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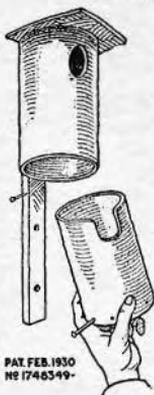


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THE NESTING BIRDS OF NORTHEASTERN TENNESSEE

By ROBERT B. LYLE and BRUCE P. TYLER

FOREWORD: Perhaps no distributional publications are of more value than annotated lists of the breeding birds of states or smaller areas when the data presented are accurate and definite.

Such lists are of value not only as faunal studies, but as helps in working out the detailed geographical distribution of our birds, about which comparatively little is generally known.

The present article on the birds of northeastern Tennessee is such a list, and should meet with a very cordial reception on the part of the students of faunal and distributional ornithology. We have altogether too few of such publications.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

In the September, 1933, issue of *The Migrant* the authors of this paper presented to its readers a list of the birds of Northeastern (Upper East) Tennessee, occurring during the months of December, January and February, whether permanent residents, winter residents, visitants or accidentals. The mere fact that these birds appeared here and were recorded during those three months was sufficient authority for listing them. In this, the second paper, only those birds are listed whose nests have been found or are known to exist either by the authors, or by Messrs. Fred M. Jones, formerly of Bristol, Tennessee, or Howard Long of Kingsport, Tennessee, who have very graciously furnished missing data. This opportunity is taken to thank them for their valued assistance.

The territory covered by this paper is the same as that described in our paper on the winter birds above referred to. It embraces portions of the Upper Austral, Transition and Canadian Zones. Our observations have been made within a radius of thirty miles of Johnson City, which has an elevation of about 1,700 feet above sea level. This city lies in the valley of the Watauga River, nestling against Buffalo Mountain on the southeast, and about three hundred feet above and, say, five miles southeast of the river. It is located thirty miles south of the Virginia line. To the north and west stretches the valley, mountains rising again at Clinch Mountain to the mean elevation of 3,000 feet at a distance of approximately twenty-five miles from Johnson City as the crow flies. To the northeast lies Shady Valley, the topography of which is described in a recent paper "Summer Birds of Shady Valley," by A. F. Ganier and Bruce P. Tyler in *The Migrant*, 1934, p. 21. The principal mountains to the southeast are Holston, Iron, Roan and Big Bald. The latter two are on the Tennessee-North Carolina state line, approximately twenty miles southeast of Johnson City, and having a maximum elevation of 6,313 feet on Roan Mountain. More adjacent to Johnson City are Buffalo, Cherokee and Unaka Mountains. The valley is traversed by the Watauga and Holston Rivers, and approached on the south by the Nolichucky River. The Watauga and Holston Rivers are separated by a ridge of minor importance. In this setting the data for this paper have been secured.

In the list of nesting birds enumerated there are species either known

or believed to breed in this vicinity, particularly in the higher mountains, but on which, from lack of actual observation, no nesting data can be given. Notations to that effect are made under each of these species. This abbreviated record must not be interpreted to mean that the birds are not here, for they have been recorded as present during the breeding season when every action indicated that they were nesting, but the nests could not be found. We feel that their inclusion strengthens the value of our observations. Wherever possible with each of the 105 species here listed, will be found the specific dates upon which nests have been found in this locality. In the case of the commoner species, only three or four selected records are given.

The information presented herewith is a summary of data collected over a period of many years of field work, representing hundreds of miles of rough walking, hard climbs, sore and bruised muscles, to say nothing of tattered clothing, fruitless trips or poison ivy.

EASTERN GREEN HERON. *Butorides virescens virescens.*

Fairly common on streams or ponds, where most nests are found. First nesting May 16th, five fresh eggs. Second nesting, June 4th, five fresh eggs; June 18th, five young just hatched; June 20th, five eggs incubated four days.

TURKEY VULTURE. *Cathartes aura septentrionalis.*

Fairly common. They nest as high as forty feet in tree cavities, but mostly on ground in hollow trees and old stumps, or in "pot holes" or small caves in the river bluffs. April 10th, 22nd, 27th and 29th, May 13th and 16th.

BLACK VULTURE. *Coragyps atratus atratus.*

Very abundant in a restricted area on South Fork of Holston River, but not to be found nesting elsewhere. All nests found have been in "pot holes" of the cliffs above the river. They nest about a month earlier than the Turkey Vulture. Will frequently lay a second set in about twenty-one days in same nest if first eggs are taken. March 12th, 20th and 29th, April 2nd, 7th and 15th, and May 2nd.

COOPER'S HAWK. *Accipiter cooperi.*

Fairly common. The farmers are unfriendly to them because of their liking for poultry, and have reduced their numbers. Nests found usually above forty feet, one being collected at the height of one hundred and twelve feet. April 16th, four fresh eggs; April 21, two fresh eggs (spotted); May 1st, five eggs incubated five days; May 19th, four fresh eggs; May 20th, four fresh eggs.

EASTERN RED-TAILED HAWK. *Buteo borealis borealis.*

Fairly common in the heavy timber. Nests placed at very greatest heights in largest trees. The majority lay about March 25th, but nests have been found to contain eggs until June. March 25th, two eggs incubated twenty days; May 25th, two fresh eggs; April 1st, one egg incubated twenty days; April 4th, hatching; April 1st, two fresh eggs.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK. *Buteo platypterus platypterus.*

Rather rare. April 29th, three fresh eggs; May 2nd, three eggs incubated five days; May 3rd, three eggs incubated five days; May 6th, two fresh eggs; May 9th, two eggs incubated three days; May 16th, four eggs incubated ten days.

DUCK HAWK. *Falco peregrinus anatum.*

Three pairs nesting near Johnson City—all in cliffs above rivers. May 1st, 1929, three young almost grown, in brown and white plumage; April 14th, 1933, one egg; May 13th, 1933, three eggs—second nesting. (See *The Migrant*, 1933, p. 43); March 29th, 1934, three young and two eggs.

EASTERN SPARROW HAWK. *Falco sparverius sparverius.*

Fairly common. Of late years occasional nesting sites have been chosen in suitable holes in brick buildings in the heart of business sections. Usually

they nest high in holes of dead trees. April 22nd, four fresh eggs; April 24th, six eggs incubated four days; April 26th, five eggs about to hatch; April 27th, five eggs incubated ten days; May 19th, five eggs incubated four days; May 31st, three fresh eggs.

EASTERN RUFFED GROUSE. *Bonasa umbellus umbellus.*

Fairly common in the mountains. Nest in April and again if broken up. May 22nd (second nesting), four fresh eggs; May 29th, brood of ten just able to fly.

EASTERN BOB WHITE. *Colinus virginianus virginianus.*

Fairly common. Raise two broods each year. May 12th, four fresh eggs; June 7th, two nests, just beginning to lay (Shady Valley); July 5th, two fresh eggs.

KILLDEER. *Oxyechus vociferus vociferus.*

Nests found in both grassy and cultivated fields, and often at a great distance from water. Nests through April, May and June. March 21st, four newly hatched young—weather cold; April 28th; May 10th; May 24th, four eggs incubated four days; June 10th; June 18th.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK. *Philohela minor.*

Regular summer resident in suitable locations, but very scarce. June 2nd, young large enough to fly; June 4th, two young three-fourths grown.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. *Actitis macularia.*

Common summer resident. Only nest found was in bunch of grass near mill dam, June 10th, containing four highly incubated eggs—about one hundred twenty-five feet from water.

EASTERN MOURNING DOVE. *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis.*

Apparently very much decreased from the annual slaughter, during the hunting season. The open season for shooting should be made to coincide with the quail season to avoid undue decrease. March 26th, two fresh eggs; April 9th; April 15th; April 23rd; April 29th; May 1st; May 6th and May 14th.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. *Coccyzus americanus americanus.*

Fairly common. May 24th, two fresh eggs; May 27th, two fresh eggs; May 31st, two fresh eggs; June 6th, four fresh eggs; June 15th, three eggs incubated fourteen days.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus.*

Less common than the former. May 22nd, four eggs incubated two days; June 4th, two fresh eggs.

BARN OWL. *Tyto alba pratincola.*

Permanent resident. Rare. Only one nest found; near Blountville, April 27th, containing seven fresh eggs.

EASTERN SCREECH OWL. *Otis asio naevius.*

Fairly common. March 28th, four fresh eggs; April 18th, two young and one egg; April 25th, three piped eggs.

GREAT-HORNED OWL. *Bubo virginianus virginianus.*

Only a very few left and these in dense remote woodland. February 10th, average nesting date. March 1st, two eggs incubated twenty-five days; March 1st, two young birds.

NORTHERN BARRED OWL. *Strix varia varia.*

Being gradually reduced in numbers, as are all hawks and owls. Rare and restricted to certain localities where not molested. March 30th, two fresh eggs; April 4th, three young.

CHUCK-WILLS-WIDOW. *Antrostomus carolinensis.*

Rare and seldom seen. Nest found June 6th, containing two piped eggs,

in woodland above river cliffs along the Watauga River near Flourville. Regular summer resident.

EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL. *Antrostomus vociferus vociferus*.

Common with the exception of 1933, where none were seen or heard at their old haunts and very few seen elsewhere. Abundant, as usual, in 1934. May 12th, two eggs incubated four days; May 22nd, two eggs incubated six days; May 31st, two eggs incubated two days; June 3rd, two eggs incubated ten days.

EASTERN NIGHTHAWK. *Chordeiles minor minor*.

Fairly common except in 1933, when they, too, as the above species, were very scarce—possibly on account of heavy storms. May 10th, two fresh eggs; May 23rd, two fresh eggs; May 25th, two eggs incubated thirteen days; June 11th, two fresh eggs; June 28th, two fresh eggs.

CHIMNEY SWIFT. *Chaetura pelagica*.

No large flocks seen as compared to a number of years back, but still a common bird. June 7th, nest in old chimney; June 24th, five eggs incubated eight days—this nest was in an old hollow tree.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. *Archilochus colubris*.

Fairly common. Nests difficult to locate. May 23rd, two eggs incubated three days; May 25th, two fresh eggs; May 28th, two fresh eggs; May 29th, two fresh eggs; June 24th, two fresh eggs.

EASTERN BELTED KINGFISHER. *Megasceryle alcyon alcyon*.

Fairly common along our streams. Never more than one pair nesting in the same locality. Both sexes incubate. April 21st, three fresh eggs; May 10th, seven eggs incubated five days; May 19th, seven fresh eggs; June 1st, two eggs incubated fourteen days.

NORTHERN FLICKER. *Colaptes auratus luteus*.

Common. If the eggs are skillfully removed from a flicker's nest the female will continue to lay many eggs in the same nest. April 22nd, one fresh egg; April 28th, one fresh egg; May 23rd, five fresh eggs.

SOUTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER. *Geophloeus pileatus pileatus*.

Fairly common. April 14th, three fresh eggs; April 22nd, three eggs incubated five days; May 2nd, four eggs incubated ten days; May 4th, four eggs incubated three days; May 4th, four eggs incubated ten days; May 13th, three eggs incubated three days.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. *Centurus carolinus*.

Rare in this area. Only one nest found, April 24th—fresh eggs.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.

Rare near Johnson City, but fairly common to the south in the Austral Zone. May 19th, six fresh eggs; May 28th, five fresh eggs; May 29th, five eggs incubated ten days; June 2nd, five fresh eggs.

NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*.

Fairly common. May 7th, five eggs incubated two days; May 8th, three eggs incubated two days; May 14th, five eggs incubated ten days; May 24th, four eggs incubated four days; July 5th, three young.

EASTERN HAIRY WOODPECKER. *Dryobates villosus villosus*.

Fairly common, chiefly at high altitudes. April 27th, three eggs incubated five days; May 17th, two eggs incubated three days.

EASTERN KINGBIRD. *Tyrannus tyrannus*.

Fairly common to rare. May 14th, two fresh eggs; May 20th, four eggs incubated four days; May 22nd, four fresh eggs; June 5th, four eggs incubated five days; June 17th, three eggs incubated two days.

NORTHERN CRESTED FLYCATCHER. *Mniarchus crinitus boreus*.

Fairly common. May 30th, five eggs incubated three days; June 5th, four

eggs incubated five days; June 13th, three eggs incubated twelve days; June 20th, young birds.

EASTERN PHOEBE. *Sayornis phoebe*.

Common resident. April 30th, five fresh eggs and two Cowbird eggs. This nest was abandoned. April 15th, five fresh eggs; May 10th, five fresh eggs; May 13th, four fresh eggs; May 20th, five fresh eggs.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER. *Empidonax vireescens*.

Common. May 20th, two eggs incubated three days; July 1st, three eggs incubated five days.

LEAST FLYCATCHER. *Empidonax minimus*.

Breeds in upper reaches of the Transition Zone.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE. *Myiochanes virens*.

Fairly common. May 26th, three fresh eggs; May 29th, three fresh eggs; June 5th, three eggs incubated four days; June 8th, three fresh eggs; June 18th, two eggs incubated two days; June 20th, three fresh eggs.

PRAIRIE HORNED LARK. *Otocoris alpestris praticola*.

Rare in summer. Only one breeding record, on May 10th, saw female feeding young.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis*.

Fairly common. May 18th, seven fresh eggs; May 18th, three fresh eggs; May 24th, seven fresh eggs; June 19th, five eggs incubated five days.

BARN SWALLOW. *Hirundo erythrogaster*.

Fairly common to rare. A colony of six pairs found in Shady Valley, where on June 9th nests with full clutches of five eggs and young birds were found (see *The Migrant*, June, 1934, p. 21); nesting data elsewhere is May 4th, five fresh eggs; May 17th, two nests each containing three fresh eggs; July 6th, five fresh eggs; May 26th, five fresh eggs.

NORTHERN CLIFF SWALLOW. *Petrochelidon albifrons albifrons*.

Observed only on Roan Mountain. July 7th, 1934, which date would indicate that it may nest in that vicinity.

PURPLE MARTIN. *Progne subis subis*.

Disappeared from this neighborhood for a number of years, but 1933 brought great numbers of them. June 5th, four fresh eggs.

NORTHERN BLUE JAY. *Cyanocitta cristata cristata*.

Very common. A menace to other birds on account of its habit of eating their eggs or very small nestlings. May 15th, five fresh eggs; May 1st, five eggs incubated ten days; May 5th, five fresh eggs.

NORTHERN RAVEN. *Corvus corax principalis*.

Very rare. Found in the roughest parts of the higher mountains.

SOUTHERN CROW. *Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus*.

Common, but decreased during the last ten years. April 2nd, three fresh eggs; April 8th, five eggs incubated three days; April 16th, four fresh eggs; April 18th, five eggs incubated fifteen days; April 23rd, five eggs incubated fifteen days.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE. *Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*.

Less common than the following species. Doubtless it breeds here at high altitudes, but its nest has not been found.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE. *Penthestes carolinensis carolinensis*.

Common. May 20th, five fresh eggs; May 4th, six fresh eggs; June 3rd, six eggs incubated three days.

TUFTED TITMOUSE. *Baeolophus bicolor*.

Common. Nests not easily found. May 13th, seven fresh eggs; May 19th, six fresh eggs.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. *Sitta carolinensis carolinensis.*

Fairly common to rare. April 11th, seven fresh eggs; April 27th, seven fresh eggs; May 25th, young birds.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. *Sitta canadensis.*

Abundant during breeding season on top of Roan Mountain, where it certainly breeds, but no nests have been found.

HOUSE WREN. *Troglodytes aedon aedon.*

Breeds very sparingly in the Transition Zone; more common in the Canadian Zone, on top of Roan Mountain, where on July 7th the birds were observed in full song, but no nests were found. The following record of many years ago is from the vicinity of Johnson City: May 29th, two fresh eggs—is regarded as very unusual.

EASTERN WINTER WREN. *Nannus hiemalis hiemalis.*

These birds occur in considerable numbers in the breeding season in full song in the Canadian Zone, on all high mountains in this vicinity. They were so observed on Roan Mountain June 23rd and July 7th, but no nests were found.

BEWICK'S WREN. *Thryomanes bewicki bewicki.*

Fairly common. April 13th, five fresh eggs; May 1st, five fresh eggs; May 25th, five fresh eggs.

CAROLINA WREN. *Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus.*

Common. June 17th, five fresh eggs; May 15th, five eggs incubated three days; May 10th, four fresh eggs; May 9th, four fresh eggs.

EASTERN MOCKINGBIRD. *Mimus polyglottos polyglottos.*

Common. May 15th, four eggs incubated three days; May 29th, five fresh eggs; June 18th, four eggs incubated ten days. Second nesting July 2nd, four fresh eggs.

CATBIRD. *Dumetella carolinensis.*

Fairly common. April 29th, four fresh eggs; May 15th, four fresh eggs; June 3rd, four fresh eggs.

BROWN THRASHER. *Toxostoma rufum.*

Abundant. April 28th, five eggs pipped; May 6th, four eggs incubated five days; April 29th, four eggs incubated ten days.

SOUTHERN ROBIN. *Turdus migratorius achrusterus.*

Very common. April 10th, four fresh eggs; May 1st, four fresh eggs; May 3rd, four fresh eggs; May 17th, three fresh eggs; June 10th, three eggs incubated five days.

WOOD THRUSH. *Hylocichla mustelina.*

Fairly common. May 17th, four eggs incubated ten days May 21st, four eggs incubated eight days; May 16th, three pipped eggs; May 29th, four fresh eggs; June 17th, three fresh eggs.

VEERY. *Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens.*

Fairly common in mountains at high elevations, say 4,000 feet and higher. altitudes, but its nest has not been found.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD. *Sialia sialis sialis.*

Fairly common. Now increasing after being scarce for a number of years. Breed through July. Raise two broods regularly—occasionally four broods. April 10th, five fresh eggs; April 15th, five fresh eggs; April 28th, five fresh eggs; July 9th, five fresh eggs—second nesting.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. *Poliophtila caerulea caerulea.*

Very few found each season. April 30th, four fresh eggs; May 11th, five eggs incubated three days; June 18th, three fresh eggs; June 26th, four fresh eggs.

CEDAR WAXWING. *Bombycilla cedrorum*.

Fairly common resident. Summer resident in Canadian and upper part of Transition Zones. Nest in colonies on top of high mountains in Canadian Zone. June 6th, four fresh eggs; June 7th, four fresh eggs; June 28th, four fresh eggs; June 28th, five eggs incubated five days. Female feeding young September 10th, 1933.

STARLING. *Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*.

Increasing rapidly and to an alarming extent. Flocks seen—1933—probably 50,000. Several broods. In 1934 the great flocks are missing.

WHITE-EYED VIREO. *Vireo griseus griseus*.

Common. May 11th, one fresh egg; May 23rd, four fresh eggs; May 27th, four eggs incubated five days; May 30th, two fresh eggs; June 3rd, one fresh egg.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO. *Vireo flavifrons*.

Rare. June 2nd, young birds July 24th, three fresh eggs.

MOUNTAIN VIREO. *Vireo solitarius alticola*.

Found at high altitudes. May 19th, four fresh eggs; May 20th, three fresh eggs.

RED-EYED VIREO. *Vireo olivaceus*.

A common bird in woodlands. May 27th, three fresh eggs; June 3rd, three fresh eggs; June 4th, three fresh eggs; June 13th, four eggs incubated six days; June 27th, three fresh eggs.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER. *Mniotilta varia*.

Common summer resident. May 2nd, two young birds and two stale eggs; May 16th, three young and one egg; June 11th, four fresh eggs—second nesting.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER. *Prothonotaria citrea*.

The only nest observed was on Holston River April 30th. Nest under construction in dead willow snag about six feet high and leaning over water.

SOUTHERN PARULA WARBLER. *Compsothlypis americana americana*.

Fairly common. Perhaps our bird here is the Northern subspecies *c. a. pusilla*. June 1st, four fresh eggs; June 26th, three fresh eggs; June 27th, three fresh eggs. Raises two broods.

EASTERN YELLOW WARBLER. *Dendroica aestiva aestiva*.

Fairly common. May 16th, four fresh eggs; May 16th, two fresh eggs; May 18th, one fresh egg; May 20th, four eggs incubated four days.

CAIRN'S WARBLER. *Dendroica caerulescens cairnsi*

Fairly common to rare in higher mountains in Canadian one. June 28th, young birds; June 20th, four eggs incubated four days; July 1st, three young.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. *Dendroica virens virens*.

Regular summer resident in upper part of Transition Zone and Canadian Zone. Surely breeds here, but no nests have been found.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER. *Dendroica dominica dominica*.

Summer resident, but local in distribution. Rare. May 18th, four fresh eggs. Breeds up to about 3,000 feet elevation.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. *Dendroica pensylvanica*.

Breeds in upper reaches of the Transition Zone. June 28th, three fresh eggs; June 18th, three fresh eggs.

OVEN-BIRD. *Seiurus aurocapillus*.

Common. May 17th, three fresh eggs and two cow-bird eggs; May 28th, five piped eggs; June 21st, four eggs incubated ten days.

LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH. *Seiurus motacilla*.

Fairly common. April 23rd, one fresh egg; April 30th, five fresh eggs; May 27th, two young birds and three eggs; May 13th, three young birds; two eggs and one cow-bird egg.

KENTUCKY WARBLER. *Oporornis formosus.*

Common. May 20th, four fresh eggs; May 24th, two sterile eggs.

MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT. *Geothlypis trichas trichas.*

Fairly common. May 22nd, four fresh eggs and one cow-bird egg; May 24th, four eggs incubated three days; May 26th, five fresh eggs.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. *Icteria virens virens.*

Common. May 24th, four fresh eggs; June 1st, five fresh eggs; June 15th, three piped eggs.

HOODED WARBLER. *Wilsonia citrina.*

Fairly common in mountain forests. June 14th, two eggs incubated nine days; June 10th, four fresh eggs; June 19th, young birds.

AMERICAN REDSTART. *Setophaga ruticilla.*

Fairly common. May 12th, two fresh eggs; May 16th, three fresh eggs; June 5th, three eggs incubated seven days; June 14th, three eggs incubated eight days.

ENGLISH SPARROW. *Passer domesticus domesticus.*

Common, but not as abundant as a few years ago. Has learned to eat cabbage worms, and is becoming more insectivorous, due to shortage in the supply of its usual diet. February 15th, June 23rd and doubtless later. Generally lays five eggs.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK. *Sturnella magna magna.*

Common. April 23rd, five eggs incubated seven days; May 24th, five fresh eggs; July 28th, four fresh eggs.

EASTERN RED-WING. *Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus.*

Fairly common. Nests in rushes in marshy land or in trees as far up as twenty-five feet. Raises two broods. First nesting May 12th, four fresh eggs; May 19th, four fresh eggs; May 26th, three eggs incubated three days; May 27th, three eggs incubated two days. Second nesting June 1st, four eggs incubated two days; June 10th, four fresh eggs; June 10th, four eggs incubated seven days.

ORCHARD ORIOLE. *Icterus spurius.*

Fairly common. During the spring of 1933 noted several young males in their immature plumage. May 23rd, three fresh eggs; May 24th, one fresh egg; May 25th, four eggs incubated two days; May 29th, five fresh eggs.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE. *Icterus galbula.*

Rare. May 20th, five fresh eggs; June 5th, five fresh eggs.

PURPLE GRACKLE. *Quiscalus quiscula quiscula.*

Common. Breeds preferably in colonies in groups of cedar trees about twenty feet above the ground. Raise only one brood unless the first eggs laid are lost. April 29th, four eggs incubated seven days; May 1st, five eggs incubated four days; May 29th, five fresh eggs.

EASTERN COWBIRD. *Molothrus ater ater.*

Fairly common. Their eggs have only been found in this neighborhood during the past three years. One egg each in Phoebe and Maryland Yellow-Throat nests. In another Phoebe nest, in addition to five Phoebe eggs, two eggs were found, causing the Phoebe to leave the nest. Cowbird eggs were also found in two Cardinal nests.

SCARLET TANAGER. *Piranga erythromelas.*

Fairly common in woodland of Transition and Canadian Zones. May 20th, four eggs incubated two days; May 26th, three fresh eggs at altitude of 5,000 feet; May 24th, three young birds.

SUMMER TANAGER. *Piranga rubra rubra.*

Fairly common. May 24th, four fresh eggs; May 26th, two nests each, containing four fresh eggs.

EASTERN CARDINAL. *Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis*.

Common. April 17th, three fresh eggs and two cowbird eggs; April 29th, three fresh eggs; May 4th, four young and one cowbird egg; May 25th, four fresh eggs; May 13th, four fresh eggs; June 2nd, four fresh eggs.

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK. *Hedymeles ludovicianus*.

Breed in the Canadian Zone at about 5,000 feet elevation. Frequently heard in full song, but no nests have been found. June 10th, observed pair carrying material for nest building.

INDIGO BUNTING. *Passerina cyanea*.

Fairly common. May 28th, two fresh eggs; May 31st, four fresh eggs; June 1st, four fresh eggs; June 5th, three eggs incubated three days; July 18th, three fresh eggs.

EASTERN GOLDFINCH. *Spinus tristis tristis*.

Common. July 14th, one fresh egg; July 24th, six fresh eggs; July 27th, three eggs incubated six days; August 3rd, five fresh eggs; August 7th, five fresh eggs; August 16th, four fresh eggs; August 27th, female noted feeding young.

RED-EYED TOWHEE. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*.

Common. May 20th, four fresh eggs; June 1st, four fresh eggs; June 5th, three eggs incubated ten days; June 10th, three pipped eggs.

EASTERN GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. *Ammodramus savaannarum australis*.

Common. June 3rd, five young birds; June 5th, five eggs incubated seven days; June 13th, five fresh eggs; July 14th, five fresh eggs.

EASTERN VESPER SPARROW. *Pooecetes candacuta nelsoni*.

Fairly common. May 25th, three fresh eggs; June 24th, four young birds; May 19th, two fresh eggs; June 7th, two pairs feeding young in Shady Valley.

BACHMAN SPARROW. *Aimophila nestivalis bachmani*.

A number were found during 1911-12-13 breeding in a restricted area. No nests observed since that time until 1934. May 11th, four fresh eggs; May 18th, five eggs incubated three days.

CAROLINA JUNCO. *Junco hyemalis carolinensis*.

Common in extreme upper part of Transition Zone and the Canadian Zone. May 24th, four fresh eggs; June 16th, three fresh eggs; June 24th, three eggs incubated five days; July 9th, three pipped eggs.

EASTERN CHIPPING SPARROW. *Spizella passerina passerina*.

Common. Believed to raise three broods yearly, nesting throughout July. May 20th, three fresh eggs; May 23rd, four fresh eggs; June 5th, 4 fresh eggs.

EASTERN FIELD SPARROW. *Spizella pusilla pusilla*.

Common. Believed to raise three broods yearly. May 20th, three eggs incubated seven days; May 21st, four eggs incubated eight days; May 25th, four fresh eggs; August 6th, three fresh eggs.

EASTERN SONG SPARROW. *Melospiza melodia melodia*.

Common. May 22nd, four eggs incubated three days; May 22nd, four eggs incubated nine days; June 3rd, four fresh eggs.

JOHNSON CITY, TENN., December, 1934.

WOODCOCK NOTES AND SUNDRY OTHERS

By DAN R. GRAY.

The flatwoods country or "Barrens" around Summertown, partly in Lawrence and part in Lewis County, is well adapted to the needs of the Woodcock. There are a number of low flat areas in which shallow water may be found most of the year, and these swampy areas coupled with the fact that the country is only very thinly inhabited, have made it possible for these birds to survive. I formerly spent most of my Sundays in this area, with a pack of beagle hounds, and flushed the Woodcock there quite frequently. They were seen at all times during the year except in very cold winter weather. It was very usual during warm spells in February to see and hear the mating play and song of these semi-nocturnal birds, and I remember on one occasion hearing four males in one night. While they usually engage in this "play" only at dusk, they will keep it up quite late on a moonlight night. I once heard the performance on the 31st of December, in 1923 or 1924. We had had a warm spell prior to that time, but it turned very cold immediately afterwards.

Woodcocks lay their eggs very early, nesting on the ground among the leaves and being close sitters their nests are rarely found. I found two nests, in different years, near Gum Springs, in Lawrence County, about two miles south of Rockdale, and have seen young birds on a number of occasions in "The Barrens." The two nests mentioned were on dry banks, one at the foot of a black-jack oak and the other in a small thicket. There were four eggs in each and these were left undisturbed. I rarely visit the above country now, but I feel sure they are still there; there were certainly lots of them as late as 1930, and probably a good percentage were summer residents.

Near my present location, Mt. Pleasant, there is not much country suitable for them, and I do not see them often. In late October, 1934, I flushed one on a hillside about 200 yards from a small stream. A number of years ago, a Woodcock was shot on February 28 and on dressing it she was found to contain well-developed eggs. At that time (1911) the hunting season ran on until April 15, and there was no Weeks-McLean bird law.

In the March, 1932, *Migrant*, I mentioned that Upland Plover were usually seen here every spring. During the spring of 1934, I saw none, but heard one at dusk, passing over. There were two, however, on my farm in early September. My son and I saw them while dove shooting, but they flushed at some distance and were not to be seen on subsequent days.

Duck shooting on Arrow Lake, near here, up to November 15, netted me 4 Lesser Scaup, 2 Ring-necks, a Redhead, and a Shoveller, while I bagged two Mallards on Bigby Creek. On the "phosphate ponds" on December 13, there were 14 Lesser Scaups, 5 Mallards, 2 Ring-necks, 2 Shovellers, a Redhead, and a female Goldeneye, which I bagged. Pied-billed Grebes are often seen, and I have also seen the Horned Grebe. Large numbers of Redwings roosted in the rushes growing in the ponds, until late fall.

A pair of Pileated Woodpeckers live in the vicinity of my home and frequently visit the large trees in the front yard. A large magnolia stands close to the house and they have been visiting this regularly, no doubt to get the bright red seeds which are found on the seed pods. While they are in the tree the seeds shower down on the ground. Mr. Ganier writes me that he was told by Mr. L. R. Campbell, who lives on the Murfreesboro Road near Nashville, that Pileated Woodpeckers had visited his magnolia trees every fall to get these seed.

MT. PLEASANT, TENN., December, 1934.

WAYSIDE NOTES FROM WEST TENNESSEE

By BEN B COFFEY.

On July 14, 1934, the writer visited Reelfoot Lake for a few hours, in company with Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Johnson and Miss Arlene Johnson of Chicago; then drove on to Fulton, Ky., where we parted. As the day waned I "hitch-hiked" back to Union City, Tenn., where I spent the night. I stopped at the Obion river early the next morning, walked through parts of Dyersburg in the afternoon, and was off and on the road several times before leaving Ripley that night on a bus for Memphis. One of my chief objectives was to ascertain if possible how close the Towhees (Red-eyed) approach Memphis in the summer, as I have been unable to find Towhees of any race there between approximately May 10th and early October. On the evening of the 14th, from the Kentucky state line southward a few miles, I heard nine Towhees singing. Also of special interest was the faint, twittering, swift-like song of an old friend which I finally managed to locate and identify as a Grasshopper Sparrow. It escaped my first search and several insect songs about made me think memory had played me false. Two other likely fields harbored two more individuals. This species has been found only as an uncommon transient at Memphis, but was an old friend of summer days near Nashville. Another species which is apparently absent from Memphis but common at Hardy, Ark., and Nashville, is the Yellow Warbler. I had a good look at one, earlier in the day, just south of Union City. The other birds listed on this trip were the same as those to be found about Memphis. Union City itself offered few birds that evening outside of the ever-present English sparrow; several Robins and Chimney Swifts were seen and small flocks of blackbirds, chiefly Bronzed Grackles, seemed undecided in which direction to fly to roost.

The next morning I stopped at the Obion River bridge, just south of Obion, and spent two and a half hours in the bottoms. A Phoebe announced itself, seeming out of place in these alluvial bottoms, and shortly afterwards a Woodcock took off just in front of me as I slipped along the muddy river edge. Two Acadian Flycatchers, a Sycamore Warbler, a Parula Warbler, three Prothonotaries, Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireos were noted. Most of these were around a very small "horseshoe" lake in the bottoms, and as I manoeuvred for a closer look at five Wood Ducks among the button bushes at one end, a Great Blue Heron alighted in a tall cypress nearby. Five immature Little Blue Herons flew over to make the scene true to type. One of the finds of the day was made along the Illinois Central railroad, just south of the Obion River. A Painted Bunting is always a thrill, and this beauty, 95 miles north northeast of Memphis, was doubly so. Several Indigo Buntings were about, including immature birds, but after careful watching I did not discern any female or immature Painted Buntings. The song of this bird closely resembled the song of the Indigo Bunting and was distinctly different from the song common to our Memphis birds which I readily identify at a distance.

Leaving the wooded bottoms I walked the highway south, hearing many Field Sparrows and some Dickcissels in the open fields. Purple Martins circled over the town of Trimble and south of there I saw a female Redstart drop down for a drink. I did not get a chance to visit any hilly country in further search of Towhees until I reached Dyersburg. But no Towhees were recorded for the day, neither at Obion, Trimble, Dyersburg or other points south to Ripley. Beautiful wooded spots inside the city limits of Dyersburg invited Robins and Wood Thrushes, and two Warbling Vireos were present among some old shade trees in a yard. At

Ripley, a small flock of Chimney Swifts were already using the High School chimney as a roosting place.

Judging from appearances, especially on the 14th south and east of Reelfoot Lake, the most common bird in the northwestern corner of Tennessee during the summer is the Indigo Bunting. It is abundant everywhere except at the Lake itself. Only one Prothonotary Warbler was heard or seen—that was at the Spillway. At Samburg the absence of the large "Purple Martin palace" was quickly noted, but the cheerful notes of the Martins still lent color to this noted fishing village. Their numbers seemed smaller than the year before. The "giant of martin houses" was, I learned, destroyed by fire along with a store. At Walnut Log we ventured out on the lake and were rewarded with glimpses of a few Florida Gallinules, Pied-billed Grebes, Coots, Least Terns, two or three Black Terns, about 15 Double-crested Cormorants, an equal number of Egrets, and a wounded Lesser Scaup Duck. Red-wings and the usual arboreal species completed the picture, while a lone Wood Ibis flew by. As we turned back, I recognized at a distance one of the Bald Eagles which frequent the Lake.

September 2, 1934.—An unfounded report of thousands of White Pelicans at Reelfoot Lake sent us there this rainy Sunday. I found driving my own car better than hitch-hiking, as attempted on the return trip in July, and had with me Mrs. Coffey, Miss Alice Smith, Eagle Scouts Fred Carney and Franklin McCamey of our Memphis Chapter. Flooded fields along the South Fork, Forked Deer River, invited a stop. Nearly everything else at this end of the state was dry all summer and fall, unfortunately for many water-birds, but a log jam, I understand, had backed up the river waters at this point. Several Egrets and Little Blue Herons were seen in the trees at the far side, while eight of the rarely-seen Short-billed Marsh Wrens were flushed and stalked among the long grass. Later, along the highway (U. S. 51), as we drove, we noted various flocks of swallows, among which we identified 2 Bank, 7 Barn, 200 Tree, and 125 Rough-winged Swallows. Turning west at Troy we drove to Samburg and back along the Lake to the Spillway and Edgewater Beach, or "The Wash-out." Intervals between drizzles were spent in viewing about 300 American Egrets, mostly bunched near the State's Lodge, and some 120 Little Blue Herons, concentrated near Samburg. Five of the latter were in adult plumage, the remainder immature. A Least Bittern and three Double-crested Cormorants were seen from the dock at Samburg, while the complete list for the Lake included 18 Ward's (Great Blue) Herons. The return trip was uneventful, but for a stop in Ripley, where we watched about 300 Swifts pour down a tall masonry chimney.

MEMPHIS, TENN.



BIRD BANDING BREVITIES.—NO. 3

By MRS. F. C. LASKEY.

Since the September report, 354 birds have been banded and, excepting 28 individuals, all were of the family *Fringillidae*. Included were Juncos, Cardinals, Towhees, and several species of sparrows. The latest Chipping Sparrow record this season was November 2. The day previous, a banded transient of this species returned, entrapping itself with an English Sparrow with disastrous results. Although it was in the trap only a short time, the English Sparrow pecked its head so persistently that it killed the smaller bird. At banding stations it is found necessary to destroy all English Sparrows. Autumn data on Lincoln's Sparrow in this area is meager, therefore the banding of one on October 29 is noteworthy. Swamp Spar-

rows have been relatively numerous at Blossomdell recently, 8 having been banded since November 9th, which is only one less than the previous total since operations began in 1931. Song and White-throated Sparrows have also increased in numbers over previous years. White-throats particularly had been scarce for no apparent reason. No returns of this species has been recorded in fall, but the records of early 1934 show 4 White-throats returning between January 29 and February 2. White-crowned Sparrows are abundant as usual at the station and 8 have returned to date this fall. One of these is now a "return," which means it is spending the fourth season at the station. It is also interesting to note that all of these returning White-crowns, excepting one, were banded as young birds in immature plumage. Records of the past three autumn and winter seasons show a marked predominance of immatures. In the first period (October, 1932, through January, 1933), the ratio banded was 27 immature to 6 adults; in the corresponding period last year, it was 33 to 6; and in 1934 from October to December 14, it is 37 to 4. One White-crowned Sparrow banded as an immature November 6, 1933, wintered at the station, repeating 75 times to May 6, 1934. It returned October 29th and is again repeating frequently. Mockingbird life history studies by means of both colored and numbered bands are proving very fascinating. Again this winter there are four residents at Blossomdell, but two of them are new arrivals this fall. However "B" and his mate of the past two summers remain, each occupying individual territories as they did last winter. Although the grounds about the house are divided into approximately the same territories as last year, the death of "Y" occasioned a shifting and not one of the four territories has the same occupant as last year. It would have been impossible to know this except for the identifying colored bands.

MEMPHIS AREA: Two interesting reports have come from enthusiastic banders in the Memphis area. Mr. Charles McPherson, Jr., says: "Having started banding only last February, I received the thrills of even a veteran bird bander when several of "my Sparrows" returned to our home grounds at Germantown, 20 miles east of Memphis. A small flock of White-crowned Sparrows has wintered here for several years. The first return, the only Gambel's Sparrow recorded in this area and banded February 12, was trapped November 10, repeating 4 times since. A partial albino Song Sparrow, also banded February 12, was first seen this fall on November 10, and is still present." He reports 7 White-crowned Sparrow returns from late November to mid-December of birds banded the previous season from February 24 to March 10, 1934.

Mr. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., reports his Chimney Swifts banding operations in the business section of Memphis on October 10, 12, 13 and 20, at three locations within a quarter of a mile of each other, resulting in the banding of about 1,000 birds. He secured four foreign recoveries, two returns of birds banded by him in 1932 and two repeats; the most interesting recovery was C-59861, banded at Chattanooga, September 24, 1930, by Prof. Green. Formerly when the Masonic Temple chimney was used by the swifts, he trapped over 1,000 birds at a time. He was assisted by Mrs. Coffey, Mrs. Barefield, Miss Alice Smith, Eric Henrich, Wendell Whittemore, Bert Powell, Fred Carney and Franklin McCamey.

NASHVILLE, TENN., December, 1934.



With this issue we conclude our fifth volume. May it mark only an early milestone on a long journey.

THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: Late Summer and Fall trips have been generally uneventful and infrequent, due to the drying up of Mud Lake, our favorite "hunting grounds," and other bodies of water, and to lack of time, which also prevented our notes from reaching the September *Migrant*. Supplementing the Mud Lake list of July 8, included in the account of the Hudsonian Curlew at Memphis of the September issue, we will include summer notes at this time. Immediately following our red-letter "Curlew" day, visitors from Chicago arrived on July 11, and I rushed them down to show them the great assemblage of birds seen three days before. About 150 Little Blue Herons and a few Egrets were on hand, and later an Anhinga was also seen, as well as shorebirds. As we were leaving, bemoaning the absence of any Wood Ibis, fourteen large black wing-tipped birds appeared overhead. Instead of Wood Ibis, however, they were seen to be White Pelicans, a species usually recorded here not sooner than late August or September. Mud Lake's usual waterbird contingent promised to become even more alluring than in previous seasons, but unfortunately the following week found this shallow lake dry and even the waders gone. Enthusiastic invitations to "come and see our pelicans, etc.," were hurriedly amended and we sorrowfully watched the drouth continue to play havoc with our few small ponds remaining. . . . On September 23, we visited Horseshoe Lake, Ark., a large body of water 30 miles southwest of Memphis. Just after crossing the Mississippi we saw 3 White Pelicans, and nearby, while tramping the receding shores of Mound City Chute, 26 others passed over. In the evening we saw 130 of these Pelicans on a sand-bar in the Mississippi just southeast of Horseshoe. At Mound City Chute we also found 8 Short-billed Marsh Wrens, 9 immature Little Blue Herons, 2 Blue-wing Teal, and 1 or 2 Red-shouldered Hawks. Long Lake was almost dried up, and we braved the stench of decaying fish to count about 22 Egrets there and 9 Pectoral Sandpipers. At Horseshoe Lake an adult Bald Eagle soared over us at one time and later at Porter Lake, one of this "Five Lakes" group, and just south of Horseshoe, we saw an Osprey and a Wood Ibis. Totals for the trip included 55 Egrets, 90 Little Blue Herons, 9 Great Blue Herons 110 Double-crested Cormorants, 60 Black Vultures, 15 Turkey Vultures, 10 Sparrow Hawks, and the usual list of common small birds. In the late evening as we drove along the river levee below the lakes, the swallows seemed to fill the air in certain places. We distinguished about 150 Bank, 50 Barn, 30 Cliff, 400 Tree, and 2,000 Rough-winged Swallows; the total of all swallows was about 5,000. . . . An immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen on Lake Cormorant, Miss., on September 9th, and an adult was seen at Lakeview on October 28th. . . . At Camp Carrier, Miss., 25 miles south of town, on October 7th, a House Wren played hide and seek with us; a rare visitor which took a liking to the cabin and environs. Many winter residents were seen for the first time that day, including both kinglets. On October 2, we saw an Osprey at the camp lake and a lone Cormorant came there often. In company with many migrating warblers, a Philadelphia Vireo was seen. . . . On October 28, a fall field day was held at Raleigh, about 28 bird students attending; 64 species were listed for the day, including several winter sparrows for the first time this season. . . . Our first Memphis record of the Wilson's Warbler was made when Franklin McCamey trapped an adult male over a bird bath on September 16. It was duly banded. McCamey found the Canada Warbler common this fall. Redstarts and Black-throated Green Warblers were very common as usual. . . . At Lakeview, on November 4, four Bald Eagles were seen over the lake, three of them being in adult plumage. —BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis.

AN UNUSUAL FEEDING HABIT OF THE AMERICAN EGRET: At the south end of Reelfoot Lake, Tenn., on the afternoon of August 20, 1934, the writer watched for half an hour a feeding activity of the American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) that was new to him, although this particular flock of birds had been under observation almost daily for three weeks. The steady blowing of a wind sufficiently hard to whip up two-foot waves on the water was apparently responsible for the departure from the usual manner of feeding. The following is a direct quotation from notes taken at the time:

"The flight was seen to be egrets hovering, a feat I do not believe they could continue for long with less than a hard headwind under them. Each bird "stood still" on beating wings, just high enough above the waves so its dangling feet did not dip. The head and neck were held horizontal. Occasionally a bird keeled up on its breast, its legs flipped back almost in flying position, and its head stabbed into a wave for a fish, which it usually got. However, fish must have been hard to see, for a bird frequently remained thus hovering for many minutes without making a strike. There were at least two hundred birds feeding in this manner at one time, and in fairly close formation. . . ."

"About on stumps, necks drawn in and all facing the wind, were perhaps five hundred more. None of these, however, was observed to feed from its stump. Occasionally, a bird would leave its perch, come down the wind rapidly to where the feeders were hovering, turn into the wind with a steep bank, pinions wide-spread, and begin its own search for fish in the wavetops."—COMPTON CROOK, Boone, N. C.

A SNAKE ROUTED BY BIRDS: On May 3rd, I witnessed an interesting episode of wild life at Waukomis. A Screech Owl had drawn in attack upon him apparently all the birds in the woods. The little fellow was perched high on a limb of an oak, and jays, woodpeckers and titmice were after him, red hot. He seemed unable to defend himself at all. The other birds were only flying at him, however, without striking. Suddenly the birds discovered a snake, more than five feet in length, and evidently of the common "chicken" variety, on the trunk of the tree, some forty feet from the ground. All of them turned from the owl to their new enemy. The jays particularly were determined to rout the snake. One of them struck him and dislodged him, but he caught himself on a small limb and crawled back to the trunk. Then a jay struck him another vicious blow and sent him to the ground with a thud. The snake was stunned only for a second, after which he skimmed over the leaves for cover under a log. Meanwhile, the owl took advantage of the greater attraction and departed the scene—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

A TRIP TO LADIES BLUFF: Perhaps the highest and most beautiful cliffs on the Tennessee River, in West Tennessee, are located in Perry County, three miles down-stream from the highway No. 100 bridge. It is called Ladies Bluff, it is said, because steamboat captains called their lady passengers on deck to admire these cliffs, which rise 200 feet above the water, and extend for a quarter of a mile. On November 25, Mr. Ganier and I went there to investigate the possibility of its being a nesting site of Cliff Swallows or Duck Hawks. However, no signs of the nests of either were seen, though the cliffs and the wild country about would seem well adapted to the latter. A number of Turkey Vultures were making headquarters on the ledges and Cedar Waxwings were continually circling around the top of the bluff. The landing keeper at Mousetail Landing nearby, told us that in winter and early Spring, large numbers of gulls could be seen flying upstream each time the river brought down a flood. In the valley south of the bluff was a large flock of small birds, the majority of which

were Fox Sparrows. On the way from Nashville, about five miles east of the river, two immense flocks of Starlings were seen and with them were many Grackles. The flocks were estimated at 15,000 and 20,000 respectively. The Starlings performed some astonishing aerial manoeuvres as follows: The whole flock, in mass ribbon formation, would sweep upward in cork-screw fashion until more than a thousand feet above the earth, then it would drop rapidly downward nearly to the ground, only to repeat the performance before finally alighting. This flight resembled in many respects their flight above their roosts in the cedars near Murfreesboro.—JACK CALHOUN, Nashville.

A LATE HUMMINGBIRD: Until this year, October 20, 1926, was my latest fall record for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, but on November 6, 7 and 8, one in female plumage was seen and heard as she hovered over a late blooming honeysuckle vine in the garden, sometimes as early at 7 a. m. The next day or two, when she did not appear, it was decided she had finally heeded the warnings of frosty nights and observations were discontinued. However, on November 15th, when standing 10 feet from the same vine, she was again noted, alternately feeding and "squeaking," utterly oblivious of me as I "froze" on the spot. Although other honeysuckle vines bloomed in the garden, the bird always came and left by the same route to this particular vine, and was not seen near the others.—MRS. F. C. LASKEY, Nashville.

LECONTES AND LINCOLN'S SPARROW: On November 4, a Leconte's Sparrow was seen near Carthage. This bird was flushed in the weeds along a fence row bordering a meadow. It flew to a branch of a shrub about four feet from the ground. By approaching cautiously I was able to come within twelve feet of the bird, and from this distance I watched it for ten minutes, recording all markings with my field glasses as well as its short length. I then approached within eight feet of it and viewed it further. By comparing later with various color plates and specimens, I ascertained its identity.

On November 30, among a flock of Field Sparrows in a brushy field, there was a small sparrow I was unable to identify positively. It was collected and found to be a Lincoln's Sparrow. This sparrow has but rarely been recorded in the Fall about Nashville, and the late date of this record suggests the possibility of its being a winter resident here.—JACK CALHOUN, Nashville.

FALL NOTES, 1934: On October 9, a Bald Eagle was wounded with a small rifle by a party near Radnor Lake. Realizing that its taking was illegal, the party turned it over to the State Game Warden for shipment to the Smoky Mountains National Park. . . . Oct. 13 and 14 was spent at Reelfoot Lake, where the Kentucky Ornithological Society had elected to have their fall meeting. The most impressive sight seen was the gathering at sundown of immense numbers of blackbirds to their roost in the sawgrass near Walnut Log. This grass grows in water from two to five feet deep and as high as six feet above it. They settle down in this grass until they cannot be seen, but a thrown stick causes numbers to take flight. Several million birds would be a conservative estimate, the most numerous being Redwinged Blackbirds; then, in order, Starlings, Bronzed Grackles, Cowbirds and a few thousand Robins. Ducks were not numerous, but Blue-winged Teal, Baldpate, Mallard, Gadwall, Black Duck and Wood Duck were noted. Also Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, Cormorant, Ring-billed Gull, two Solitary Sandpipers and a Wilson's Snipe. The latter was on a dried-up slough in the forest and was constantly probing its bill into the mud for its full length. Out on the open lake, a flock of White-bellied Swallows performed aerial evolutions, keeping closely together at all times. . . . On Oct. 21, the Nashville division, T. O. S., held its Fall Field Day on the Berry Farm, twelve miles northeast of Nash-

ville. Parties roaming the upland meadows, the woods, the Cumberland River bottoms and Indian Lake nearby, rolled up a total of 61 species for the day. Among the interesting birds were American Bittern, 1; Great Blue Heron, 3; Wood Duck, 21 (2 flocks); Tennessee Warbler, 15; Black-throated Green Warbler, 7 (late for these two warblers); Barred Owl, 2; and of hawks, the Red-tailed, 2; Red-shouldered, 1; Cooper's, 2; Marsh, 1; and Duck Hawk, 1. The latter was well seen by the writer and others as it soared about only 200 feet overhead, near the lake. In the dried-up slough nearby, quantities of dead fish had attracted a flock of 70 Black Vultures and a few Turkey Vultures. . . . During the late fall, Robins and Grackles had departed as usual, and up to mid-December had not returned. Starlings have been conspicuously scarce all fall, especially when compared with the large flocks that were present all through last winter. A few thousand are roosting nightly in the cedars near the Murfreesboro Crow roost. The Crows, to the number of several hundred thousand, are roosting in the cedars in the Murfreesboro National Park. . . . The "ancient" Cardinal at my home is a regular caller still at my feeding shelf each morning, and he is usually accompanied by his mate. His plumage this winter is in perfect condition—much better than last year. Two Mockingbirds are also wintering in my yard and roost in the privet hedge, 50 feet from each other. They battle daily, so I presume they are both males.—A. F. GAMIER, Nashville.

RADNOR LAKE NOTES: The number of water fowl present on Radnor Lake has been slightly lower this year than last. After a careful survey this fall and early winter, and by comparing the records this season against that of last year, I find that the Mallards have decreased 21 per cent, the Black Duck decreased 15 per cent, the Lesser Scaup decreased 17 per cent, the Coots decreased 55 per cent, and the Ring-necked Ducks have increased 14 per cent. The other water fowl which have been noted on the Lake, in numbers too small to afford a comparison, are Gadwall, Pintail, Green-wing Teal, American Golden-eye, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Loon, Horned Grebe, Pied-bill Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant and American Merganser (Dec. 13). This season the most abundant duck on Radnor Lake has been the Ring-neck. Several hundred ducks can usually be counted here nearly any day in winter.—GEORGE B. WOODRING, Nashville.

WATER TURKEY IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE: In September of the present year, a Water Turkey (*Anhinga anhinga*) was killed near Columbia, on Duck River. It was a young of the year, and has been mounted for our collection by Mr. Sedberry of Thompson Station. This is the first of its kind I have ever seen here, and I understand the first record for this part of the State. I have seen the Double-crested Cormorant in this county and have a mounted specimen. Several Loons have been shot here this Fall on the small lakes.—A. L. WALKER, Columbia.

WOODCOCKS AT CHATTANOOGA: In response to a letter from the editors, I have made numerous inquiries among hunters here and find that very few of these birds have been taken or seen near Chattanooga. One friend, who hunts quail every season, told me that in 1931 he killed a Woodcock near North Chickamauga Creek, which is in Tennessee about seven miles north of Chattanooga. He also states that for five years past he has found two or three each fall, just south of the Tennessee line, near Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., about the edges of a marsh covering several acres. The writer has not as yet been able to locate any.—E. M. WIGHT, Chattanooga.

THE STARLING IN EAST TENNESSEE: In the vicinity of Johnson City, in the late fall of 1933, Starlings in vast numbers sometimes fairly covered whole fields, approximating 25,000 in a single flock. This year, 1934, they are present, but in greatly reduced numbers—a flock of 200 is about the maximum. This is possibly due to the lack of food, which, on account

of the great numbers feeding here last year, has been reduced. As the winter closes in on us a flock of these birds is assembling in Holston Valley, but the number is not large. The Starling being highly insectivorous, has doubtless rendered our farmers a great service by devouring the insect life of the fields. The ability of our fields to support this large number of birds perhaps indicates an excessive infestation of insects. Perhaps our agriculture will be considerably aided by the services of the Starling, which by its wonderful ability to reproduce its kind so prolifically, is gleaning our fields of insect life and replacing to some extent those of our native birds which are being thinned out by gunners.—BRUCE P. TYLER, Johnson City.

NOTE: A similar scarcity of Starlings has been noted in Middle Tennessee. During the fall of 1933 and the winter which followed, there were many large flocks present, whereas during the present fall and early winter only a few have been seen.—*Editors.*

RETURN OF THE SNOW GEESE: From *The Migrant* of last December we quote the following: "On the night of Oct. 29th, in Macon Co., a flock of wild geese were circling over the town lights of Red Boiling Springs, when some one shot into them and a number came to the ground including seven apparently uninjured. There were one immature Blue Goose, three Lesser Snow Geese, and three immature apparently of the latter species. The birds were confiscated by State Game Warden Headden and were released in Radnor Lake near Nashville where it is hoped they will remain all winter and return in future years." The primary wing feathers of six of the birds had been cut back by their captors with a knife. These "stubs" were pulled out before releasing in order that the birds would grow new primaries by Spring and this they did. One of the geese however, had had all of its wing feathers on one wing cut back and it was feared to pull so many stubs. As a result, the stubs remained in until the regular moulting period of late summer. The other geese regained their ability to fly by early spring. The three mature birds would fly about, high in the air, calling to their comrades below to join them in their flight to their homeland on Hudson Bay. Toward the last of their stay, these three would leave for hours at a time but would re-join the others at nightfall. The flock of seven were last recorded intact on Radnor on March 28, after which the remaining four settled down to a life of ease upon the eighty-five-acre lake, keeping company with four domestic geese owned by Watchman Baker and sharing their occasional feedings about his feet. There was no evidence of mating or nesting on the part of these geese and it is certain that they did not absent themselves to incubate eggs even if they laid them. Efforts further north to breed these geese in captivity have rarely been successful. Snow Geese and Blue Geese, wounded and captured at Reelfoot Lake in 1927 and now at the lake in Centennial Park in Nashville, have never nested. These birds are pinioned.

During late summer the four geese on Radnor moulted their immature garb and emerged in resplendent plumage. As anticipated, three were Snow Geese wearing immaculate plumage except for black wing tips and the other, a Blue Goose with white head and neck and slaty gray body. It is hoped by local ornithologists that the three which flew north in the spring will return in the autumn and at least make a brief stay enroute to their regular winter home on the Louisiana coast. It is also hoped that they may bring others with them and so establish Radnor Lake as a stopping place enroute for these splendid wild fowls. The distance is great however, and the hazards enroute are many, particularly on their northward trek last spring when the birds were out of practice, so it may be that we will not see them again.

(The above was prepared for our September issue, but was held over. We are now able to add the following.—*Editor.*)

On Oct. 31, 1934, three mature Snow Geese and thirteen adult Blue Geese arrived at Radnor Lake at daybreak. They remained only a few hours, due

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to the fact that some men embarked on the lake in a boat to fish. Watchman Baker states that the three Snow Geese swam from "the point," midway of the lake, over to his house, accompanied by six of the Blue Geese. There they joined the four geese which had remained at the lake during the summer. Three of the four geese joined the newcomers in their flights prior to departure, but because one of the four had a crippled foot and could not fly well, the other three elected to remain. The migratory urge was still strong within them, and their ancestral winter home on the Louisiana gulf coast beckoned, although these four young birds had never been there. About the middle of November they were getting quite restless and were now flying about above the lake accompanied by the cripple. Ten days later it was noted that they flew out of sight at times, absenting themselves for several hours, and even night flights were being indulged in. On Nov. 29, Thanksgiving Day, Mr. Baker heard them flying about overhead before daybreak, and when he looked over the lake a few hours later he found that they were gone, not to return, and presumably were on their long flight to the coast.

The spring northward flight of these geese lies considerably westward from the Mississippi River, but Nashville bird students will be expecting them to revisit their erstwhile home again about the last week in October, 1935.—*Editors.*

All serious students of bird life should make it a practice to keep written notes. A notebook, kept for this purpose alone, should be kept in one's desk in order that dates, numbers, field lists and interesting occurrences may be set down while fresh in mind. Many of our contributions would have been more valuable had their writers had such a notebook to refer to. Printed 3"x5" bird listing cards may be secured from the Treasurer, at cost, *i. e.*, 50 cents per 100, plus postage. These are exceedingly useful.

Our esteemed contemporary, *The Kentucky Warbler*, closed its tenth volume with the issue of October, 1934. Editor Gordon Wilson of Bowling Green announces that the organ of the K. O. S. will increase its size with the next issue from four to eight pages. We wish them well, and with such energetic officers as Pres. B. C. Bacon of Madisonville, Curator Burt Monroe, and Secretary Miss Mabel Slack of Louisville, we believe a new era is in store for *The Warbler* and the K. O. S.

OFFICERS: State officers of the T. O. S. were given in the June issue of *The Migrant*. Since that time our three divisions have elected their local officers, as follows: Knoxville Division: H. P. Ijams, president; W. M. Walker, vice-president; C. A. Ogden, curator; Mrs. Frank Leonhardt, secretary-treasurer, and Dr. E. B. Powers and John Hay, directors. The Nashville Division elected Dr. H. S. Vaughn, president; H. C. Monk, vice-president; Miss Cynthia Tompkins, secretary, and Geo. B. Woodring, treasurer. The Memphis Division officers are Earl Henry, president; Mrs. Lee D. Jones, vice-president, and Ben B. Coffey, secretary-treasurer. Each division plans as usual to hold meetings bi-weekly as well as a Spring Field Day in May. Each member should endeavor to interest and develop at least one new member for the T. O. S.

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