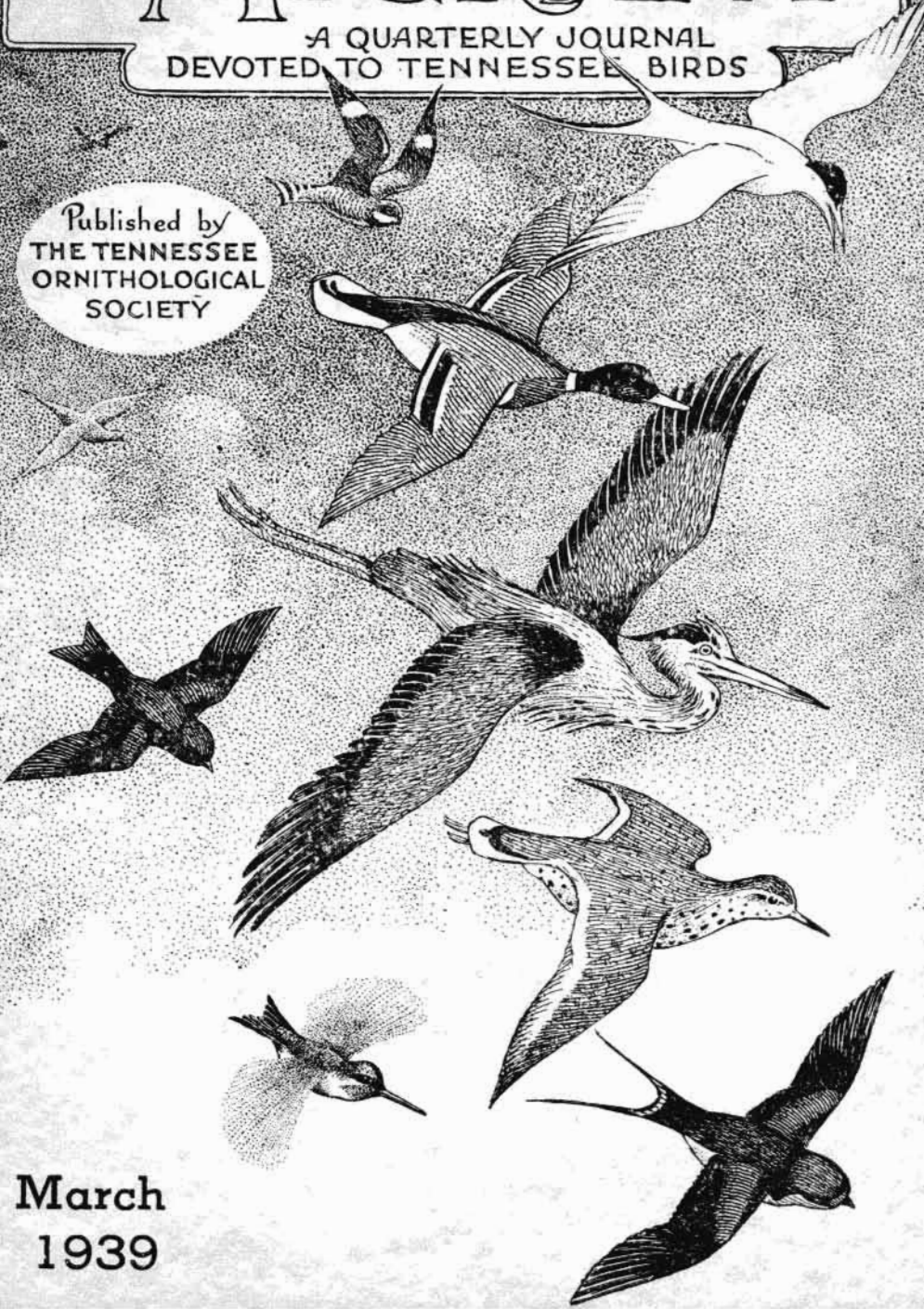


THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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THE MIGRANT

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NO. 1

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IN MEMORIAM: ALONZO C. WEBB TEACHER AND ARTIST February 2, 1939

BY G. R. MAYFIELD

The news of Mr. A. C. Webb's death has brought sadness to his many friends throughout the South. He will be especially missed by the Tennessee Ornithological Society of which he was Founder and First President. At the suggestion of our editor, this sketch of his life has been written so that the younger members of our Society may know more of him personally and of his varied activities as Artist, Teacher, and Nature Lover.

Most Tennesseans will be surprised to learn that he was not a native son but that he was born in Chariton, Iowa. Tennessee was the state of his adoption, due to the fact that his grandmother had often described the Volunteer State to him as a place of beauty and opportunity for a young artist and educator. Consequently, he turned south instead of west after finishing his course at Western College, Bushnell, Illinois.

Soon after locating in Nashville in the year 1885, he opened up a business college and carried on this school about seven years, when he became supervisor of art for the Nashville Public Schools. For nearly forty years he went from school to school inspiring thousands of students to get a new vision of form, of color, and of beauty, through his teachings in the realm of art. At least once a year during this time, he would take along his bird skins and use them for illustrating the principles of drawing. His unusual power of describing birds and their habits, soon had a far wider appeal than in the classroom exercises. Tens of thousands of children became bird students, nature lovers, and conservationists as a result of his talks.

This interest in birds led him to write the first book on Tennessee birds by a Tennessean. This volume, *Some Birds and Their Ways*, appeared in the year 1898 and was revised and enlarged for school use in 1917 as *Our Bird Book*. He continued his activities in conservation by drawing up the first bill for bird protection ever passed by the State Legislature. Other ornithologists joined him in field studies and in 1915 the Tennessee Ornithological Society was founded with Mr. Webb as first President. The other founders were: Judge H. Y. Hughes, who died in 1921, and Messrs. Dixon Merritt, Albert Ganier, and G. R. Mayfield.

His love of nature caused him to be interested not only in birds, but in flowers, in forests, in fossils, in fish, in Indian relics, and, later in life in

archery. He went on several expeditions with different groups to various parts of the state, and those who accompanied him will remember all their lives the delightful experiences in thus associating with him personally.

Mr. Webb is survived by his wife and four children. The children are all noted for their work in art and in education. A. C. Webb, Jr., of London, England, is well known in Europe and America for his sketches and pictures. Miss Suzanne Webb has likewise done some fine sketches at home and abroad and teaches art in Nashville. Dr. H. A. Webb is Professor of Chemistry at Peabody College and is known throughout the country for his interest in popular science. The youngest daughter, Ellenna, is married to a splendid physician, Dr. Roy Douglass, of Huntingdon, Tennessee.

The most striking trait in Mr. Webb's character was the spirit of the pioneer and discoverer. This led him to seek adventure and his life work in Tennessee rather than in his native state. Here he was the founder of the first business college in Nashville, the first supervisor of art in the Nashville Public Schools, the founder and first president of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, the author of the first book on Tennessee birds by a Tennessean, the promoter of the first legislation in this State for bird protection, and also a pioneer in renewing an interest in archery in Nashville, even though he was more than seventy years of age when he became interested in the sport.

Remarkable, too, was his love of form, of color, of movement, and of beauty generally. Few people have ever surpassed him in his power of revealing the character of a bird in its pose and expression, and his interest in birds was doubtless due to the fact that they alone of all creatures could challenge him to his finest efforts and satisfy his artistic soul.

Combined with this love of nature was a soul of simplicity, of sincerity, and of devotion to his work that won him so many friends in all walks of life. It made no difference whether his hearers were little children or members of the Tennessee Academy of Science, whether they were the social elite at the Centennial Club or a group of country people in a rural Church. They all heard him with great enthusiasm and went away determined to carry on the work of bird study and of conservation.

Hundreds of friends attended his funeral in the open,—with birds to sing his requiem, with the blessed sunlight shining through the clouds, and with a simple tribute from a fellow bird-lover. But Mr. Webb is not dead. Thousands of children now mostly grown to maturity, who loved nature and life all the more because of his teaching and influence, tens of thousands of birds which live and sing today because he was their friend, the many wise laws that are now on the Statute Books of Tennessee as a result of his efforts, and the many other influences for conservation that are now spreading in every widening circle all testify that his memory will abide so long as the granite monument in Spring Hill Cemetery on which is carved a simple epitaph composed before his death:

A. C. WEBB

Teacher

Artist

1859-1939

SEVENTEEN YEARS AT ISLAND HOME

By W. M. WALKER, JR.

On April 27, 1922 a small group of bird lovers met at the home of Mr. H. P. Ijams to study birds and exchange ornithological experiences. They thought the day a great success and agreed that it should be repeated the following year. Thus began the Island Home Spring Census,—the eighteenth consecutive census will be taken this year on April 30. Since 1929 the date has been the Sunday nearest May 1. The summary which follows undertakes to list the species observed, together with the number of years each species was present on the census date. Thus, Woodcock, 6; means this species was recorded 6 of the 17 Spring Census dates. In the earlier years of this census-series the day's total was approximately 60 species, but lately with more observers afield, the total list has been near or above 100 species.

Common Loon, 2; Horned Grebe, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 1; Little Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 10; Black-crowned Night Heron, 2; Mallard, 2; Pintail, 1; Green-winged Teal, 1; Lesser Scaup Duck, 3; Hooded Merganser, 1; Turkey Vulture, 12; Black Vulture, 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3; Cooper's Hawk, 8; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Osprey, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 12; Bob-white, 17; Mexican Bob-white, 2; (released in vicinity in 1931, recorded in 1931 and 1932); King Rail, 1; Coot, 4; Killdeer, 16; Woodcock, 6; Wilson's Snipe, 5; Spotted Sandpiper, 17; Solitary Sandpiper, 17; Lesser Yellow-legs, 4; Least Sandpiper, 1; Herring Gull, 1; Forster's Tern, 1 (1933, specimen collected); Mourning Dove, 17; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 11; Black-billed Cuckoo, 6; Barn Owl, 12; Screech Owl, 12; Great Horned Owl, 1; Chuck-will's-widow, 4; Whip-poor-will, 9; Nighthawk, 16; Chimney Swift, 17; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 16; Belted Kingfisher, 17; Flicker, 16; Pileated Woodpecker, 10; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 14; Red-headed Woodpecker, 17; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 8; Hairy Woodpecker, 10; Downy Woodpecker, 17; Kingbird, 14; Crested Flycatcher, 16; Phoebe, 17; Acadian Flycatcher, 15; Wood Pewee, 16; Tree Swallow, 5; Bank Swallow, 7; Rough-winged Swallow, 16; Barn Owl, 12; Cliff Swallow, 2; Purple Martin, 17; Blue Jay, 17; Crow, 17; Carolina Chickadee, 17; Tufted Titmouse, 17; White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Brown Creeper, 4; Winter Wren, 3; Bewick's Wren, 13; Carolina Wren, 17; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 15; Catbird, 17; Brown Thrasher, 17; Robin, 17; Wood Thrush, 17; Hermit Thrush, 5; Olive-backed Thrush, 11; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 7; Veery, 14; Bluebird, 17; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 17; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 4; Cedar Waxwing, 14; Migrant Shrike, 2; Starling, 12; White-eyed Vireo, 17; Yellow-throated Vireo, 15; Blue-headed and or Mountain Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 17; Philadelphia Vireo, 1; Warbling Vireo, 7. The following warblers: Black and White, 17; Prothonotary, 8; Worm-eating, 11; Golden-winged, 3; Blue-winged, 1; Tennessee, 6; Orange-crowned, 1; Nashville, 2; Parula, 8; Yellow, 16; Magnolia, 13; Cape May, 4; Black-throated Blue, 8; Myrtle, 15; Black-throated Green, 11; Cerulean, 11; Blackburnian, 12; Yellow-throated, 2; Sycamore, 6; Chestnut-sided, 13; Bay-breasted, 8; Black-poll, 11; Pine, 12; Prairie, 9; Palm, 2; Oven-bird, 17; Northern Water-thrush, 2; Louisiana Water-thrush, 17; Kentucky, 16; Connecticut, 2; Mourning, 3; Maryland Yellow-throat, 17; Yellow-breasted Chat, 17; Hooded, 16; Wilson's,

1; Canada, 8; and American Redstart, 17; English Sparrow, 17; Bobolink, 4; Meadowlark, 17; Red-wing, 16; Orchard Oriole, 13; Baltimore Oriole, 9; Rusty Blackbird, 2; Purple Grackle, 17; Cowbird, 13; Scarlet Tanager, 17; Summer Tanager, 17; Cardinal, 17; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 11; Indigo Bunting, 16; Purple Finch, 8; Goldfinch, 16; Towhee, 17. The following sparrows: Savannah, 15; Grasshopper, 8; Vesper, 8; Slate-colored Junco, 7; Chipping, 16; Field, 17; White-crowned, 5; White-throated, 16; Fox, 5; Lincoln's, 3; Swamp, 13; and Song Sparrow, 17.

Of the 160 species recorded over the 17 year period 38 were found every census date while 15 were recorded every year except one; 13 species were recorded only twice and 21 were seen only once.

We might suggest that "times recorded" is a very good index of the relative abundance of each species for this section of the state during the months of April and May. To illustrate, the following species were recorded 6 of the 17 years; Woodcock, Black-billed Cuckoo, White-breasted Nuthatch, Tennessee Warbler and Sycamore Warbler. These birds are not rare but neither are they as common as the Catbird, Wood Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, Oven-bird, Summer Tanager, Indigo Bunting and others. Naturally there are exceptions to be noted, but we think this is true generally. The data used was kindly furnished by Mr. Paul Adams of Crab Orchard, Tennessee, and Mr. H. P. Ijams of Knoxville. Mr. Ijams' place is The Island Home Bird Sanctuary which is the territory covered by these census trips.

KNOXVILLE, March, 1939.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CENSUS

BY OUR MEMBERS

Our tenth annual state-wide mid-winter or Christmas census of bird life is tabulated below. The number of lists submitted (17 from the state) was larger than heretofore and necessitated two sets of tabulations. Lists from Corinth and Rosedale, Miss. were again included and since the space allowed it, we took the liberty of including an interesting and valuable list from Moselle in South Miss. and two lists made by your editor and party in Northeast Miss., at Rara Avis and Tupelo, respectively. These five lists are not published elsewhere. Memphis chapter members also made censuses at Moon Lake (Lula) and Hickory Flat, Miss. which were included in *Bird-Lore* (1939, Supplement to Vol. XLI, No. 1, p. 37) along with the lists from the Great Smokies, Greeneville, Memphis, and Nashville (pp. 35-36). We meet the Nashville census-list again in *The Kentucky Warbler* (1939, p. 4) in company with several interesting Kentucky lists and a few others from out of that state.

The highest single list of 70 species (from Nashville) ties the record (Memphis, 1935 and 1936) while the composite list for all Tennessee reports embraces 92 species, one less than the record which was set last year. The Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill were absent from the Great Smokies list and Black-crowned Night Heron (accidental), Canada Goose, Canvas-back, American Merganser, Broad-winged Hawk, and Herring Gull failed to be recorded elsewhere. Species added this year included Loon, Baldpate, Golden Eagle, Woodcock, Barn Owl, and Yellow Palm Warbler. The Eagle, Owl, and Warbler appear in a Christmas census in *The Migrant* for the first time.

TABLE I

	White Bluff Jan. 8, 1939	Covington Dec. 26, 1938	Humboldt Dec. 25	Lewisburg Jan. 8	Fulaaki Jan. 5	Murfreesboro Dec. 25	Johnson City Dec. 29	Greeneville Dec. 20	Rugby Jan. 8	Rara Avis, Miss. Dec. 25	Moselle, Miss. Dec. 23
Number of species	43	31	29	38	30	47	31	38	31	45	42
Number of individuals	1118	650	551	610	1418	2343	2512	995	467	1198	1685
Number of observers	5	1	1	2	3	2	2	1	6	2	1
Pied-billed Grebe	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ring-necked Duck
Turkey Vulture	180	.....	.....	.....	29	6	.....	.....	23
Black Vulture	2	.....	3	16	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cooper's Hawk	2	.....	.....	1	1	1	.....	.....	1
Red-tailed Hawk	3	3	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	.....
Marsh Hawk	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Sparrow Hawk	1	6	2	2	5	.....	1	1	1	.....
Bob-white	52	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18	.....	.....
Killdeer	4	3	6	2	1	2	6	.....	3	6
Mourning Dove	5	7	10	1	30	12	4	150	25	86
Screech Owl	1	.....	.....	1	2	.....	.....	.....
Great Horned Owl	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Barred Owl	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Belted Kingfisher	3	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Flicker	8	2	2	7	3	1	3	2	1	34
Pileated Woodpecker	2	1	1	.....	.....	1	1	8
Red-bellied Woodpecker	7	12	3	7	1	6	2	5	1	12
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	1	.....	1	.....	8	1	1	2	1
Hairy Woodpecker	3	2	2	2	4	2	.....	.....	.....	5
Downy Woodpecker	9	1	.....	5	6	5	2	6	11	8
Phoebe	1	1	1	1	.....	11
Horned Larks*	100	50	40	.....	.....	.....
Blue Jay	16	30	15	3	1	12	11	11	12	28
Crow	43	60	12	26	50	600	482	400	5	22
Chickadees*	11	3	5	37	15	7	8	12	34	14
Tufted Titmouse	17	.....	6	9	6	4	34	10	21	12
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	7	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10	.....
Brown Creeper	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
Winter Wren	2	1	2	.....	.....	.....	4
Bewick's Wren	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	.....	.....	.....	1
Carolina Wren	10	18	4	27	15	7	15	10	5	2
Mockingbird	12	25	9	13	6	22	9	13	1	9
Brown Thrasher	15
Robin	73	50	150	10	6	5	.....	.....	.....	3
Hermit Thrush	19	2	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	5
Bluebird	54	6	5	6	7	14	8	6	7	26
Golden-crowned Kinglet	7	.....	7	3	4	4	7	7	6	10
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
American Pipit	69
Cedar Waxwing	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Shrikes*	2	4	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Starling	30	24	700	1000	1555	25	66	15
Myrtle Warbler	1	5	.....	4	.....	4	16	14	1	5
English Sparrow	2	8	65	C.	C.	25	100	85	35	30
Meadowlark	27	12	10	48	45	25	3	45	7	75
Red-wing	50
Rusty Blackbird	45
Bronzed Grackle	3
Cowbird	300	40	.....	2	.....	.....
Cardinal	33	10	.....	63	42	35	29	19	3	11
Purple Finch	12	.....	.....	1	.....	50	.....	9	.....	.....
Goldfinch	26	.....	.....	8	1	2	20	6	14	3
Towhee	30	2	.....	8	.....	25	.....	5	5	9
Savannah Sparrow	13
Slate-colored Junco	257	300	.....	89	66	50	75	42	130	166
Tree Sparrow	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chipping Sparrow	2	.....	.....	.....	192
Field Sparrow	102	40	.....	57	23	100	4	14	32	183
White-crowned Sparrow	8	.....	15	.....	100	1	14	.....	.....
White-throated Sparrow	92	30	.....	95	75	15	.....	5	1	108
Fox Sparrow	3	1	.....	.....	1	12	.....	.....	.....	3
Swamp Sparrow	56	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	51
Song Sparrow	97	14	.....	23	3	15	17	8	3	55

TABLE II

	Nashville Dec. 26, 1938	Clarksville Dec. 18	Springfield Jan. 1, 1939	Norris Dec. 24	Knoxville Dec. 26	Gt. Smoky Park Dec. 18	Henderson Dec. 24	Corinth, Miss. Jan. 1	Tupelo, Miss. Dec. 25 and *26	Memphis Dec. 24	Rosedale, Miss. Dec. 19
Number of species	70	59	46	34	36	51	30	49	26	64	69
Number of individuals	10,316	2020	731	649	1132	1904	556	882	219	7159	14,201
Number of observers	21	14	4	2	4	20	2	2	3	20	3
Loon	1										
Pied-billed Grebe	1	1			1			8	2		26
Double-crested Cormorant										6	230
Great Blue Heron	1				1					3	2
Canada Goose											
Common Mallard	18	2		76		10				2	2500
Black Duck	8	3		175							37
Gadwall	3										250
Baldpate		3		2					3		5
Green-winged Teal											23
Blue-winged Teal				6				1			
Shoveller											1500
Wood Duck										4	19
Ring-necked Duck		75		9				3			200
Canvas-back								2			
Lesser Scaup	73	1		44			20	10	150	20	3000
American Golden-eye	3								2		
Buffle-head								2			
Old-squaw	1			1							
Ruddy Duck											18
Hooded Merganser							2		2		31
Red-breasted Merganser									2		
Turkey Vulture		7	1			1	15	12	4	8	9
Black Vulture	7	7				2					7
Sharp-shinned Hawk											2
Cooper's Hawk	4	1				1		1			1
Red-tailed Hawk	1	2	3	1		3	3	1		2	4
Red-shouldered Hawk		2	3						2	7	5
Golden Eagle						1					
Marsh Hawk	2	1						1			3
Duck Hawk											1
Sparrow Hawk	24	3	5	1		2	1		2	12	6
Ruffed Grouse						23					
Bob-white	78	8			6		20	4		62	14
Eastern Turkey						1					
Coot	3	6			3			2	4		2000
Killdeer	41	30	2		4	25		4	23	254	135
American Woodcock	1										
Wilson's Snipe	6		1						16	13	6
Ring-billed Gull										60	
Mourning Dove	103	13	4	3	23	2	2	250	1	26	6
Screech Owl	2	1			1						
Great Horned Owl	2					1					
Barred Owl	2	1						1		1	2
Barn Owl	1										
Belted Kingfisher	8	1		1	1	5	5	4		5	2
Flicker	33	26	9	7	8		4	6	*1	131	116
Pileated Woodpecker	7	6	2			5		4		1	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	28	10	6		1	1	2	6		67	6
Red-headed Woodpecker		2		1		4	1		*1	11	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	6	1					7		19	5
Hairy Woodpecker	7	4	1			7				13	3
Downy Woodpecker	29	7	6	4	5	13	4	4		43	8
Phoebe	7	1	1			2				3	2
Prairie Horned Lark	37	210	73								
Blue Jay	19	15	7		12	9	7	30	*10	416	14
Raven						3					
Crow	120	153	30	3	116	480	6		3	50	1
Chickadees*	94	20	10	30	24	150	8	10		136	21
Tufted Titmouse	61	23	7		15	47	12	40	*5	112	9
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	4	3	1	1	2		6		4	
Red-breasted Nuthatch						7				6	
Brown Creeper	9	2	1			10		1		18	3
Winter Wren	1	9	4		2	11		3		9	6
Bewick's Wren	7	6	1		2		2			1	

TABLE II—Cont.

	Nashville Dec. 26, 1938	Clarksville Dec. 18	Springfield Jan. 1, 1939	Norris Dec. 24	Knoxville Dec. 28	Gt. Smoky Park Dec. 28	Henderson Dec. 24	Corinth, Miss. Jan. 1	Tupelo, Miss. Dec. 25 and 28	Memphis Dec. 24	Rosedale, Miss. Dec. 19
Carolina Wren	53	21	10	11	20	36	1	6	*1	128	14
House Wren	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Mockingbird	112	16	8	2	12	1	4	4	*10	107	8
Brown Thrasher	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	4	.....	11	.....
Robin	33	.....	3	.....	1	8	8	6	.....	169	93
Hermit Thrush	8	2	4	.....	1	25	2	20	.....	69	3
Bluebird	90	37	10	2	4	32	18	15	.....	130	29
Golden-crowned Kinglet	16	8	2	30	12	64	.....	20	.....	76	62
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	1	.....	17	9
American Pipit	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	6	53
Cedar Waxwing	.....	10	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	93	.....
Shrikes*	2	.....	4	.....	.....	2	1	6	2	37	44
Starling	6000	262	53	1	272	10	.....	18	10	66	308
Myrtle Warbler	3	9	3	6	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	92	122
Yellow Palm Warbler	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
English Sparrow	159	228	30	3	193	24	200	.....	*209	com.	141
Meadowlark	67	121	54	3	16	1	20	50	27	374	468
Red-wing	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28	800
Rusty Blackbird	100	.....	130	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	40	.....	.....
Bronzed Grackle*	425	6	.....	.....	.....	25	.....	25	*20	402	1509
Cowbird	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	409
Cardinal	379	69	13	10	56	44	28	29	*12	447	62
Purple Finch	49	25	10	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	25	.....
Goldfinch	73	52	11	32	11	64	.....	15	.....	64	69
Towhee	148	42	15	1	28	2	.....	15	.....	77	7
Savannah Sparrow	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18	10	62	13
Juncos*	859	124	124	35	164	490	30	40	.....	1927	173
Tree Sparrow	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chipping Sparrow	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Field Sparrow	215	45	13	75	46	81	190	10	3	364	.....
White-crowned Sparrow	158	27	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	31	.....
White-throated Sparrow	220	127	15	40	149	131	150	75	*12	1319	291
Fox Sparrow	47	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	.....	125	19
Swamp Sparrow	157	53	20	2	.....	6	.....	15	.....	167	7
Song Sparrow	90	53	7	30	14	130	.....	20	2	159	108

Species shown in bold-face type were not recorded in Tennessee.

*SPECIAL NOTES: Chickadees.—Carolina Chickadees only at every locality except at the Great Smoky Mts. Park where both species were definitely observed but not listed separately and at Johnson City where 2 Black-capped and 6 Carolina Chickadees were recorded.—Shrikes,—are all Migrant Shrikes except at Rosedale and Moselle, Miss. and probably Memphis where both the Migrant and the Loggerhead Shrikes are found in winter. The latter sub-species has been collected at Rosedale.—Bronzed Grackle,—should be Purple Grackle for all East Tenn. censuses.—Juncos,—should be Slate-colored Juncos at all localities except in the Great Smoky Mts. Park where Carolina Juncos were also recorded.

*OTHER NOTES ARE INCLUDED IN CENSUS DATA ON FOLLOWING PAGES.

'The Lakes of Tennessee', Bulletin No. 11 (July, 1937) of the Tennessee State Planning Commission is obtainable from the Commission at Nashville. The cost is fifty cents. The bulletin is a mimeographed list, by counties, of water bodies of an acre or more in extent and commonly considered as lakes in their respective communities. A key map of the state shows location by county numbers. The list gives the acreage, ownership, specific location, and general use of each lake, and acreage and use of adjacent public land, if any. No descriptive information is given. Appendix C is a bibliography of published matter relating to the lakes and contains numerous references to *The Migrant*. These latter principally concern birdlife at Reelfoot, Radnor, Mud, Norris and other lakes.

WHITE BLUFF:—Jan. 8, 8:30 A.M. to 4 P.M. clear until 3 P.M., then part cloudy and light wind; unusually warm for the season. Followed as near as possible the routes of the three preceding annual studies. Same observers and methods. A small lake had been formed by the completion of the dam since last year's census and the ducks were seen thereon. A falcon was not identified positively. A flock of Black Vultures was seen late in the afternoon not far from the park.—A. F. Ganier, Harry Monk, Jesse M. Shaver (chairman), Harry Vaughn, and George Woodring.—COVINGTON:—Dec. 26, 8-9 A.M., 11 A.M.—4:30 P.M.; cloudy and rain; temp. 43. Southwest of town, 5 miles on foot and 8 by car.—Alice Smith (Memphis.)—HUMBOLDT: Dec. 25—Albert J. Marsh.

—LEWISBURG:—Jan. 8, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.; fair; temp. 35-65. On foot over about 175 acres of farm land. Bronzed Grackles seen in large numbers enroute to farm but not found there.—Mrs. F. C. Laskey and Mrs. Sam H. Rogers.—PULASKI:—Jan. 5, 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.; fair; temp. 40-60. On foot over about 75 acres of farm land, 10 miles north of town.—Mrs. Sam H. Rogers and Mr. and Mrs. Porter Stone.—MURFREESBORO:—Dec. 25, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.; fair; P.M. cloudy; temp. 30-55. Environs and Lillard Woods, 10 miles by auto, 6 on foot. An albino Field Sparrow was seen.—Prof. George Davis and Henry Todd, Jr.—JOHNSON CITY:—Dec. 29, 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.; part cloudy; calm; temp. 20. Llewellyn Wood, Cox's Lake, Boone's Creek, Picken's Bridge.—Robt. B. Lyle and Bruce P. Tyler.—GREENEVILLE:—Dec. 20, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.; alternating clear and cloudy; light wind; temp. 24-45. Reed and Ross farms along Roaring Fork Creek, and Bays Mt. 6 miles on foot, 12 in auto. Also,—Dec. 18, a Palm Warbler; Dec. 19, a Belted Kingfisher.—Willie Ruth Reed.—RUGBY:—Jan. 8, 9:45 A.M. to 4 P.M.; clear; light wind; temp. 50. From Rugby Road to Rugby, 7 miles by auto, frequent stops for short hikes, and 4 miles on foot around Rugby and in White Oak Creek basin. Elevation of Rugby is about 1500 feet above sea level. The Screech Owl, Bewick's Wren, and Fox Sparrow are species seen here regularly but could not be found on the census. On the 6th, 11 Towhees were around the Walton feeding station at one time.—Mrs. W. T. Walton (Rugby) and Charles Baird, Misses Mary McGriff and Willie Ruth Reed, and Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Walker (Knoxville Chapter).—RARA AVIS, MISS.:—Dec 25, 1 to 5 P.M.; overcast; temp. 52. Old road from Tremont to Rara Avis to Ala. line, 11 miles by auto with short side trips on foot (2 groups), principally into the Bull Mountain Creek bottoms. Large wooded bottoms and fields; moderately rolling country with only scattered pines.—Austin Burdick, Jr. and Ben Coffey (Memphis) and Harwell Dabbs (Tupelo).—MOSELLE, MISS.:—Dec. 23, 7:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.; cloudy; wind, gentle, temp. 58-70. Leaf River swamps, by flat fields, thru pine woods, and over hilly terrain. 7 miles on foot, 27 miles in car. Observers together. Species not tabulated (but included in totals) are: Brown-headed Nuthatch, 5; Blue-headed Vireo, 3; Pine Warbler, 18; Md. Yellow-throat, 1 (thru 8x glasses at 25 feet); and Vesper Sparrow, 52.—Marie Grayson and Arnedo Long.

NASHVILLE:—Dec. 26, 6 A.M. to 5 P.M.; .5 inch of rain, steady all day; calm; temp. 40-45. Environs south, west, and east, including Radnor Lake, Overton Knobs, Franklin and Hardscuffle Roads, Hillsboro and Hobbs

Roads, Warner Parks, Bellemeade, Westmeade; River Road; Knapp Farm. Observers in 10 groups. Total, 43 group-hours, 26 miles. On Dec. 25 a Ruddy Duck and 2 Ring-necked Ducks were seen on Radnor Lake. The Chipping Sparrow was recorded by Shaver and the Woodcock and Tree Sparrows by Abernathy, Robins, and Simpson.—B. H. Abernathy, J. B. Calhoun, Alfred Clebsch, Jr., A. F. Ganier, Wayland Hayes, Conrad Jamison, Amelia R. Laskey, Arthur McMurray, G. R. Mayfield, H. C. Monk, C. E. Pearson, John Prichard, Leo Rippy, Jr., J. A. Robins, Vernon Sharp, Jr., J. M. Shaver, Wm. Simpson, Val Solyom, Jamie Ross Tippens, H. S. Vaughn, and George B. Woodring—CLARKSVILLE:—Dec. 18, 8:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.; fair; wind, slight; temp. 38-42. Barred Owl at 9 P.M. North central portion of Montgomery County and Cumberland River bottom above Cunningham bridge and 'Elder Woods'. Three groups. See also 'The Season'.—Lamar Armstrong, M. S. Carter, Alfred Clebsch, Sr. and Jr., Clarence Collier, Jr., Reams Goodloe, Mrs. J. Y. Hutchison, G. R. Mayfield, Mrs. W. M. Noland, Dr and Mrs. Pickering, Leo Rippy, Jr., J. A. Robins, and Wm. Simpson.—SPRINGFIELD:—Jan. 1, 8:30 A.M. to 3 P.M.; fair; wind, fresh; temp. 32-45. Environs, including Perry Park, small marsh 6 miles north and big marsh. The Yellow Palm Warblers were flitting about in the willows at the small marsh and constitute our first mid-winter record.—A. F. Ganier, Leo Rippy, Jr., G. R. Mayfield, and H. C. Monk.—NORRIS:—Dec. 24, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.; fair; wind, brisk; temp. 35-45. Cove Creek Lake, Norris, and respective vicinities; 6 miles on foot.—Charles O. Baird, Jr. and W. M. Walker, Jr.—KNOXVILLE:—Dec. 26, 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.; rain; temp. 40. U. T. Farm, Andrew Jackson Lake, Woodlawn Cemetery and Riverside Drive. Three groups; 3 miles on foot, 23 by auto. Observations chiefly from autos because of rain.—Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Johnson, Mrs. Henry Meyer, and W. M. Walker. Also Jan. 1,—fair, temp. 35; H. P. Ijams, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Johnson, Mrs. Frank Leonhard, Prof. and Mrs. Henry Meyer, and S. A. Ogden. 34 species, 700 individuals. Recorded Jan. 1 but not on Dec. 26,—Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Phoebe, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; Purple Finch, 2.—GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK:—Dec. 18, 7 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.; party cloudy; in lowlands, ground bare, temp. 35-50; in mountains, ground covered 1-3 inches of snow, temp. 28-35. Area of 15 miles diameter, same as last year, centered on Bull Head and including Mt. LeConte, Greenbriar Cove, Elkmont, and the state divide from Siler's Bald to Charlie's Bunion,—also Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, just outside park. Altitude range, 1200 to 6600 feet. Observers in 7 groups. Total, 60 group-hours, 24 miles afoot (3 groups), 177 miles by car and afoot.—The Golden Eagle was observed by Ogden at 75 to 100 yards and about 60 feet in the air. The Eagle, Black Vulture, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Chipping Sparrow were first winter records for these species in the Park. An absence of Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills was anticipated in view of a relatively light crop of conifer seed, while the scarcity of Robins, Purple Finches, and Red-breasted Nuthatches proved to be of particular interest.—Charles O. Baird, Jr., Mary Ruth Chiles, Brockway Crouch, John J. Hay, Earl O. Henry, H. P. Ijams, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Leonhard, Henry Meyer, S. A. Ogden, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Walker, Jr., and Dorothy Williams (Knoxville Chapter); Carlos C. Campbell, Willis

King, Bonnie Tom Robinson, R. H. Sloan, Jr., and Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist.—HENDERSON:—Dec. 24, 7 A.M. to 1 P.M.; heavy fog responsible for light list, clearing after 10 A.M. Town, east to edges of S. Forked Deer River bottom, chiefly around Lake Placid in Chickasaw Forest, 8 miles west.—J. R. Endsley, assisted by Kermit Nichols.—CORINTH, MISS.:—Jan. 1, 1 P.M. to 5 P.M.; clear; light wind; temp. 45. Petty bottom, 6 miles west of town, and Liddon Lake.—Benj. R. Warriner and Elgin Wright.—TUPELO, MISS.:—Dec. 25, 9 A.M. to 11 A.M.; cloudy; temp. 42-48. Gum Pond and just N. E. of same, and U. S. Fish Hatchery.—Austin Burdick, Jr., Ben Coffey, and Harwell Dabbs. Dec. 27, 10 A.M. to 1:30 P.M., windy and cold. Same area.—Dudley Carr, Harwell Dabbs, and Paul Eason. Additional species seen Dec. 27 indicated thus, '*'. Totals for Dec. 25 only and include 1 Mockingbird and 1 Blue Jay seen that day compared with 10 each on Dec. 27. Limited to areas of special interest,—enroute to Rara Avis, Dec. 25, and poor weather, Dec. 27.—MEMPHIS:—Dec. 24, 7 A.M. to 5 P.M.; heavy fog first 2 hours, fair visibility at 40 feet, overcast all day; temp. 33.52. Territory of 1935 and 1936 well covered, although only a partial count made when fog lifted and birds were most numerous, due to schedule—Austin Burdick, Jr., Fred Carney, Ben Coffey, Harold Elphinstone, Fred Fiedler, Jr., Bill Fischer, Mrs. George W. Govert, Robt. Hovis, Dr. and Mrs. Louis Leroy, Hugh McCain, Franklin McCamey, Jr., Fordyce Mitchel, C. E. Moore, John Pond, Bob Shaffer, Billy Walker, Ben Welch, Eldon White and Neal Wyatt.—ROSEDALE, MISS.:—Dec. 19, 7:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.; clear; light wind; temp. 33-51-46. Rosedale to Legion Lake, to Lake Bolivar and return. Observers together, 3 miles afoot, 42 by auto.—Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Valden and Van B. Chaney.

CHAPTER NEWS

Notifications of the following meeting dates have been received. KNOX-VILLE:—Field trips—Apr. 16, Hickory Valley; April 30, annual spring census, Island Home; May 21, Cade's Cove; June 18, Andrews Bald and Clingman's Dome. A night meeting is scheduled for June 7 and is in charge of Miss Willie Ruth Reed. (A very ambitious and tempting schedule—Editor.) Miss Mary Ruth Chiles, 1817 Highland., is sec.-treas. MEMPHIS:—Meetings are held at the Pink Palace Museum and for April are scheduled for the 10th and 24th. The annual spring field day has been set for May 7 and, as usual, at Lakeview on the Miss. line. Mrs. T. I. Klyce, Raleigh, Tenn. is sec'y. NASHVILLE:—Meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday nights of each month, at the Social-Religious Building on the Peabody campus. Dr. Olin S. Pettingill will be the speaker on April 12. The spring field day has been set for May 14. Leo Rippy, Jr., 515 Orient Circle, is sec'y. BLUE GRASS CHAPTER:—All T. O. S. members in the 'Blue Grass' area and adjacent sections are urged to attend the annual spring field day of the chapter. The date has not been set but will probably be Apr. 30. Write the secretary, Mrs. Sam H. Rogers, 315 Flower St., Pulaski, for further details.

THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA:—Xmas Census lists were low this season in species recorded. Possibly this was due to unfavorable weather on census days. At Moon Lake, Miss., one factor may have been that the waterfowl hunting season extended, for the first time recently, a few days past the census date. However, no shooting was noted there that day.—Unfortunately most of our Lakeview habitués ceased visiting this locality all at the same time and we have no notes from there. We have some interesting local lists made by Walker and Welch, Burdick, and others but we will have to postpone comment to the next issue, due to other duties.—Dr. C. L. Baker reported the first Purple Martin at his box on Mar. 1, a day earlier than last year.—**BEN COFFEY, Memphis.**

CORINTH CHAT:—In March, 1933 I found a small flock (5 or 6) of Brown-headed Nuthatches in a small pine grove 5 miles southeast of town. I had been on the lookout for the 'Brown-heads' for several years, but without success. On this particular day I was near the pines and said to myself that I would go over to the place and find Brown-headed Nuthatches. I went as straight to the tree where the little fellows were feeding as I would have gone if I had known in advance that they were there. After that occasion I found them in the same pine grove a number of times each year until 1938. They remained in the same spot the year round and apparently nested there each season. I have never been able to find this species anywhere else in the Corinth area although I have hunted repeatedly. Last year this group disappeared and none have been seen since then. On Feb. 5 of this year I went there again, determined to make one more search. Again I failed. But there was a pleasant compensation. Three Red-breasted Nuthatches were feeding in the selfsame trees; they were the first of the kind I had ever seen. The Red-breasted is a rarity here, for this species does not often come this far south. A week later they were still there, but in another week were gone.—On Feb. 26 a Brown Thrasher sang in the tip-top of a large water oak on Washington Street. I observed two others nearby in a small tree. Soon they joined the one in the water oak and in a short time all three were singing. Then to my utter surprise and delight two others came and in a few minutes five Brown Thrashers were trying to outdo one another in a veritable bird choir. One Brown Thrasher alone is capable of filling a whole neighborhood with song incomparable. Five singing at one time gave me a thrill I have never experienced before in Birddom.—This spring I observed in a number of places that quite a variety of birds will flock to a burned-off grass field. Early in March at a particular one of five or six acres of meadow-land I found Sparrows in abundance.—White-throats, Chipping, Field, Swamp, Song, and Juncos. In addition, there were many Doves, Robins, Rusty Blackbirds, and Titmice. I passed the spot several times in the following two weeks and the birds were still there. Yesterday (March 20) a dozen Vesper Sparrows had joined the other species. The Vesper is rarely seen here, and I can

recall only two other times that I have found it. In March two years ago, three were seen bathing in a little pool in the grass near a roadside; and again three or four flew up from a bare cotton patch near the road. It is said that the Vesper is the best named of all the birds,—because of his sweet song after sunset when all others of the bird tribe have gone to roost.—
BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

CLARKSVILLE AREA:—Our winter has been mild and heavy rainfall in the early part of February brought the Cumberland River to flood stage where it remained most of that month. During a trip on the swollen waters a flight of about 300 ducks broken up in flocks of varying size, gave proof of the increase in the wild fowl population. Wood Ducks extended their stay in this section into late December, records on the Cumberland River being made Dec. 18 and 28. A small group of Canada Geese, about 12 in number, spent the winter here and we have scattered records of the Great Blue Heron. But during the entire season, including the high water stage, we did not see any Herring Gulls. The only report of this species came from Hopkinsville, Ky., 30 miles north of us, where a single individual, wearing a Biological Survey band, was blinded by light and captured at a filling station during the stormy night preceding Thanksgiving Day. Failure to read the band number in full prevented the determination of the bird's origin.—Tree Sparrows also did not show up this year in spite of several check-ups on their favorite haunts.—Our principal finds were among the raptors. During our mid-winter census a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks were observed screaming and swooping at a perching Red-tailed Hawk. On Jan. 2 the writer observed a splendid Bald Eagle whose age can be given as four years according to the plumage description of Mr. A. C. Bent. Some brownish streaks were still showing plainly in the crown of the white head. On Jan. 28 we listed the two hundredth species for our county when two Rough-legged Hawks gave us a wonderful show of their remarkable flying powers. A week later Dr. & Mrs. Pickering saw these birds (we assume it was the same pair) at Dunbar's Cave and had a view of them at close range while in flight and perching. Marsh Hawks have been unusually scarce here.—A new banding sub-station under Mrs. Peay produced the first Brown Thrasher record for this spring on Feb. 15. Vesper Sparrows returned on the 18th. Horned Larks were rather plentiful during the winter and recently a single and a pair were found near the northern edge of our county. When flushed and chased by a dog they flew close to the ground. The arrival of the Purple Martins was recorded on Mar. 8. The familiar call was heard from high in the sky and presently a bird spiralled in graceful flight down to, presumably, his old home. By night three birds had shown up and during the next two weeks at least one was seen each day. Any time now the whole colony should come in.—
ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville.

NASHVILLE AREA:—The winter just past was notable in many respects and was unusually mild. Mean temperatures for the three winter months averaged 43.4, comparable with a normal of 40.4 degrees. As a result, the winter bird population apparently shifted northward. Prairie Horned Larks were quite scarce and where found, the flocks averaged small. Marsh

Hawks were quite rare though this may be chargeable to the scarcity of field mice. Robins, Starlings, and Cedar Waxwings, which ordinarily return in large numbers about New Year's, to feed upon the usually abundant hackberries, remained southward because of the failure that had occurred in that crop. Had there been a great deal of snow and ice, many birds would have starved the past winter due to a lack of hackberries. The freeze of last spring also ruined the poison-ivy berry crop and as a result Myrtle Warblers have been rare instead of common as in normal winters. Doves moved northward and flocks of 57, 22 and 18 were noted around the holidays.—The Christmas census, taken Dec. 26, topped past records with a total of 70 species in spite of a rainy, muddy day. John Calhoun, who had come down from the University of Virginia to participate as usual, led a group that brought in the best list. Among the notable finds were first Xmas records of the Barn Owl, Common Loon, Woodcock, and Tree Sparrow; also, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, first since 1916; Red-wing, first since 1929; and Old-squaw first since 1930.—A Barn Owl was shot near Appleton, Lawrence Co., on Dec. 15, which together with the Xmas bird at Nashville, constitute our first mid-winter records.—Woodcocks remained, due to the mild winter, as evidenced by one being seen on Dec. 4 near Glendale Park, Nashville, by Clare Lovett, one shot and slightly wounded on Dec. 14 near Springfield, and one seen on Hobbs Lane, Nashville, by Wm. Simpson on Dec. 17 and again on Dec. 26. The Dec. 14 bird was cared for by Mrs. Laskey and released when well, on Dec. 16, in Warner Park.—Mrs. Laskey reports two very early Chipping Sparrows which on Feb. 19 went to roost together in an arborvitae at her window and two or three were seen daily thereafter about her grounds. On Feb. 22 one was trapped and found to have been banded in 1936 by her. Their first song was heard on Mar. 1. On Feb. 22 she trapped a Lincoln's Sparrow.—A Golden Eagle was trapped by a farmer near Gallatin, on Dec. 13 and was kept caged until secured by staff members of the State Dept. of Fish and Game. It was later shipped to the Great Smokies National Park, banded and released there on Jan. 11 by Mr. Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist. We hope it will elect to remain and keep company with the other Park eagles.—Rusty Blackbirds, not often recorded here, were seen in the river bottoms on Dec. 26 (flock of about 100) and by the writer near Springfield on Jan. 1 and 7. At the latter place they were seen feeding in a wet swamp. Near Clarksville, Mr. Clebsch recently reported them in a similar location.—The 53-acre lake in Montgomery Bell State Park, near White Bluff, was found to have been nearly filled when visited on Jan. 8 and 3 Ring-necked Ducks, a Wilson's Snipe and a Kingfisher, had already established themselves. It will be interesting to note the increase in water birds there in the years to come.—On March 19, the writer visited the Bee Creek "gulf", near Caney Fork in White Co., in search of Duck Hawks but saw none. A Red-tailed Hawk was observed there, carrying nest material in it's bill to a nesting ledge in a high cliff. A guide told of having seen a white-headed (Bald) Eagle at this point a few years before. (Bald Eagles were reported at nearby Scott's Pinnacle several years ago.) At dusk a flock of 12 Turkey Vultures were observed to have gone to roost in a dead tree on Goforth Point.—At Mullin's Cove, Marion Co., on March 26, a further survey of the cliff escarpments were

made and resulted in the finding of a second eyrie of the Duck Hawk. Walking back over the ridge with Bill McNabb, local warden, we flushed single Ruffed Grouse at four locations. Mr. McNabb reported that he had seen both species of eagles in the Cove within recent months,—the Bald only a week previous. At another location nearby, an eagle is reported as making daily forays and threats to pigs and poultry.—ALBERT F. GANTER, 2112 Woodlawn Drive, Nashville.

KNOXVILLE AREA:—The Osprey has been a fairly frequent visitor in the vicinity of Knoxville for a couple of years but late last fall 5 were reported by Mrs. William Johnson to have been seen circling over the Tennessee River near the city waterworks.—Reports from individuals, club members, and newspaper stories about the Screech Owl indicate this little owl is either becoming more plentiful, or has adopted new methods of getting publicity.—The winter season has been somewhat different this year with Purple Finch and Goldfinch far less numerous than usual. Cedar Waxwings evidently have been very localized as they were reported from only one locality. One or more male Red-wings were winter residents or very early migrants because we have records of single birds from Fountain City for Jan. 12. (Ogden), Feb. 10 (Hofferbert), and Feb. 17 (Mrs. Templeton.)—About Feb. 10 an immature Bald Eagle was shot at Riverdale. It was rescued from the river and brought to Knoxville for treatment and subsequent release, but gangrene developed in the wing and the bird was killed and mounted by Mr. Ogden.—The Barred Owl has been a steady visitor at Island Home from Feb. 1 to date (Mar. 23) and we expect it to remain in the vicinity for another month.—There has been a wide difference of opinion concerning the status of ducks on Norris Lake. Trent reports large flocks of Lesser Scaup and Black Duck wintering near the Loyston area while from the more inaccessible places the numbers reported are few, with some 8 or 10 species represented. Below Norris Dam the writer found a flock averaging 25 Mallards and 40 Lesser Scaup. Cove Creek Lake presents a different picture. The species varied from two to eight and the individuals from 50 to 350. Black Ducks always comprised 60 to 75 percent of the ducks present with Scaups the next in rank. Those ducks that presumably wintered here evidently started north about Mar. 15. We expect an influx of water birds about the middle of April, because in the past we generally find ducks and shorebirds during the regular spring migration.—Spring arrivals to date have been rather erratic.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville.

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE:—The first Robins arrived at Johnson City Jan. 7. Their plumage was very clean proving that they were from the south. Their numbers increased slowly but by Feb. 22 they were coming thru in large flocks. My own Robins,—that is, those that breed in my yard—arrived early in February. The delayed spring migration might have foretold the late spring. The early fall migration should have foretold a severe autumn, but such was not the case. Although we had snow and cold weather in November, the winter temperature has been better than the average and less variable. The migrants arriving from the south so far are Robins, Duck Hawks (not yet nesting), and a few Phoebe. We anticipate a wild rush when migrations start in earnest.—BUCE P. TYLER and ROBT. B. LYLE

THE ROUND TABLE

RARE SHOREBIRDS AT MUD LAKE:—In *The Migrant* for September, 1938 (pp. 68-69) Wendell Whittemore reported a single Black-bellied Plover seen Sept. 25 at Mud Lake, Tenn.-Miss., our first record for the Memphis area altho we have been visiting this likely territory for over eight years. This species then became almost a fixture for the season; evidently it was the same small group on each occasion. None were seen on Oct. 6 or on Oct. 9 but on the 16th a flock of about ten large shorebirds took flight from the far or north shore after we had waded about half-way across. At the distance of about 60 yards we could not see the black axillars but their size and call-notes were distinctive and checked with observations made a week later. The flock on that date was flushed repeatedly as they did not leave the lake, and were approached to as close as 40 feet. On Oct. 30 the lake had shrunk to a few shallow pools but the flock was still present. No trips have been made there since.—On the 9th I saw my first Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica dominica*),—two individuals in fall plumage but distinctly bearing a golden 'cast' over all and lacking the black axillars of the other large plovers. We approached them several times to within 20 feet and once they obligingly flew to the other end of the lake to enable Mrs. Coffey and Miss Alice Smith to make their acquaintance. This is the first Tennessee record for this species. There is one former record for this area, made by John Pond and party, on April 11, 1936 (*The Migrant*, 1936, p. 43). At that time a single bird was found along the meadow-like slope of the levee, a short distance south of the Tennessee line.—Just before the two Golden Plovers were noticed in the mixed flock of 'peeps' and Lesser Yellow-legs, a slim, light gray bird was noticed and readily identified as a Wilson's Phalarope in fall plumage. This is the fourth record for this area, and the second fall record. The other three records were also across the line in Mississippi while the Mud Lake records can be credited to both states as it is located on the line.—On Oct. 23, several very light gray birds were seen among the 'peeps' probing along the north shore. Smaller than a Sanderling (not yet recorded here) and with long dark bills, slightly curved downward at the tip, the birds were recognized to be Red-backed Sandpipers (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*). They were stalked several times to allow each of our party to see them well but sometime later when we had the shorebirds 'cornered' at the east end of the lake, we were able to get within 20 feet of them and to see that there was more dark gray than we thought, especially underneath on the sides. Here we counted twelve individuals. The first published record for Tennessee is by Dr. Earl O. Henry (*The Migrant*, 1937, p. 40) of one individual at Lake Andrew Jackson near Knoxville, Oct. 4, 1936. I feel positive also that an individual of this species was seen at Mud Lake under the same conditions on Aug. 23, 1936. This latter bird was flushed repeatedly as McCamey and the writer ploughed back and forth thru the mud for some time in an effort to identify it. At the first glance we thought we had

spotted a Sanderling but closer and more thorough examinations disproved that belief and we spent some time with it in the expectation of identifying it at some time in the future. The large number of other shore-birds (see *The Migrant*, 1936, p. 67) among which it fed and took flight, was somewhat of a handicap. A few weeks later Whittemore and the writer saw two Red-backed Sandpipers at Gulfport, Miss., but we were so close to the birds (6 to 7 feet) and the other species so different that I did not associate them with the 'unknown' at that time.—A Dowitcher (sub-species?) was seen Oct. 6. (Pond and Simpson) and three Long-billed (?) Dowitchers on Oct. 16 also proved interesting. There are three previous Tennessee records (*The Migrant*, 1936, p. 68)—The writer was accompanied by John Pond on all dates mentioned herewith and at other times by Mrs. Coffey, Miss Smith, Whittemore, Walker, and Welch.—BEN COFFEY, Memphis.

FLORIDA GALLINULE IN NASHVILLE AREA:—It has been my privilege to band three individuals of this species that have been caught in East Nashville and released uninjured. The first bird flew into the lighted window of a house, the impact against the glass causing it to fall to the porch floor where it was caught and kept overnight on May 17, 1937. The second bird also flew against window panes,—at a filling station near the Cumberland River on September 21, 1938. The third individual was caught in a garage where it evidently had gone to roost, on the morning of October 10, 1938. Searching through the literature, I have been unable to find any records of this species for the state except from Reelfoot Lake.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville.

EDITOR'S NOTE:—Since this species is common at Reelfoot Lake it should be expected to be so at Memphis, during migration, at least. However it is rarely reported. The only record that comes to mind is that of a bird caught in a Memphis yard and given to the local zoo. There are several records of the Purple Gallinule, a more southern species, all given in past notes on 'The Season', and there have been a few instances where we were unable to approach gallinules closely enough to record the species.

SANDHILL CRANES IN CUMBERLAND CO.,—On March 13, 1939, I had the unusual experience of observing and positively identifying 13 of these birds (*Grus canadensis tabida*) near Crab Orchard, which village is about 45 miles west of Knoxville. At the time, I was returning from an early morning trip to a nearby mountain when, as I skirted an open marshy tract of land by walking through the adjacent woods, I saw three of the Cranes together at less than 100 feet away and identified them through my glasses. The time was about 7:30 A.M. and the morning was clear. On coming out of the woods to get a closer look at them, they looked at me, then ran a few paces before taking flight, crying in a weird way I had never heard before as they flew away. When they arose, I saw others from nearly a quarter of a mile off, arise also. All were very much scattered except the first three which I had found feeding together. They arose 500 feet or so and divided into two flocks; then circled for several minutes as though to get their bearings, finally congregated and then headed north.—PAUL ADAMS Crab Orchard.

NOTE—The only previous recent record of this species is one reported

from Chattanooga on June 1, 1935, by Prof. W. K. Butts, for which see *The Migrant* 1936 p. 24.—EDITOR.

A BARRED OWL EXPERIENCE:—To me what was one of the most interesting experiences that I ever had in connection with bird banding occurred several years ago at our place on the Tennessee River. The tenant's son had a line of traps (for fur-bearers) on the bluff and in 'running the line' he would always find the remains of a rabbit at one particular trap. On learning of this I suggested that he leave the remains there and set several traps around the spot. The next morning he found that he had captured a magnificent Barred Owl. An examination of the bird disclosed that one foot was almost severed. It was removed by cutting a couple of tendons and a band was placed on the good leg.—Now, here is the interesting part. When I freed him he flew directly to an oak limb about 50 yards away and attempted to alight with both feet. The result was ludicrous, but he managed to right himself on the limb. To see what would happen I flushed him again. This time he made another 50-yard flight and then a graceful 'one-point landing' on the good foot. To be certain that the single foot landing was not accidental, I flushed him again, and with exactly the same result. On my next approach he flew away through the dense woods and out of my life.—Because of such a handicap this was one banded bird from which I expected to receive a 'recovery' record. But as yet—five years later—I have had no report of him. Presumably alive, how he has managed to survive minus one powerful talon is a matter for conjecture. Perhaps he quickly found it just as easy to grab things with only one foot as he did to perch with it after the first attempt.—H. P. JAMS, Knoxville.

WINTER RECORDS OF THE RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET FOR THE NASHVILLE AREA:—The discovery of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on our Christmas Census recalls several other winter records of this specie. A study of census reports in *The Migrant* reveals this kinglet is rarer at Nashville than at any other state locality reporting over a period of years. The following personal records may therefore be of interest.—One of these birds was found on Feb. 15, 1925, in a woods on the western edge of the city. The day was a sunny preview of spring, with many species singing, and the kinglet was revealed by a complete song, perfect in every way.—On Jan. 22, 1933, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet was found on Centennial Park hill, in the thicket-grown hackberry woods. In the next three weeks nine visits to this area resulted in three more records,—namely, Jan. 28, Feb. 5 and 14. On two of these occasions the bird was found in arborvitae and evergreen privet, but at other times it ranged freely through bare deciduous growth.—In the following winter a kinglet appeared in the same locality. It was first observed on Nov. 28, 1933, and was present on five of thirteen succeeding visits to the hill,—namely, on December 3, 8, 10, 12, and 21. It could not be found thereafter.—Only one Ruby-crowned Kinglet was observed on each of the dates listed. No difficulty was experienced in identifying the bird as it usually frequented bushes and low trees and was so unsuspecting that a close approach was always possible. The bird's behavior was entirely normal. It exhibited the nervous energy characteristic of the species, mov-

ing continually through the bushes and trees. As it moved along, the kinglet pecked constantly at the branches and twigs, seeming to glean an almost invisible prey from them. When followed it was found to cover a considerable range, and this probably explains why it was not listed on every trip. In spite of its ceaseless activity the bird was quite inconspicuous, and was usually located by its wren-like scolding note. This call, and a fine, weak chip, were the only sounds it uttered.—HARRY C. MONK, Nashville.

NOTES FROM PULASKI:—Brown Creepers, often seen here in town and always on my trips into the country, have been conspicuous by their absence this winter. In fact, I have seen only one this season. Prairie Horned Larks have not been seen on the farms where I usually find them each winter. On the other hand, Robins have been more abundant in the country through February and March than I have ever before seen them. In town I have seen only a few thus far. Bronzed Grackles are about the only birds I have been able to band and as the weather becomes warmer they are dropping off.—SARAH OGLIVIE ROGERS, Pulaski.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH NESTS IN NASHVILLE AREA:—Although the bird is fairly common throughout the Nashville region, the nest of the White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*) is very rarely found, even by those who spend a great deal of time afield. In eight seasons the writer saw only two nests (and heard of perhaps three others). It is desired to record the first two nests here. The data may perhaps be of interest to present workers in the vicinity of Nashville.

The first nest was found by Harry Monk and the writer on a wooded bluff about seventeen miles northwest of Nashville, in eastern Cheatham County. The birds had utilized a knothole about 35 feet up in the bole of a living oak which grew at the edge of the bluff. They were feeding young large enough to be quite noisy on the date of discovery, April 19, 1931. The excellent nest site was not re-used that year. When examined the next year it was found to contain flying squirrels. However, a pair of Nuthatches were in the vicinity.

On April 30, 1932, in Nashville's Shelby Park, the second nesting of this species was observed. The adults were making frequent trips with food to a very large knothole (at least 2x5 inches) about thirty-five feet up in the main trunk of a Mississippi hackberry. These young apparently were very recently hatched, for although the writer observed food being taken into the hole several times, the cries of the young could not be heard. This location was in an open wood on a hilltop. It was never revisited.—COMPTON CROOK, The Episcopal Academy, Overbrook, Philadelphia, Pa.

RECENT BIRD LITERATURE

THE BIRD LIFE OF LOUISIANA, by Harry C. Oberholser (Bulletin No. 28—The Department of Conservation, New Orleans, La., 1938; pp. 1-834, 45 plates; secured at a nominal price of \$1.00).

Dr. Oberholser, of the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Conservation has given to the bird-minded citizens of Louisiana and neighboring states an authoritative reference publication of inestimable value. Its varied terrain gives to Louisiana an unusual advantage for the support of abundant bird life and its location is strategic in reference to the great Mississippi Valley. Every bird student in this area should welcome this volume which is much more complete and based on a more complete reference to available records than any other preceding book on the birds of Louisiana. It consists principally of an annotated list of 429 bird forms, embracing 630 pages, and a bibliography of 477 titles, accompanied by a very complete index. Much data is here published for the first time. Besides the detailed information on distribution in Louisiana and migration and nesting dates, much interesting information is given on haunts and habits and, to some extent, on field marks. However, the book is valuable chiefly as a particularly timely reference work, supplementing one's own knowledge of how to recognize each species or a good handbook for that purpose.—BRUCE P. TYLER.

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS, by Roger Tory Peterson (Houghton Mifflin Company, March, 1939; pp. 1-180, 40 plates; price \$2.75).

This is a revised and enlarged edition of the well-nigh indispensable identification handbook of all amateur bird students residing east of the Rockies. Four new plates and numerous text drawings have been added. The new plates include two of shore-birds at rest, one of sea-birds, and one of rails, gallinules, etc. The original edition had to be used in connection with a local list and while this is still advisable, the revised edition has, to our mind, been much improved by the addition of notes on range. Concise description of songs and calls are also new aids. This handbook has been so widely used since original publication in 1934 that a description will not be given but we urge those that do not have a copy to secure one *and use it*. When we really learn to distinguish the different kinds of birds that frequent our feeding shelves, our yards, parks, and woods, we will get more interest out of our 'bird-watching.' Until we do so we are not really seeing our native birds. Birds that have been around all the while appear in our consciousness for the first time when we start trying to recognize the different species. 'Peterson' is now the complete identification handbook for beginner and veteran alike. Copies can be secured from The Methodist Publishing House at the address given on the inside front cover page. This new, improved edition appears just at the season we all begin to take more interest in nature.—BEN COFFEY.



THE MIGRANT

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Items for publication should be sent to the Editor.

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

Our first year under the new Constitution draws to a close and finds the Society incorporated, one of the principal objects of the revision as noted previously in these pages (Mayfield, 1938, p. 27). The annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the Nashville field day, May 14. All should plan to attend if possible as these annual spring field days are memorable occasions.

A list of officers, directors, and members was published in the June, 1938 issue. Following the annual meeting a revised list of officers and directors and a list of new members will be published each June. A considerable increase in membership was made last year and there are still others who would like to develop a latent interest in birds and would find the fellowship an appreciated stimulus. We know our secretary-treasurer has been very busy in recent months and any help we can give him will be appreciated. This especially applies in the matter of prompt renewals. What are practically two or three sets of membership and mailing lists must be kept. Some discretion must be used in mailing out each March issue so as to not omit those that we can confidently list as 'once a member, always a member'.

Volume I of *The Migrant* which was issued in mimeographed form, will be reprinted if there is sufficient demand. The present size will be used so that it can be bound in with succeeding volumes. We urge our members to keep their copies for reference, preferably to have them bound so as to avoid loss. If you do not keep them, please do not throw away but give them to a school or the like or return to Mr. Clebsch. Volume I reprints will cost fifty cents. Please drop a card to Mr. Clebsch if you want a copy. Local chapters please advise us soon.

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THE VALUE OF HAWKS:—'Enter Hawk—Exit Mouse' by Earle L. Poole and Richard H. Pough is an interesting circular (No. 24) of the National Association of Audubon Societies. The following review of it is from *The Auk*: July, 1937, page 418. "The economic value of hawks and owls, in particular the Rough-legged Hawk, is emphasized in the control of meadow mice. Specifically, the city of Reading, Pa., in 1928, acquired some 3500 acres of land for an impounding dam for water supply, and in the following years planted on the area two and a half million seedling pines, allowing the area to remain undisturbed. Rabbits, pheasants and meadow mice increased abundantly, and ere long the hawk population also increased, especially in the colder months. In 1934-35 many Rough-legged Hawks were killed there by a local deputy. An examination of the stomachs of these birds showed that every one contained meadow mice exclusively. Soon after, an appalling loss amounting to some forty per cent of young pines was reported, due to girdling by mice which were favored by the dense cover. These and other facts make it clear that killing of hawks and owls is a result of pure stupidity and willful ignoring of their demonstrated value as natural controls of these rodents."

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