough-winged Swallows, 1 Osprey and 1 Duck Hawk.—Wallace listed 20 Least Terns and 8 Black Terns along Riverside Drive on Aug. 17, a few more than was seen Aug. 14—On Sept. 29 three Broad-winged Hawks were seen over town just north of the business district. The same afternoon 14 were seen over the Southwestern campus by Walker and Welch.—BEN COFFEY, JR., Memphis.

CORINTH AREA:—On May 25, Elgin Wright and I found a Barn Swallow nest in a dairy barn near town. The nest was typical to the last detail and contained four young birds. According to the owner of the place, who had been watching the swallows, the nest was formed of dirt and small bits of cinders, rolled into pellets that had been moistened by the birds at a small pool in the barn lot. The nest was attached to a rafter some 8 feet from ground, and lined with feathers.—Two Green Herons nested and reared three babies in June at Waukomis Lake. The little flock of five had worlds of fun playing in the button-willows and reeds. Sometimes they would all fly down upon one another in a close huddle on the ground, evidently a brief family pow-wow.—I found a female Towhee at Pickwick Dam, July 7. Young birds were near, as I could hear their chirps but could not see them in the thick underbrush. The mother bird was excited when I was near. A Hooded Warbler appeared at the same spot where I saw the Towhee—Six immature Little Blue Herons appeared at Waukomis July 28. I got very close to them and easily distinguished them from pos-

sible Snowy Egret. The birds were pure white with olive legs and feet. The Egrets have blackish legs, yellow feet and yellow bill. Amateur bird students sometimes lump all the big snowy birds into one class and call them white cranes—a careless misnomer.—One evening at dark, about the first of August, I heard a strange song in field near roadside. All the adjectives I know would not adequately describe its melody. I went back each evening and heard the song repeated, each time from the same spot. It was too dark to see. At last I got there early enough to find and identify the bird. It turned out to be, greatly to my surprise, a Field Sparrow. I know the Field Sparrow's song well, as I have heard it a thousand times; but never before had I heard the particular combination of notes. There were four or five grown birds and a dozen young ones in the grass. Checking up on the subject, I have found that sometimes an individual Field Sparrow will have a wide repertoire.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth.

NASHVILLE AREA:—A summer of normal and well distributed rainfall produced an abundant food supply for the birds and more than the average number of young were brought forth as a result. We are apparently entering a cycle of wet years, having just passed thru a series of dry ones, and a general increase in birdlife will probably result. Insect life was and a general increase in birdlife will probably result. Insect life was noticeably abundant the past summer but there were birds enough to keep it in check.—Shorebirds have been unusually scarce this fall, believed to be due to sufficient rainfall in the Northwest to fill the prairie sloughs and making it unnecessary for the waders to move southward.—Grackles, Starlings, Robins, etc., have been roosting along the city streets, in the maples, in their usual large numbers. They come in from the country before sundown, having learned that they are less apt to be shot at in the city. People who live near them, however, complain bitterly about being awakened too early by their noise. Swifts, too, have been present in great numbers and many thousands have been banded by local bird banders.—Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Abernathy have raised a flock of Bob-whites, hatching a nestful of abandoned eggs under a bantam. The birds, now about grown, range the neighborhood but still come home to be fed and will eat from their hands.—Mr. H. O. Todd, of Murfreesboro, reports the taking of a Pigeon Hawk there the last week in September and he prepared the specimen for his collection; we have very few records for this transient visitor.—The Golden Eagle which has been kept at a filling station near Murfreesboro, and retained by some legal process, was released from its cage recently by an interested citizen.—A pair of Bald Eagles are again reported to be making headquarters at Indian Lake near Hendersonville.—Two nests of the Barn Swallow were found by Mrs. Laskey on June 25, in a small culvert under a road in Warner Park. One nest held young just hatched and the other had just been completed. There was a foot of water in the culvert. With one exception (*Migrant*, IV, p. 22) all nests previously found here have been in barns.—Hundreds of Purple Martins formerly nested about the cornices of the old Fayetteville courthouse before it burned. In its reconstruction, no provision was made for the Martins and so this picturesque and animated feature has been lost to the

square. At nearby Wartrace, a feature of the town is the large Martin house at its center, in the railway depot grounds.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

CLARKSVILLE AREA:—During the last quarter our list of birds occurring in Montgomery County has been increased by two species and now stands at 195. The additions are: Double-crested Cormorant, one observed on the Cumberland River near Palmyra on May 28 and an immature bird shown to us Sept. 29 after it had been killed on Dunbar's Cave lake; and Caspian Tern, one seen as it flew over town on Sept. 10,—white bird of large size with black wing-tips and moderately notched tail.—As the fledgling Purple Martins were leaving the nests, about the middle of July, they were seen late in the day lined up on the ridge of a bungalow roof that seemed to serve them for walking exercises. A few birds would come down the slope and then hasten back to their place in the line whereupon others would follow their examples. After a few evenings of this they all joined the roost of their elders on the telephone wires.—Dr. Pickering was given a young Martin that had fallen out of the nest in a colony in another part of town. The youngster was raised by feeding him for about a week on hamburger meat, giving him water and providing exercise by setting him on the clothesline. When the bird finally took to his wings he was immediately met and apparently also fed, by one of the old birds from Dr. Pickering's flock.—Hummingbirds attracted our attention as they were gleaning insects from the branches and twigs of a dead honey locust. We also saw a number of these dauntless mites one rainy day fly about during hard showers that had driven all other birds to shelter. This was while the trumpet vines were in bloom and young probably had to be fed.—Strange behavior was noticed in a Great Blue Heron in that we found him several hundred yards away from water although there were suitable ponds in the neighborhood. Neither did he go there after we flushed him,—instead we found him in the shade of a tree row at the opening of the lane that leads to the farm we had visited. About the middle of August Cliff Swallows were seen many miles inland from their nesting sites on the Cumberland River.—Aug. 27 the first nightly migration of Warblers was heard, however a stray Magnolia Warbler had already been found a month earlier. Oven-birds and Blackburnian Warblers seem more abundant this fall than in other years.—One of our members was fortunate in seeing a Nighthawk flight on Sept. 1 in which probably 300 birds took part. They came at dusk from the northwest and flew rather low and in straight lines, but were widely separated. While there was only few of them in sight at any one time, there seemed to be no end to the procession and it made a spectacle that would thrill any bird-student. On the same day, another member reported a group of 40 Nighthawks—An even stranger happening, probably, was an enormous gathering of Chimney Swifts observed by Dr. Pickering on July 19. Not risking an estimate of their number he states that the sky was black with them as he watched them mill around for about 15 minutes and that he has never seen a similar mass of Swifts. They did not concentrate at their roosts here until about Sept. 1, six weeks later.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville.

**KNOXVILLE AREA:**—There are a few items of interest which should be mentioned in the summer notes from this area. Black Terns were more plentiful on Norris Lake than any other water-birds if observations from three areas are indicative. These localities were: Doak's Creek Landing, the junction of the Powell and Clinch Rivers, and at the Andersonville boat dock. The Little Blue, Great Blue and Green Heron and in addition, one Herring Gull, were the other water-birds seen on Norris Lake since mid-June.—Lake Andrew Jackson, a small lake about twelve miles west of Knoxville was the only other locality that yielded anything of interest. On July 24, Charles Baird, Mrs. Walker, and I spent some 30 to 40 minutes chasing a duck in and out of the willow thickets and marsh grasses at one end of the lake. Finally it took off in 'Coot-fashion' and flew to another patch of willows. On Aug. 7 we found the duck again but this time it was molting and could not fly. From its size, color, greenish bill, and red legs we decided it was a Red-legged Black Duck.—The Pied-billed Grebe and Least Bittern were found on July 24 and the Least Bittern again on the 30th. A Black Tern was present at the lake on July 30. The Green Herons were last seen on Aug. 13. Shorebirds were rare or else late in arriving because only the Spotted Sandpiper was reported this summer.—Hawks were very rare. In fact two pairs of Sparrow Hawks were the only ones seen during the summer. A young Sparrow Hawk was caught in Science Hall, University of Tennessee campus on June 10 and another brood was learning to fly on Aug. 26. These hawks have nested in Science Hall tower for the past four years. —WM. WALKER, Knoxville.

**JOHNSON CITY AREA:**—The breeding season was very late getting under way this spring. The Robins did not arrive until Jan. 20 while in the winter of 1936-1937 they arrived during Christmas week in large numbers, harbingers of the beautifully mild January of 1937 which was to follow. I am convinced that in addition to a homing and directional instinct the birds can sense the nature of the weather and temperature of the approaching weeks, and govern their migration in accordance therewith. Breeding was abundant in the latter part of the season,—young Robins were being fed on my lawn as late as Aug. 8 and at the same time the Song Sparrows were also feeding nestlings.—The Prairie Horned Lark was observed in Shady Valley, Johnson County, on June first. I had spent the day in the Valley with my colleague, Robert B. Lyle, and was turning homeward about four o'clock, traveling on a byroad, when we flushed a fine specimen. We stopped at once and by the aid of our field glasses soon located the bird which, being very accommodating, gave us abundant opportunity to observe and study his markings. This species breeds regularly, tho sparingly, in this area, having been found from the lower portion of the Transition zone at 1500 feet elevation to the Canadian zone on Little Roan Mountain at an elevation of 5300 feet. During the winter it occurs in large flocks, as many as 100 birds having been observed in one day. Occasionally the more severe winter weather brings us the northern race.—The beautiful and rare Wilson's Warbler was observed on Roane Creek in Johnson County, May 7. The patches of lowland along the creek supply the conditions that it loves. At the point of observation the altitude was 2500 feet. This beautiful warb-

ler might well have been called the 'Black-capped Warbler.' As much as one might wish to laud the name of Wilson, it always seems to the writer that names descriptive of the bird itself are much to be preferred.—BRUCE P. TYLER, Johnson City.

## THE ROUND TABLE

**LAUGHING GULL AT REELFOOT LAKE:**—An immature Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) was collected at Reelfoot Lake on August 9, 1938, and is the first record of this species in West Tennessee and the third for the state. It was observed swimming in the stump-dotted area east of Upper Blue Basin, at the northern end of the lake. A close approach was possible, but a slight record of this accidental species was felt to be insufficient and it was collected by the writer.—The Laughing Gull in this plumage is ashy-gray above, with a white rump and clear underparts. The white tips of the dark primaries and secondaries form a prominent border on the hind edge of the wing—a good field characteristic. A narrow white line terminates the broad black band of the tail. The measurements of the specimen, a female of this year, are slightly less than the typical measurements as given in Chapman's "Handbook of Birds". The identification was verified by Dr. Alexander Wetmore, of the U. S. National Museum. The specimen is now in possession of the writer.—A single bird of this species was collected from a flock of six near Knoxville, Sept. 18, 1932 (*The Migrant*, 1933, pp. 8-9 and p. 47). A single bird (with head black) was taken about 1915 on the French Broad River near Del Rio (*The Migrant*, 1935, p. 50).—THOMAS W. SIMPSON, Reelfoot Lake Biological Station.

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER AT MUD LAKE:**—On Sept. 25, 1938, the writer spent the late afternoon observing the variety of waterbirds which had been attracted to Mud Lake—a very shallow body of water  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile long situated on the Tenn.—Miss. state line south of Memphis. The shorebirds were given the most attention and the number observed was approximately 650, most of which were 'peeps'. However, one large shorebird was flushed and observed as it flew along the margin of the lake. While in flight the bird continually gave a two-syllabled, more or less plaintive whistle. Evidently it was quite shy as it remained in flight several minutes, finally landing on the north side of the lake. By gradually moving closer thru knee-deep water and mud the writer was finally able to approach to within 50 feet of the bird before it flushed again. It was slightly larger and stockier than the nearby Killdeers. Its bill was stout, typically plover-like, and its general appearance was uniformly grayish. No distinctive markings were made out in the limited time in which the writer had to make his observations until the bird flew; then black patches showed up prominently on the under surfaces of the wings and axillars. Identifications as a Black-bellied Plover

was made on the basis of its size, plover-like appearance, and black axillary feathers under the wing which according to Peterson are determinative in any plumage.—WENDELL L. WHITEMORE, University of Tennessee Medical School, Memphis.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first record for the Memphis area.

EARLY MARSH HAWK RECORD:—Although there are early September records of the Marsh Hawk I was surprised to see a hawk of this species, Sept. 5, just east of Brownsville, while driving from Memphis to Nashville. It was circling at a low elevation directly over the highway and I saw it clearly in the bright sunlight, checking the rump patch, broad tail bars, general size and shape, to my full satisfaction, as the car travelled towards the bird.—HARRY C. MONK, Nashville.

NOTES FROM PARIS:—Last winter the White-throated Sparrows and the Slate-colored Juncos appeared often in flocks and were our most common winter birds. Occasionally a Hermit Thrush was seen in a deep wood, and perhaps the small but pert Winter Wren. The Golden-crowned Kinglets preferred a cedar wood. Later the Chipping Sparrow appeared on our lawn followed by other sparrows. And in May large flocks of Goldfinches were seen about town while Cedar Waxings seemed partial to the plantings at a local cemetery. A Black and White Warbler creeping up a tree trunk on the lawn, proved an interesting sight.—Other common summer residents than those listed elsewhere are: Bronzed Grackle, Indigo Bunting, Maryland Yellow-throat, Brown Thrasher, Wood Thrush, Meadowlark, Purple Martin, Tufted Titmouse, Flicker, Bob-white, Mourning Dove, Wood Pewee.—American Egrets were seen at Sulphur Well this summer.—PAUL CROSSWY, Paris.

NOTES FROM MURFREESBORO:—On August 1, after two or three days of rain, about fifty Black Terns appeared on a swollen branch about four or five miles east of Murfreesboro. A specimen was taken and the skin is now in the possession of Mr. H. O. Todd, Jr.—Upland Plovers have been seen and heard flying over since July 13.—A late Mourning Dove nest with young birds in it was found on August 28. We estimated that they would be able to leave the nest not sooner than a week or ten days later.—GEORGE DAVIS, Murfreesboro.

SUMMER BIRD-LIFE OF A MT. PLEASANT FARM:—Observations made this summer have been less than usual but I will, however, try to make some estimate of the more common breeding birds on my farm of 200 acres. It is bounded on one side by the East fork of Bigby Creek, and there is about 25 acres of bottom land next to the creek, which is bordered with timber. I have one field of about 15 acres in which are scattered about 50 old trees, many with dead tops. The rest of the farm is slightly rolling, and divided into fields of from 5 to 25 acres, with trees or bushes growing in practically all of the fence rows, as I do not keep my fence rows clean. There is a small stream which bisects the farm, and which is bordered with young timber, from 20 to 40 feet high. Close

by this stream is a pond of about a half acre where grow a few cat-tails in which a few pairs of Red-wings nest every year. About 60 acres of row crops are grown each year, about 25 acres of small grain, and I usually have about 75 to 85 acres of lespedeza or grass, the balance being in thickets and timber bordering the little stream and fences. I think the commonest breeding birds would be about as follows: Robin, Meadowlark, Blue Jay, Brown Thrasher, Cardinal, Catbird, Carolina Wren, Bewick's Wren, Mourning Dove, Indigo Bunting. There are a number of other birds, including Bob-whites, (have seen 4 young coveys recently), Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, one pair each of Sparrow Hawks and Barn Owls, Screech Owls, Red-wings, Bronzed Grackles, Starlings (a few pairs in the old trees), Downy, Hairy, Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Flickers, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos, Maryland Yellow-throats, Yellow Warblers, etc., that are present on the place in summer, most or all of which I feel sure breed here. Some of these may be somewhat commoner than some of the ten mentioned above. There seem to be very few sparrows of any kind on the farm in summer, except, of course, the "English," which I did not include in my list. Grackles do not seem to breed here the last few years, although large flocks of them appear towards the end of summer, and this applies also to Starlings and Red-wings. I am only mentioning birds which I see on my farm. If you would take this whole vicinity, the Grackles, Red-wings and Starlings would probably be quite high in the list. I believe the list as a whole would be typical of the farming country between Mt. Pleasant and Columbia.

I think we had more Doves this year, up to about July 1, than we have had for many years, but they seem to have disappeared some time between July and Sept. 1, as the shooting has been very poor. Nearly every farmer around here now plants lespedeza with his wheat. After the wheat is cut, this forms a very dense cover, and the Doves, according to my theory, no longer feed in the wheat stubble as they used to when the wheat was followed by crab grass and foxtail, but hunt some place where they can get to the ground to feed.—DAN R. GRAY, Mt. Pleasant.

**SOME UNUSUALLY LARGE BROODS; SCARCITY OF LATE NESTS:**  
—My banding records of nestlings this year excell past seasons in numbers of apparently successful large broods. Francis Lawrence, Arthur McMurray, and William Simpson assisted in locating and banding some of these broods on the following dates: April 22, 4 Cardinal fledglings ready to leave; April 23, in nest box at Warner Park, brood of 7 Bluebirds; April 23, a Robin with 5 nestlings; April 30, a Bewick's Wren with 7 fledglings ready to leave their nest in a drain pipe on a terrace at Warner Park; May 4 and May 17, Mockingbirds with 5 nestlings each; April 25, May 14 and May 18, Brown Thrashers with 5 nestlings each. The April 25th group nested at the home banding station and all remained here for at least a month,—the entire group of five going into the banding traps repeatedly until the last of May. A resident pair of Mockingbirds (color banded) had four successful nests built within an area of 9 by 36 yards. Two fledglings left the first nest April 21, four from the second nest on May 22, three left the third nest June 25, and four left the fourth nest by July 30.—This year there were no



August or September nests in the garden and only a few were observed elsewhere. In August one Bluebird, one Catbird, and one Dove nest were seen. Possibly the abundant rainfall and luxuriant vegetation was conducive to a successful normal breeding period with no urge for late attempts—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville.

NOTES FROM KNOXVILLE:—Early in March great flocks of Robins, hundreds in numbers, appeared at my place on the top of a ridge seven miles north of Knoxville. They remained in the neighborhood for several days, running over the lawn and garden during the day, roosting in the woods nearby at night. These, I suppose, were Northern Robins returning from the South. We have Southern Robins with us the year around. However, it is impossible to distinguish these two races in the field.—About the same time that the Robins came, Phoebes began to be vocal. A few of these flycatchers often winter in this region. Less often is this also true of Brown Thrashers which were in evidence early in April.—Both the Slate-colored Junco and White-throated Sparrow were unusually abundant at my place during the past winter. By April 15 the Juncos had left while the White-throats lingered until May 12. I have, on one occasion, thought I heard the song of the latter here in June. Every year I hope that they may nest here but their habit is to be abundant one day and suddenly vanish during the night. That birds do change their habitat is attested by the well-established fact that Robins did not nest in the Knoxville area fifty years ago but are now common.—Before the Juncos and White-throats left, numbers of Chipping Sparrows had appeared. These were unusually abundant this year, beginning to leave by Aug. 31.

Other birds that were especially numerous during the past season were Summer Tanagers and Carolina Wrens. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers and Flickers or 'Golden-winged Woodpeckers' have been plentiful. Fewer in numbers were Chimney Swifts, Catbirds, and warblers of all sorts. A bird that ordinarily nests just outside my windows every year, the White-eyed Vireo, was absent this year. Two Bob-whites appeared at my feeding station for the first time during this summer and Bluebirds have eaten there every day.—The most unusual visitor was a Pileated Woodpecker, not to the feeding station but to a pokeberry bush left growing for the benefit of the birds, in a flower border about twenty feet away from the house. The Red-headed Woodpecker is never seen on my place although it is extremely numerous in a village about a mile away.—Among the larger birds. Crows and Hawks of all kinds were noticeably fewer in numbers throughout this region than they were five years ago.—LUCY TEMPLETON, Knoxville.

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CLARKSVILLE:—Meetings are scheduled for Oct. 11, 25; Nov. 8, 22; and Dec. 6, 20. The mid-winter bird census of the chapter will be made on Sunday, December 18. Alfred Clebsch, 838 Gracey, is secretary.

MEMPHIS:—The Fall Field Day will be held Oct. 30, and, for the third year, in the Shelby Forest. Bi-weekly meetings at the Pink Palace Museum will resume shortly. Mrs. T. I. Klyce, Raleigh, Tenn., is secretary.

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## THE MIGRANT

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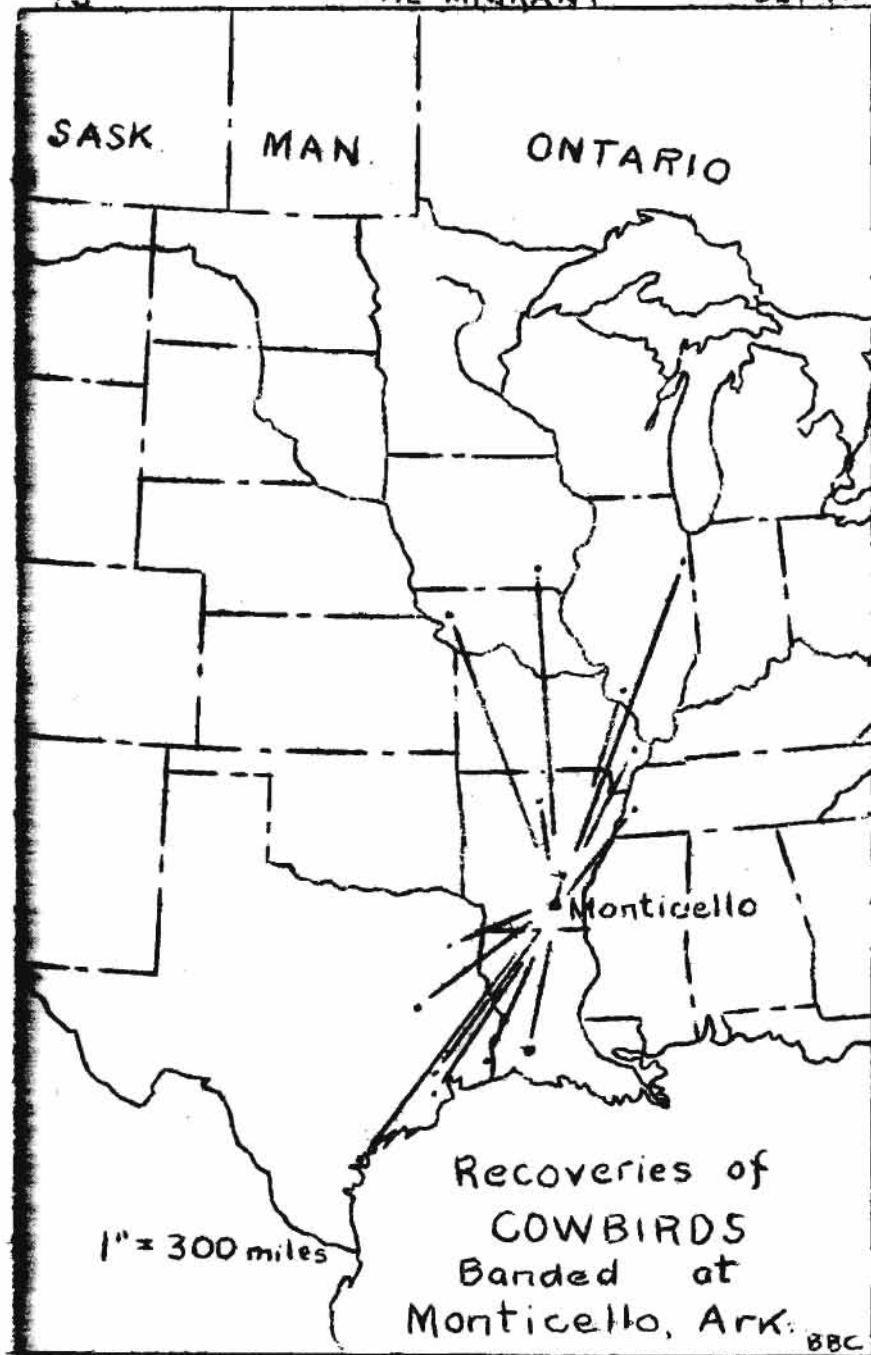
*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,  
it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

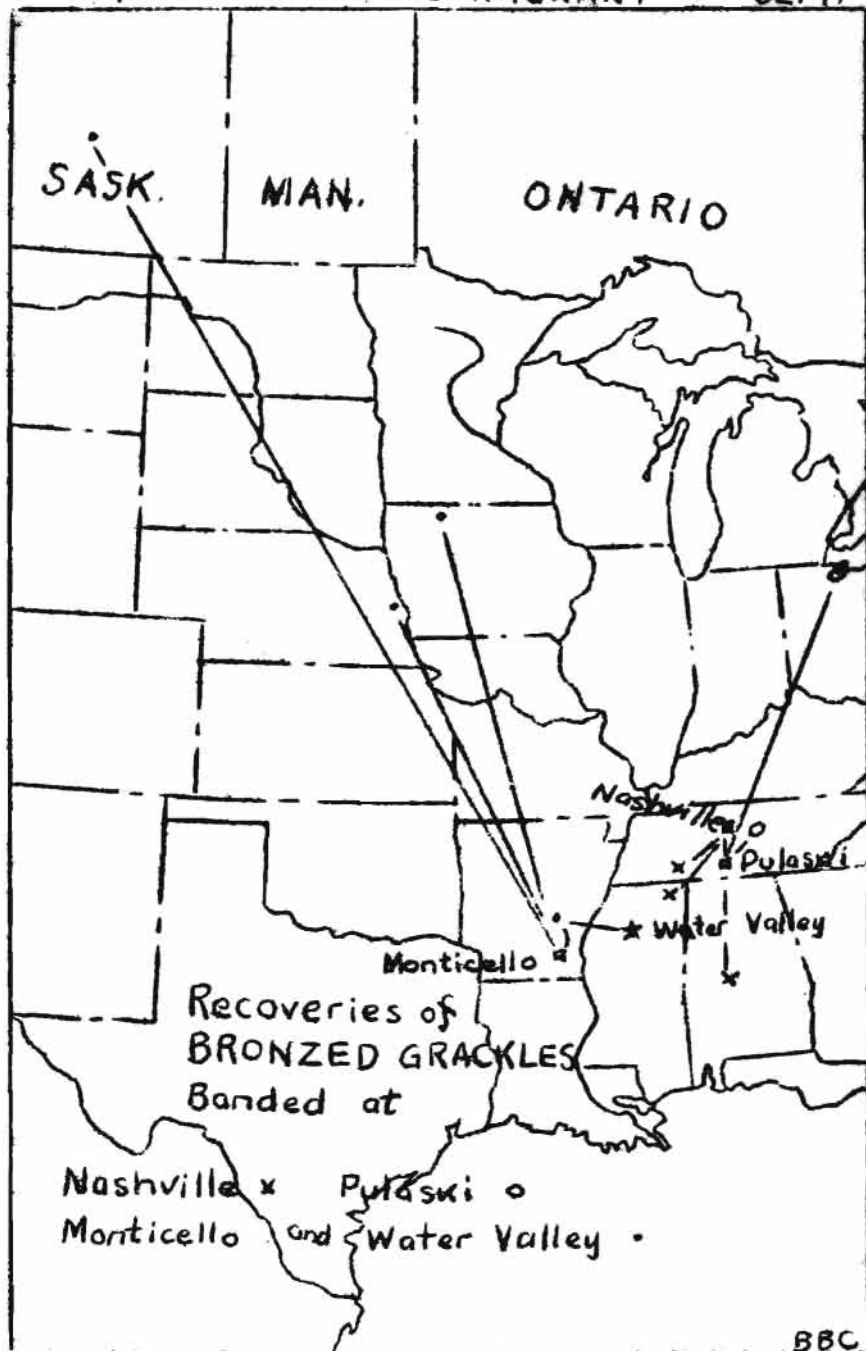
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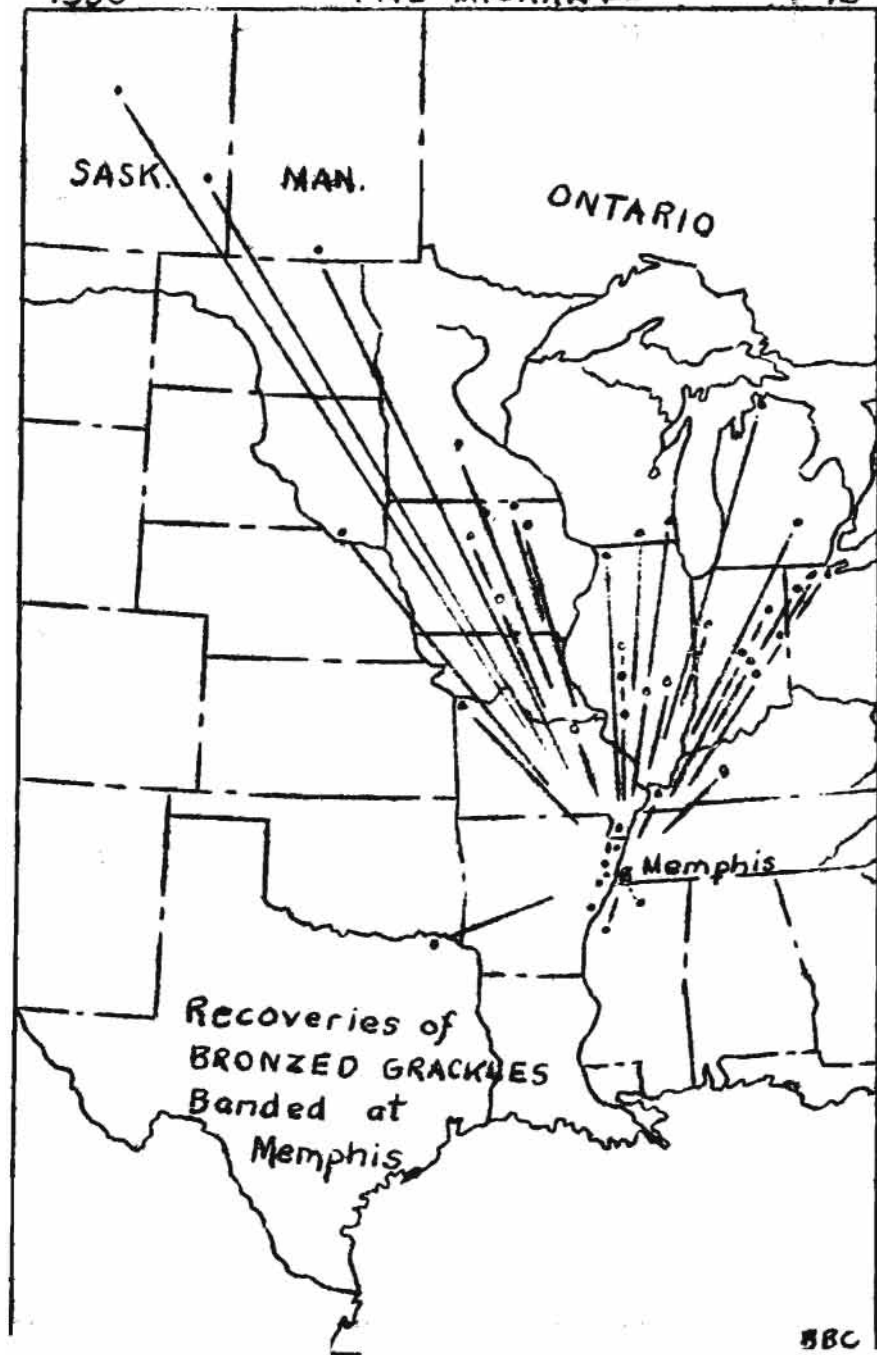
We want to thank our contributors for the promptness in which most copy was sent in for publication in this issue and hope that the good practice will continue despite the present delay in the finished product. We regret the lateness of issue and hope to do much better with the December number. Our copy basket is practically empty so please send in material now and all seasonal notes by December 5. The sooner the better as after the flocks of Chimney Swifts leave here (about October 20) we plan to start work on the next issue in order to have it out of the way before time for Xmas Census lists.

Spare time work can easily be disrupted by illness or other unavoidable causes and in addition we were faced with the choice of seriously curtailing our local Chimney Swift banding or further delay. We felt the banding was more important this season than ever before due to the record-breaking banding being done at Nashville, Clarksville, and below us, at Baton Rouge, La. We hope to have some interesting information to pass on later.—We are greatly indebted to Mr. Ganier for handling all work (including printing contacts) done in connection with the pictures which appear herein. In addition to relieving us of that much additional work, we feel that he was much better qualified to look after that feature.

In the June issue we omitted, thru a typographical oversight, the listing of our good friend, Prof. George Davis, as a director in the T. O. S. from the Murfreesboro Chapter. This chapter, organized in 1935, is composed of some of our most interested and capable members. We are also glad to list Mr. Alfred E. Claggett of Wales as a director from the Blue Grass Chapter. A meeting of the Board of Directors of the T. O. S. has been called for Oct. 16 at Warner Park, Nashville, in connection with the Fall Field Day of the Nashville Chapter.









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