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

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

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

Each fall a small group of volunteers, with support from the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, and a conservation and research grant from the Tennessee Ornithological Society, has banded birds at Whigg Meadow. Over the 21 years bird banding has been carried out at this site, more than 25,000 birds comprising 60 species have been banded. Many of these species, including the Swainson’s Thrush, are not resident in Tennessee during the summer. Intercontinental migrants, like the Swainson’s Thrush, make
miraculous journeys each fall and spring, with their breeding grounds in the northern United States and Canada, and their wintering areas in central and South America. The Swainson’s Thrush, an approximately 30 g bird, can make this heroic journey repeatedly throughout its lifetime. Of the 25,000 birds banded at Whigg Meadow, only three have been recovered, or recaptured, at other banding stations outside Tennessee. In addition to the Swainson’s Thrush, the other recaptures include a male Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) banded at Whigg Meadow on 20 September 2007 as a HY (hatched between May and July of that same calendar year) and recaptured on 2 September 2008 by a bird bander operating east of Tobermory, Ontario, Canada, and a male Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*) banded on 11 September 2014 as a HY and recaptured in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania on breeding territory on 21 June 2017.

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

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

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

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

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

LITERATURE CITED


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

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

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

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

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

A perusal of the life history accounts for Sharp-shinned Hawks and Red-shouldered Hawks in Bent’s *Life Histories* (Bent 1961) and *Birds of the World* (Bildstein et al. 2020; Dykstra et al. 2020) yielded no records of Red-shouldered Hawks attacking Sharp-shinned
Hawks. However, Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), close relatives of Red-shouldered Hawks, are known to kill Sharp-shinned Hawks (Klem et al. 1985). Kerlinger and Lehrer (1982) suggested that “...predation on this species [Sharp-shinned Hawk] is probably more prevalent than reported in the literature.”

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

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

**LITERATURE CITED**


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

LITERATURE CITED


Bob Foehring, Memphis Tennessee
2020 TENNESSEE FALL BIRD COUNTS

Ron Hoff
Loudon, Tennessee

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

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

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

COUNT SUMMARIES
(F/Y = feeder/yard watcher)


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


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


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

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

**Tennessee River (TNRV)** – 26 September; 0450-1920. Weather: overcast; wind light and variable; 70-75° F. Highlights were numerous and included American Golden-Plover, Baird’s Sandpiper, Bonaparte’s (1st Fall Count record) and Laughing gulls, Black and Common terns, all 5 eastern empidonax species, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Swainson’s Warbler. The total for Scissor-tailed Flycatcher tied the high daily count for Tennessee. Observers: Jamin Beachy, Joe Hall, Philemon Friesen, Nikklas Klaus, Andrew Lydeard, Ruben Stoll (compiler), Victor Stoll, Alan Troyer, and Robert Wheat.
### 2020 Fall Bird Counts

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| Canada Goose                 | 211  | 262  | 134  | 3    | 94   | 207  | 356  | 1220  | 2487   |
| Wood Duck                    | 97   | 35   | 16   | -    | 32   | 51   | 22   | 71    | 324    |
| Blue-winged Teal             | 36   | 103  | -    | 8    | -    | 71   | 27   | 245   |        |
| Northern Shoveler            | 7    | 8    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 15     |
| Gadwall                      | -    | 1    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 1      |
| Mallard                      | 37   | 29   | -    | 32   | 29   | 90   | 219  | 436   |        |
| Northern Pintail             | -    | 18   | -    | 2    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 20     |
| Green-winged Teal            | 2    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 2      |
| Common Merganser             | -    | -    | -    | -    | 1    | -    | -    | -    | 1      |
| Northern Bobwhite            | -    | -    | 1    | -    | 4    | 5    | 4    | 10    | 24     |
| Ruffed Grouse                | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 2    | 2      |
| Wild Turkey                  | -    | 32   | 73   | -    | 51   | 29   | 12   | 66    | 263    |
| Pied-billed Grebe            | -    | 3    | -    | 7    | 4    | 4    | 11   | 29    |        |
| Rock Pigeon                  | 156  | 61   | 2    | -    | 29   | 234  | 189  | 629   | 1300   |
| Eurasian Collared-Dove       | -    | 2    | 7    | -    | 2    | -    | -    | 11    | 22     |
| Mourning Dove                | 118  | 95   | 64   | 14   | 74   | 362  | 162  | 355   | 1244   |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo         | 5    | 9    | 11   | 1    | 9    | 2    | -    | 4     | 41     |
| Black-billed Cuckoo          | -    | -    | 1    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 1      |
| Cuckoo sp.                   | -    | -    | -    | -    | 1    | -    | -    | -     | 1      |
| Common Nighthawk             | 5    | 61   | -    | -    | -    | -    | 17   | 46    | 129    |
| Eastern Whip-poor-will       | -    | 1    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 1    | -     | 2      |
| Chimney Swift                | 27   | 153  | 3    | -    | 56   | 63   | 50   | 478   | 830    |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird    | 84   | 38   | 5    | 3    | 22   | 61   | 32   | 34    | 279    |
| Virginia Rail                | -    | -    | 1    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 1      |
| Sora                        | -    | -    | 1    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 1      |
| American Coot                | 1    | -    | -    | -    | 15   | -    | -    | -     | 16     |
| Black-necked Stilt           | 21   | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 21    |        |
| American Golden-Plover       | -    | 1    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 1      |
| Killdeer                     | 168  | 49   | 73   | -    | 15   | 11   | 44   | 54    | 414    |
| Semipalmated Plover          | 2    | 1    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 3      |
| Stilt Sandpiper              | 9    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 9      |
| Baird's Sandpiper            | -    | 1    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 1      |
| Least Sandpiper              | 2500 | 55   | 3    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 2558   |
| Pectoral Sandpiper           | 56   | 16   | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 72     |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper       | 22   | 1    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 23     |
| American Woodcock            | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 1     | 1      |
| Wilson's Snipe               | -    | 9    | 24   | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 33     |
| Spotted Sandpiper            | 8    | 2    | 2    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 12     |
| Solitary Sandpiper           | 2    | 2    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 4      |
| Lesser Yellowlegs            | 11   | 3    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 14     |
| Greater Yellowlegs           | 6    | 3    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 1     | 10     |
| Bonaparte's Gull             | 1    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 1      |
| Laughing Gull                | -    | 3    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 3      |
| Ring-billed Gull             | 3    | 1340 | 1    | 24   | -    | -    | -    | -     | 1368   |</p>
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<td>126</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>125</td>
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| Observers | 30 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 42 | 20 | 40 | 48 | 199 |
| Parties   | 8  | 7 | - | 1 | 10 | 14 | 24 | 18 | 82  |
| Party hours| 29.25 | 58 | 52 | 5 | 61.05 | 98.97 | 76.69 | 140 | 520.96 |
| Hours by car | 8 | 20 | 26 | 1 | 11.25 | 19.02 | 10.23 | -  | 95.5 |
| Hours by foot | 21.25 | 33 | 23 | 4 | 49.8 | 79.95 | 66.46 | -  | 277.46 |
| Hours by boat or other | - | 5 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 8 |
| Miles by car | 37 | 176 | 139 | 22 | 185 | 230.33 | 124.4 | - | 913.73 |
| Miles by foot | 19.5 | 18 | 13 | 1.5 | 37.65 | 42.12 | 50.76 | - | 182.53 |
| Miles by canoe or other | - | 11 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 13 |
| Hours owling | 0.75 | 5 | 2 | - | 2 | 5 | 1.22 | 7 | 22.97 |
| Miles owling | 0.5 | 11 | 1 | - | 0.65 | 10.1 | 0.96 | - | 24.21 |
| Feeder/yard watch observers | - | - | 2 | - | 4 | - | 3 | 9 | |
| Feeder/yard watch hours | - | - | 2 | - | 7 | 6.08 | - | 15.08 |
This has been a year unlike any other. The coronavirus pandemic that began earlier this year continued through the summer and beyond with numerous restrictions and precautions still in place across the state. This has become the most serious health crisis to face the nation in a century. However, birding on the local and regional level was one thing that provided release and comfort to many, including new birders who discovered the wonders available in their own back yard.

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

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

**STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS**

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

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

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


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

DICK D. PRESTON, Munford, TN  dickpreston48@gmail.com

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

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

**Gull - Kite:** **Laughing Gull:** 8 / 9 Jun (24 / 40) Pickwick L (DR, AL / RS, VS, DR, MCT), 2nd highest count in state; 9 Jun (1-3) Old Hickory L (FF, Mike Smith); 9 Jun (3) Percy Priest L (GG). **Franklin's Gull:** 8 / 9 Jun (1 / 2) Pickwick L (DR, AL / RS, VS, DR, MCT). **Ring-billed Gull:** 9 Jun (2) Old Hickory L (FF, GG); 18 Jun - 15 Jul (2) Drakes Cr, Old Hickory L, Sumner Co (GG, m.ob.). **Herring Gull:** 9 Jun (1 im) Pickwick L (RS, VS, DR, MCT). **Sooty Tern:** 9 Jun (4 ad) Pickwick L (RS, VS, DR, MCT). **Least Tern:** 9 Jun (2) Pickwick L (MCT, RS, VS, DR); 5 Jul (1) Franklin, Williamson Co (Scott Russom, photo); 23 Jul (1) Cross Cr NWR (AL); 31 Jul (2) Woods Reservoir, Franklin Co (Paige O'Neal). **Caspian Tern:** 9 Jun
(4) Pickwick L (RS, VS, DR, MCT); 11 Jun (2) Percy Priest L (GG); 18 Jun / 15 Jul (1 / 3) Drake’s Cr, Old Hickory L, Sumner Co (GG / JH); 19 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (RS). **Black Tern:** 9 Jun (7) Pickwick L (RS, VS, DR, MCT); 28 Jul (4-8) Percy Priest L (Jim Arnett / GG); 31 Jul (8) Woods Reservoir, Franklin Co (Paige O’Neal). **Common Tern:** 9 Jun (4) Pickwick L (RS, VS, DR, MCT); 9 Jun (1) Percy Priest L (GG). **Forster’s Tern:** 11 Jun (5) Percy Priest L (GG). **Common Loon:** 9-19 Jun (1-3) Percy Priest L (GG); 11 Jun (1) Brentwood, Davidson Co (Randi Harrod, m.ob.), on retention pond; 22 Jun - 13 Jul (1) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo); 30 Jun (1) Laurel Hill L, Lawrence Co (Jim Williams, photo). **Anhinga:** 6 Jun / 16 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (RS). **American White Pelican:** 6 Jun - 30 Jul (10-60, down to 2 by late Jul) Duck R Unit (RS, m.ob.); 30 Jul (2) Pickwick Dam (Jacque Woodward). **Brown Pelican:** 5 Jul (2) Tims Ford L, Franklin Co (RS). **Little Blue Heron:** 19-20 Jun (1 im) Radnor L, Davidson Co (Helen Kornblum, GG); 12 Jul (1 im) Hendersonville, Sumner Co (Tim Lordy, photo); 19 Jul (1 im) White Co (Doug Downs). **White Ibis:** 24 / 28 Jul (1 im) Duck R Unit (RS / DR). **Swallow-tailed Kite:** 31 Jul (1) Cheatham Co (Jared Roessler, Elizabeth Cavagnolo, photos on eBird). **Mississippi Kite:** 1 Jun (nesting pair) Clarksville (Stefan Woltmann); 6 Jun (1) Perry Co (RS); 17 Jun (1) Davidson Co (DR); 20 Jun / 25 Jul (3) Duck R Unit (RS); 16 Jul (1) DeKalb Co (Jan Hansen, photo).

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

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

STEPHEN C. ZIPPERER, Murfreesboro, TN stczipperer@gmail.com
June temperatures were near average. However, July was the fifth hottest on record in the Tri-cities area. Rainfall in June was slightly above average. The rain in July varied due to the scattered nature of thunder storms with some areas being rather dry for the month, but in the Tri-cities, July rainfall was nearly 2 inches above average.

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


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

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

RICHARD L. KNIGHT, Johnson City, TN rkinson8@earthlink.net

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

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

**Merganser - Falcon**: **Common Merganser**: 21 Jun (1 female) Hiwassee R, Powerhouse boat ramp, Polk Co (RHo); 8 Jul (3 broods, totaling 22 yg) Little R, Blount Co (RW), continued breeding in this area. **Mourning Dove**: thru season (2-3) Carver’s Gap on Roan Mtn (RLK, m.ob.), unusual at high elevation. **Laughing Gull**: 16 Jul (1 ad) South Holston L (RRK, Jim Anderson); 18 Jul (1 im) Roan Cr, Watauga L, Johnson Co (RS, VS). **Ring-billed Gull**: 29 Jul (1) South Holston L (RLK). **Forster’s Tern**: 16 Jul (1) South Holston L (RRK, Jim Anderson). **Common Loon**: 9 Jun / 21 Jul (1) South Holston L (Mike Sanders); 8 / 20 Jul (1) Chilhowee L, Blount Co (Doug Raybuck / RW). **Great Egret**: 17 Jul (1) Watauga R, Carter Co (LCM), ers. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 1 / 14 Jun (1) Elizabethton, Carter Co (DK / TSM, CLM). **Osprey**: 15 / 28 Jun (1) Sycamore Shoals SP, Carter Co (TSM, CLM / DK); 18 Jul (1) Roan Cr, Watauga L, Johnson Co (RS, VS). **Mississippi Kite**: 19 Jul (1)
Cades Cove, GSMNP (Tom Howe). **Northern Saw-whet Owl**: 13 Jun (1) Clingman's Dome Rd, GSMNP (Craig Watson, Pam Ford); 18 Jun (1) Roan Mtn (TSM, CLM). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: 13 Jun (10) Ripshin Lake area, Carter Co (Fred Alsop, Richard Lewis et al.). **Peregrine Falcon**: 3-8 Jun (1) Alum Cave Bluff, GSMNP (MM, Mike Ryon); 11 Jun (1 ad male) Doe R Gorge, Carter Co (PGR, RLK, Bill Bridgforth).

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

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

RICHARD P. LEWIS, Bristol, TN        mountainbirds@gmail.com
**OBSERVERS**

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</table>
## INDEX

### A
- Accipiter sp. 17, 50, 99
- Anhinga 26, 29, 77, 80, 104, 106
- Avocet, American 25, 29, 33, 77, 80, 82, 84, 105

### B
- Bittern, American 26, 33, 47, 50, 77, 81, 84, 104, 107
- Least 1, 2, 3, 4, 50, 78, 81, 84, 104, 107
- Blackbird sp. 21
- Blackbird, Brewer's 21, 31, 63, 79, 85
- Red-winged 21, 53, 101
- Rusty 21, 38, 47, 53, 65, 85, 87
- Yellow-headed 47, 53, 75, 76, 79
- Blue Jay 19, 52, 100
- Bobolink 38, 53, 79, 101
- Bobwhite, Northern 11, 15, 49, 96, 98
- Booby, Brown 24, 28, 29
- Bufflehead 10, 15, 49, 86, 105
- Bunting,
  - Indigo 8, 9, 23, 31, 35, 38, 47, 54, 58, 63, 82, 86, 102
  - Painted 28, 54, 79, 104
- Buteo sp. 17

### C
- Canvasback 15
- Cardinal, Northern 21, 54, 92, 93, 102
- Catbird, Gray 8, 11, 12, 19, 30, 34, 35, 52, 60, 63, 65, 78, 85, 101
- Chat, Yellow-breasted 31, 50, 58, 67, 101
- Chickadee,
  - Black-capped 10, 19
  - Carolina 19, 52, 100
- Chuck-will's-widow 49
- Coot, American 17, 49, 98, 105, 107
- Cormorant 17
  - Double-crested 17, 50, 99
  - Neotropic 24, 28, 29, 77, 80
- Cowbird,
  - Bronzed 45
  - Brown-headed 21, 53, 101, 108
- Crane,
  - Sandhill 17, 25, 29, 59, 66, 83, 105
  - Whooping 32, 64, 80
- Creeper, Brown 19, 52, 100
- Crossbill, Red 13, 21, 37, 53, 63, 67, 81, 87, 109
- Crow,
  - American 19, 52, 100
  - Fish 9, 19, 27, 30, 32, 34, 48, 52, 60, 62, 65, 77, 81, 83, 85, 86, 87, 100, 106, 108, 109
- Cuckoo sp. 98
  - Cuckoo, Black-billed 28, 32, 36, 49, 75, 76, 79, 80, 82, 83, 86, 96, 98, 104
  - Yellow-billed 28, 32, 49, 98
- Dickcissel 27, 28, 35, 37, 38, 48, 54, 58, 61, 81, 82, 85, 86, 95, 96, 102, 106, 107, 108
- Dove,
  - Eurasian Collared- 15, 49, 98
  - Mourning 17, 36, 49, 98, 108
  - White-winged 24, 25, 28, 58, 62, 107
- Dowitcher,
  - Long-billed 8, 17, 26, 29, 33, 50, 58, 60, 75, 76, 77, 80, 82, 84, 87
  - Short-billed 33, 77, 80, 84, 104, 105
- Duck,
  - American Black 15, 66
  - Black-bellied Whistling- 25, 49, 75, 76, 79, 80, 82, 83, 98, 104
  - Fulvous Whistling- 25, 76, 104
  - Long-tailed 8, 25, 28, 58, 63
  - Mottled 24, 28
  - Ring-necked 15, 32, 49
  - Ruddy 15, 49, 83
  - Wood 15, 49, 98
- Dunlin 26, 29, 33, 50, 62, 77
- Eagle,
  - Bald 6, 7, 13, 17, 36, 37, 50, 99
  - Golden 12, 13, 17, 26, 30, 36, 56, 60, 62
- Egret,
  - Cattle 30, 33, 50, 78, 81, 84, 99
  - Great 17, 33, 50, 58, 60, 62, 64, 67, 79, 99, 108
  - Snowy 33, 37, 50, 81, 84
- Empidonax sp. 51, 100
- Falcon, Peregrine 9, 19, 27, 30, 34, 36, 37, 51, 60, 62, 65, 67, 78, 81, 84, 87, 96, 99, 109
- Finch,
  - House 21, 53, 101
  - Irruptive 8
  - Purple 11, 21, 27, 30, 34, 59, 60, 63, 65, 67, 87
- Flicker, Northern 19, 51, 99
- Flycatcher,
  - Acadian 51, 100
  - Alder 27, 30, 37, 51, 78, 81, 87, 100, 109
  - Ash-throated 47, 48, 51, 75, 76, 78
  - Great Crested 51, 99
  - Least 51, 100
  - Olive-sided 27, 30, 34, 37, 47, 48, 51, 75, 78, 81, 83, 85, 95, 96, 100
  - Scissor-tailed 27, 30, 32, 34, 78, 81, 83, 85, 97, 100, 104, 106, 107

111
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal Type</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Page Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flycatcher,</td>
<td>&quot;Trail's&quot;</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vermilion</td>
<td>75, 76, 78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Willow</td>
<td>48, 51, 85, 87, 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yellow-bellied</td>
<td>27, 30, 34, 37, 78, 81, 95, 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Gadwall</td>
<td>15, 98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gallinule, Common</td>
<td>4, 24, 31, 32, 58, 64, 77, 82, 83, 104, 107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray</td>
<td>8, 10, 19, 34, 52, 58, 63, 64, 65, 81, 85, 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Godwit</td>
<td>75, 77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barrow's</td>
<td>8, 15, 24, 25, 58, 59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>15, 25, 47, 49, 59, 63, 76, 80, 83, 86, 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Goldfinch, American</td>
<td>8, 21, 51, 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Goose sp.</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Goose</td>
<td>8, 9, 15, 28, 59, 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>8, 15, 49, 98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greater White-fronted</td>
<td>15, 28, 32, 48, 49, 62, 64, 80, 83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ross's</td>
<td>11, 15, 28, 32, 61, 62, 64, 76, 83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Snow</td>
<td>8, 11, 12, 15, 32, 36, 61, 64, 66, 80, 83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White-fronted</td>
<td>12, 28, 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Goshawk, Northern</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grackle, Common</td>
<td>21, 53, 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grebe</td>
<td>Eared 28, 58, 59, 66, 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Horned</td>
<td>15, 36, 59, 62, 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pied-billed</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 15, 49, 98, 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Red-necked</td>
<td>25, 58, 61, 62, 64, 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Western</td>
<td>8, 10, 15, 31, 32, 47, 51, 58, 61, 62, 63, 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grosbeak</td>
<td>Black-headed 24, 25, 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Blue 28, 31, 54, 102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rose-breasted 31, 54, 79, 88, 102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Grouse, Ruffed 8, 10, 15, 49, 95, 98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gull, Bonaparte's 17, 50, 87, 95, 97, 98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Franklin's 26, 29, 31, 33, 62, 77, 80, 104, 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Great Black-backed 26, 58, 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Herring 17, 37, 67, 99, 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Iceland 58, 59, 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Laughing 26, 29, 33, 36, 62, 84, 97, 98, 103, 104, 105, 108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lesser Black-backed 17, 26, 29, 35, 37, 60, 62, 80, 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Little 47, 50, 58, 61, 62, 66, 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ring-billed 17, 50, 98, 105, 107, 108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sabine's 32, 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Harrier, Northern 17, 30, 36, 50, 84, 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hawk sp. 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Broad-winged 27, 36, 37, 51, 81, 84, 87, 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cooper's 17, 36, 50, 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Harlan’s&quot; Red-tailed 27, 30, 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Red-shouldered 8, 17, 50, 87, 92, 93, 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Red-tailed 8, 17, 27, 30, 36, 51, 60, 72, 93, 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rough-legged 8, 17, 27, 60, 78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sharp-shinned 17, 30, 36, 92, 93, 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Swainson's 47, 48, 51, 75, 78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Heron, Black-crowned Night- 17, 50, 60, 78, 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Great Blue 17, 50, 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Green 8, 9, 17, 33, 50, 58, 62, 81, 84, 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Little Blue 26, 30, 33, 50, 81, 84, 99, 106, 107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Night- 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tricolored 82, 84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yellow-crowned Night- 8, 10, 17, 30, 33, 50, 58, 67, 81, 84, 96, 99, 108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hummingbird sp. 59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hummingbird, Black-chinned 24, 31, 32, 58, 59, 63, 64, 76, 83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ruby-throated 25, 28, 49, 76, 83, 98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rufous 25, 32, 59, 64, 76, 107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ibis, Glossy 75, 79, 81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>White 26, 30, 33, 75, 78, 103, 104, 106, 107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>White-faced 24, 26, 75, 76, 78, 80, 81, 82, 84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Irrruptive, Boreal 24, 58, 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jaeger, Long-tailed 24, 28, 29, 31, 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jay, Blue 19, 52, 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Junco, Dark-eyed 21, 36, 53, 81, 95, 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kestrel, American 8, 19, 36, 51, 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Killdeer 17, 25, 49, 98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kingbird, Eastern 51, 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Western 27, 51, 78, 104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kingfisher, Belted 19, 51, 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kinglet, Golden-crowned 19, 52, 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ruby-crowned 19, 52, 85, 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kite, Mississippi 26, 30, 47, 50, 72, 75, 78, 79, 81, 83, 84, 87, 104, 106, 107, 108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Swallow-tailed 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 35, 37, 103, 105, 106, 107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Knot, Red 24, 25, 26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lark, Horned 11, 19, 52
Longspur, Lapland 9, 21, 27, 35, 37, 61, 63
Smith’s 24, 25, 27
Loon, Common 17, 26, 33, 37, 50, 77, 99, 106, 107, 108
Pacific 8, 9, 10, 17, 26, 29, 31, 33, 61, 62, 77, 80
Red-throated 8, 17, 29, 33, 60, 62, 64, 80
Mallard 15, 49, 98
Martin, Purple 52, 60, 62, 65, 100
Meadowlark, Eastern 8, 21, 53, 101
Western 8, 21, 27, 79
Merganser, Common 8, 12, 15, 25, 32, 36, 49, 59, 62, 64, 66, 82, 83, 86, 95, 98, 108
Hooded 15, 49, 105
Red-breasted 15, 28, 32, 49, 76, 80, 83
Merlin 10, 11, 13, 19, 27, 30, 34, 36, 37, 48, 51, 60, 62, 65, 78, 84, 87, 96, 99
Mockingbird, Northern 21, 52, 101
Nighthawk, Common 25, 32, 49, 58, 62, 64, 76, 98
Red-breasted 11, 19, 30, 52, 59, 60, 63, 65, 96, 100
White-breasted 19, 40, 52, 100
Oriole, Baltimore 27, 34, 53, 58, 59, 61, 64, 65, 101
Orchard 53, 85, 101
Osprey 8, 9, 17, 36, 48, 50, 60, 65, 81, 87, 99, 108
Ovenbird 31, 34, 53, 101
Owl, Barn 8, 13, 17, 37, 47, 51, 62, 81, 99
Barred 19, 51, 99
Eastern Screech- 17, 51, 99
Great Horned 17, 51, 99
Long-eared 12, 19, 58, 59, 60, 76, 78
Northern Saw-whet 35, 51, 87, 95, 99, 109
Saw-whet 35
Short-eared 8, 9, 19, 27, 35, 37, 56, 60, 62, 67, 78, 83, 84, 86, 87
Parula, Northern 35, 54, 58, 64, 66, 67, 82, 87, 102
Pewee, Eastern Wood- 37, 51, 100
Pelican, American White 11, 17, 26, 29, 33, 62, 64, 77, 80, 84, 99, 104, 106, 107
Brown 75, 75, 80, 81, 103, 106, 107
White 11, 17, 26, 29, 33
Phalarope, Red 25, 26
Red-necked 25, 26, 28, 29, 75, 82, 84
Wilson’s 26, 29, 33, 50, 77, 80, 103, 104, 105
Pheobe, Eastern 19, 51, 100
Pigeon, Rock 15, 49, 98
Pintail, Northern 15, 66, 98
Pipit, American 10, 13, 21, 85, 95, 101
Plegadis sp. 26, 30, 78
Plover, American Golden- 25, 29, 33, 77, 80, 95, 97, 98, 105
Black-bellied 25, 29, 77
Piping 25
Semipalmated 49, 86, 98, 105
Rail, King 48, 49, 75, 76
Virginia 4, 9, 13, 17, 25, 29, 3, 36, 49, 59, 62, 64, 66, 77, 80, 83, 86, 96, 98
Yellow 24, 25, 31, 32
Raptors 75
Raven, Common 3, 19, 32, 34, 37, 52, 65, 83, 85, 87, 100, 108
Redhead 15
Redstart, American 46, 54, 58, 61, 102
Robin, American 19, 52, 90, 101
Sanderling 26, 29, 33, 36, 77, 86, 104
Sandpiper, Baird’s 26, 29, 33, 77, 80, 97, 98, 105
Buff-breasted 26, 29, 33, 103, 105
Least 11, 17, 50, 64, 86, 98, 105
Pectoral 33, 50, 80, 98
Semipalmated 50, 84, 87, 98
Solitary 33, 50, 77, 84, 98, 105
Spotted 33, 50, 64, 87, 98, 107
Stilt 26, 29, 33, 49, 77, 80, 98, 104, 105
Upland 26, 29, 48, 49, 77, 80, 104
Western 26, 29, 33, 77, 105
White-rumped 26, 29, 33, 50, 77, 80, 84, 87, 105
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied 19, 51, 99, 108, 109
Scaup sp. 15
Scaup, Greater 15, 32, 63, 83, 105
Lesser 15, 83, 105
Scooter 8
Surf 25, 28, 32, 58, 66, 83
White-winged 28, 32, 83
Shoveler, Northern 15, 49, 98
Shrike, Loggerhead 8, 10, 12, 13, 19, 51, 65, 107
Siskin, Pine 8, 21, 27, 30, 34, 37, 48, 53, 59, 60, 67, 85, 87, 101, 109
Snipe, Wilson's 17, 50, 84, 98
Sora 4, 9, 17, 25, 48, 49, 59, 62, 64, 98
Sparrow sp. 21
Sparrow,
  American Tree 61, 64, 65
  Bachman's 81
  Brewer's 94
  Chipping 21, 53, 101
  Clay-colored 24, 32, 34, 94, 95, 97, 101
  Field 21, 53, 101
  Fox 21
  Grasshopper 34, 37, 53, 61, 81, 85, 96, 101
  Harris's 8, 10, 21, 58, 61, 63
  Henslow's 27, 34, 78, 85, 95, 101, 106, 108
  House 21, 53, 101
  Lark 27, 30, 34, 78, 81, 85, 104, 106, 108
  Le Conte's 21, 27, 30, 61, 63, 79, 81
  Lincoln's 9, 12, 21, 27, 38, 53, 61, 65, 79, 85, 101
  Nelson's 24, 27, 28, 30
  Song 21, 53, 101
  Swamp 21, 53, 79, 85, 101
  Vesper 13, 21, 38, 61, 63, 65, 69, 109
  White-crowned 21, 53
  White-throated 21, 30, 53, 96, 101, 106
Starling, European 21, 52, 101
Stilt, Black-necked 25, 49, 77, 80, 98
Swallow sp. 52, 100
Swallow 19
  Bank 27, 37, 52, 100, 108, 109
  Barn 30, 34, 52, 65, 100
  Cave 103, 105, 106
  Cliff 52, 65, 74, 96, 100
Northern Rough-winged 8, 9, 19, 27, 30, 52, 58, 62, 64, 65, 81, 100
  Tree 27, 30, 34, 52, 60, 62, 64, 65, 78, 100
Swan,
  Mute 8, 15
T
  Tanager,
    Scarlet 21, 54, 58, 63, 86, 102, 108
    Summer 54, 58, 59, 61, 102
    Western 58, 61
Teal,
  Blue-winged 9, 15, 32, 49, 59, 62, 64, 98, 104, 107
  Cinnamon 31, 32, 75, 76
  Cinnamon x Blue-winged 80
  Green-winged 10, 15, 98
Tern,
  Black 26, 29, 33, 37, 50, 77, 80, 97, 99, 104, 106
  Caspian 37, 50, 80, 99, 105, 107
  Common 26, 29, 33, 77, 80, 97, 99, 104, 106
  Forster's 29, 33, 37, 84, 87, 99, 104, 106
  Least 26, 77, 80, 105
  Royal 75, 82, 84
  Sooty 103, 104, 105
  Thrasher, Brown 13, 19, 52, 101
  Thrush,
    Gray-cheeked 52, 100
    Hermit 19, 37, 52, 87, 101, 106
    Swainson's 36, 78, 89, 90, 101, 106
    Wood 52, 75, 78, 101
Titmouse, Tufted 19, 52, 100
Towhee,
  Eastern 21, 53, 101
  Spotted 58, 61, 63
Turkey, Wild 15
Turnstone, Ruddy 26, 29, 33
Turkey, Wild 15, 49, 98
Turnstone, Ruddy 26, 77, 103, 105
Veery 52, 100
Violetear, Mexican 103, 105
Vireo,
  Bell's 24, 27, 41, 42, 43, 51, 75, 76, 78, 81, 104, 106
  Blue-headed 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 19, 51, 60, 62, 78, 100
  Philadelphia 37, 51, 83, 85, 87, 96, 100
  Red-eyed 34, 37, 52, 85, 100
  Warbling 51, 78, 100
  White-eyed 37, 51, 78, 87, 100
  Yellow-throated 30, 51, 75, 78, 83, 85, 100
Vulture,
  Black 17, 36, 50, 99
  Turkey 17, 36, 99
Warbler sp. 102
Warbler 21
  Bay-breasted 35, 36, 54, 102
  Black-and-white 53, 79, 85, 90, 101
  Blackburnian 35, 38, 54, 82, 102
  Blackpoll 28, 38, 54, 86, 102
  Black-throated Blue 31, 35, 36, 54, 79, 82, 96, 102
  Black-throated Green 28, 31, 35, 54, 88, 102
  Blue-winged 35, 38, 53, 82, 101
"Brewster's" 31
  Canada 31, 35, 54, 102
  Cape May 31, 54, 59, 61, 63, 79, 86, 102
  Cerulean 35, 38, 54, 86, 87
  Chestnut-sided 28, 36, 54, 82, 102
  Connecticut 28, 82, 85
  Golden-winged 27, 31, 34, 35, 38, 53, 79, 81, 85, 87, 95, 96, 101
  Hooded 28, 54, 86, 90, 102
  Kentucky 31, 38, 53, 79, 102
  Lawrence's 32
Warbler,
  Magnolia 5, 31, 36, 38, 54, 88, 102, 109
  Mourning 28, 31, 32, 34, 38, 48, 53, 79, 82, 85, 103, 105, 106
  Nashville 28, 53, 101
  Orange-crowned 10, 21, 38, 53, 61, 63, 65, 67, 101
  Palm 21, 38, 54, 61, 63, 66, 86, 94, 102
  Pine 9, 10, 21, 54, 67, 102
  Prairie 54, 82, 86, 102
  Prothonotary 53, 56, 79, 85, 87, 101, 109
  Swainson’s 35, 47, 48, 52, 53, 79, 82, 97, 101, 109
  Tennessee 8, 10, 12, 21, 31, 36, 53, 63, 101
  Virginia’s 24, 32, 34
  Wilson’s 8, 11, 21, 47, 54, 86, 96, 102
  Worm-eating 53, 81, 101
  Yellow 54, 102
  Yellow-rumped 21, 54, 88, 102, 109
  Yellow-throated 35, 40, 54, 59, 61, 64, 66, 82, 86, 102
  Waterthrush,
    Louisiana 53, 81, 85
    Northern 31, 53, 85, 101
  Waxwing,
    Bohemian 44
    Cedar 21, 37, 44, 52, 101
    Whimbrel 24, 28, 29, 75, 76, 77, 103, 104
  Whip-poor-will, Eastern 36, 49, 80, 86, 95, 98
  Wigeon,
    American 15, 105
    Eurasian 8, 10, 15, 58, 61, 62, 76
  Willet 29, 50, 77, 80, 82, 84, 86, 87, 103, 105
  Woodcock, American 17, 98
  Woodpecker,
    Downy 19, 51, 99
    Hairy 19, 51, 99
    Pileated 19, 51, 99
    Red-bellied 19, 51, 99
    Red-headed 19, 37, 51, 99
  Wren,
    Carolina 19, 52, 67, 100
    House 19, 52, 60, 63, 65, 67, 100
    Marsh 8, 9, 11, 19, 34, 37, 47, 48, 52, 60, 65, 78, 87, 100
    Sedge 8, 9, 11, 19, 27, 30, 34, 37, 52, 67, 100
    Winter 19, 52, 100, 109
  Yellowlegs,
    Greater 17, 33, 50, 60, 77, 98
    Lesser 26, 50, 60, 64, 77, 98, 105
  Yellowthroat, Common 13, 21, 28, 31, 35, 54, 61, 63, 66, 86, 102
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Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*), Stewart County, Tennessee. Photo by Cyndi Routledge.
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ABSTRACT: Manuscripts of five or more pages should include an abstract. The abstract should be less than 5% of the length of the manuscript. It should include a brief explanation of why the research was done, the major results, and why the results are important.

LITERATURE CITED: List all literature citations in a “Literature Cited” section at the end of the text. Text citations should include the author and year.

IDENTIFICATION: Manuscripts including reports of rare or unusual species or of species at atypical times should include: date and time, light and weather conditions, exact location, habitat, optical equipment, distance, behavior of bird, comparison with other similar species, characteristic markings, experience of observer, other observers verifying the identification and reference works consulted.

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CONTENTS

SWAINSON’S THRUSH BANDED IN MONROE COUNTY, TENNESSEE RECOVERED IN PERU
   Scott A. Rush and Charlie M. Muise ................................................................. 89

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK CHASES A SHARP-SHINNED HAWK CARRYING A NORTHERN CARDINAL
   T. David Pitt and Marion S. Pitts ..................................................................... 92

ROUND TABLE NOTES
   CLAY-COLORED SPARROW IN SHELBY COUNTY
      Bob Foehring .................................................................................................. 94

2020 TENNESSEE FALL BIRD COUNTS
   Ron Hoff ........................................................................................................... 95

THE SUMMER SEASON: 1 JUNE – 31 JULY 2020
   Richard L. Knight ............................................................................................ 103

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION
   Dick D. Preston .................................................................................................. 104

HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION
   Stephen C. Zipperer .......................................................................................... 105

CUMBERLAND PLATEAU/RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION
   Richard L. Knight ............................................................................................. 107

EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION
   Richard P. Lewis ............................................................................................... 108

SPECIES INDEX TO VOLUME 91 ........................................................................ 111

PHOTO GALLERY .................................................................................................... 116