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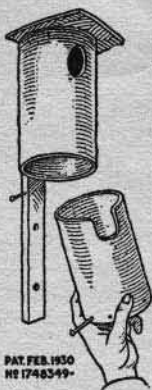


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NESTING RECORDS OF BIRDS AT ATHENS, TENN.

By H. P. IJAMS and L. A. HOFFERBERT.

During the past winter the writers visited Athens and there examined the collection of North American birds' eggs gathered by Mr. Richard Gettys and presented by his family after his death to the Tennessee Wesleyan College. This article therefore represents a brief summary of the work of this active field ornithologist who was born August 30, 1876, and died Oct. 10, 1910, aged 34. His record books, which we have examined, begin in 1897 and end with 1909, but during the last three years of that time he had become less active than at first. His interest was developed during the period when the collecting of birds' eggs was widespread and the most popular method of bird study; toward this activity he directed an immense amount of talent and energy and was afield with the birds during all his leisure hours. In the books referred to, there are records of 585 nests containing eggs found near Athens, no less than 70 species being represented. Of these, 510 were found by Mr. Gettys and 70 by his younger brother, Charles. His collection of eggs was gathered and kept in sets or clutches, each species being represented by several sets to show variations. Additional sets, not needed for his own collection, were exchanged with collectors in other parts of the country, and in this way the eggs of about 155 species were acquired of birds chiefly not native to Tennessee. There were a few birds' skins in the cabinets, but none of unusual species. The cabinet also contains about 25 nests.

Mr. Gettys kept careful notes on the spring and fall migration of birds from 1902 to 1909, and made regular reports from his station to the U. S. Biological Survey. In the series of papers on migration which ran through Bird-lore for many years, his notes were often quoted. As far as can be learned, he never wrote upon his experiences for the bird journals and his nesting records, therefore here find themselves in print for the first time. As well as can be gathered from his data, his field work did not extend more than a few miles from Athens. This town, the seat of McMinn County, lies midway between Knoxville and Chattanooga, in the eastern part of the Tennessee River valley, and in an area chiefly occupied by farm lands. Much of the high ground is covered by forested lands grown with pine, oak, hickory, sweetgum, etc. The elevation of the country about the town varies from 800 to 1,200 feet above sea level, and consists of a succession of narrow ridges and valleys running in a southwesterly direction.

Attention is especially called to the nesting record of Swainson's Warbler (*Limnithlypis swainsoni*) and Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Dryobates borealis*), these being the first nesting records of these species in the State. Ruby-throated Hummingbird nests were apparently his "pet hobby," and it is doubtful if any other bird student ever lived who equaled his record of finding 62 nests with eggs of this species. The names used in this list are those adopted by the American Ornithological Union in the 1931 Check

List, and therein may be found the corresponding scientific name if desired. The sub-species shown are those believed to be the breeding form at Athens. The data given below are necessarily much condensed from the original, due to lack of space. It should be of value, however, to present the complete local list, together with the number of nests found of each species as an index to their relative abundance, the dates on which the nests were found, etc. In the rarer species more complete data is given. The stage of incubation is given as fresh (fr), begun, and advanced (adv). The abbreviation "15' up and 8' out" means that the nest was 15 feet above the ground and 8 feet out from the center of the tree. The letters "E" or "N" prefixed to names means Eastern or Northern.

- E. GREEN HERON, 6 nests. Apr 30, May 9, 9, 27, June 2, 19. Eggs 4, 6, 4, 3, 5, 4.
 TURKEY VULTURE, 30 nests. Each contained 2 eggs. Dates found, April 12, 14, 16, 17 (three), 20, 22, 24, 25, 26 (three), 28 (three), 29, 30, May 1, 2 (three), 6, 8, 10 (two), 14, 15, 19 and 26. 14 were in hollow logs, 8 in stumps and 8 in hollow trees. On four occasions it was necessary to remove the parent bird by hand from the eggs.
 COOPERS HAWK, 3 nests. May 6, 5e, fr; Apr 24, 4e, fr; Apr 25, 4e, fr.
 E. RED-TAILED HAWK, 3 nests. Mar 27, 2e, incub slight, nest in large pine 50' up. March 25, 2e, incub adv., nest 70' up. March 26, 2e, incub adv., nest 70' up in a chestnut tree.
 BOB-WHITE, 10 nests. Dates, May 14, June 8, 20, 29, July 8, 15, 16, 24, 26 and 27.
 KILDEER, 1 nest. May 28, 3e, incub begun, on ground in corn field.
 E. MOURNING DOVE, 21 nests. Earliest dates, Mar 28, 31, Apr 3, 22, 26, 28.....
 YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO, 1 nest. May 29, 2e, incub begun, 10' up in willow.
 E. SCREECH OWL, 6 nests. April 11, 14, 24, 25, May 2, 4. Eggs 4, 2, 4, 5, 3, 3.
 GREAT HORNED OWL, 2 nests. Feb 2, 2 eggs, incub begun, eggs laid on rotten wood in hollow black gum. "Bird very bold, attacking me viciously as I climbed the tree." Feb 5, 4 eggs, incub 10 days, cavity in side of a white oak, entrance 8" in diam. and cavity 18" diameter.
 CHUCK-WILLS-WIDOW, 3 nests. May 12, 1 egg. May 16, 2 eggs. May 28, 2 eggs.
 E. NIGHTHAWK, 7 nests. May 15, 21, 23, June 1, 6, 17, 23. Two eggs in each.
 CHIMNEY SWIFT, 1 nest. June 10, 2e, incub begun, 6' down in chimney.
 RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, 61 nests, each containing 2 eggs. Dates on which nests were found, May 4, 7 (three), 10 (two), 12 (four), 14 (four), 16 (four), 17 (three), 18 (three), 19 (four), 20 (five), 21 (six), 22 (two), 23, 24 (two), 25 (three), 26, 27, 28 (two), 29, June 2 (two), 5, 14 (two), 19, 21 and 26 (two). The later nests replaced sets collected during May. Species of tree selected for nest; pine 15, oak 12, white oak 3, hickory 11, sweet gum 11, chestnut 3, poplar 2, sycamore 1, not named 3. Height of nest above ground; 8' (two), 10' (three), 12' (three), 15' (twenty-three), 18' (five), 20' (nine), 25' (five), 30' (three), 35' (three), not given, four. Description of typical nest; nest compactly built of vegetable down and sedges, covered with lichens and lined with down, saddled on horizontal limb of small pine, 15' up and 5' out on limb.
 N. FLICKER, 7 nests. May 1, 1, 3, 5, 11 and 16. Eggs 4, 6, 5, 7, 6 and 8.
 E. HAIRY WOODPECKER, 1 nest. April 25, 3 eggs, incub begun, 20' up in gum.
 RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, 1 nest. May 15, 5 eggs, fresh, in oak tree 50' up.
 N. DOWNY WOODPECKER, 4 nests. April 27, 27, May 20 and 20. Eggs 5, 4, 4, 4.
 RED-CKADED WOODPECKER, 1 nest. May 3, 1901, "found a nest of this species containing young. Cavity pecked in branch of living oak, 40' up."
 E. KINGBIRD, 7 nests. May 20, 21, 21, 30, 30, Jun 5, 5, 18. Eggs 4, 5, 3, 3, 3, 5, 2.
 N. CRESTED FLYCATCHER, 3 nests. May 20, May 27, Jun 3. 5 eggs in each.
 EASTERN PHOEBE, 7 nests: Apr 6, 23, 30, May 21, 23, June 8. Five eggs in each.
 ACADIAN FLYCATCHER, 7 nests. May 25, 26, 28, 30, Jun 4, 7. 3 eggs in each.
 E. WOOD PEWEE, 17 nests. May 20, 22, 26, 28, 30, 31, Jun 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 (two), 10, 12, 14, 21 (two) and July 16. Each contained 3 eggs. In oak or pine chiefly.
 ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW, 3 nests. May 12, 4 eggs. May 26, 6 eggs. May 31, 6 eggs.

- BARN SWALLOW, 3 nests. May 11, 4 eggs. May 11, 5 eggs. Jun 1, 4 eggs.
 PURPLE MARTIN, 1 nest. June 12, 5 eggs, fresh, in gourd hung on pole.
 NORTHERN BLUE JAY, 16 nests. Earliest, Apr 10, 12, 18, 25 (four), 28, ----
 EASTERN CROW, 12 nests. Earliest, Apr 1, 2, 3, 5 (three), 8, 9, (two), 10 ----
 CAROLINA CHICKADEE, 24 nests. Earliest, Apr 12, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, ----
 TUFTED TITMOUSE, 5 nests. May 2, 8, 6, 30, Jun 7. Eggs 7, 5, 6, 5, and 3.
 BEWICKS WREN, 7 nests. April 12, 15, 19, 28, 28, 29. Eggs 7, 7, 7, 4, 4, 3.
 CAROLINA WREN, 9 nests. April 2, 6, 24, May 2, 10, 10, June 2, 13. Eggs 4, 5.
 E. MOCKINGBIRD, 4 nests. May 10, June 8, 11 and 17, each with 4 eggs.
 CATBIRD, 8 nests. May 12, 15, 18, 21, 21, 22, 24 and 28. Eggs 3 or 4.
 BROWN THRASHER, 7 nests. Apr 29, May 2, 10, 14, 15, Jun 7, 16. Eggs 4 or 5.
 SOUTHERN ROBIN, 6 nests. Apr 8, 9, 24, 25, 28, May 5, each with 4 eggs.
 WOOD THRUSH, 12 nests. May 7, 8, 9, 10 (three), 13, 18 (two), 22 and 25.
 EASTERN BLUEBIRD, 17 nests. Earliest, Mar 30, 24, 28, Apr 4, 5 (two), 6, 15 ----
 BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, 24 nests. April 28, May 2, 6, 7 (two), 8, 10 (two),
 11 (three), 12, 14, 16, 18 (two), 20 (three), 21, 24, Jun 1 and 20. 5 eggs in most nests.
 CEDAR WAXWING, 1 nest. June 28, 5 eggs, fresh. On limb of pine, 20' up.
 WHITE-EYED VIREO, 7 nests. May 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, June 8, Eggs 3, 4 and 5.
 YELLOW-THROATED VIREO, 2 nests. May 13, 4 eggs, in pine. May 11, 5 eggs,
 fresh.
 RED-EYED VIREO, 14 nests. May 14, 16 (two), 17, 18, 20, 24 (three) ----
 BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER, 8 nests. May 1, 4 eggs. May 1, 5 eggs. May 6,
 4 eggs, May 6, 5 eggs. May 8, 4 eggs. May 15, 4 eggs. May 20, 3 eggs and May 26.
 PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, no nests. "A tolerably common summer resident."
 SWAINSONS WARBLER, 1 nest. "May 21, 1902, three eggs, incubation fresh, marked
 $\frac{1}{2}$. One mile south of Athens near an old pond in some low wet woods. Nest made of
 leaves, shreds of bark, weed stems, grass and a few pine needles lined with hair.
 Built in a small oak bush, four feet above the ground."
 N. PARULA WARBLER, one nest. May 28, 1904, 4 eggs, incubation begun. "Nest a
 beautiful sack shaped structure made of long green moss, lined with fine grasses.
 Hung under a 1" dead oak limb and attached to the moss growing from same.
 About 45' up and 3' out. (The "moss" referred to has been identified by Dr. L. R.
 Hesler as a species of Evernia, one of the lichens closely related to Usnea. Ed)
 CERULEAN WARBLER, 1 nest. His notes say "Found nest of Cerulean Warbler on
 June 5, 1904." Presumably it held young.
 YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER, 5 nests. April 25, 4 eggs, incub begun. May 5,
 4 eggs, fresh. May 6, 4 eggs, incub advanced. May 12, 4 eggs, incub begun. May 21,
 4 eggs, fresh. All in pine trees, 35 to 40' up. Typical nest description; "a very compact
 structure made of strips of bark, fine grasses and bits of life everlasting, lined
 with hair and a few feathers."
 N. PINE WARBLER, 7 nests. April 6, 4 eggs, incub adv., nest 15' up. April 10, 4 eggs,
 incub begun, 48' up. April 14, 4 eggs, incub begun, 55' up. April 16, 3 eggs, incub
 begun, 50' up. April 17, 4 eggs, fresh, 25' up. April 18, 4 eggs, incub begun, 30' up,
 May 7, 2 eggs, incub begun, 20' up. All nests in pine trees. "Compactly built of
 bark shreds, fine grass and pine needles, lined with hair, some vegetable down and
 a few cardinal feathers."
 N. PRAIRIE WARBLER, 5 nests. May 13, 13, 20, 23, June 12. Eggs 4, 3, 4, 4, 3.
 OVENBIRD, 13 nests. Dates, May 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 12, 12, 13, 15, 15, 22. Eggs, 5, 5,
 5, 4, 3, 5, 5, 5, 4, 3, 5, 4.
 LOUISIANA WATER THRUSH, 20 nests. April 13, 16, 20, 21, 21, 22, 22, 25, 26.
 28, 29, 29, May 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 18 and 20. Eggs 3, 4 and 18 sets of 5.
 KENTUCKY WARBLER, 6 nests. May 10, 16, 16, 21, 22, June 21. Eggs 5, 4, 4, 5,
 4, 3.
 MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT, 4 nests. May 15, 27, June 3, 27. Eggs 5, 4, 3, 4.
 YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, 9 nests. May 15, 20, 23, 24 (two), 27 (three).
 ENGLISH SPARROW, 2 nests. Apr 28, 5 eggs, fr. May 5, 5 eggs, fr.
 EASTERN MEADOWLARK, 5 nests. May 10, 15, 25, Jun 15, 16. Eggs 5, 5, 4, 4, 5.
 EASTERN RED-WING, 3 nests. May 12, 12 and 19. Eggs 4, 3 and 4.

- ORCHARD ORIOLE, 8 nests. May 8, 15 (two), 17 (two), 20 (two), 24.
 BALTIMORE ORIOLE, 4 nests. May 10, 20, 20 and 30. Eggs 3, 4, 4 and 5.
 PURPLE GRACKLE, 13 nests. May 8, 9 (five), 13 (four), 20 (two), 25.
 SUMMER Tanager, 10 nests. May 11, 15, 18, 19, 22, 26, Jun 6, 9.
 EASTERN CARDINAL, 11 nests. Earliest, Apr 28, May 4, 7, 11, 13. ---
 INDIGO BUNTING, 5 nests. May 19, 24, Jun 2, 17, July 20, each with 3 eggs.
 RED-EYED TOWHEE, 1 nest. May 11, 3 eggs, fr, in bunch of sedge grass.
 E. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW, 9 nests. May 15, 22, 24, 25, 28, June 6, 22, July 2
 and 19. Eggs in each 3, 5, 5, 4, 4, 4, 4, 3 and 3.
 BACHMANS SPARROW, 2 nests. May 24, 5 eggs, incub begun, nest of grass on
 ground in old field. June 7, 4 eggs, fresh, nest in old sedge field.
 E. CHIPPING SPARROW, 8 nests. May 8, 9 (three), 13 (two), Jun 6 and 8.
 E. FIELD SPARROW, 14 nests. Earliest, May 1, 3, 4, 7, 7, 9, 10, 10. ---
 KNOXVILLE, TENN.



A WOODCOCK'S NEST

By CYNTHIA C. COUNCE, M. D.

It was one of those perfect days in early March when an irresistible call of the outdoors led me far into the Hardin County hills. The tall and stately pines kept beckoning me farther and farther for on this day the wooded hills, with their fragrant pines, were never more beautiful. I was well into a pine forest before my footsteps began to slacken, and I paused to note everywhere about the signs of approaching spring. The spirit of the woods had enraptured my whole being and I was only conscious of my near surroundings when suddenly the spell was broken by the sudden flight and call of a Pileated Woodpecker. As he flew by I observed with interest his large size and regal flight. I rambled down through mixed open woods and on through sedge fields to where the land rolled gently into damp and moist lowlands along a sluggish stream. Keeping a lookout for birds along the way, I was greeted here and there by my feathered friends as they went bobbing up over the fallen brush or mounted a limb to greet me. Suddenly, as I scanned the ground ahead of me, I saw a beautiful Woodcock sitting on her nest.

Observing this handsome, dignified and aristocratic bird during the days that followed brought me many thrills and genuine pleasure not soon to be forgotten. Nor did she seem to mind my intrusion, for her disposition was gentle and trusting. With a pair of field glasses I studied the harmonious blending of browns and black in her plumage, her quaint eyes, set near the top of her head, and the long, sensitive bill with which she bores holes in the mud in search of worms. On the following day, no field glasses were needed, for one could get so close to her nest that one could lay a hand upon her head. My next visit found her off feeding, so I took the opportunity to closely examine the nest. It was built upon the ground in a rather open spot in the swampy bottom. It was made of a few sticks and dry leaves and contained four large pear-shaped eggs of a buffy color, spotted with shades of reddish brown.

The nest was visited at regular intervals for over two weeks, and seemingly a companionship that became mutual was formed. On the morning of March 29, at about nine o'clock, the bird was found off the nest, feeding near the water by probing in the wet ground. I slowly approached the nest and on examining the eggs carefully discovered new markings that showed the time of hatching was near at hand. Sensing this to be a gala day for us both, I lingered nearby, penetrating into many attractive spots to while away the time. Three hours later I returned to the Woodcock's nest and observed that the mother bird was upon it and showed rest-

lessness by moving around and changing positions. Soon there appeared two beautiful little chicks, hobbling along around the sides of the mother and with seemingly more bill than they could carry. They were buffy in color, with rich brown markings upon them. Presently a third chick came into view. Hoping to secure photographs, I went for my kodak, but on returning in about half an hour, I found the parent and her little ones were gone. Apparently she had carried them away, for they could not be found nearby, and they were surely too weak to have made their own way*.

After this pleasant introduction to the nesting of the Woodcock it is my hope that often again may I hear them near this lowland, sounding their love notes and indulging in the bounding flights and strange antics of courtship that are peculiar to this odd nocturnal bird.

Counce, Hardin Co., Tenn.

*Mr. A. C. Bent, in his *Life Histories of North American Birds*, quotes accounts by reliable observers who had witnessed the carrying off of Woodcock chicks by the parent. In each case the old bird held the chick against her body with feet and legs and flew only a short distance. Since the period of incubation is 21 days, these birds began to set about March 8.—Eds.



DERIVATIONS OF ORNITHOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

By BRUCE P. TYLER.

FOREWORD: I have long known that my good friend, Bruce P. Tyler, is an authority on birds. I have had the pleasure of accompanying him on some of his bird walks and have succeeded better in catching some of his enthusiasm than I have in acquiring much of his bird lore.

In the present article he goes afield along some bypaths that lie closer to my own limited range of knowledge. It was with genuine delight that I read the manuscript of this article and found many refreshing rays of light thrown upon the technical nomenclature of his chosen subject, Ornithology, through the lens of his clear and simple exposition of ancient Latin and Greek terminologies. Those who have felt that dead languages should be allowed to stay dead will find a real breath of life in this bit of scholarly research. Incidentally, also, it seems to make our common birds a little more interesting than ever.—C. Hodges Mathes.

A study of the technical names in any science often reveals shades of meaning not shown in the common names, and aids one to better understand and to remember them.

For instance, in the June Migrant I reported the appearance of the Clay Colored Sparrow in Tennessee. So important a find and the investigations necessary to its confirmation led into technical terms. The scientific name of this Sparrow is *Spizella pallada*, which is derived from the Latin *spiza*, meaning a finch, *ella*, the diminutive, and *pallada*, meaning pale; therefore the Clay-colored Sparrow, technically named, is the Pale Little Finch. As there are known clays of every color clay colored does not say much to the interested ornithologist, but Pale Little Finch names the bird in a much more intelligent and specific manner.

Such studies as the above have led me to look into the etymologies of many bird names, and with the hope that the readers of *The Migrant* may be interested, I am stating the ideas that I have gleaned from a study of the names of the nineteen orders of our Eastern birds. The examples cited are chosen from our Northeastern Tennessee avifauna. Locally, we have sixteen of the orders represented. The birds of the entire world are embraced in twenty-seven orders. I am indebted to my friend, C. Hodge

Mathes, for many helpful suggestions, and for checking my long neglected Greek and Latin.

Order 1. **Gaviformes**—Loons. The scientific name is derived from the Latin, *Gavia*, meaning a sea mew or a sea gull, and *forma*, meaning in the form of. Hence, an order of birds resembling the sea mew. The Common Loon is our representative of this order.

Order 2. **Colymbiformes**—Grebes. The name is derived from the Greek *kolymbos*, meaning a sea bird. The Greek verb *kolymbao* means to plunge headlong or dive, and the noun *kolymbos* means a diver, or a diving bird. Hence, in this order we have pre-eminently the diving birds of the sea. With us the order is represented by the Pied-billed Grebe.

Order 3. **Procellariiformes**. Tube-nose swimmers, albatrosses, petrels, etc. The name is derived from the Latin *procella*, a storm bird—birds of the storm. *Pro*, meaning forward, and *cella*, to urge. Hence, birds that dash forward or are driven forward by the storm, or, more to the point, that fly as if they were so driven. Our mountain terrain is not to the liking of these birds so we have none of this order with us.

Order 4. **Pelicaniformes**. Toto palmate swimmers. The name is derived from the Greek *pelikanos*, meaning either a woodpecker or a water bird of the pelican kind. Now the Greek word *pelikan* means to hew with an axe, so the appropriateness to the woodpecker is quite clear, but where does one glean the idea of the pelican? Likely in the action of the huge bill, which hews all before it, even as an axe. Northeast Tennessee cannot boast of the presence of any pelicans.

Order 5. **Ciconiiformes**. Long-legged wading birds. The name of this order is derived from the Latin *ciconia*, meaning a stork. Our best example is the Great Blue Heron.

Order 6. **Anseriformes**. Ducks, geese and screamers. The Latin words *anser*, meaning a goose, and *forma*, in the form of, show the derivation of the name of this order. The root meaning of the word *anser*, as also of the Sanskrit *hansa*, the Greek *chen*, and the Germanic *gans*, is derived from the common Indo-European root word *gha*, meaning to hiss with open mouth. So here we have gooselike birds, including the various ducks. Most prominently the Mallard Duck represents this order with us.

Order 7. **Falconiformes**. Vultures and diurnal birds of prey. The name is derived from the Latin *falx*, *falcis*, meaning a sickle or scythe, named from the curiously curved talons which resemble the form of a sickle. This order is represented by the vultures, the Duck Hawk and the other birds of prey.

Order 8. **Galliformes**. Gallinaceous birds. The name is derived from the Latin *gallina*, a hen. Hence, here we have the henlike birds. The Indo-European root *gar* means to shout or cry. Hence, to crow—the cock, the shouting bird. With us the quail or Bob-white and the Ruffed Grouse are common representatives of the order.

Order 9. **Gruiformes**. Cranes and rails. The name is derived from the Latin *grus*, *gruis*, meaning a crane. This is the order of the crane-like birds. I have only one record of the Sora Rail, which, as far as my observations go, is the only representative of this order dwelling in or visiting this territory.

Order 10. **Charadriiformes**—Shore birds. Plovers, gulls, etc. The name is derived from the Latin *charadrius*, meaning a yellowish bird, or the Greek *Charadrios*, meaning cleft, or the verb *charasse*, to cut by water running into the sea. Hence, yellowish birds dwelling in the clefts of the rocks by the sea. Our members of this order are pre-eminently the Killdeer, also the Solitary and Spotted Sandpiper.

Order 11. **Columbaformes**—Doves. The name is derived from the Latin *columba*, meaning a dove. The Mourning Dove is the best example.

Order 12. **Psittaciformes**—Parrots, etc. The name is derived from the Latin *psittacus*, a parrot. So here we have an order of the parrotlike birds. Tennessee once had a representative of this order, the Louisiana Paroquet, now extinct, due to the labors of over-zealous sportsmen (so-called), the ancient style of the milliners' art, professional bird catchers and wrathful farmers unwilling to share a bit of fruit with them. Flocks of this bird were reported by Wilson in Tennessee in 1810. The last observation was in 1904, in Florida.

Order 13. **Cuculiformes**. The Cuckoos. The name is derived from the Latin *cuculus*, a cuckoo. The Latin is derived from the Greek word *kokkys*, so called from the imitation of the bird's cry. One of the earliest references to this bird is in "Works and Days," the earliest of all known treatises for farmers, written by the Greek poet Hesiod about the close of the eighth century B. C., in which the cuckoo is mentioned as among the harbingers of Spring. Our most common representative is the Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Order 14. **Strigiformes**—Owls. The name is derived from the Latin *strix*, *strigis*, meaning a screech owl. The Greek word *strix* means a night bird and is related to *syrix*, a piercing cry. Hence, the owl, the night bird with the piercing cry. As the name indicates, the screech owl is our most conspicuous member of this order.

Order 15. **Caprimulgiformes**—Goatsuckers, such as Whip-poor-wills and Nighthawks. The name is derived from the Latin *caprimulgus*, meaning a goatsucker. *Caper*, a goat, and *mulgeo*, to milk. The members of this order are largely nocturnal and were formerly supposed to milk goats and other animals at night, likely because, being insectivorous they sought the proximity of cattle and goats on account of the increased supply of natural food, a greater number of insects usually being found in such locality. Our representative of this order is the Whip-poor-will, or the Nighthawk, the latter being more common.

Order 16.—**Micropodiformes**. Swifts and Hummingbirds. The name evidently refers to the feet. *Micro*, small, and *pod*, a foot. The birds with small feet. How enlightening is the name—constantly on the wing, the feet of these birds are used but little, and hence are undeveloped. Our representatives are the Ruby-throated Hummer and the Chimney Swift.

Order 17. **Coraciiformes**—Kingfishers. The name is derived from the Greek *korax*, meaning a water bird with short legs. The blue Belted Kingfisher is our member of this order.

Order 18. **Piciformes**—Woodpeckers. The name is derived from the Latin *picus*, a woodpecker, or the older form, *pigus*, meaning the painted one, quite suggestive of the brilliantly-colored plumage of some of the birds of this order. Roman mythology states that Picus, a son of Saturn, was a rustic, prophetic deity, also a forest god and earliest king of Latium. He slighted the love of Circe, who, in a fit of jealousy, changed him into a woodpecker, doomed forever to search out insects from the forest trees. Our best example of this order is the beloved little Downy Woodpecker dwelling with us in town and countryside, although the splendid Pileated Woodpecker would more nearly fit the role of the son of Saturn.

Order 19. **Passeriformes**—Perching birds, embracing about one-half of the known birds. The predominating order of this geological era. The name is derived from the Latin *passer*, meaning a sparrow. The root meaning of *passer* is connected with *pado*, the spreader. Hence, birds that spread the wings. Zenophon refers to the Ostrich as the big sparrow or big spreader. It ran so rapidly with outstretched wings that no horsemen could overtake it when pursuing alone or in relays. In this order we have birds having the general form and structure of the sparrows.

Johnson City, Tenn.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CENSUS, 1933

By OUR MEMBERS

We present below the results of our annual mid-winter census of bird life which in many ways was the most successful one we have yet held. A total of 90 species was listed as compared with 80 the previous year and 77 in 1932. An unseasonably mild winter was a factor in the large list for 1933, as well as the listing of several species which usually winter further South. We consider this mid-winter census as one of the most valuable of our activities, and our members have come to look forward to the occasion with enthusiasm.

	Memphis, Dec. 23	Lakeview, Ark. Dec. 23	Shiloh Park Dec. 24	Corinth, Miss. Dec. 29	Paris Dec. 25	Nashville Dec. 24	Murfreesboro Dec. 25	Chattanooga Dec. 26	Knoxville Dec. 24	Johnson City Dec. 27	Johnson City Dec. 31
Number of individuals.....	8764	61000	1454	742	182	6233	151	184	1933	6778	9464
Number of species.....	68	51	50	42	39	67	29	24	47	34	27
Number of observers.....	11	3	5	2	6	14	1	2	6	2	2
Pied-billed Grebe.....						1					
Double-cr. Cormorant.....	8	19									
Great Blue Heron.....	2		1								
Canada Goose.....	30										
Common Mallard.....	1032			5		32					
Black Duck.....	256					54			1		
Gadwall.....						6					
Amer. Pintail.....	80										
Green-wing Teal.....	24										
Blue-wing Teal.....	12										
Wood Duck.....				2							
Ring-necked Duck.....	12					125					
Canvas-back.....						12					
Lesser Scaup.....						70					
Amer. Goldeneye.....						2					
Buffle-head.....						3					
Hooded Merganser.....						3					
Black Vulture.....	2	8	8			18				4	
Turkey Vulture.....	4	4	16	6	8	17			16	7	
Sharp-shin Hawk?						1					
Coopers Hawk.....				1	1	3				1	
Red-tailed Hawk.....	1	1	1	1	1	4	1		1		
Red-shld Hawk.....	3	1	1								
Bald Eagle.....		1									
Marsh Hawk.....	2	1	1			3					
Duck Hawk.....										1	
Sparrow Hawk.....	9	1	1	1		20		1	1	1	4
Bob-white.....	27	1	12		16	13			8	8	
Coot.....		1				65					
Killdeer.....	315	7	38	2	3	15	8		2		
Wilson's Snipe.....	6					5	1			2	
Herring Gull.....	8	3									
Ring-billed Gull.....	24	2									
Mourning Dove.....	15	12	32	100	8	100		7	17	2	
Screech Owl.....						1			1	1	
Barred Owl.....	1		1	3	2						
Great Horned Owl.....					1						
Kingfisher.....	3	2	1			9		2	4	1	2
Flicker.....	44	14	16	20	3	71	5	5	53	9	8
Pileated Woodp'r.....		3	3			9	1		3	1	
Red-bel. Woodpecker.....	20	18	8	6	1	33		1	1	3	2
Red-head Woodpecker.....	3				3	13			2		
Yel-bel. Sapsucker.....	4	1	6	12	1	3	3	2	2	2	2
Hairy Woodpecker.....	4	2	3	8		7			3		
Downy Woodpecker.....	13	4	8	4	1	24	3	2	13	14	4

THE MIGRANT

Phoebe	3	1	1	--	--	1	--	--	1	3	3
Pr. Horned Lark	--	--	--	--	--	50	Flocks	--	--	--	--
Blue Jay	205	8	25	14	12	16	7	11	15	25	--
Crow	34	7	22	4	6	230	300	6	1030	24	29
Car. Chickadee	31	2	32	--	8	85	4	12	70	37	10
Tufted Titmouse	38	--	28	4	10	61	--	14	23	64	18
White-br. Nuthatch	--	--	4	2	6	7	--	--	2	12	4
Red-br. Nuthatch	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	--	--
Brown Creeper	6	--	3	1	1	7	1	--	5	--	--
Winter Wren	7	2	4	4	1	2	--	--	1	2	--
Bewicks Wren	2	--	--	--	--	11	5	--	--	--	--
Carolina Wren	62	6	13	6	4	60	9	4	38	27	14
Mockingbird	34	12	2	2	2	120	4	3	10	9	1
Brown Thrasher	14	--	--	14	--	--	2	--	--	--	--
Robin	28	2	4	10	2	255	--	--	1	--	--
Hermit Thrush	5	1	3	4	1	11	--	--	2	--	1
Bluebird	53	1	9	--	4	88	2	--	36	95	31
Golden-cr. Kinglet	18	6	20	20	4	7	--	10	20	8	9
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	2	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--	--
Amer. Pipet	254	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cedar Waxwing	9	--	99	60	--	15	--	--	14	--	--
Migrant Shrike	25	21	2	20	--	1	--	--	3	--	1
Starling	547	289	8	--	--	3000	2	--	290	6000	20000
White-eyed Vireo	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Myrtle Warbler	45	4	2	4	3	27	3	--	62	4	--
English Sparrow	com.	com.	com.	--	10	200	25	20	com.	150	56
Meadow Lark	158	50	15	15	3	175	3	10	14	23	24
Redwing Blackbird	2	8	67	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rusty Blackbird	15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Bronzed Grackle	631	43	422	60	--	60	--	--	--	--	--
Cowbird	150	2	--	--	--	--	50	--	--	--	--
Blackbirds—unidentified	3100	41000	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cardinal	147	17	38	35	11	195	14	5	32	40	7
Purple Finch	--	--	10	2	--	3	--	--	--	--	--
Goldfinch	75	5	46	15	--	60	2	10	25	45	42
Towhee	76	4	8	40	4	135	6	8	18	--	2
Savannah Sparrow	5	--	6	--	--	5	--	--	10	--	15
Fox Sparrow	15	1	4	35	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Slate-col. Junco	362	82	129	25	18	190	10	20	37	92	114
Field Sparrow	95	61	89	25	8	160	2	18	44	15	12
White-cr. Sparrow	5	--	--	--	--	44	8	--	--	*22	--
White-thr. Sparrow	475	95	157	125	4	115	2	8	81	20	--
Swamp Sparrow	3	2	--	1	4	4	--	1	--	--	--
Lincoln's Sparrow	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Song Sparrow	61	16	26	25	6	90	6	10	2	28	66

*These White-crowned Sparrows were observed on Dec. 17.

JOHNSON CITY: 27th, Boone's Tree, Sugar Hollow, and Cox's Lake. Temperature, 25-30, Bruce P. Tyler and R. B. Lyle.

JOHNSON CITY: 31st, Shoun's, Johnson County; cloudy; temperature 60, Bruce P. Tyler and R. B. Lyle.

CHATTANOOGA: 26th, White Oak Road and one and one-half mile walk around Baylor Lake; cloudy; W. K. Butts and Carl Gever.

MURFREESBORO: 25th, about 5 miles on foot, through small swamp and rocky woodland. George Davis.

PARIS: 25th, by motor from Paris to Eagle Creek, 15 miles hiked, traversing section between Eagle Creek, Sandy River and Tennessee River. Buster Thompson, Roy Reynolds, Scouts Joe Stephenson, Ellison Willoughby, Charles Veltman and Benny Whipple.

CORINTH, MISS.: 29th, six miles west of Corinth, Tuscumbia Bottom; temperature 40. Elgin Wright and Benjamin R. Warriner.

SHILOH NATIONAL PARK: 24th, temperature 53-66; Snake Creek to mouth of Gill Creek, through the park and by river road to Counce, Hamburg, Pickwick and Red Sulphur Springs. Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Franklin McCamey, Jr., and Scouts Hoke Leigh, Jr., and Robert Hovis, Jr.

LAKEVIEW, ARK.: 25th, temperature 35-39; bottomlands partially

flooded; Barton Creek, from Lakeview to Old Town and return in auto. Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., and Franklin McCamey.

MEMPHIS: 23rd, temperature 52-62; Raleigh and Wolf River bottoms, along railroad, National Cemetery; through Raleigh to Woodstock; uptown wharf; Riverside Park; Piney Woods; Brooks Avenue and Municipal Airport; Overton Park; Mississippi River at Middle Bar; up river in boat. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Jack Embury, Henry Turner, Wm. M. Heiskell, Scouts Franklin McCamey, Clark McDonald, L. H. Goff, Hoke Leigh Robert Hovis, E. R. Moore and W. H. Land.

NASHVILLE: 24th, temperature 58-65; Radnor Lake, Overton Hills, Granny White Pike; West Meade, Belle Meade, Warner Park, Hillsboro Road, Belmont Heights, Knapp Farm, Elm Hill Road, Otter Creek and Cumberland River bottoms above Nashville. G. R. Mayfield, H. C. Monk, G. B. Woodring, W. J. Hayes, A. F. Ganier, Miss Tompkins, Jack Calhoun, Mrs. F. C. Laskey, Mr. and Mrs. Hicks, J. M. Shaver, H. S. Vaughn, V. S. Sharp and Eugene Williams.

KNOXVILLE: Members of the Knoxville Chapter, T. O. S. (Names not sent in.)



THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: On the Memphis Christmas Census a very representative land bird list (except hawks and owls) was secured and Messrs. Moore and Land noted several species of ducks on the river. Not many more species could have been added. The Nuthatches failed to report, and while a special search for Prairie Horned Larks and American Pipits was made, only the latter, heretofore rare, were seen. On the Shiloh census, two Mockingbirds and two Shrikes were finally seen late in the day, and no Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen, although a special search was made for all three. Much time was spent in the pines looking for the Brown-headed Nuthatch, but not even a Pine Warbler was heard or seen. The Tufted Titmouse was common on the oak-covered hillsides of Shiloh Park, in contrast with the next day (Dec. 25th), when we were west of the Mississippi River, down in the willow and cottonwood stands of the flat river country. Not a Titmouse was recorded there, and the first Chickadee was heard about 4 p. m. Red-headed Woodpeckers were absent here also. The weather had been unusually warm up until the 25th, but no Chipping Sparrows made the census lists. Last year our first winter records of this species appeared on both the Memphis and Shiloh lists. Henry Turner reported the first one this year on February 17. American Pipits have been seen at about five places near Memphis this winter. Two flocks totaling 400 were seen at three other localities north of Memphis; 3 Prairie Horned Larks were with one flock. 254 Pipits were recorded on the Memphis census, and 130 seen Dec. 24th on the Somerville, Tenn., Airport. 120 were found Jan. 7 on a favorite field east of town, but none on Feb. 12. At the Lakeview, Miss., barrow pit there were recorded: Short-eared Owl, 1 on Jan. 1; Blue-winged Teal, 2 on March 11; Woodcock, 1 on March 4—we were attracted at dusk by the "peent" note repeated many times and tried to flush the "unknown," but on "freezing" we saw the bird rise and heard our first Woodcock song; on March 11 we recorded 2 Greater Yellowlegs and 1 Lesser at this barrow pit. Previously that morning at the Mud Lake pits, while watching an early Sora Rail, we heard the hoped-for Yellowlegs whistle and saw 2 Greater Yellowlegs pass over. The three last species might be said to be our first Spring arrivals. (We mention here a record of a

Lesser Yellowlegs for Dec. 17 at the Mud Lake pits.) On Mud Lake (Tenn.-Miss.), we saw on March 11: L. Scaup, 48; Ring-necked Duck, 64; Pintail, 18; Mallard, 100 plus (paired off); Baldpate, 2, and Coot, 7. On March 4 we saw about the same lot except there were no Baldpates or Coots. Two swampy sloughs south of the levee, where trumpet vines were matted over the trees are used as blackbird roosts. The total number arriving from the West and South was estimated at 400,000 on March 4 and on Feb. 1, 600,000 (Grackles, 250,000; Starlings, 150,000; Red-wings, 10,000; the relative numbers being based partially on the day's observations). A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks have evidently started a nest at Mud Lake (Mar. 11). We noted an old Bald Eagle nest near the south shore of Mud Lake, but were informed that it has not been used since 1924. Between Nov. 14 and 17 an immature Bald Eagle was "winged" with a rifle on Mr. W. H. Wilkinson's place, near Somerville, Tenn. It was feeding on the ground when a negro first saw it. Luckily, the wing healed and the Eagle was sent to the Memphis zoo, where I identified it. Charles McPherson, Jr., now operates a bird-banding station at Germantown, 15 miles east of town, and has always had White-crowned Sparrows on his place each winter. At other points this species is rare. In recent weeks 14 White-crowns have been banded and a Gambel's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli*) was examined by the writer. At Mud Lake, March 4, 1 adult and 12 immature White-crowns were seen. Migrating Savannah Sparrows were noted March 11, and 4 Red-tailed Hawks seen. Starlings are common in town and may linger to breed this spring. M. M. Turner reports a nest with young at Water Valley, Miss., 75 miles southeast of here, last July. Pine Warblers were common at Water Valley on Jan. 28, and one was noted north of Oxford. Benj. R. Warriner, at Corinth, reports Brown-headed Nuthatches there on Feb. 3rd. On a trip across the line into Tennessee on March 1, he recorded 3 Vesper Sparrows.—Ben B. Coffey, Memphis.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER IN TENNESSEE: In the article on page 1 of this issue there has been placed on record the account of a nest of this species (*Lymnothylpis swainsoni*), at Athens, Tenn., found by the late W. R. Gettys on May 21, 1902. The nest held 3 fresh eggs, which is the usual number laid by this southerly species. Since there is no other breeding record for the State, and wishing to look over the Gettys collection of eggs, the writer spent the day at Athens on March 3, 1934, and there examined the nest, eggs and supporting data. The eggs, which are pure white and measure 73"x52" average, check exactly with specimens in my collection taken in southern Georgia, as well as with published descriptions. (Only the Indigo Bunting lays similar eggs in such a nest, but the eggs of the latter are bluish white and those collected in Tennessee average smaller.) The nest was found to have been removed from the supporting branches and carefully tagged and wrapped with thread; a small round gourd had been placed in the nest cavity to preserve its shape. Its outside measurements were 4 inches in diameter by 2.5 inches in height; the inside diameter was 1.75 inches. Published descriptions of these nests mention a loose outer layer of large leaves, but these were absent and may have been removed by Mr. Gettys in order to better wind the nest proper with thread. My description, which follows, is somewhat fuller than that of the collector. "Nest, smoothly (not loosely) finished; externally of small leaves, broad flat blades of marsh grass and a few pine needles; within this are woven fine grass stems of a substantial thickness, and finally an inner lining of long black horse hairs neatly wound around the nest cavity." The nest as preserved, more nearly resembles that of an Indigo Bunting except that of many nests of the latter I have examined, none have been lined with

horse hair. Mr. Gettys was quite active at birds-nesting for some years after 1902, and the fact that he found no more is good evidence that Swainson's Warblers were rare near Athens. Southward from that point, however, the writer noticed that many of the creek beds were broad and swampy, grown up with willows, button bushes and honeysuckle, making an environment conforming to the swamp-loving habitat of this species. It is probable that a search in these localities would reveal additional breeding birds.

Other Tennessee occurrence records are rare, although T. O. S. members have been actively on the lookout for it. The writer collected a specimen near Johnsonville on Sept. 7, 1914, in a swampy slough a half mile west of the Tennessee River and in a likely place for it to breed. Mr. Coffey, at Memphis, has written me of finding it on several successive years, during late April, among cane thickets in Overton Park, and also at Lakeview on July 3. Mr. S. N. Rhoads wrote, in 1895, of having seen and heard several, two of which were collected, in the Wolf River bottoms about 8 miles north-east of Memphis, between May 8 and 14. While usually an inhabitant of swampy areas, it has frequently been found in high, dry environment, as has been attested by Mr. T. D. Perry of Savannah, Ga., who found many nests near there. Nor is it entirely a bird of the low country. At Atlanta, at elevation 1,050 feet above sea level, Rev. H. A. LaPrade found a nest containing 3 eggs on May 27, 1920, near which there was no swampy area. (*Wilson Bulletin*, 1922, p. 80.) Near Bristol, Va., Mr. F. M. Jones describes a nest containing 4 eggs, found on June 4, 1932. (*Oologist*, 1933, p. 99.) This nest was at elevation 1,810 feet above sea level, and not in a swampy area. These eggs were quite large, averaging 80x60 inches in size.

Future records of this rare warbler will doubtless be eagerly sought, along with Bachman's Warbler, which is also due to be found, but as yet not recorded within the State.—A. F. Ganier, Nashville.

TREE SPARROWS AGAIN RECORDED AT NASHVILLE: On Feb. 26, 1934, with the temperature around 20 degrees and a light blanket of snow covering the ground, a varied assortment of foods were spread on cleared spaces for the birds and banding traps were operated at four stations, resulting in the capture that day of 149 birds of 10 species; 62 of this number were birds previously banded. Among the 87 new birds captured were two Tree Sparrows (*Spizella a. arborea*), in traps set a few feet from windows of our home. They were banded and released. On the same day Mrs. E. C. Tompkins saw a group of four at her home in Belle Meade, which is one of my substations. Though traps were set, none was captured there, but on March 1 another was trapped and banded at my home. None has been recorded from the State since 1918, when Mr. A. F. Ganier recorded the first Tree Sparrows from Tennessee (*Wilson Bulletin*, Vol. 30, p. 92). He saw one Jan. 13 about a mile from the location of my station and on the 19th, saw five or six in the same area, collecting two specimens. Ten more were seen by him between that date and Feb. 3, 1918, six of which were found on Stone's River Road, several miles distant.—Mrs. F. C. Laskey, Nashville.

ANOTHER WHITE SNOWBIRD: On Jan. 10, 1934, a hunter brought me an albino Junco which he had shot near Goodlettsville. It was pure white except for having a little brown on top of the head, and a little buff on the shoulders. The albino Junco which wintered on the Stokes place, south of Nashville, and mentioned in *The Migrant* a year ago, did not return during the past winter. In June, 1927, I was presented with a pure white Jay, which had but recently left its nest, and I kept it caged until Dec. 7 of that year, when it died. During the late fall it began to show a

pale blue tinge on the feathers and the normally black "yoke" began to show indistinctly. I had the bird mounted.—A. C. Webb, Nashville.

A NIGHT IN A STARLING ROOST: About three miles west of Murfreesboro there was located the past winter an immense "blackbird" roost, and it immediately joined a very large Crow roost. The "blackbird" roost is partly in, but mostly beyond, the limits of the Stone's River Military Park and covers an area of about three-fourths of a mile long by a quarter mile wide. It consists of a thick growth of cedar trees from twelve to twenty feet high, on level ground. Wishing to see the birds come to roost and to hear and see how they conducted themselves during the night, I decided to "camp" among them and did so on the night of January 6. Being a clear, fairly warm night and with blankets enough, it was unnecessary to have a fire.

At 4:30 p. m., the birds began gathering in the large bare trees, anywhere from one-quarter to half a mile from the roost. The majority of these birds were Starlings, most of the rest being Grackles, but with some Cowbirds and Redwings mixed in. At a few minutes past five o'clock, the birds flew over the roost, where they began flying in an ellipse about one-half mile long. The noise that these birds made in flying could be heard for half a mile. After flying low over the cedars for a few minutes, part of the birds lit. Fifty or a hundred birds would sweep into a tree at once, flying into the center. The flight before settling and in the process of settling resembled that of the Chimney Swift. When a lone Starling would alight, it dropped through the air in a "corkscrew" flight. The whole flock, of from 300 to 500 thousand, waited until nearly dark, and then settled into the cedars within ten minutes. It was half an hour, however, before they ceased moving among the trees. From 6:30 to 9 o'clock they were disturbed by hunters in the section outside the park. When thus disturbed the birds raised a loud din and moved about the roost without leaving it. As soon as the hunters left the birds became quiet, remaining so the rest of the night. At 6:20 in the morning the flock, without giving any calls beforehand, rose practically as one body and made two swift flights over the roost before dispersing. A few remained in the roost for half an hour longer.

Although this roost had been "shot up" nightly the birds continued to use it. Piles of heads here and there showed that some of the hunters at least had carried away the bodies for eating purposes. Bodies in various stages of decomposition were lying all about to the number of several thousand. A Cooper's and a Red-tailed Hawk were noted in the roost, probably having been attracted by the wounded birds. At places in the roost one could walk upon a perfect mat of hackberry seed, these having been dropped by the roosting Starlings and being good evidence of how many hackberries these birds eat.—Jack Calhoun, Nashville.

THE ANTI-CROW CAMPAIGN: During the week of Jan. 13-20, a "Crow Shoot" was sponsored throughout Tennessee by the Nashville Banner. Much publicity was devoted to the contest by the Banner, as well as by co-operating Knoxville and Memphis papers, and great results were expected. The total number of Crows killed, however, was reported as only 2,512, so hardly a perceptible dent was made in our immense winter population of Crows. Individual honors went to Admiral Wright of Lincoln County, who had a toll of 302. He lured them with three live owls and shot them from a blind with a .22 rifle. Individuals at Morristown, Murfreesboro and in Hawkins County followed by reporting 140, 123 and 118, respectively. Numerous Crow roosts were reported, including those in Rutherford, Maury and Sumner Counties, as well as in East and in West Tennessee. The Middle Tennessee roosts were in cedar woods and with the Crows were hundreds of thou-

sands of Starlings, Grackles and scattering Cowbirds and Redwings. At the instance of the T. O. S., the Banner published requests to hunters to refrain from shooting game birds, useful hawks and owls and other useful birds during this campaign against the Crow.—G. R. Mayfield, Nashville.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF WINTER BIRDS OF NORTHEAST TENNESSEE: To our list published in the September Migrant, the following may be added. The list referred to consists of those observed during December, January and February, without regard to their migratory tendencies.

Prairie Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris thryophilus*) appeared in the early winter along meadow streams, but did not stay during the most severe part of the winter.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombysilla cedorum*). Winter resident in the heavily wooded districts, but occasionally visiting the cedar groves of the lowlands, where it feeds on the cedar berries.

Common Red-poll (*Acanthis linaria linaria*). The coldest weather on record for the Northeastern States forced this hardy little "red cap" to visit us. It occurred with Juncos and Sparrows in a bushy thicket bordering a woodland. Our terrain was not entirely snow-covered, but a short distance to the north "King Winter" was in full control with a heavy blanket of snow.—Bruce P. Tyler and Robert B. Lyle, Johnson City.

RADNOR LAKE NOTES: With an average winter, the wintering birds on Radnor Lake have remained about the same throughout December, January and February. The population on the lake was made up chiefly of Ring-neck Ducks, averaging about 100; Coots next, about 76; L. Scaup, 40; Mallards, 40; Golden-eye, 5; Canvas-back, 4. Gadwalls also appeared irregularly throughout the period. Later arrivals were Green-wing Teal, Jan. 28 and Feb. 4; Loon from Jan. 1 through Jan. 21, and reappeared March 11; Pintail, Jan. 14 and Feb. 4, also a flock of 14 on March 4; Horned Grebe, 7, arrived in winter plumage Feb. 11 and were still present March 11; Hooded Merganser, Dec. 17 through March 4; Bufflehead, Dec. 24 through March 4; The seven Geese liberated by the State Game Warden and mentioned in the December Migrant are associating with the tame geese belonging to the overseer of the lake. Four of the birds are now able to fly, while three of them cannot as yet. The Herring Gull that was released with an injured wing on Jan. 2 remained on the lake until Feb. 4. On Jan. 7 it was joined by two other gulls, but they did not remain.—George B. Woodring, Nashville.

WINTER NOTES, NASHVILLE: Golden Eagles to the number of four were trapped or killed during the past winter in Middle Tennessee. The first was trapped near Hohenwald on Dec. 18; the second, 12 miles west of Nashville on Jan. 1; the third, 10 miles north of Carthage (killed) on Jan. 4, and the last on Jan. 22, near Lebanon. Co-operating with the State Department of Fish and Game we arranged for shipment of the first two to the Great Smokies National Park, where they were released on March 7, after the snow had cleared from the mountains. Efforts are being made to secure the one trapped near Lebanon for the same purpose. The writer has been directing publicity designed to conserve our few remaining eagles. In the last Migrant I mentioned an aged Cardinal at my home. This bird and his mate have been at my feeding shelf daily all winter and are quite inseparable. The male frequently feeds the female and both have been singing since mid-January. This Spring the male will be at least eleven years old. On Jan. 21 the writer spent the day afield below Memphis with the Coffeys, to locate old nests of the Mississippi Kite. Specimens of Song Sparrows and Shrikes were collected in order to determine the winter form present. The former has not

been passed upon yet but the latter was found to be the Migrant Shrike. Starlings were more numerous during the past winter than ever before, particularly through January and February. The bulk of them departed about March first. During the winter they ate practically all of the hackberries, which probably accounts for the fact that Robins, formerly abundant during January and February, were again practically absent this year. Mrs. Laskey and Jack Calhoun each report a Brown Thrasher as having wintered near their premises; a mild early winter may have accounted for their presence.—A. F. Ganier, Nashville.

NEW BIRDS FOR THE TENNESSEE LIST: During the year following the publication of the *Distributional List of the Birds of Tennessee*, in Jan., 1933, no less than seven species or races of birds have been found for the first time within the State. In the pages of *The Migrant*, vol. 4, 1933, five of these are recorded, as follows: Laughing Gull, six at Knoxville (p. 8); White-eyed Towhee and White-winged Junco, captured at Nashville (p. 9); a Clay-colored Sparrow at Johnson City (p. 23), and Stilt Sandpiper, five at Memphis (p. 19). Two new sparrows were added to the list toward the close of the year by Mrs. F. C. Lasky, making a total of 18 kinds of sparrows thus far found in the State. These were the Gambel's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli*) and the Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*), both Northwestern forms. She has submitted formal announcement of these to *The Auk*, in order to secure wider distribution of the record. These birds were trapped at her banding station at Nashville, the Gambels on Nov. 24 and the Harris on Dec. 10. Being first records for the State, the specimens were preserved by the Curator for the Society's collection. Mrs. Lasky's first record of the Gambel's Sparrow was of a mature bird trapped on Feb. 1, 1932, but not recognized at the time. The bird returned to her station in Jan., 1933, and was then recognized; it returned for the third year on Feb. 20, 1934, and was still present on March 10. In connection with the Harris Sparrow, it will be recalled that Mr. W. I. Lyon of Waukegan, Ill., brought with him to the Wilson Ornithological Club meeting at Nashville in 1924 a cage containing several banded birds of this species. They were released on Nov. 29, on the Peabody College campus, which is on the south side of the city and three miles from the banding station, still further south. The possibility of the 1933 capture being a descendant or associate of Mr. Lyon's birds will always be a matter of speculation.

MEETINGS: The annual Spring Field Day at Nashville will be held on Sunday, May 6, and all T. O. S. members are invited to attend. The schedule of evening meetings is for March 19, April 2, 16, 30, May 14, 28 and June 11. The Knoxville Chapter will take its annual Spring Census on April 29, and will hold other meetings or trips on April 4, 15, May 2, 20, June 6 and 17. Memphis has planned its usual list of Spring meetings.

In East, Middle and West Tennessee there are 140, 122 and 123 kinds of birds, respectively, which spend the summer and nest; for the entire State this number is 176. As a problem for this summer's work, we suggest that members begin the listing of the breeding birds of their own locality or county. We should also like to have them send in at the end of the summer a list of the 25 most common summer birds of their area, arranged in order of abundance.

The migration season is at hand and data on the arrival of birds from the South and the time of leaving of our winter birds is desired from all parts of the State. We should like to have as many such migration reports sent in as possible for the Society's records and future reference.

THE MIGRANT

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

With this number, *The Migrant* enters its fifth volume and it is perhaps timely to pause and look about. We shall save retrospection for a day of greater maturity, but a word about our future is in order. Beginning with this number we increase our pages to sixteen, and we are counting on our members to provide "copy" to fill the sixty-four pages we have planned for the year, with worth-while notes and articles on Tennessee birds. Ornithology as we shall pursue it, is not a technical subject and it is our wish to produce material that is at once readable, instructive and entertaining, but always accurate in every detail. All of our members are invited to submit notes for these pages, and if you do not find in this journal the things that interest you, then do your editors the favor to write about these things and send them in.

In Tennessee we have a splendid field for the study of birds, and few States have within their boundaries such varied forms or such attractive environment in which to seek them. You need not journey far, however, to find new and interesting material. So little bird study has been done in Tennessee that nearly all we learn is new in the sense that the habits of our birds vary in many ways from those in Northern and Eastern States, where ornithological study has been pursued and written about for generations. And what of our findings that are not new! Shall we not indulge in a game because some one has played it before us? We feel that the study of birds is the most fascinating of pastimes, and that it will repay for any amount of time and interest one devotes to it. Granting this, we hope to see more and more of our members decide to make of ornithology their chief avocation, to equip themselves with books, field glasses, cameras, notebooks or whatever else is needed, and to lay the foundations upon which may be added, year after year, a storehouse of knowledge gleaned from personal observations. Sharing then your experiences with your fellow members by contributing them to the columns of *The Migrant*, will weld the T. O. S. into a more useful organization and make its journal a place where your observations will be preserved for reference through the years to come.

Our Society has done much for the conservation of birds during the nineteen years of its existence and plans to do much more. Frankly, however, conservation is not our chief reason for being; before and along with conservation there must be developed an appreciation for the things to be conserved. Furthering the study of birds among our members and enabling them to know and thus work with others having this kindred interest; this is our greatest reason for being and surely a worthy one.

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