



THE MIGRANT



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FIRST TENNESSEE RECORD OF WHITE-THROATED SWIFT

Wolf Jedamski¹, Ron Hoff², Dollyann Myers², Bob Ford³

Around noon, 10 January 2021, I (lead author, Wolf Jedamski) was birding at the Curtain Pole Road entrance of the Tennessee Riverwalk, Hamilton County, Tennessee. My primary purpose was nature and bird photography; this location is ideal for bird photography because of the proximity of the walkway to the open pond bordering it.

An unbelievably fast bird caught my eye, flying set patterns with fast directional changes ranging from low over the water up to about 12 meters. The bird stayed in flight the next two to three hours hunting insects. Because of the time of year and the fairly cold temperature 2 – 10° C, I couldn't imagine there was much for it to catch. The bird's speed and nimbleness in flight made it difficult to observe it clearly, even with binoculars.

I showed the bird to two others birding nearby, and we discussed the possibility of Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*). We dismissed that possibility because the speed of this bird was faster than a Tree Swallow, and I couldn't detect the distinct blue color characteristic of most Tree Swallows. I took a few blurry pictures of the bird in flight and went back to my vehicle to download and attempt to identify (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Among the first pictures used to identify this species as a White-throated Swift, observed in Hamilton County Tennessee. Photo by Wolf Jedamski.

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I was unable to identify the bird based on my pictures. I texted the photos to Kevin Calhoun, an expert birder in the area and manager for this area's eBird submittals, who then shared the picture with several other area experts on bird identification. We discussed the possibility of different species for about an hour based on the image of the bird from my hastily taken grainy photos. We entertained the possibility of White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*) several times. We consulted David Aborn, Professor of Ornithology at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga, who confirmed our conclusions that the bird was White-throated Swift.

We based our identification on field marks including the white underbelly that started at the throat and continued almost to the tail. The dark underside of the wing colorization extended down the Swift's side, narrowing up the white belly and appeared to give it large sized white rounded marking on the sides of its rump (Figure 2). The bird's flight also helped confirm the identification: White-throated Swifts are among the most accomplished fliers of all North American birds, streaking forward at high speed, then suddenly changing direction with lightning-fast adjustments of wing and tail (Figure 3). The generic name of this species is particularly apt: *Aeronautes*, or "sky sailor." (eBird 2021).



Figure 2. Many people were able to observe the bird the next several days, further verifying field marks for White-throated Swift. Photo by Ron Hoff.

White-throated Swifts are not prone to vagrancy (Ryan and Collins 2020). Prior to this Tennessee record, there have been two records east of the Mississippi River. Of those only one is from the southeastern United States; an individual occurred in Florida in 2009 (Kratte and Kaufmann 2010). The other record east of the Mississippi River is in northern Ohio near the Great Lakes. Other records near Tennessee include four eBird records from Arkansas, among them a 1935 record from Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas (Gregg 1935), and one record from the Missouri boot heel (Ryan 2020).

The days following this sighting were exciting. Many observers were able to see the bird, some of whom traveled to Hamilton County from as far away as Michigan and New England. The White-throated Swift was last observed on 16 January 2021. This record was accepted by the Tennessee Bird Records Committee as the first record for Tennessee (Gerdeman, 2021).



Figure 3. White-throated Swifts are fast and nimble birds while foraging, which aided in identification efforts. Photo by Wolf Jedamski.

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FIRST TENNESSEE RECORD OF PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER

Evan Kidd and Graham Gerdeman
Nashville, Tennessee

Early in the afternoon on 29 December 2021, I was taking an extended lunch break at the Maryville Greenway in Blount County. I had an initial glance at an interesting olive-yellowish bird that darted from a low shrub up into the lower branches of a small tree. A closer look revealed wing bars, a flycatcher-like posture, and beautiful white eye rings with a teardrop shape. I took several dozen pictures in the hope of getting something diagnostic; I sent one to a group of fellow Blount County birders to report an unusual *Empidonax* species (Figure 1).

This site was near a large slope between the greenway area and the local commerce building, laden with low cut brush and bare of leaves at the time. This part of the Greenway overlooks Pistol Creek. The bird sat for a bit in the low branches of the tree before fluttering to another low branch, cocking its head and pumping its tail. While it was cooperative for clear looks and several photos at several angles with decent lighting, unfortunately it did not utter any sound (characteristic or otherwise). Over the next several minutes it flew to a few different branches in the low brush along the slope, and at one point, landed in the dirt at the base of the slope about 1.5 meters from where I stood, attempting to catch small flying insects. The bird flew into some low nearby bushes as I waited for other birders to join before I had to leave to go back to work.

The noted field marks and subsequent photographs indicated to several local experts, including Doug Raybuck, that the bird was either a Hammond's (*Empidonax hammondi*) or Pacific-slope (*Empidonax difficilis*)/Cordilleran (*Empidonax occidentalis*) Flycatcher.



Figure 1. Observations and pictures for the Tennessee state record for Pacific-slope Flycatcher showed excellent field marks although a recording of vocalizations confirmed the species. Photo by Evan Kidd.

Kathryn and Rick Barrow re-found the bird and directed Tom Howe to the area, who confirmed that it was a Pacific-slope/Cordilleran but that identification to species would require additional input. All agreed that the bird was one of the “Western Flycatcher” complex, but without a vocalization, a definitive identification was elusive. On 30 December 2020, Randy Winstead obtained a recording of a call note, which in subsequent days was sent to Chris Benesh, noted biologist, author, and recognized expert in American flycatcher species. Benesh confirmed that the call was definitely a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, based on that recording.

Pacific-slope and Cordilleran Flycatchers were formerly treated as subspecies of “Western Flycatcher”. They were split and elevated to separate species status in 1989 (American Ornithologists’ Union 1989) though the decision to split has remained controversial. Subsequent studies have increased the likelihood that the decision could be reconsidered in coming years. Vocal differences between the two are the most distinctive characteristics, and it is generally accepted that, outside of their expected range, audio recordings are necessary to confirm the identification in the field.

Interestingly, the vagrant “Western Flycatcher” records in the Eastern United States are nearly entirely of Pacific-Slope, rather than Cordilleran, despite the regular range of the latter species being geographically closer. Though further away, the regular migratory routes of Pacific-Slope Flycatcher are typically significantly longer than those of Cordilleran (Lowther et al. 2020). Accordingly, there are multiple vagrant records of Pacific-Slope Flycatcher in the states of the Eastern seaboard; none to date of Cordilleran Flycatcher, which has been recorded only as far east as Louisiana (eBird 2021).

The Tennessee observation of this species is the most inland record in the eastern United States. The Tennessee Bird Records Committee accepted this record unanimously as the first Pacific-slope Flycatcher record for Tennessee (Gerdeman 2021).

I thank the group of Blount County birders; without their efforts to relocate and report to other members of the birding community, and the support system of so many Tennessee Ornithological Society members, this could have been left as a random “Empid sp.” report and delayed the proper reporting. Randy Winstead’s skilled capture of an audio recording the following day was all the more remarkable given the location’s proximity to both traffic noise and the rushing creek. This was unequivocally a success story for the connections of our local birding community.

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FIRST TENNESSEE RECORD OF CASSIN'S KINGBIRD

Mary Glynn Williamson
Nashville, Tennessee

On 6 December 2020 while birding at Bells Bend Park, Davidson County, I observed a bird of a species unknown to me. My first impression was a distinct shade of yellow on the breast as the bird flew out of the grass and landed above my head on a utility line (Figure 1). It caught my attention as there was no bird activity in the area at this time. The behavior of the bird was typical of a flycatcher; it flew from the utility line, up to catch an insect, and then back to the utility line, and repeated this behavior several times (Figure 2). The tail was flicking as well. I took a photo and sent the image to Lise Brown who is an avid birder. Lise suggested this could be a Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*); based on the same photo, Graham Gerdeman confirmed the bird as such.



Figure 1. The lemon yellow body and the dark head and chest contrasting with a white throat confirm this bird as Tennessee's first record of Cassin's Kingbird. Photo by Mary Glynn Williamson

Although Cassin's Kingbird is primarily a bird of the arid lands of the southwestern United States and Mexico and typically winters in Mexico, there are scattered records across the eastern United States, especially the Gulf Coast and the northern Atlantic states (eBird 2022). The last sighting of the Bells Bend bird reported to eBird was 3 January 2021, with the bird remaining in the general area where I first saw it. After I posted the pictures and location of the bird on social media, many observers were able to see it. The Tennessee Bird Records Committee accepted this sighting as the first record for the Cassin's Kingbird in Tennessee (Gerdeman 2021).



Figure 2. This Cassin's Kingbird exhibited typical flycatcher behavior, often perching in the open, changing perches to nearby areas occasionally, and flycatching insects. Photo by Mary Glynn Williamson

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REPORT OF THE TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE, 2021

Graham Gerdeman
Nashville, Tennessee

It is the job of the Tennessee Bird Records Committee (TBRC) to maintain the Official List of the Birds of Tennessee and to ensure that sightings of rare species are documented accurately and adequately for posterity. This list, along with the by-laws of the committee and information for submitting documentation, may be viewed in the TBRC section of the TOS website (<https://tnbirds.org/tennessee-bird-records-committee/>). Current members of the committee are Graham Gerdeman (Secretary), Ron Hoff, Chris Sloan, Beth Schilling, Mark Greene, Michael Smith, and Jeff Walck (alternate). We wish to thank all who have taken the time to document and submit rare bird records. Many of these reports are accompanied by photographic documentation, which is especially valuable to the work of the committee.

Following is the first report of the actions of the TBRC since September 2019. Just as with regular meetings of the TOS (and many aspects of everyday life), the work of the TBRC was delayed in part by the onset of the global Covid-19 pandemic. This includes the recruitment of new, qualified members to replace those whose terms had expired, as well as review of many submitted records. We appreciate the patience of many who were waiting on approval of a rare bird record. If a recently submitted record is not included in this list, it is probably still under review. If an older submitted record is not included, please send an email to tbrc@tnbirds.org. Please note, a species is considered provisional if it is not verified by an extant specimen, extant photograph or sound recording, or the written documentation of three independent observers of a species or of the same individual bird.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

Written documentation of a historical observation of a single individual submitted by Scott Somershoe; Pace Point, Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Henry County, 30 September 2014. Accepted 6-0.

Boat-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus major*)

Written documentation and photographs of one female submitted by Ronald Manley; "Snow Bunting Peninsula," Old Hickory Lake, Nashville, Davidson County, 24 August 2018. This is a first state record and the furthest inland record. Accepted 6-0.

American Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)

Written documentation and photographs of one individual submitted by Victor Stoll. HWY 78 West in Lake County, near Ridgely, 13 July 2019. This is a first state record. Accepted 6-0.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*)

Written documentation of a late fall juvenile submitted by Bob Foehring; Shelby Farms, Memphis, Shelby County, 15 September 2019. Accepted 6-0.

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*)

Written documentation of a single bird submitted by Bob Foehring; Shelby Farms, Memphis, Shelby County, 8 October 2020. This is the second Shelby County record. Accepted 6-0.

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) - 2 separate records

Written documentation of one individual submitted by Luke Thompson; Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, Birchwood, Meigs County, 14 November 2020. This is a first Meigs County record. Accepted 6-0.

Written documentation and photograph of one individual submitted by Graham Gerdeman; Edwin Warner Park, Nashville, Davidson County, 30 March 2021. This is a first Davidson County record. Accepted 6-0

Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*)

Written documentation and photographs of individual submitted by Mary Glynn Williamson; Bells Bend Park, Nashville, Davidson County, 6 December 2020. This is a first state record. Accepted 6-0.

Pacific-Slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*)

Written documentation and photographs of individual submitted by Evan Kidd were supplemented by audio recording by Randy Winstead; Maryville, Blount County, 12 December 2020. This is a first state record. Accepted 6-0.

White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*)

Written documentation and photographs of adult bird submitted by Wolf Jedamski; Chattanooga River Park, Chattanooga, Hamilton County, 10 January 2021. This is a first state record. Accepted 6-0.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

Written documentation and photographs of two adults coming to a backyard feeder by David Hamilton; Memphis, Shelby County, 27 March 2021. Accepted 6-0.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)

Written documentation and photographs of a single individual submitted by Tammy Ross; TVA ash ponds, New Johnsonville, Humphreys County, 23 October 2021. This is a first state record. Accepted 6-0.

Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*)

Written documentation and photographs of immature female submitted by Graham Gerdeman; Bells Bend Park, Nashville, Davidson County, 27 December 2021. This is a first state record. Accepted 6-0.

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*)

The Wisconsin-Florida migratory population is considered countable as a Reintroduced Indigenous Species by the Recording Standards and Ethics Committee of the American Birding Association, with the first confirmed wild hatching on 22 June 2006 (<https://www.aba.org/aba-area-reintroduced-indigenous-species/>). Whooping Cranes in this population occur with some frequency, but not always annually in Tennessee, so it has been an oversight that the species is not represented on the official state list. It was agreed to correct this and add Whooping Crane to the state list with a frequency code of "Casual." Accepted 6-0.

2021 TENNESSEE FALL BIRD COUNTS

Ron Hoff
Loudon, Tennessee

There were seven Fall Bird Counts conducted this year. One hundred ninety-eight participants logged 451 party hours in the field to record 41,744 individual birds, representing 196 species. The weather was reasonably mild during the count period, though Knox and Perry counties had rain all day. Temperatures ranged from 36° F in Elizabethton to 86° F in Shelby County.

Count highlights included Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Turnstone, Long-billed Dowitcher, Snowy Egret, Eastern Whip-poor-will, and Red Crossbill.

The following species occurred in record high numbers for this count: Wood Duck, Gadwall, Pectoral Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser-black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Merlin, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Fish Crow, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Marsh Wren, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Cape May Warbler, Northern Parula, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Dickcissel. Hours birding by foot was also a record high. Species in record low numbers were Turkey Vulture, Eastern Kingbird (tied for low), and Cedar Waxwing. Hours and miles by car were also the lowest ever.

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

COUNTY SUMMARIES

(F/Y = feeder/yard watcher)

Blount County (BLNT) – 18 September; 0344-2001. Weather: cloudy with some rain; wind calm; 69-80° F. Highlights included Sora, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Canada Warbler. Observers: Jean J. Alexander, Kathryn Barrow, Christie Bass, Warren Bielenberg, Doug Bruce, Stephanie Crain, Wanda DeWaard, Melinda Fawver, Marian D. Fitzgerald, Tom E. Fitzgerald, Paul Hartigan, Kim Henry, Stephen P. Henry, Andrea Hopkins, Joy Hopkins, Thomas D. Howe (compiler), Susan Hoyle, Bob Howdeshell, James R. Human, David M. Johnson, Kris Johnson, Evan Kidd, Jason Kyhm, Julie Labhart, Julie Moore, Logan Rosenberg, Michael G. Ryon, Doug Schneeberger, Mary Tankersley, Harumi Tsuruoka, Jimmy Tucker, June D. Welch, Valerie Winingger, and Randy C. Winstead.

Elizabethton (ELIZ) – 25 September; 0400-2000. Weather: partly cloudy; wind light and variable; 36-73° F. Notable sightings included a new state high count for Merlins (8), Loggerhead Shrike, Red Crossbill, and Wilson's Warbler. Observers: Fred Alsop, Jerry Bevins, Rob Biller, Debi Campbell, J. G. Campbell, Ron Carrico, Catherine Cummins, Diane Draper, Cindy Ehrhardt, Harry Lee Farthing, Dave Gardner, Tammy Griffey, Don Holt, Connie Irick, David Irick, David Kirschke, Rick Knight (compiler), Roy Knispel, Richard Lewis, Dianna Lynn, Vern Maddux, Joe McGuinness, Tom McNeil, Eric Middlemass, Susan Peters, Brookie Potter, Jean Potter, Pete Range, Judith Reid, Judi Sawyer, Chris Soto, Bryan Stevens, Peggy Stevens, Kim Stroud, Charles Warden, and Rex Whitfield.

Knoxville (KNOX) – 3 October; 0530-1900. Weather: heavy rain; wind S 0-15 mph; 67-70° F. Notable sightings included 2 Least Flycatchers (1 banded at 7 Islands Refuge), Sora, Ring-billed Gull, Marsh Wrens, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Observers: Mark Armstrong, Zachary Arnold, Frank Bills, Eric Bodker, Doug Bruce, K. Dean Edwards (compiler), Melinda Fawver, Paul Hartigan, Ron Hoff, Angela Hoffman, Susan Hoyle, James Human, Kristine Johnson, Bill Keeler, Jerry Ledbetter, Morton Massey, Stephanie Mueller, Dollyann Myers, Martha Rudolph, Michael Ryon, Beth Schilling, Colin Sumrall, Laura Tappan, Merikay Waldvogel, Jacob Wessels, and Shane Williams.

Nashville (NASH) – 25 September; 0530-1915. Weather: overcast; 50-80° F. Notable highlights included Ruddy Turnstone, Loggerhead Shrike, and Canada and Wilson's warblers. Observers: Jennifer Anderson, Rachel Anderson, Melinda Baker, Kim Bailey, Bryn Beauchamp, Kinsey Bickham, Sandy Bivens, Kevin Bowden, Susan Bradfield, Trae Bradfield, Rachel Brenner, Jean Buchanan, Ed Byrne, Jackie Byrom, Phillip Casteel, Richard Connors, Laura Cook, Allyson Davenport, James Davis, Tara Davis, Tammy Devine, Cassy Dorff, Jessica Dragonetti, Sabine Ehlers, Avery Fish, Kelli Fly, Graham Gerdeman, Steve Goodbred, Patrick, Gritton, Marck Hackney, Lauren Hagan, Joe Hall, Barbara Harris (compiler), Kristina Honsed, Anne Hoos, Melissa James, Jamie Ledford, Tim Loyd, Judy Luna, Roy McGraw, Emily Mills, Paige O'Neal, Cherie Parker, Jordan Rex, Julie Ridge, Sarah Scott, Karen Seapker, Jan K. Shaw, Shelia Shay, Danny Shelton, Laura Smith, Michael Smith, Nathan Snell, Tracey Stadwick, Joe Stone, Julie Walski, Glynn Williamson, and Grant Winter.

Perry County (PRRY) – 2 October; 0550-1800. Weather: rain; overcast; 61-72° F. Blackpoll Warbler and Dickcissel were both new species for this count. Other highlights included Barn Owl, Merlin, Veery, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Canada and Wilson's warblers. Observers: Adam Beachy, Joseph Byler, David Kinsinger, Ruben Stoll (compiler), Victor Stoll, Alan Troyer, Leona Troyer, and Nolan Walker.

Shelby County (SHLB) – 11 September; 0615-1815. Weather: partly cloudy; wind SE-W 2-13 mph; 65-86° F. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon were highlights. Observers: Judith Barrie, Betty Blaylock, David Blaylock, Chad Brown, Savannah Day, Judy Dorsey, Andrew Gafford, Van Harris, Scott Heppel, Lynn Hui, Margaret Jefferson, Douglas Logan, Julie Markham, Miles Orr, Dick Preston (compiler), PJ Pulliam, Virginia Reynolds, Cameron Rutt, Don Sanderlin, Mary Schmidt, Donna Smith, Richard Smith, Norman Soskel, Jeremy Speakes, Ed Thomas, Cliff VanNostrand, Deon VanNostrand, Ezra VanNostrand, Solomon VanNostrand, Jim Varner, and Martha Waldron.

Tennessee River (TNRV) – 25 September; 0450-1900. Weather: mostly sunny; light S wind; 60-80° F. American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Snowy Egret, Long-billed Dowitcher, Swamp Sparrow, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Cape May Warbler were all new species for the count. Highlights included Eastern Whip-poor-will, Long-billed Dowitcher, Snowy Egret, Horned Lark, and Blackpoll Warbler. Observers: Adam Beachy, Mark Cooley, Joe Hall, Rob Harbin, Iris Kilpatrick, Nikklas Klaus, Andrew Lydeard, Melvin Martin, Abra Osorio, Daniel Redwine, Ruben Stoll (compiler), and Victor Stoll.

2021 Fall Bird Counts	SHLB	TNRV	PRRY	NASH	BLNT	KNOX	ELIZ	Totals
Count Dates	11-Sep	25-Sep	2-Oct	26-Sep	18-Sep	3-Oct	26-Sep	
Species	122	161	119	114	114	104	132	196
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Canada Goose	261	179	95	143	307	714	744	2443
Wood Duck	233	10	36	18	33	15	42	387
Blue-winged Teal	84	145	-	41	15	1	4	290
Northern Shoveler	8	12	-	-	-	-	2	22
Gadwall	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	5
American Wigeon	-	6	-	1	-	-	-	7
Mallard	66	58	-	235	19	163	182	723
Northern Pintail	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	14
Green-winged Teal	1	17	-	-	-	-	-	18
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Common Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Wild Turkey	-	3	50	72	36	48	18	227
Pied-billed Grebe	-	9	-	8	-	4	3	24
Rock Pigeon	248	12	27	133	98	124	285	927
Eurasian Collared-Dove	3	4	4	2	10	-	22	45
Mourning Dove	88	49	35	124	418	195	316	1225
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	9	20	5	6	3	-	2	45
Common Nighthawk	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	5
Eastern Whip-poor-will	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chimney Swift	68	204	28	162	100	88	227	877
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	109	47	12	22	80	2	23	295
Sora	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	4
American Coot	-	-	-	69	-	-	1	70
Black-necked Stilt	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Killdeer	98	27	43	94	35	43	45	385
Semipalmated Plover	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Stilt Sandpiper	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	7
Sanderling	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Least Sandpiper	2375	11	-	-	-	-	-	2386
White-rumped Sandpiper	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pectoral Sandpiper	135	6	1	-	-	-	-	142
Semipalmated Sandpiper	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Western Sandpiper	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Short-billed Dowitcher	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Long-billed Dowitcher	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Wilson's Snipe	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
Spotted Sandpiper	2	3	-	5	-	-	2	12
Solitary Sandpiper	9	1	-	1	-	-	-	11
Lesser Yellowlegs	128	8	-	-	-	-	-	136
Greater Yellowlegs	34	3	-	-	-	-	-	37
Ring-billed Gull	-	717	-	41	-	1	-	759
Herring Gull	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	9

2021 Fall Bird Counts	SHLB	TNRV	PRRY	NASH	BLNT	KNOX	ELIZ	Totals
Count Dates	11-Sep	25-Sep	2-Oct	26-Sep	18-Sep	3-Oct	26-Sep	
Species	122	161	119	114	114	104	132	196
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
Caspian Tern	-	37	-	-	-	-	-	37
Common Tern	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Forster's Tern	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	18
Double-crested Cormorant	2	366	6	162	12	48	43	639
American White Pelican	-	162	-	5	-	-	-	167
Great Blue Heron	16	61	49	46	12	27	39	250
Great Egret	56	258	41	37	2	3	4	401
Snowy Egret	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Little Blue Heron	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cattle Egret	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Green Heron	9	4	3	2	6	1	1	26
Black-crowned Night-Heron	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	6
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	5
Black Vulture	2	144	46	170	39	22	61	484
Turkey Vulture	14	168	39	60	40	-	183	504
Osprey	3	8	1	5	1	4	7	29
Mississippi Kite	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Northern Harrier	-	2	2	1	-	2	-	7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	2	-	-	-	1	3	6
Cooper's Hawk	2	4	1	6	8	7	8	36
Accipiter sp.	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	4
Bald Eagle	-	26	3	5	1	6	9	50
Red-shouldered Hawk	12	26	16	12	20	8	6	100
Broad-winged Hawk	-	114	1	-	2	-	11	128
Red-tailed Hawk	6	10	2	14	12	9	25	78
Barn Owl	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Eastern Screech Owl	-	6	4	3	4	7	11	35
Great Horned Owl	2	1	-	5	5	1	7	21
Barred Owl	8	8	3	11	2	1	3	36
Belted Kingfisher	6	15	23	19	17	15	32	127
Red-headed Woodpecker	25	39	10	5	8	1	2	90
Red-bellied Woodpecker	68	63	55	88	79	58	83	494
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	5	4	3	2	2	1	17
Downy Woodpecker	43	60	47	69	57	31	51	358
Hairy Woodpecker	-	11	12	10	3	2	11	49
Northern Flicker	2	40	30	29	22	22	54	199
Pileated Woodpecker	28	24	25	25	30	4	39	175
American Kestrel	5	10	18	10	3	3	28	77
Merlin	1	2	1	-	-	-	8	12
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Great Crested Flycatcher	4	1	-	-	3	-	-	8
Eastern Kingbird	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	5
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	14
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

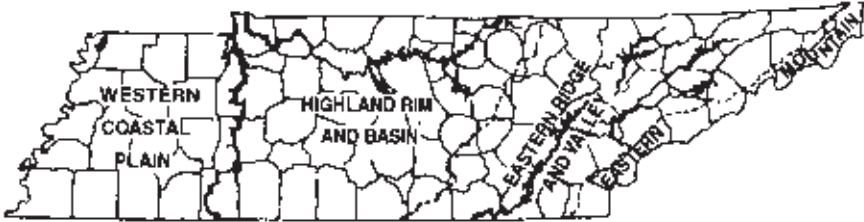
2021 Fall Bird Counts	SHLB	TNRV	PRRY	NASH	BLNT	KNOX	ELIZ	Totals
Count Dates	11-Sep	25-Sep	2-Oct	26-Sep	18-Sep	3-Oct	26-Sep	
Species	122	161	119	114	114	104	132	196
Eastern Wood-Pewee	72	73	85	43	49	20	31	373
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Acadian Flycatcher	55	4	8	3	1	-	1	72
Alder Flycatcher	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Least Flycatcher	4	1	2	-	1	2	-	10
Empidonax sp.	6	-	1	1	3	1	5	17
Eastern Phoebe	7	24	36	25	50	30	92	264
White-eyed Vireo	77	103	103	35	28	6	7	359
Yellow-throated Vireo	25	42	25	8	4	1	5	110
Blue-headed Vireo	1	-	-	1	1	-	21	24
Philadelphia Vireo	1	27	33	6	1	1	1	70
Warbling Vireo	2	2	1	5	-	-	-	10
Red-eyed Vireo	67	26	17	6	6	3	6	131
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Blue Jay	76	72	169	319	219	159	437	1451
American Crow	98	216	189	155	211	138	502	1509
Fish Crow	1	12	-	-	1	4	3	21
Common Raven	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	13
Crow sp.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Carolina Chickadee	68	93	150	204	204	113	145	977
Tufted Titmouse	102	114	141	178	104	72	109	820
Horned Lark	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bank Swallow	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Tree Swallow	-	184	3	1	117	21	160	486
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	38	187	-	22	4	40	-	291
Purple Martin	6	-	-	-	6	-	-	12
Barn Swallow	37	147	3	7	15	-	29	238
Cliff Swallow	-	40	-	-	-	-	1	41
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	4	19	-	-	2	9	34
Cedar Waxwing	-	8	35	10	9	12	230	304
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	1	2	-	-	-	9	13
White-breasted Nuthatch	53	38	26	78	56	19	52	322
Brown-headed Nuthatch	-	5	-	-	4	5	3	17
Brown Creeper	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	16	42	15	13	3	2	6	97
House Wren	-	11	8	9	4	6	8	46
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Sedge Wren	-	7	13	-	-	-	-	20
Marsh Wren	-	12	20	-	-	2	-	34
Carolina Wren	49	107	112	161	201	116	179	925
Gray Catbird	8	25	32	22	35	26	34	182
Brown Thrasher	12	33	30	21	35	18	14	163
Northern Mockingbird	34	39	33	85	157	120	80	548
European Starling	1850	146	42	426	609	492	838	4403

2021 Fall Bird Counts	SHLB	TNRV	PRRY	NASH	BLNT	KNOX	ELIZ	Totals
Count Dates	11-Sep	25-Sep	2-Oct	26-Sep	18-Sep	3-Oct	26-Sep	
Species	122	161	119	114	114	104	132	196
Eastern Bluebird	8	48	147	143	118	86	208	758
Veery	1	4	1	1	-	-	2	9
Gray-cheeked Thrush	-	16	15	2	1	-	2	36
Swainson's Thrush	2	39	13	27	12	2	46	141
Wood Thrush	3	22	16	5	-	1	-	47
American Robin	85	3	25	179	203	107	222	824
House Sparrow	12	14	16	40	58	7	114	261
House Finch	33	24	11	54	127	88	100	437
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
American Goldfinch	28	35	21	88	94	121	216	603
Chipping Sparrow	8	71	118	6	30	1	76	310
Field Sparrow	12	3	33	33	18	38	14	151
Dark-eyed Junco	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	45
Savannah Sparrow	-	5	8	-	-	-	1	14
Song Sparrow	-	-	2	5	43	78	131	259
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
Swamp Sparrow	-	2	25	-	-	1	-	28
Eastern Towhee	14	18	7	35	27	32	71	204
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	3	2	1	7	-	-	13
Bobolink	-	1	-	-	-	10	-	11
Eastern Meadowlark	7	4	86	4	4	17	6	128
Orchard Oriole	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Baltimore Oriole	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Red-winged Blackbird	18	31	8	4	56	50	61	228
Brown-headed Cowbird	16	15	8	8	2	-	222	271
Common Grackle	29	8	5	25	256	175	66	564
Blackbird sp.	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	8
Ovenbird	-	11	6	1	1	-	2	21
Worm-eating Warbler	2	1	3	1	-	-	4	11
Northern Waterthrush	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	4
Golden-winged Warbler	4	8	4	3	-	-	-	19
Blue-winged Warbler	3	3	4	-	1	-	-	11
Black-and-white Warbler	10	32	27	13	6	1	3	92
Prothonotary Warbler	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	6
Tennessee Warbler	15	88	55	65	14	11	172	420
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Nashville Warbler	1	6	-	1	-	-	3	11
Kentucky Warbler	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	4
Common Yellowthroat	8	65	96	12	19	16	19	235
Hooded Warbler	2	7	11	-	2	3	4	29
American Redstart	6	72	50	46	19	13	29	235
Cape May Warbler	-	1	-	6	16	6	40	69
Northern Parula	56	107	50	23	1	7	5	249
Magnolia Warbler	23	110	116	103	24	38	24	438
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	56	61	58	1	12	76	265

2021 Fall Bird Counts	SHLB	TNRV	PRRY	NASH	BLNT	KNOX	ELIZ	Totals
Count Dates	11-Sep	25-Sep	2-Oct	26-Sep	18-Sep	3-Oct	26-Sep	
Species	122	161	119	114	114	104	132	196
Blackburnian Warbler	1	5	10	11	2	2	9	40
Yellow Warbler	2	2	3	5	-	-	-	12
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4	19	21	7	3	4	9	67
Blackpoll Warbler	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	4
Black-throated Blue Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	11
Palm Warbler	-	22	2	2	26	23	171	246
Pine Warbler	5	100	25	3	15	5	30	183
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	-	16	3	-	4	2	25
Yellow-throated Warbler	2	29	13	9	4	-	5	62
Prairie Warbler	-	6	4	2	4	-	1	17
Black-throated Green Warbler	5	40	53	35	6	12	11	162
Canada Warbler	-	2	2	1	2	-	-	7
Wilson's Warbler	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	4
Warbler sp.	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4
Summer Tanager	48	62	86	46	4	-	1	247
Scarlet Tanager	1	26	21	6	4	6	36	100
Northern Cardinal	106	126	134	259	189	124	160	1098
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3	86	141	33	1	1	89	354
Blue Grosbeak	9	7	5	3	2	-	2	28
Indigo Bunting	86	287	272	45	21	52	13	776
Dickcissel	5	7	4	-	-	-	-	16
Total individuals	7838	6939	3999	5302	5142	4286	8238	41744
Total species	122	161	119	125	114	104	129	196
Observers	31	12	8	58	29	26	34	198
Parties	10	6	5	10	21	13	14	79
Party hours	43.2		41	115.1	89.88	46	116	451.18
Hours by car	8	20	16	13.45	11.6	10.52	-	79.57
Hours by foot	35.2	31	22	101.65	78.28	35.48	-	303.61
Hours by boat or other	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	6
Miles by car	37	217	75	253.35	124.1	123.1	-	829.55
Miles by foot	19.5	21	16	24.03	50.3	29.2	-	160.03
Miles by canoe or other	-	12	3	-	-	-	-	15
Hours owling	0.75	2	0.5	4	4.25	2.08	7	20.58
Miles owling	0.5	1	-	2.5	1	10.6	-	15.6
Feeder/yard watch observers	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	7
Feeder/yard watch hours	-	-	-	-	8.8	3.17	-	11.97

THE SUMMER SEASON

Richard L. Knight, Editor



1 June - 31 July 2021

Summer is often overlooked by many birders, due in part to the heat and the many other activities the season presents. However, there are often rewards for those birders who persist through it all, as can be seen in the following reports.

As part of a more widespread movement, Roseate Spoonbills were seen in three regions. Besides reports from the more expected two western regions, Anhingas appeared in the two eastern regions, including the first record for the mountain region. Nesting by Neotropical Cormorants at Duck River Unit continued. Post-breeding Swallow-tailed Kites returned to the Sequatchie Valley in late summer and two additional reports came from West Tennessee. Laughing Gulls were seen in three regions. A new high count for the state was established by a dozen White-winged Doves in Shelby County. A Mottled Duck and Cave Swallow were seen at Duck River Unit. Red Crossbills were well distributed in the mountains. Perusal of the following regional reports will reveal more tidbits.

The coronavirus pandemic continued to plague the nation well into its second year despite the free and easy availability of an approved vaccine. Late summer saw a surge in cases of the more highly contagious Delta variant of this virus. It seems that a full return to normalcy will have to wait longer. However, birding still provides relief for many.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

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

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION - - Weather across the region was mostly unremarkable, being only slightly warmer (+ 1 degree) and slightly wetter (+ 1 inch) than

normal. The summer heat usually results in fewer birders spending fewer hours in the field. This year was no exception; but nonetheless, the season produced a number of interesting sightings. House Wrens are rare breeders in Shelby County. A pair in Memphis laid eggs, but they failed to hatch. Shelby County also briefly hosted two juvenile Roseate Spoonbills and a state high count of 12 White-winged Doves at a roost. An adult Common Loon in June was a real surprise in Obion County, as were single Swallow-tailed Kites in Benton and Gibson counties.

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

Waterfowl - Tern: **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** 5 Jun - 8 Jul (2-6) Gibson Co (Diana King, MAG); 7 Jun (1) Obion R Bottoms, Obion Co (MAG); 4 Jul (1) Tigrett WMA, Dyer Co (Daniel Estabrooks); 8 Jul (2) Obion Co (Tara Dowdy), pair at nest box. **Fulvous Whistling-Duck:** thru season (1) Ensley Bottoms (m.ob.). **Blue-winged Teal:** 2 Jun (pair) Shelby Farms (Andrew Gafford). **Pied-billed Grebe:** 1 Jul (1) Pine L, Henderson Co (MM); 3 Jul (1) Shelby Farms (CVN); 13 Jul (1) Paris, Henry Co (Robert Wheat). **White-winged Dove:** 1 Aug (12) Mud Island, Shelby Co (RS, VS), new state high count. **Common Gallinule:** 11-30 Jun (1-3) Walnut Log, Obion Co (WGC, m.ob.); 13 Jun (9, including a female on nest and another female with 3 small yg) Grassy Bend, Reelfoot L, Lake Co (MAG, David Haggard). **American Coot:** 30 Jun (1) Beech L, Henderson Co (RS). **American Avocet:** 26 Jul (1) Ensley Bottoms (AL, DR). **Semipalmated Plover:** 3 Jun (1) Chickasaw NWR, Lauderdale Co (RS), lrs. **Stilt Sandpiper:** 21 Jul (2) Ensley Bottoms (BFo), ers. **Western Sandpiper:** 21 Jul (1) Ensley Bottoms (BFo), ers. **Ring-billed Gull:** 11 Jun (1) Lake Co (WGC); 30 Jul (177) Paris Landing SP (AL), good number this early. **Black Tern:** 20 Jun / 15 Jul (2) Tiptonville Bar (DDP / MAG). **Common Tern:** 6 Jun (2) Paris Landing SP (AL).

Loon - Falcon: **Common Loon:** 22 Jun (1, breeding plumage) Obion Co (MAG). **Anhinga:** 2 Jun - 5 Jul (2-4) Bogota WMA (MAG); 29 Jun (1) Wolf R, Fayette Co (DDP). **Neotropical Cormorant:** 16-17 Jun (1-2) Bogota WMA (WGC, MAG). **American White Pelican:** 15 Jul (4) Tiptonville Bar (MAG). **American Bittern:** 4 Jul (1) O'Neal L, Hatchie NWR, Haywood Co (DDP). **Least Bittern:** 30 Jun (1) Walnut Log, Obion Co (AL). **Roseate Spoonbill:** 27 Jun (2) Shelby Farms (P.J. Pulliam, photo). **Swallow-tailed Kite:** 16 Jul (1) Camden WMA, Benton Co (Cissie Kelly, photo); 23 Jul (1) Gibson Co (MAG). **Peregrine Falcon:** 3 Jun (1) Ensley Bottoms (RS); 12 Jul (1) Mud Island, Shelby Co (John Thornton).

Kingbird - Bunting: **Western Kingbird:** thru 27 Jul (2-6) Ensley Bottoms (m.ob.); 10 Jun / 20 Jul (1 / 4) North Treatment Plant, Shelby Co (BFo); 15 Jun (2, nest with yg) TVA Lake, Shelby Co (John Walko); 1-25 Jul (4-11) President's Island, Shelby Co (BSc, CVN et al.); 26 Jul (1) Anderson - Tully WMA, Lauderdale Co (AL). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** 22 Jul (2) Coffey Landing Rd, Hardin Co (Allan Trently); 27 Jul (1) Ensley Bottoms (DDP). **Bell's Vireo:** 8 / 11 Jun (1) White's L, Dyer Co (Kyle Bess / MAG); 3 Jul (1) Hwy 103, Dyer Co (AL); 11 Jul (2) Pea Ridge Rd, Lake Co (AL). **House Wren:** 1 / 11 Jun (1 / 2, nest building) Memphis (Margaret Jefferson, Ed Thomas), 6 eggs were laid, but failed to hatch; 16 Jul (1) Trenton, Gibson Co (MAG); 27 Jul (1) Ensley Bottoms (DDP). **Purple Finch:** 17 Jun (1 female) Mt. Orange, Gibson Co (MAG, photo); 11 Jul (1 female) Dyersburg, Dyer Co (Kathy Sellars, photo). **Pine Siskin:** 27 Jun (1, at feeder) Munford, Tipton Co (DDP). **Lark**

Sparrow: 1 Jun / 16 Jul (2 / 1) Henry Co (AL); 1 Jun (1) Trenton, Gibson Co (MAG); 3 Jun (1) Crockett Co (MAG); 24 Jun / 5 Jul (1) Mt. Orange, Gibson Co (MAG); 21 Jul (1) Gibson Co (MAG); 22 Jul (1) Shelby Farms (BFo). **White-throated Sparrow:** 7 Jun (1) Shelby Farms (BFo). **Scarlet Tanager:** 22 Jun (1) Gooch WMA, Obion Co (MAG); 26 Jun (1) Fayette Co (CVN). **Painted Bunting:** 15 Jun (1) TVA Lake, Shelby Co (John Walko).

Locations: Bogota WMA - Dyer Co; Ensley Bottoms - Shelby Co; Paris Landing SP - Henry Co; Shelby Farms - Shelby Co; Tiptonville Bar - Lake Co.

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HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN - - Highlights this summer included Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in two counties. A Roseate Spoonbill appeared in Trousdale County, while another was seen at Duck River Unit along with Mottled Duck, Anhinga, Neotropical Cormorants (nesting), Glossy Ibis, and Cave Swallow. American White Pelicans summered at several sites. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were found in five counties. Bell's Vireos continued at Fort Campbell. Nashville again hosted a major Purple Martin roost in late summer.

Waterfowl - Crane: **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** 13-14 Jun (8) McEwen, Humphreys Co (Lori Stokes, photo, fide MAG); 2 Jul (7) Bedford Co (Susan Lanier, photo). **Greater White-fronted Goose:** thru Jun (1) Memorial Park, Sumner Co (m.ob.). **Northern Shoveler:** thru season (1) Sevier L, Shelby Park (m.ob.). **Gadwall:** 4 Jul (1 male) Duck R Unit (RS). **Mottled Duck:** 23-27 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (RS, photo). **Ring-necked Duck:** 10-12 Jul (1 male) Old Hickory L, Sumner Co (James Davis, photo). **Hooded Merganser:** 2 Jun (1 female) Dickson City L, Dickson Co (Marjorie Dunham, photo); 19 Jul (1 female) Old Hickory L, Sumner Co (TLd). **Ruddy Duck:** 12 / 19 Jun (1 female) Franklin Reservoir, Williamson Co (A.C. Hassal). **Pied-billed Grebe:** 12 Jun thru season (1-2) Old Hickory L (JH, Justin Nation, Robin Nation, Jerry Webb). **Black-billed Cuckoo:** 2 Jun (1) Memorial Park, Sumner Co (TLd, photo). **American Coot:** 2-12 Jun (2) Old Hickory L (Dean Edwards, JH); 13 Jul (2) Drake's Cr, Old Hickory L, Sumner Co (TLd). **Sandhill Crane:** thru season (1, injured) Hickman Co (RS).

Stilt - Kite: **Black-necked Stilt:** 1 Jun (1) Duck R Unit (RS). **Stilt Sandpiper:** 25 Jul (3) Duck R Unit (AL), ers. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** 26 Jun (1) Duck R Unit (DR, AL), ers. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** 20 Jul (8) Duck R Unit (DR, AL), ers. **Laughing Gull:** 20 Jun (1) Old Hickory L (TLd); 30 Jun (1) Pickwick L (RS). **Ring-billed Gull:** 13 Jul (1) Drake's Cr, Old Hickory L, Sumner Co (TLd); 15 Jul (2) Duck R Unit (RS). **Caspian Tern:** 12 Jul (1) Old Hickory L, Sumner Co (James Davis), ers. **Black Tern:** 13 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (DR, AL), ers. **Common Loon:** 1 Jun (1) Edgar Evins SP, DeKalb Co (Abra Osorio); 2 Jun (1) Duck R Unit (refuge staff). **Anhinga:** 13 / 18 Jun (2) Duck R Unit (RS / DR). **Neotropical Cormorant:** thru season (1-3) Duck R Unit (RS, DR), with 1 recently fledged yg and 2 yg in second nest on 4 Jul (RS), continuation of 1st breeding in state; 9 Jul (1) Cross Cr NWR (JH). **American White Pelican:** 4 Jun - 15 Jul (65-200) Duck R Unit (AL, DR, RS); 20 Jun / 28 Jul (2) Pickwick L (Randy Schultz); 22 Jun (36) Old Hickory L, Sumner Co (Justin Nation,

Robin Nation); 2 Jul (16) Cross Cr NWR (JH). **Snowy Egret**: 21 Jul (1) Boiling Pond, White Co (RSh, DSh). **Glossy Ibis**: 4 / 13 Jul (1 ad) Duck R Unit (RS / DR, AL). **Roseate Spoonbill**: 7-8 Jul (1) Harris Branch, Trousdale Co (Abra Osorio, photo, m.ob.); 14 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (Roy McGraw). **Mississippi Kite**: 13 Jun (1) Duck R Unit (RS); 30 Jun (1) Montgomery Co (Cyndi Routledge, Steve Routledge).

Flycatcher - Cowbird: **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 5 Jun (pair, nest) Hwy 41, Rutherford Co (Richard Candler); 8 Jun / 26 Jul (1 / 2) Wartrace, Bedford Co (Melissa Turrentine); 10 Jun (2) MTSU, Murfreesboro (Jeffrey Walck); 14 Jun (1) Bell Buckle, Bedford Co (Susan Lanier); 30 Jun / 9 Jul (3 / pair, nest) Clifton, Wayne Co (RS / AL, DR); 30 Jun (1) Pickwick L (RS); 1 / 16 Jul (pair) Maury Co (Jud Johnston / Eric Bodker); 4 Jul (1 ad, 3 im) Lytle Cr Rd, Rutherford Co (Randy Harrod). **Bell's Vireo**: 4 Jun (3) Fort Campbell, Montgomery Co (DMo); 4 Jun - 7 Jul (1-3) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo). **Fish Crow**: 26 Jun (13) Duck R Unit (DR, AL); 29 Jun (4) Woods Reservoir, Franklin Co (RS); 30 Jun (9) Pickwick L (RS); 17 Jul (2) Cross Cr NWR (AL). **Purple Martin**: 25 Jul (75,000) Nashville (Graham Gerdeman), at roost. **CAVE SWALLOW**: 18 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (RS). **Pine Siskin**: 4 Jun (1, at feeder) Smith Co (Chris Agee). **Lark Sparrow**: 17 Jun (1) Lincoln Co (RSh, DSh); 3 Jul (2) Nashville Superspeedway, Wilson Co (Pam Lasley, Steve Lasley); 10 Jul (1) Harpo Rd, Coffee Co (Susan McWhirter). **Henslow's Sparrow**: 1 Jun - 26 Jul (1-5) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo); 4 Jun (19) Fort Campbell, Montgomery Co (DMo). **Brown-headed Cowbird**: 16 Jul (1 fledgling fed by Carolina Wren) Davidson Co (Melissa James, photo), rare cowbird host.

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

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CUMBERLAND PLATEAU / RIDGE and VALLEY REGION - - Common Mergansers apparently nested again on the Watauga River. Common Gallinules were present through the season in Roane County. Most notable among several post-breeding wanderers this summer were two reports of Anhinga and one of Roseate Spoonbill, both part of a widespread dispersal by these species. Swallow-tailed Kites returned to the Sequatchie Valley. Fish Crows and Common Ravens continue to expand their ranges in the region.

In July the water level in Boone Lake reached full pool for the first time since 2014. In autumn of that year the discovery of leakage beneath a portion of the dam led to a rapid lowering of the water level to approximately the normal mid-winter level (~20-25 ft below full pool) where it remained for the duration of repairs. This left one prime birding site at Austin Springs mostly high and dry. During the seven year repair project much of the exposed lake bottom revegetated, including trees that had reached 20 ft tall or greater. Where possible, this regrowth was cut before the lake was refilled.

Waterfowl - Tern: **Blue-winged Teal**: 22 Jun (1 male) Eagle Bend fish hatchery, Anderson Co (Karen Eagle). **Redhead**: 8-23 Jun (1 male) Brainerd Levee (BD). **Hooded Merganser**: 5

Jun (1) John Sevier L (SHu); 16 Jun (2) Brainerd Levee (Brian Rapoza). **Common Merganser:** 11 Jul into Aug (4-5 female-type) Watauga R, Washington Co (RLK, TSM, CLM, m.ob.). **Pied-billed Grebe:** 17 Jun (1) Baylor School, Hamilton Co (Luke Thompson, John Diener); 18 Jun (1) Ponderosa L, Scott Co (Betty Dunn); 27 Jun - 7 Jul (1) Brainerd Levee (BD, John Diener). **Common Gallinule:** 6 Jun thru season (1-2 ad) Heritage Center Greenway (RoK, m.ob.). **American Coot:** 1 Jun (1) John Sevier L (SHu); 18 Jul (2) Chickamauga L (DRJ et al.). **Whimbrel:** 18 Jun (1) John Sevier L (SHu et al., photo). **Sanderling:** 30 Jul (1) Chickamauga Dam (Luke Thompson, photo). **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 15 Jun (2) Paddle Cr. Pond, Sullivan Co (RRK), new late spring date in NE Tenn. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** 23 Jul (1) Hawkins Co (SHu). **Laughing Gull:** 18 Jul (1 ad) Chickamauga L (DRJ et al.). **Caspian Tern:** 11 Jul (2) Chickamauga L (BD); 26 Jul (3) John Sevier L (SHu). **Black Tern:** 13 / 18 Jul (1 / 3) Chickamauga L (BD / DRJ et al.).

Anhinga - Falcon: **Anhinga:** 13-25 Jul (1 female-type) Austin Springs (TSM, CLM, photo, m.ob.), 1st record in NE Tenn; 18-23 Jul (1 female-type) Emory Bend, Roane Co (RoK, photo, m.ob.). **American White Pelican:** 13 Jul - 1 Aug (1) John Sevier L (SHu, photo). **Least Bittern:** 27-28 Jun (1) Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton Co (Oliver Zigler, Kirk Zigler / Kent DuBois). **Little Blue Heron:** 27 Jun (1) Brainerd Levee (BD), ers; good number of reports in the following Cos - Anderson, Blount (2 sites), Campbell, Grainger, Hamilton (3 sites), Hawkins, Roane (2 sites), Sullivan (2 sites), and Washington. **Tricolored Heron:** 31 Jul - 2 Aug (1 im) Heritage Center Greenway (RoK, photo, m.ob.). **White Ibis:** 9-16 Jul (1-2 im) Brainerd Levee (Earl Pennington, BD, m.ob.). **Roseate Spoonbill:** 9-14 Jul (1) Indian Mtn SP, Campbell Co (Destiny Miller, photo, m.ob.). **Swallow-tailed Kite:** 29 Jul into Aug (3) Stone Cave Rd, Sequatchie Co (RS, VS, m.ob.). **Mississippi Kite:** thru 11 Jun (2) Fountain City, Knox Co (m.ob.); 8 Jun (1) Brainerd Levee (BD); 22 Jun (1) Heritage Center Greenway (Eric Bodker); 10 Jul (1) Arline, Blount Co (Randy Winstead). **Peregrine Falcon:** 18 Jul (1) Austin Springs (TSM, CLM).

Flycatcher - Dickcissel: **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** thru season (1) Ninemile Crossroad, Bledsoe Co (RSh, DSh); thru season (2, nest) East Valley Rd, Bledsoe Co (RSh, DSh). **Least Flycatcher:** 1 Jun (1) Campbell Co (Doug Raybuck). **Loggerhead Shrike:** 18 Jul (1) Roane Co (RoK). **Fish Crow:** 15 Jun (1) Morristown, Hamblen Co (Kirk Huffstater); 19 Jun / 25 Jul (1) separate Grainger Co sites (MM, BSc / Dallas Harrell); 19 Jun (2) Heritage Center Greenway (RoK); thru season in Tri-cities (m.ob.). **Common Raven:** 5 Jun (4-5) Hwy 52 at Little Cr, Morgan Co (Charles Nicholson), likely family group; 18 Jul (2) Mosheim, Greene Co (John Kitsteiner); 18 Jul (1) Austin Springs (TSM, CLM); 23 Jul (1) Knox Co (David Hankins); plus continued sightings in Kingsport / Bristol area. **Bank Swallow:** 6 Jun (8) Mascot, Knox Co (Shane Williams), traditional nesting area. **Pine Siskin:** 3 Jun (1, at feeder) Seymour, Sevier Co (Mark Armstrong). **White-throated Sparrow:** 8 Jun (1, fresh window kill) Chattanooga (David Aborn). **Prothonotary Warbler:** 30 Jul (pair with 3 fledged yg) Warrior's Path SP, Sullivan Co (Bambi Fincher, Sherrie Quillen), few confirmed breeding records in NE Tenn. **Dickcissel:** reported from Bledsoe, Greene, Loudon, Meigs, Sevier, and Washington Cos.

Locations: Austin Springs - Washington Co; Brainerd Levee - Hamilton Co; Chickamauga

L - Hamilton Co; Heritage Center Greenway - Roane Co; John Sevier L - Hawkins Co.

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION - - Rainfall was about an inch below average for the period and temperatures were slightly above average. An Anhinga in Johnson County was the first mountain region record for this species. Common Mergansers were seen at sites in six counties. Peregrine Falcons continue to breed in the Smokies. A group of Laughing Gulls on South Holston Lake in late June was unexpected.

Waterfowl - Falcon: **Common Merganser:** 11 Jun (1 female-type) Great Lakes Pond, Carter Co (BP, JP, photo); 12 Jun (9 flightless yg) West Prong Little Pigeon R, Sevier Co (Keith Watson); 12 Jun (1 female-type) Hiwassee R, Polk Co (Nolan Wright); 19 Jun (2 female-type) Nolichucky River, Washington Co (David Kirschke); 11 Jul (female with 7 yg) Little R, Blount Co (Randy Winstead); 26-30 Jul (6 female-type) South Holston R, 1 mile below weir, Sullivan Co (Charlie Parker). **Ruddy Duck:** 11 Jun (2 males, breeding plumage) Great Lakes Pond, Carter Co (BP, JP, photo). **Northern Bobwhite:** 1 Jul thru season (1) Erwin (Robin Cooper, Joe McGuiness). **Laughing Gull:** 27 Jun (2-12) South Holston L (Cade Campbell, m.ob., photo). **ANHINGA:** 19-27 Jul (1 female-type) Roan Cr arm of Watauga L, Johnson Co (TSM, photo, m.ob.), 1st regional record. **Double-crested Cormorant:** thru season (4-5) Roan Cr arm of Watauga L, Johnson Co (TSM, m.ob.). **Great Egret:** 11 Jun (2) Watauga R, Carter Co (BP, JP); 29 Jun thru season (1) South Holston L (Adriana Nelson, m.ob.); 31 Jul (2) Buffalo Valley, Unicoi Co (TSM). **Little Blue Heron:** 5-14 Jul (1 im) Buffalo Valley, Unicoi Co (Roger Mullins, Bryan Stevens, TSM); 23 / 30 Jul (1 im / 4 im) Chota Refuge, Monroe Co (Christie Bass / BSc). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 1 June (1 ad) Limestone Cove, Unicoi Co (Bryan Stevens). **White Ibis:** 10 Jul (3 im) Erwin (Kyle Klotz). **Osprey:** 12 Jun (1) Watauga R, Carter Co (BP, JP); 20 Jun (1) Watauga L, Carter Co (Will Bennett); no known nests in vicinity. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 5 Jun (1) Sam's Gap, Unicoi Co (TSM, CLM); 11 Jul (1) Pittman Center, Sevier Co (Keith Watson); 30 Jul (1) Cades Cove, GSMNP (Billie Knight). **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 16 Jun (2) Roan Mtn, at 4450 ft elevation (RLK), highest known site. **Peregrine Falcon:** 5 Jun (2 ad, 2 fledged yg) Alum Cave Bluff, GSMNP (Kevin Hutcheson), 1 of the ad was seen bringing food to the yg; 15 Jun (1 ad male) Doe River Gorge, Carter Co (Pete Range, RLK).

Flycatcher - Warbler: **Alder Flycatcher:** thru season (4+) Roan Mtn (RLK, m.ob.). **Willow Flycatcher:** 1 June (12) Shady Valley, Johnson Co (RLK), max. **Least Flycatcher:** 7 / 26 Jun (1) Monroe Co (Kevin Calhoun / BSc, MM). **Fish Crow:** 1 June (1) Erwin (TSM, CLM); 5 Jun (1) Elizabethton, Carter Co (Rob Biller); 5 Jun (2) Holston Valley, Sullivan Co (Richard Lewis); 5 Jun (1) Sciota, Unicoi Co (BP, JP); 12 Jun - 17 Jul (2-3) Watauga Point, Carter Co (TSM, CLM, m.ob.); continued expansion in NE Tenn. **Brown-headed Nuthatch:** thru season (2-4) South Holston L (m.ob.), at 2 sites. **Hermit Thrush:** thru season (4-6) Roan Mtn (RLK, m.ob.). **Red Crossbill:** 7 Jun (1) Tellico BBS, Monroe Co (Kevin Calhoun); 17 Jun / 24 Jul thru season (1 / 4-10) Roan Mtn (RRK et al.); 19 Jun (1) Clingman's Dome, GSMNP (AL); 30 Jun (3) Newfound Gap, GSMNP (Cade Campbell); 2 Jul (2) South Holston L (RRK); 5 Jul (2) Unaka Mtn, Unicoi Co (Harry LeGrand). **Pine Siskin:** 12 Jun - 20 Jul (2,

at feeders) Roan Mtn, at 4450 ft elevation (RLK); 13 Jun / 24 Jul (20 / 8) Roan Mtn, spruce-fir forest (John Britt / Rob Biller et al.); both are known breeding sites. **Magnolia Warbler:** 16 Jun / 24 Jul (2) Roan Mtn (Cody Porter / Rob Biller et al.); thru season (1-3) Unaka Mtn, Unicoi Co (m.ob.). **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 1-16 Jun (1-2) Roan Mtn (Audrey Whitlock, Al Hooks, John Britt).

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

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 RoK - Roger Kroodsma
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 MM - Morton Massey

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 DMO - Daniel Moss
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 JP - Jean Potter
 DDP - Dick D. Preston
 DR - Daniel Redwine
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 RSh - Roi Shannon
 RS - Ruben Stoll
 VS - Victor Stoll
 CVN - Cliff VanNostrand

INDEX

A

- Accipiter sp. 23, 141
- Anhinga 35, 75, 82, 83, 118, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150
- Avocet, American 13, 23, 34, 38, 42, 77, 117, 121, 146

B

- Bittern,
 - American 35, 39, 43, 65, 66, 69, 118, 121, 125, 146
 - Least 35, 43, 65, 66, 69, 121, 125, 146, 149
- Blackbird sp. 27, 143
- Blackbird,
 - Brewer's 14, 17, 27, 37, 81, 119, 122, 126
 - Red-winged 27, 71, 143
 - Rusty 15, 16, 18, 19, 27, 40, 45, 48, 71
 - Yellow-headed 40, 65, 67, 71, 93, 100, 119, 122
- Bluebird, Eastern 25, 70, 112, 143
- Bobolink 40, 45, 48, 66, 67, 71, 93, 100, 143
- Bobwhite, Northern 13, 17, 21, 68, 140, 150
- Booby, Brown 33, 34, 35, 41, 43
- Bufflehead 21, 68
- Bunting,
 - Indigo 9, 13, 14, 27, 45, 72, 75, 78, 81, 120, 126, 144
 - Painted 37, 41, 45, 65, 67, 72, 120, 147
 - Snow 94, 96, 121
- Buteo sp. 23

C

- Canvasback 21, 75, 82, 86
- Cardinal, Northern 9, 27, 46, 72, 144
- Catbird, Gray 6, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 25, 41, 65, 70, 78, 81, 84, 87, 125, 127, 142
- Chat, Yellow-breasted 9, 45, 71, 93, 94, 99, 100, 101, 102, 143
- Chickadee,
 - Black-capped 25

- Carolina 10, 25, 70, 142
 - Chuck-wills-widow 10, 68
 - Coot, American 13, 21, 42, 68, 140, 146, 147, 149
 - Cormorant,
 - Double-crested 16, 23, 69, 141, 150
 - Neotropical 35, 39, 41, 43, 121, 145, 146, 147
 - Cowbird, Brown-headed 10, 27, 71, 113, 143, 148
 - Crane,
 - Sandhill 14, 16, 21, 34, 38, 42, 77, 83, 86, 121, 147
 - Whooping 83, 137
 - Creeper, Brown 25, 70, 142
 - Crossbill, Red 13, 14, 15, 25, 41, 44, 48, 85, 87, 123, 125, 127, 138, 143, 145, 150
 - Crow sp. 142
 - Crow,
 - American 25, 70, 142
 - Fish 15, 18, 25, 36, 40, 44, 47, 65, 70, 77, 80, 84, 87, 116, 119, 122, 125, 127, 138, 142, 148, 149, 150
 - Cuckoo,
 - Black-billed 10, 34, 47, 94, 117, 120, 123, 124, 127, 147
 - Yellow-billed 10, 38, 68, 94, 140
 - Curlew, Long-billed 99
- ### D
- Dickcissel 72, 126, 138, 139, 144, 149
 - Dove,
 - Common Ground 33, 34
 - Eurasian Collared- 21, 68, 140
 - Mourning 9, 21, 47, 68, 140
 - White-winged 33, 34, 116, 117, 120, 137, 145, 146
 - Dowitcher,
 - Long-billed 35, 38, 42, 68, 99, 118, 121, 123, 124, 138, 139, 140
 - Short-billed 38, 42, 99, 118, 121, 124, 140, 147, 149
 - Duck,
 - American Black 21

- Black-bellied Whistling- 34, 65, 67, 68, 116, 117, 120, 123, 140, 146, 147
- Fulvous Whistling- 117, 146
- Long-tailed 13, 18, 21, 46, 75, 76, 79, 82, 83, 86, 120, 126
- Mottled 145, 147
- Ring-necked 21, 68, 147
- Ruddy 13, 21, 47, 66, 68, 120, 127, 147, 150
- Wood 21, 138, 140
- Dunlin 35, 38, 42, 47, 77, 80, 83, 99, 118, 121, 124

E

- Eagle,
 - Bald 15, 23, 69, 141
 - Golden 14, 15, 17, 18, 23, 35, 39, 47, 77, 80, 119, 122, 125, 126, 127
- Eastern Wood-Pewee 36
- Egret,
 - Cattle 43, 69, 121, 141
 - Great 16, 17, 18, 23, 43, 47, 69, 77, 80, 84, 86, 141, 150
 - Snowy 43, 66, 69, 121, 125, 138, 139, 141, 148
- Empidonax sp. 69, 84, 142

F

- Falcon,
 - Peregrine 36, 39, 43, 46, 47, 77, 80, 84, 86, 117, 119, 122, 125, 127, 139, 141, 146, 149, 150
 - Prairie 116, 120, 122, 137
- Finch,
 - House 9, 25, 48, 70, 143
 - Purple 13, 18, 25, 33, 36, 37, 40, 44, 48, 70, 78, 81, 85, 86, 87, 122, 125, 127, 146
- Flamingo, American 136
- Flicker,
 - Northern 18, 25, 69, 141
 - Yellow-shafted 10
- Flycatcher,
 - Acadian 10, 69, 138, 142
 - Alder 36, 40, 65, 66, 67, 69, 119, 122, 125, 127, 142, 150

- Ash-throated 33, 37, 39
 Cordilleran 133
 Great Crested 69, 141
 Least 10, 36, 69, 84, 139, 142, 149, 150
 Olive-sided 36, 40, 44, 65, 69, 119, 122, 125, 127, 138, 141
 Pacific-slope 75, 82, 84, 132, 133, 137
 Scissor-tailed 39, 44, 122, 123, 125, 141, 146, 147, 148, 149
 Western 133
 Willow 67, 69, 150
 Yellow-bellied 10, 36, 40, 44, 47, 119, 122, 142
- Frigatebird, Magnificent 32, 33, 35, 37, 39
- G**
- Gadwall 14, 21, 138, 140, 147
 Gallinule, Common 34, 42, 65, 68, 101, 120, 123, 124, 146, 148, 149
 Garganey 101
 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray 36, 40, 44, 70, 75, 78, 81, 82, 84, 97, 125, 138, 142
 Godwit,
 Hudsonian 99
 Marbled 34, 38, 99, 118, 120, 121
 Goldeneye, Common 21, 46, 75, 86, 124
 Goldfinch, American 15, 27, 46, 70, 143
 Goose sp. 21
 Goose,
 Cackling 21, 79
 Canada 16, 21, 68
 Greater White-fronted 21, 34, 42, 65, 67, 68, 79, 82, 117, 120, 124, 147
 Ross's 17, 18, 21, 37, 42, 46, 76, 79, 82, 120, 124
 Snow 16, 21, 37, 42, 79, 82, 120, 123, 126
 White-fronted 117, 120, 124
 Goshawk, Northern 75, 76, 77, 82, 84
 Grackle,
 Boat-tailed 136
 Common 16, 27, 71, 143
- Grebe,
 Eared 16, 21, 34, 37, 38, 79, 82, 83, 117, 120
 Horned 21, 34, 79, 120, 124
 Pied-billed 21, 68, 140, 146, 147, 149
 Red-necked 34, 41, 42, 77, 79
 Western 77
- Grosbeak,
 Black-headed 33, 37
 Blue 37, 45, 72, 123, 144
 Evening 13, 14, 15, 17, 25, 33, 36, 37, 40, 44, 48, 65, 66, 70, 75, 76, 78, 79, 81, 82, 85, 86, 87, 116, 122, 123, 125, 126, 127
 Rose-breasted 9, 41, 45, 52, 72, 144
- Grouse, Ruffed 13, 18, 21, 68
- Gull,
 Bonaparte's 23, 39, 68, 83
 California 75, 77
 Franklin's 35, 38, 41, 43, 77
 Great Black-backed 33, 35
 Glaucous 75, 77
 Herring 13, 14, 16, 23, 39, 43, 69, 77, 121, 140
 Iceland 75, 77, 79, 80
 Laughing 32, 33, 35, 38, 43, 46, 47, 118, 121, 124, 145, 147, 149, 150
 Lesser Black-backed 23, 35, 39, 77, 80, 83, 121, 126, 127, 138, 141
 Little 77, 82, 83
 Ring-billed 13, 23, 69, 124, 139, 140, 146, 147
 Sabine's 33, 35, 37, 38
- H**
- Hamerkop 97, 109
 Harrier, Northern 18, 23, 46, 69, 141
 Hawk,
 Broad-winged 36, 47, 65, 69, 122, 125, 141
 Cooper's 23, 46, 69, 141
 "Harlan's" Red-tailed 36, 77, 80, 82, 84, 119
 Red-shouldered 16, 23, 65, 69, 138, 141
 Red-tailed 23, 36, 46, 69, 77, 80, 82, 84, 141
- Rough-legged 36
 Sharp-shinned 23, 46, 69, 141, 150
 Swainson's 33, 36, 116, 117, 119
- Heron,
 Black-crowned Night- 14, 16, 23, 69, 127, 141
 Great Blue 23, 69, 141
 Green 16, 23, 65, 69, 75, 77, 80, 82, 84, 125, 141
 Little Blue 39, 43, 69, 118, 125, 141, 149, 150
 Tricolored 43, 123, 125, 149
 Yellow-crowned Night- 13, 23, 43, 65, 69, 75, 76, 77, 86, 121, 125, 127, 138, 139, 141, 150
- Hummingbird,
 Allen's 33, 37, 38, 41, 42, 79, 80
 Anna's 33, 41, 42
 Calliope 120
 Black-chinned 75, 79
 Ruby-throated 7, 9, 34, 38, 42, 68, 120, 124, 140
 Rufous 14, 16, 21, 33, 34, 38, 46, 47, 77, 79, 83
- I**
- Ibis,
 Glossy 39, 117, 118, 122, 147, 148
 White 35, 39, 43, 149, 150
 White-faced 122
- J**
- Jaeger sp. 38
 Jaeger,
 Long-tailed 43
 Pomarine 32, 37, 38
 Jay, Blue 25, 70, 142
 Junco,
 Dark-eyed 27, 46, 71, 78, 82, 85, 143
 "Oregon" Dark-eyed 78, 82, 85
- K**
- Kestrel, American 18, 25, 46, 69, 141
 Killdeer 23, 68, 140
 Kingbird,
 Cassin's 13, 17, 25, 75, 79,

- 134, 135, 137
 Eastern 69, 138, 141
 Western 33, 36, 41, 44, 69,
 119, 146
 Kingfisher, Belted 13, 23, 69,
 141
 Kinglet,
 Golden-crowned 9, 25, 70,
 142
 Ruby-crowned 10, 15, 25,
 36, 70, 142
 Kite,
 Mississippi 35, 39, 43, 66,
 69, 119, 122, 123, 125,
 126, 127, 141, 148, 149
 Swallow-tailed 35, 43, 93,
 100, 145, 146, 148, 149
 White-tailed 93, 100
- L**
 Limpkin 116, 117
 Longspur, Chestnut-collared
 94
 Lark, Horned 13, 25, 70, 84,
 139, 142
 Longspur,
 Lapland 18, 27, 36, 40, 75,
 78, 81, 85, 94
 Smith's 94
 Thick-billed 94
 Loon,
 Common 18, 23, 35, 47, 69,
 77, 118, 146, 147
 Pacific 14, 16, 23, 35, 39, 77,
 80, 83, 121, 124
 Red-throated 35, 39, 77, 80,
 83, 86, 121, 124
- M**
 Mallard 21, 68, 140
 Martin, Purple 40, 70, 84, 142,
 147, 148
 Meadowlark,
 Eastern 27, 65, 71, 143
 Western 16, 27, 37, 78
 Merganser,
 Common 14, 21, 42, 47,
 68, 75, 77, 79, 83, 86, 116,
 123, 124, 126, 140, 148,
 149, 150
 Hooded 21, 42, 68, 124,
 126, 147, 148
 Red-breasted 14, 15, 21, 34,
 47, 67, 68, 77
- Merlin 14, 16, 17, 19, 25, 36,
 43, 46, 47, 77, 84, 86, 111,
 122, 127, 138, 139, 141
 Mockingbird, Northern 10,
 25, 70, 90, 92, 142
 Moorhen, Common 101
- N**
 Nighthawk, Common 68, 140
 Nuthatch,
 Brown-headed 13, 18, 25,
 44, 47, 64, 66, 70, 76, 77,
 84, 87, 125, 127, 142, 150
 Red-breasted 13, 15, 25, 33,
 36, 37, 40, 44, 64, 65, 67,
 68, 70, 76, 77, 84, 119,
 122, 142
 White-breasted 25, 64, 70,
 142
- O**
 Oriole,
 Baltimore 45, 71, 75, 76, 78,
 81, 82, 85, 119, 122, 143
 Bullock's 75, 82, 85
 Orchard 71, 126, 143
 Scott's 137
 Osprey 69, 80, 84, 93, 95, 98,
 141, 150
 Ovenbird 3, 7, 9, 40, 48, 71,
 123, 143
 Owl,
 Barn 13, 14, 15, 18, 23, 65,
 69, 139, 141
 Barred 23, 69, 141
 Burrowing 116, 120, 122,
 137
 Eastern Screech- 18, 23, 69,
 141
 Great Horned 23, 69, 141
 Long-eared 13, 17, 23, 33,
 39, 75, 77
 Northern Saw-whet 13, 18,
 23, 36, 39, 41, 43, 46, 47,
 86
 Short-eared 14, 15, 16, 17,
 23, 36, 39, 43, 77, 80, 86,
 122
 Snowy 75, 82, 84
- P**
 Parula, Northern 10, 41, 65,
 71, 85, 120, 138, 143
 Pelican,
 American White 13, 16, 18,
 23, 35, 39, 43, 69, 77, 80,
 83, 118, 121, 124, 127,
 141, 146, 147, 149
 Brown 41, 43
 Petrel, Band-rumped Storm-
 32, 37, 39
 Pewee, Eastern Wood- 36, 40,
 44, 47, 69, 138, 142
 phalarope sp. 118
 Phalarope,
 Red 99
 Red-necked 32, 35, 38, 43,
 99, 117, 118, 123, 124
 Wilson's 35, 38, 65, 68, 99,
 118, 121
 Phoebe,
 Eastern 10, 13, 25, 69, 142
 Say's 33, 37, 40
 Pigeon, Rock 10, 21, 68, 140
 Pintail, Northern 21, 140
 Pipit, American 15, 16, 18, 19,
 25, 48, 125
 Plegadis sp. 35, 39, 122
 Plover,
 American Golden- 34, 38,
 42, 118, 121
 Black-bellied 34, 38, 42, 68,
 77, 117
 Piping 34, 110, 111, 116,
 117, 118, 120, 121
 Semipalmated 42, 68, 118,
 140, 146
- R**
 Rail,
 Black 136
 King 116, 117, 124
 Virginia 14, 15, 19, 21, 34,
 38, 42, 47, 66, 68, 77, 80,
 83, 117, 120, 123, 124, 127
 Raven, Common 13, 16, 18,
 25, 44, 47, 65, 84, 87, 125,
 127, 142, 148, 149
 Redhead 21, 82, 86, 117, 124,
 148
 Redstart, American 9, 45, 71,
 123, 126, 143
 Robin, American 9, 25, 70,
 143
 Ruff 99, 116, 117, 118
- S**
 Sanderling 34, 38, 42, 99, 118,

- 121, 140, 149
- Sandpiper,
 Baird's 35, 38, 42, 99, 118
 Buff-breasted 35, 38, 99
 Curlew 99
 Least 16, 23, 68, 77, 80, 83,
 99, 110, 140
 Pectoral 35, 42, 68, 77, 99,
 110, 118, 138, 140, 147
 Purple 99
 Semipalmated 68, 99, 118,
 121, 140, 149
 Sharp-tailed 99
 Solitary 43, 68, 98, 99, 121,
 140
 Spotted 35, 38, 47, 68, 83,
 98, 99, 121, 140
 Stilt 34, 38, 42, 65, 68, 99,
 118, 140, 146, 147
 Upland 34, 38, 42, 99, 121,
 123, 124
 Western 38, 42, 67, 68, 99,
 140, 146
 White-rumped 35, 38, 42,
 68, 99, 118, 121, 124, 140
- Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied 9,
 16, 23, 69, 141
- Scaup sp. 79
- Scaup,
 Greater 21, 34, 75, 82, 120,
 124
 Lesser 21, 42, 46, 68, 138,
 140
- Scoter,
 Black 33, 34, 38, 79, 83
 Surf 13, 21, 34, 37, 42, 76,
 79, 82, 86, 120
 White-winged 34, 37, 42,
 46, 76, 79, 82, 86, 120,
 124, 126
- Shoebill 97, 109
- Shoveler, Northern 21, 65, 68,
 101, 140, 147
- Shrike, Loggerhead 14, 15,
 19, 25, 65, 67, 69, 84, 138,
 139, 142, 149
- Siskin, Pine 13, 15, 16, 25, 33,
 36, 37, 40, 44, 48, 70, 76, 78,
 81, 85, 86, 87, 125, 127, 146,
 148, 149, 150
- Snipe, Wilson's 16, 23, 42, 65,
 68, 99, 118
- Sooty 32
- Sora 14, 17, 21, 34, 38, 47, 66,
 68, 77, 80, 82, 83, 138, 139,
 140
- Sparrow,
 American Tree 17, 36, 75,
 78, 81
 Chipping 9, 27, 70, 143
 Clay-colored 36, 40, 41, 45,
 116, 123, 126, 136
 Field 9, 13, 27, 70, 143
 Fox 9, 18, 27
 Grasshopper 13, 15, 27, 36,
 40, 45, 70, 75, 81, 119
 Harris's 15, 81
 Henslow's 36, 40, 45, 66,
 119, 122, 148
 House 10, 25, 70, 92, 143
 Lark 36, 45, 119, 122, 146,
 148
 Le Conte's 16, 27, 36, 40, 45,
 78, 81, 119, 122
 Lincoln's 10, 17, 27, 36, 45,
 48, 65, 71, 78, 85, 127,
 139, 143
 Nelson's 36, 37, 40, 45
 Savannah 27, 71, 143
 Song 7, 9, 16, 27, 71, 143
 Swamp 9, 14, 16, 27, 48, 71,
 139, 143
 Vesper 14, 17, 18, 27, 45, 81,
 126
 White-crowned 10, 27, 71
 White-throated 9, 27, 46, 71
- Spoonbill, Roseate 33, 37, 39,
 41, 43, 145, 146, 147, 148,
 149
- Starling, European 10, 25, 70,
 142
- Stilt, Black-necked 34, 68,
 117, 121, 140, 147
- Stint, Red-necked 99
- Stork, Wood 116, 123, 124
- Swallow,
 Bank 44, 67, 70, 119, 142,
 149
 Barn 36, 44, 70, 119, 122,
 142
 Cave 33, 36, 40, 145, 147,
 148
 Cliff 40, 70, 122, 127, 142
 Northern Rough-winged
 36, 40, 70, 142
 Tree 70, 75, 77, 80, 84, 87,
 129, 142
- Swan,
 Mute 16, 21, 79
 Trumpeter 75, 79, 116, 120
 Tundra 76, 82
- Swift,
 Chimney 9, 68, 117, 124,
 140
 White-throated 75, 82, 83,
 129, 130, 131, 137, 147,
 149
- T**
- Tanager,
 Scarlet 45, 72, 94, 144, 147
 Summer 10, 65, 72, 75, 76,
 78, 82, 85, 94, 138, 144
 Western 75, 79, 81, 94
- Teal,
 Blue-winged 46, 68, 76, 82,
 101, 140, 146, 148
 Cinnamon 101, 116, 123,
 124
 Green-winged 21, 34, 139,
 140
- Tern,
 Black 32, 35, 39, 43, 47, 118,
 121, 124, 146, 147, 149
 Caspian 47, 65, 67, 69, 118,
 121, 124, 127, 138, 141,
 147, 149
 Common 32, 35, 39, 43, 47,
 118, 141, 146
 Forster's 13, 14, 15, 23, 47,
 69, 77, 80, 86, 141
 Least 39
 Royal 32, 33, 39, 46, 47
 Sooty 32, 33, 35, 37, 39
- Thrasher, Brown 9, 13, 18, 25,
 70, 142
- Thrush,
 Gray-cheeked 9, 41, 70, 143
 Hermit 3, 9, 13, 25, 48, 70,
 150
 Swainson's 9, 40, 41, 44, 46,
 47, 70, 125, 143
- Thrush, Wood 9, 41, 70, 75,
 82, 85, 125, 143
- Titmouse, Tufted 10, 25, 70,
 142
- Towhee,
 Eastern 9, 27, 71, 143
 Green-tailed 116, 120, 122
 Spotted 13, 16, 27, 75, 79,
 81, 116, 120, 122
- Turkey, Wild 21, 68, 140

Turnstone, Ruddy 34, 38, 42,
99, 118, 121, 138, 139, 140

V

Veery 9, 44, 65, 70, 139, 143
Vireo,
 Bell's 36, 37, 40, 65, 67, 70,
 116, 117, 119, 122, 146,
 147, 148
 Blue-headed 14, 15, 17, 25,
 36, 40, 44, 46, 47, 70, 77,
 80, 84, 101, 127, 142
 Philadelphia 44, 47, 70, 125,
 142
 Red-eyed 10, 44, 47, 70,
 119, 142
 Solitary 101
 Warbling 40, 70, 142
 White-eyed 14, 25, 40, 70,
 75, 77, 80, 122, 125, 142
 Yellow-throated 40, 44, 70,
 119, 138, 142
Vulture,
 Black 23, 69, 141
 Turkey 23, 47, 69, 138, 141

W

Warbler sp. 144
Warbler,
 Audubon's 92
 Bay-breasted 10, 71, 138,
 143
 Black-and-white 9, 13, 16,
 27, 40, 45, 71, 81, 85, 119,
 123, 126, 138, 143
 Blackburnian 65, 71, 138,
 144
 Blackpoll 10, 37, 45, 46, 48,
 71, 120, 126, 139, 144
 Black-throated Blue 37, 41,
 45, 46, 48, 71, 123, 126,
 144
 Black-throated-green 10, 71
 37, 41, 123, 126, 138, 144
 Blue-winged 37, 40, 48, 71,
 81, 119, 126, 127, 143
 "Brewster's" 45, 126
 Canada 10, 66, 68, 71, 138,
 139, 140, 144
 Cape May 45, 46, 71, 85,
 120, 138, 139, 143
 Cerulean 71
 Chestnut-sided 10, 37, 41,
 45, 48, 71, 144

Connecticut 10, 40, 119,
 123, 126, 136
 Golden-winged 37, 40, 45,
 48, 66, 71, 119, 123, 126,
 127, 138, 143
 Hooded 6, 9, 41, 46, 50, 71,
 120, 143
 Kentucky 10, 71, 143
 "Lawrence's" 126
 Magnolia 9, 41, 45, 65, 71,
 81, 143, 151
 Mourning 37, 46, 48, 67, 68,
 71, 119, 123, 126
 Myrtle 9, 92
 Nashville 40, 45, 48, 71, 81,
 85, 119, 143
 Orange-crowned 10, 13, 15,
 16, 17, 27, 37, 40, 45, 48,
 139, 143
 Palm 10, 13, 18, 19, 27, 37,
 71, 78, 81, 85, 87, 144
 Pine 27, 71, 87, 144
 Prairie 10, 45, 51, 71, 123,
 144
 Prothonotary 65, 71, 119,
 127, 143, 149
 Swainson's 71
 Tennessee 9, 40, 45, 46, 65,
 71, 73, 74, 85, 119, 143
 Western Palm 10
 Wilson's 10, 45, 48, 66, 67,
 71, 128, 138, 139, 140, 144
 Worm-eating 10, 71, 126,
 138, 143
 Yellow 10, 37, 41, 45, 48, 65,
 71, 144
 Yellow Palm 10
 Yellow-rumped 27, 71, 144,
 151
 Yellow-throated 10, 18, 27,
 48, 71, 78, 85, 123, 126,
 138, 144
Waterthrush,
 Louisiana 71, 123
 Northern 9, 45, 65, 71, 123,
 126, 127, 143
Waxwing, Cedar 9, 25, 48, 70,
 138, 142
Wigeon,
 American 21, 42, 139, 140
 Eurasian 75, 79
Whimbrel 99, 117, 118
Whip-poor-will, Eastern 68,
 117, 120, 124, 138, 139,

140
Willet 35, 38, 66, 68, 98, 99,
 118, 121, 123, 124, 126, 127
Woodcock, American 10, 18,
 23, 68, 92, 99, 127
Woodpecker,
 Downy 16, 23, 65, 69, 101,
 141
 Great Slaty 61
 Hairy 23, 69, 101, 141
 Ivory-billed 53, 54, 55, 56,
 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63
 Magellanic 61
 Pileated 25, 59, 60, 61, 69,
 141
 Red-bellied 10, 23, 69, 141,
 150
 Red-headed 23, 52, 69, 127,
 138, 141
Wren,
 Carolina 25, 70, 113, 142,
 148
 House 9, 13, 25, 70, 112,
 113, 114, 115, 142, 146
 Marsh 10, 17, 18, 25, 47, 66,
 70, 78, 81, 87, 127, 138,
 139, 142
 Sedge 14, 25, 44, 47, 67, 70,
 81, 87, 125, 142
 Winter 9, 13, 25, 70, 142
Wrenthrush 100, 102

Y

Yellowlegs,
 Greater 43, 47, 65, 68, 77,
 83, 98, 99, 118, 121, 124,
 138, 140
 Lesser 68, 80, 83, 98, 99,
 110, 118, 121, 124, 140
Yellowthroat, Common 1, 3,
 7, 9, 16, 27, 37, 71, 78, 81,
 85, 126, 138, 143

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CONTENTS

FIRST TENNESSEE RECORD OF WHITE-THROATED SWIFT Wolf Jedamski, Ron Hoff, Dollyann Myers, Bob Ford.....	129
FIRST TENNESSEE RECORD OF PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER Evan Kidd and Graham Gerdeman.....	132
FIRST TENNESSEE RECORD OF CASSIN'S KINGBIRD Mary Glynn Williamson.....	134
REPORT OF THE TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE, 2021 Graham Gerdeman.....	136
2021 FALL BIRD COUNTS Ron Hoff	138
THE SUMMER SEASON: 1 JUNE – 31 JULY 2021 Richard L. Knight	145
WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION Dick D. Preston	145
HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION Richard L. Knight	147
CUMBERLAND PLATEAU/RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION Richard L. Knight	148
EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION Richard P. Lewis.....	150
SPECIES INDEX	152

