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SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE RAVEN

BY BRUCE P. TYLER

The Northern Raven, (*Corvus corax principalis*), belongs to the Crow family, as its scientific name indicates. *Corvus*, meaning a Crow; *corax*, the Greek for Crow; and *principalis*, the chief. Hence we have, the Raven—the big chief of the Crow family.

To the novice, the distinction between the Crow and the Raven may not be arrived at without difficulty, yet to the thinking observer, viewing the Raven, even for the first time, there must be misgivings if the bird is labeled a Crow, especially if observed in flight. Well can I remember the first glimpse I had of a Raven. It was high among the cliffs of a craggy bit of the Cumberland Mountains. My first thought was of Crows, but no, the flight was quite different in that it soared frequently, something rarely seen among Crows. The special rule for field identification is a large black bird, much larger than a Crow, occurring in most remote mountain regions where cliffs abound, and frequently soaring in its flight. If one can approach near enough for observation with a field glass, the long feathers under the throat are, in the adult bird, a very positive means of identification. This is a bird of high intelligence, a sport loving bird. When the young have learned to fly, they may be seen in small flocks sporting in the air high over the mountain tops, dipping and sailing and croaking—what regal sport, all the thrills that come to the aviator and without any of his perils.

In Northeastern Tennessee the Raven, now rare and very restricted in its range, occurs mostly among the high mountains bordering the Tennessee-North Carolina state line. The direction of this mountain range is northeast to southwest. Generally speaking, the birds nest most frequently on the southeastern slope where they avoid the chilling northwest winds, an item not to be neglected when we understand that they nest very early, usually during the month of March. They may usually be observed if one is able and willing to make the arduous journey to their haunts along the crests of Roan Mountain, Little Roan Mountain, Yellow Mountain, and The Hump. On June 25, 1936, the members of the T. O. S., who were on the expedition to Roan Mountain had a most beautiful and rare observation of the flight of the Ravens, as seven or eight in number, they sported through the sunlit skies high over the mountain tops.

Near to the State Line, but on the North Carolina side, I knew of a cliff where the Ravens raised their brood each year. Young America is very well versed in such matters also, and in the spring of 1936 the mountain boys sought this particular nest, to which human habitation had too nearly approached, and removed the four young birds from the nest, taking them to two dwellings where they were fed and raised to early maturity. On June

3, 1936, with my colleague, "Bob" Lyle, I was scaling Beech Mountain. Returning from the crest and far too low down on the mountain to encounter these birds, I thought I heard the croak of a Raven, and jokingly I said to Bob, "What will you give me if I show you a Raven?" The same sound that caused me to stop and listen had also reached Bob's ears, and his eagle eye had found a black spot in a distant tree, so quoth he, "Put your glass on the top of yonder tree by the barn above the clearing." And, to our amazement, there sat a Raven. Soon the door of the farm house was opened and two Ravens flew to be fed from the hand of their mistress. We labeled the affair, "Eliza feeding the Ravens."

Some weeks later, wishing to secure photographs, we returned, properly equipped, to the mountain. Upon arrival we found that two of the four birds had been shot and that one had been given to a friend from a neighboring state for a pet. The last one was confined, as it had acquired the bad habit of pulling up young tobacco plants. We were anxious to photograph this bird. Permission being granted, we were escorted to the pen where the bird was kept, only to find it dead, starved for want of proper food. The thoughtless boys meant well, but we were downcast by the thought that four of these noble birds had been destroyed. The nesting site will probably be used no more by the parent birds and the locality is robbed of a novel interest. How beautiful would have been the sight of the six Ravens flying high over the cliffs—their home.

JOHNSON CITY, TENN.



BIRD BANDING BREVITIES—NO. 10

BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

The question has often come to my mind: During a given migration period, of what value are banding station results as a criterion for relative abundance of various species of warblers in that general area? Would a compilation of the lists of one or more field observers for a certain period show any parallels in relative abundance of the different species when compared with the banding list of a systematic trapper during the same period? In September and October of 1926, a total of 122 Warblers were banded. They were trapped in two traps of the four-cell top-opening type with dripping water as the lure, and included 5 Black-and-White; 2 Black-poll; 5 Black-throated Green; 1 Blackburnian; 4 Canada; 3 Chestnut-sided; 9 Magnolia; 2 Myrtle; 2 Nashville; 5 Redstarts; 59 Tennessee; 3 Wilson's; 1 Yellow; and 21 Yellowthroats. The latter group may have included some of the Northern race as there was considerable range in measurements. There were several Maryland Yellowthroat returns, the most interesting of them being H 17839, a male banded September 9, 1932, retaken September 19, 1936, his fifth season at the station. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was caught in a drip trap on September 15th, a Baltimore Oriole in female plumage on September 16th, and a Hermit Thrush on October 2nd. It was surprising to learn how numerous Screech Owls proved to be; 5 individuals were caught in the same Verball pole trap, banded, and deported between August 18 and October 2, 1936 (3 in gray plumage and 2 in the brown phase)—Two Lincoln Sparrows were banded October 11th—A Downy Woodpecker banded in March 1932 was found dead a half mile north in

September, 1936, being then more than 5 years of age. Two Starlings, banded here in February, 1934, were reported from Ohio (probably killed) on July 29 and August 27, 1936 respectively.—By October 1st, four Mockingbirds were each occupying a quarter of our 200 x 300 ft. lot, allowing no others to come in. Excepting ABA, all were new arrivals and are still here, except the one that disappeared in December. During this mild winter, these three male territory holders have been more zealous in boundary line demonstrations than were the territory holders during the unusually severe winter of the previous year. This was particularly noticeable in the frequent dancing, (the hopping forward, backward, sideways, as the two participants face each other), the more frequent fights, and the earlier singing. Two females in sooty plumage arrived on March 6th. Each immediately entrapped herself on the territory of the bird courting her. One proved to be a fall transient banded Sept. 2, 1935 who apparently left immediately this spring but the other bird remained to mate with ABA. This is another instance where the oldest resident Mockingbird began his spring singing first and was mated before his neighbors on adjoining territory.—White-crowned Sparrows have apparently almost deserted this section, only 3 having been banded thus far this season. During the preceding three years the numbers were 26, 54, and 42 for the same periods of 1935, 1934, 1933 respectively. Three, banded in 1933, returned this year for their fourth winter, one of which was banded as an adult and is now at least 5 years old. A Gambel's Sparrow came for its third consecutive season.—Field Sparrow H 33974, a summer resident, was retaken on March 15th, his 5th spring appearance. His 161 repeat records indicate four summers were spent nearby. H 38833 reappeared March 15th, also a summer resident that has entrapped himself more than 450 times.—Two Juncos returned for their fourth winter. Another individual was banded on March 6th that appeared to be a typical Carolina Junco. The head, back, and breast were uniformly slate gray without the slightest tinge of brown on any part of the plumage; the wing measured 3.1 inches and the three outer pairs of rectrices were largely white. Many interesting variations of plumage color are noted among Juncos. One banded in February, 1935, which stops in fall and spring as a migrating return, was examined again in March, 1937, and still retains the pinkish brown sides which were noted the first year trapped.—Robin No. B 27751 (also blue celluloid band), taken September 15, 1933, in adult male plumage, returned in January of 1937. He is known to have nested in the garden in 1935 and 1936.—During January and February, Mr. A. F. Ganier trapped and banded some of the birds that came to his feeding trays. Among them were 16 Cardinals, providing another instance of the shifting winter population, the constant moving on, of small groups of this species. On February 28th he trapped a female Cardinal which Arthur McMurray had banded as a juvenile at the Jones Avenue substation, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile northeast, on August 7, 1936. On Feb. 14, Mr. Ganier banded a Brown Thrasher, the sooty plumage indicating a winter resident of the Nashville area. He also obtained an interesting record of an old Robin No. A 292595 banded May 20, 1932, as an adult by Mrs. Arch Cochran within a mile of his home. This bird is at least in its 6th year of age.—At the Belair substation, Steve Lawrence banded 9 Hermit Thrushes between October 20 and November 2, 1936, trapping all but two of them between the 28th and 30th.—Leo Rippy caught a Chickadee at the Love Hill substation in

December 1936 that had been banded there in December 1932. He also recaptured a White-throated Sparrow which has now stopped at his home three successive years.—William Simpson and Francis Lawrence did some good work in obtaining a Red-shouldered Hawk and a Great Horned Owl from persons who had caught them in steel traps. These birds were banded and released in wooded sections as their injuries were slight.

NASHVILLE, TENN., March 15, 1937.



ONE YEAR OF BIRD BANDING

BY SARAH OGLEVIE ROGERS

On May 31, 1935, I banded my first bird—a Chimney Swift (and his mate also) that had come down the chimney at my sister's home. My permit had arrived a few days before and scattered around me were bulletins stating that during the previous year, this or that individual had banded a thousand or even as many as three thousand birds. The Swifts had come into my hands so easily and so high were my hopes that I saw no reason why I, living more than half the year in a remote "woody" spot where birds of many species abounded, should not aspire to, at least, a thousand during my first year of banding.

June was a memorable month! The manual containing directions for constructing traps had not arrived, nor had I had the opportunity to accept Mrs. Laskey's cordial invitation to inspect her traps, so I spent all my spare moments in search of nests in order that I might band the fledglings. Within fifty yards of our log cabin were nests of the Catbird, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Bewick and Carolina Wren, Cardinal, Bluejay, Bluebird, Tufted Titmouse, Orchard Oriole, Summer Tanager, Redbellied Woodpecker, Dove and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. In my rambles over the farm I found those of the Indigo Bunting and Chipping Sparrow, in addition to many of the above mentioned species. At my sister's were those of the Flicker, Starling, Robin, Grackle, Barn Swallow and Red-winged Blackbird. Little darkies were rewarded for reporting to me their finds among the blackberry bushes, and my friends were urged to notify me of every potential bird around their own homes.

When July arrived I had almost exhausted my supply of bands so I sent a request for more stating, in my enthusiasm and ignorance, that I was desirous of banding every bird hatched on the farm.

Early in July my husband made my first trap—the regulation 4-4 drop type. Within the first hour after it was set up I had caught two Bewick's Wrens and an English Sparrow. But after that first hour, many hours and even many days passed when I captured not even so much as a sparrow. I hid among the euonymus bushes and watched Carolina Wrens perch aloft the trap and sing merrily; Blue-gray Gnatcatchers brushed the sides in pursuit of insects; Brown Thrashers and Catbirds pecked at bread and berries around it but did not enter far enough for me to feel safe in pulling the string.

In early August immature Chipping Sparrows were numerous and I captured 12, also an occasional Catbird or Mockingbird. By now my supply of bands was completely exhausted and, in reply to my second request for more, I received only the notice that "Promiscuous banding of fledglings is not encouraged." I wondered if the Biological Survey would ever send me any more bands. The second week in September a plentiful supply arrived, but, too late for the Catbirds and Thrashers that had frequented my traps during those dry hot days in late August.

I had purchased a warbler trap and, although I tried drips, drops and steady streams of water as bait, not one of the hundreds of warblers that passed through our woodland during September and October ever entered it, preferring rather to splash in the tiny stream below the spring. Nature offered too much for me to lure many species into my traps those autumn days. On cooler mornings I captured a few Titmice, Carolina Wrens and Chickadees. My greatest thrill came when two adult Bluebirds entered my trap one morning for pokeberries.

In November we came in town, to the apartment and there seemed nothing around us but the English Sparrows that devoured my sunflower seed and crumbs. But with the snows came flocks of Grackles and Starlings, They were not particular as to food, entering my three traps readily even when on an upstairs porch. Their arrival was so unexpected that I gave out of bands but this time my request for more was promptly acknowledged. Occasionally a hungry Mackingbird or Carolina Wren came to my traps. In the spring there were around us a few Robins, Thrashers, Bluejays and Catbirds and they entered my traps more readily than they would ever have done out in the country. But they were not very numerous and, needless to say, my records showed a conspicuous absence of banded fledglings.

So when the year ended I had not banded my thousand birds, nor even so much as a representative of every species around me, for I was able to report only 338 birds of 20 species. But even though I fell far short of my goal, I found it more fascinating than any work or play I have ever done, and I still look forward to the day, however distant, when I shall realize that I have, with my own hands, banded a thousand tiny creatures that have flown away, perchance to be heard from again.

PULASKI, TENN.



Avery Island, Louisiana, 100 miles west of New Orleans, is one of the most interesting places that can be visited by the student of bird and plant life. It is here that Mr. E. A. McIlhenny created the great nesting sanctuary for Snowy Egrets and other water birds and here may also be found certain species of land birds peculiar to the coastal region. The great moss-covered live oaks, the groves of immense bamboo, the orange trees in bearing and countless other species of interesting plant-life assembled on the spacious grounds and gardens, are a treat indeed to the naturalist. In a letter to the Editor from Mr. McIlhenny he says that he will be pleased to welcome any of our members who may wish to visit his place for inspection and study. They are requested to get in touch with him however, to insure admittance to the grounds without charge.

C-H-A-T

BY BENJ. R. WARRINER

John Burroughs said that the Yellow-breasted Chat "barks like a puppy, mews like a cat, quacks like a duck, and squalls like a fox." The rollicking fellow does indeed strike all of these discords, and more; hence I am borrowing his name as title for this feathery hodgepodge . . . Nature slipped a cog and made the male Bobolink topsy-turvy. The bird's light colors, yellow and white, are on top; nether parts are black, a reversal of the usual order . . . The most elusive spot in all Bird-dom is the concealed patch of red atop the head of the male Ruby-crowned Kinglet. It is difficult enough to find this Lilliputian among birds, and doubly hard to persuade him to flash his gay top piece . . . Only once in a period of fourteen years as an amateur bird student, have I heard the wild, weird scream of a Loon. On a January day, at Waukomis Lake in northeast Mississippi, I saw and heard my first Loon . . . As a rule male birds wear gayer colors than those worn by their mates. The Belted Kingfishers are among the few exceptions. The female has bright chestnut sides and breast band, a touch of color quite lacking in the male . . . The Cardinal has everything to make him a perfect befathered gentleman—the manners of a Chesterfield, the dress of a Beau Brummel, the song of a McCormack. Yet the Cardinal is only a sparrow . . . The Osprey depends for his living on his quick, sharp, cruel clams. When circling a lake in search of prey, frequently he pauses dead still in mid-air and shoots downward his talons, just as tho to keep in practice by clutching an imaginary victim . . . No artist except expert nature could reproduce the metallic sheen that adorns head and neck of the male Bronzed Grackle . . . I never heard a Shrike sing but one time. The scamp did pretty well for a butcher . . . The Wood Thrush is the most appropriately named bird I know. His song is symbolic of the very spirit of the trees; emblematic of everything that is lovely in wooded dale . . . The blending of the gray-brown feathers of the Brown Creeper with tree bark is a perfect fade-out; the best sort of protection against enemies of the little "tree-mouse" . . . The Whip-poor-will sits longitudinally upon a limb rather than cross-wise. I once found one thus perched in the daytime . . . The Arctic Tern is the world's champion migrant. From North Polar regions to antipodal parts of the earth and back again he goes each year; his annual journey covers twenty-two thousand miles and more . . . The Blackpoll Warbler brings up the rear for all the hosts of migrants. I have seen these birds in late May, loitering along, wholly indifferent to the fact that they still had two thousand miles to go before reaching their journey's end . . . Only two warblers winter in the Mid-South—the Myrtle and the Pine. The trill of the Pine Warbler always adds a bit of sweet music to the customary winter solitude . . . The Tufted Titmouse, to my mind, has the most beautiful eyes to be found among the birds. They shine like rounded bits of polished ebony . . . The Swamp Sparrows needs only that the water's surface have a slim, thin covering of floating weeds, moss, and grass, to enable him to lightly trip across it . . . And so on, I could continue this c-h-a-t for another page and more, the world of birds is full of surprises and unaccountable things.

CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CENSUS

BY OUR MEMBERS

The Migrant's 8th Annual State-wide Christmas Census of winter bird life is presented below. As usual, we also include a list from Corinth, Miss., just south of the Tennessee line. The lists were made as near Christmas as possible and are of considerable value, especially when combined with those of previous years, to ascertain the relative abundance of our winter birds throughout the State. Our annual mid-winter census stands out as one of the most worthwhile activities of the T.O.S. Six species were found this year which were not on last year's list; viz., Little Blue Heron, Baldpate Duck, Woodcock, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Maryland Yellowthroat and Brown-headed Nuthatch (this at Corinth, Miss.) Species listed in 1935 and not found in 1936 were Gadwall, Bufflehead and Ruddy Dicks, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, Tree, Chipping and Lincoln's Sparrows. The Memphis group made a much more thorough coverage of their area than did any other. The composite list for the ten Tennessee localities numbers 87, which may be compared with the four preceding years when 88, 88, 90 and 87 were listed. Other Christmas census lists, from Chattanooga, Winchester and the Great Smokies, will be found in The Round Table.—EDITOR.

	Memphis Dec. 26, 1936	Paris Dec. 25	Corinth, Miss. Dec. 25	Clarksville Dec. 20	Nashville Dec. 27	Murfreesboro Dec. 20	Columbia Jan. 3	White Bluff Jan. 10	Knoxville Dec. 27	Norris Dec. 26	Johnson City Dec. 27 and 28
Number of species.....	70	35	44	58	62	46	35	39	51	47	34
Number of individuals.....	16170	405	885	1221	3170	1730	715*	928	612	1125	658
Number of observers.....	20	4	2	9	16	2	10	5		3	2
Horned Grebe .....	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Pied-billed Grebe .....	..	..	5	1	..	1	..	..	1	6	..
Double-crested Cormorant .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Great Blue Heron	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..
Little Blue Heron (adult)	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canada Goose	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Mallard	250	5	..	..	11	..	..	..	15	350	..
Black Duck	6	..	..	1	7	..	..	..	..	275	..
Baldpate .....	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pintail	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Green-winged Teal .....	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	1	10	..
Blue-winged Teal	200	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wood Duck	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ring-necked Duck	500	..	..	44	26	..	..	..	1	..	..
Canvasback .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Lesser Scaup	104	..	5	..	16	..	..	..	..	8	..
American Goldeneye .....	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hooded Merganser .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Duck unidentified .....	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Black Vulture	5	..	..	1	10	40	18	5	..	..	3
Turkey Vulture	8	13	18	12	14	..	..	..	2	..	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Coopers Hawk	2	..	..	..	4	2	1	2	..	..	1
Red-tailed Hawk	6	1	1	2	4	..	3	..	..	2	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	17	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marsh Hawk	7	1	..	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Sparrow Hawk	23	1	..	1	19	4	4	..	3	1	6
Bob-white	47	4	..	20	19	..	..	1	18	2	6
Coot .....	..	..	..	4	11	4	..	..	..	..	20
Kildeer	51	1	4	1	45	14	2	..	3	..	..
Woodcock .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Wilson's Snipe	2	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..
Herring Gull*	4	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..

	Memphis Dec. 26, 1937	Paris Dec. 25	Corinth, Miss. Dec. 25	Clarksville Dec. 20	Nashville Dec. 27	Murfreesboro Dec. 20	Columbia Jan. 3	White Bluff Jan. 10	Knoxville Dec. 27	Norris Dec. 26	Johnson City Dec. 27 and 28
Ring-billed Gull	48										
Mourning Dove	17	3	65	9	33	2	10	6	2	45	3
Screech Owl				1	1	1		1	1		1
Barred Owl	3		4	2	2	2			1		
Great Horned Owl											
Belted Kingfisher	5	1		3	3					2	2
Flicker	170	3	13	23	27	21	8	7	9	10	1
Pileated Woodpecker	2			3	4			1	3	1	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	56		3	9	16	3	4	8	5	1	
Red-headed Woodpecker*	103	2	14	4		2		6	2		1
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	56	2	4	3	7	1			1	1	
Hairy Woodpecker	11	1		6	7	3		1			1
Downy Woodpecker	23	10	1	13	19	4	2	6	6	2	3
Phoebe				1	1				1	2	
Horned Lark*	12				358	75		7			
Blue Jay	401	17	8	12	24	5	3	10	20	25	12
Crow	112	16	45	44	131	900	500	44	27	40	56
Carolina Chickadee	90	8	35	63	71	20	9	33	20	9	8
Tufted Titmouse	42		4	40	31	15	6	33	37	11	13
White-breasted Nuthatch	13			3	3	1		2	2		4
Brown-headed Nuthatch			4								
Brown Creeper	36		6	2	2	5	1	1			
Winter Wren	17	3	2	1	3			1			
Bewicks Wren				3	7	7	2	3		1	
Carolina Wren	75		6	31	23	6	6	10	10	3	9
Mockingbird	76		10	22	59	26	5	4	19	1	8
Brown Thrasher	14		4								
Robin	663		100	18	175	3	54		4	11	103
Hermit Thrush	10		2	1	3		5	4	2		
Bluebird	43		40	47	62	22	20	20	26	12	31
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	29								1		
Golden-crown Kinglet	57		35	2	3	4					
American Pipit	27								3		
Cedar Waxwing	610		30	42	317			70	35	30	40
Migrant Shrike*	28		2		2				1		1
Starling*	671		20	33	580	31	40M		65	1	38
Myrtle Warbler	109		20	27	41	30	150	5	31	7	
Maryland Yellowthroat*	1										
English Sparrow	com.	40	75	203	100	8	15	19	55	pres.	85
Meadowlark	363			10	72	13	2	25		4	4
Red-wing Blackbird	370		15	60							
Bronzed Grackle	3377	30	25		27						
Cowbird	1				35	30				1	
Cardinal	335		20	70	133	16	35	43	33	8	17
Purple Finch	19		3	7	18	15	9	23	30		
Goldfinch	146	5	25	40	74	30	1	14	19	80	50
Towhee	121	31	4	29	50		9	24	3	4	
Savannah Sparrow	31				2	2			2	1	
Fox Sparrow					15	1		1		2	
Vesper Sparrow									2		
Slate-colored Junco*	1172	69	150	101	520	150	85	390	1	65	80
Field Sparrow	162	14	60	25	80	41	18	10	20	35	6
White-crowned Sparrow	14			25	23	19		12	3		18
White-throat Sparrow	1745	32	35	43	41	18	65	29	35	15	9
Swamp Sparrow	502		5	10	29			6	3	1	
Song Sparrow	284	4	20	17	31	30	6	37	23	30	22

*Notes on the 1936 Christmas Census.

Ducks; those at Nashville were mostly on Radnor Lake but shooting here has greatly decreased their numbers over past years. Those reported at Norris were found on Norris Lake. The Herring Gulls at Nashville were observed on the Lake, Dec. 26.

Red-headed Woodpeckers have been more numerous in Tennessee than usual.

The Horned Larks were presumed to be mostly the Prairie, the one collected at Murfreesboro proved to be the Northern form.

Robins were just moving northward into Tennessee at Christmas time.

Some of the Shrikes reported at Memphis may have been the Loggerhead.

Starlings: The "40M" shown for Columbia indicates 40,000. Most of these were in one immense flock, extending nearly a mile long over the Duck River bottoms.

The Maryland Yellowthroat on Memphis list, was observed near Mud Lake, in a brushy weed field, by Clayton and Vardaman, who studied it close up with 6x glasses for 10 minutes. Juncos, more numerous than usual, continue to be our most abundant winter bird.

MEMPHIS: Dec. 26; 6:30 a. m. to 5:15 p. m.; partly cloudy; temp 50-60; practically same territory as last year, i.e., a comprehensive canvas of Memphis suburban areas and adjacent territory, east of the river. Observers; Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Miss Mary Davant, Mrs. T. I. Klyce, Messrs. George Clayton, Jr., Harold Elphingstone, Fred Fiedler Jr., William Fisher, Robert Hovis, James Martens, Joe Miller, Hugh McCain, Malcolm Parker, John Pond, Bob Shaffer, Richard Taylor, Eugene Wallace, Eldon White, Wendell Whittemore and Russell Wilkinson.

PARIS: Dec 25; 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.; fair; windy; temp. 42; Hilltop, Holly Fork and Eagle Creek bottoms; observers, Buster Thompson, Percy Bighorn, Fred Holder and Richard Hudson.

CORINTH, MISS.: Dec 25, 10:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.; partly cloudy; temp 50; 5 miles south and west including Waukomis Lake, pine hills and Tuscumbia River bottoms. Benj. R. Warriner and Elgin Wright.

CLARKSVILLE: Dec 20; 8 a. m. to 4 p. m.; fair; west wind; temp 28-40; Dunbar's Cave park and lake, Neblett's Slough and river bottoms, and one party of 3 in canoe all day on and along Cumberland and Red Rivers. Observers, Lamar Armstrong, Alfred Sr., Alfred Jr., and Wm. A. Clebsch, Clarence Collier, Mrs. John Y. Hutchinson, Billy Noland, Dr. Chas. F. Pickering and Jas. A. Robins.

NASHVILLE: Dec 27; 7 a. m. to 5 p. m.! temp 56-65; partly clear in a. m., steady rain after 1 p. m. curtailing observations. Environs of Nashville south and west of the city, including Radnor Lake, Warner Park, Bellemeade, Hillsboro, Harding and Charlotte Roads. Observers; Mr. and Mrs. Ben Abernathy, John B. Calhoun, A. F. Ganier, Wayland and Jack Hayes, Mrs. F. C. Laskey, S. and F. Lawrence, G. R. Mayfield, H. C. Monk, C. E. Pearson, Leo Rippey Jr., Wm. Simpson, Mrs. C. B. Tippens, H. O. Todd and G. B. Woodring.

MURFREESBORO: Dec 20; 6:30 a. m. to 5 p. m.; clear and cold. East and west of town, covering about 20 miles on foot and in car. Observers, Henry O. Todd and John B. Calhoun.

COLUMBIA: Jan 3; 9 a. m. to 2 p. m.; fair; temp 40-50. O. J. Porter farm on Duck River, also along highway in Maury County. M. F. Carter, Miss Elam, J. J. Gray, A. F. Ganier, G. R. Mayfield, H. C. Monk, Mrs. W. P. Morgan, Dr. O. J. Porter, Leo Rippey Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Sam H. Rogers, W. E. Stewart, Dr. H. S. Vaughn and Dr. George Williamson.

WHITE BLUFF (in Montgomery Bell Park): Jan 10; 8 a. m. to 4 p. m.; raining all day; temp 45. Three parties, covering about 10 miles in all, thru unsettled area. A. F. Ganier, H. C. Monk, J. M. Shaver, H. S. Vaughn and G. B. Woodring

KNOXVILLE: Dec 27; 8a. m. to 4 p. m. Environs of city including Island Home reservation, Lake Andrew Jackson, Chilhowee Park, Fountain City, etc. Observers; Mr. and Mrs. Bob Burch, George Foster Jr., Dr. Earl Henry, Harry P. Ijams and Jim Trent Jr.

NORRIS: Dec 26; 6:30 a. m. to 4:45 p. m.; overcast and hazy; temp 35-50. On Norris Lake and its various bays 65 miles by motorboat, also by car from Careyville Lake to Norris Park and area north of Norris with frequent detours afoot enroute. George Foster Jr., Dr. Earl O. Henry and Jim Trent Jr.

JOHNSON CITY: Dec 27 and 28, 12 hours in all. Llewellen Wood, Cox's Lake, Boones Creek and Chucky River. Robt. B. Lyle and Bruce P. Tyler.

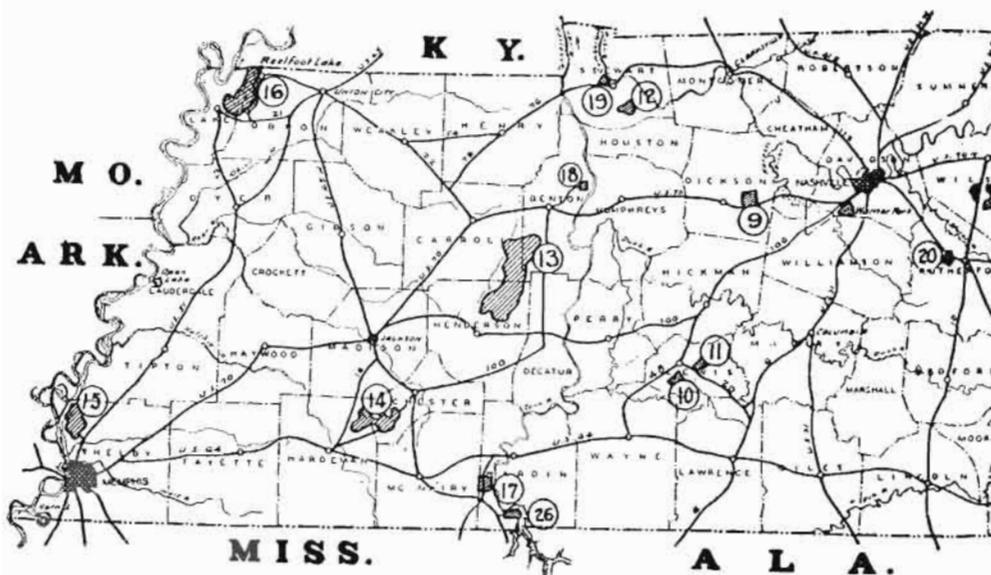
TENNESSEE'S WILDWOOD PARKS

BY ALBERT F. GANIER

Lovers of nature on their trips and excursions far afield, frequently come upon outstanding areas of scenic interest, of noble forests, of primitive streams lined with rhododendron, laurel and plant life of the untouched wilderness, and always—there comes the wish that these examples of nature's wildwood beauty could be preserved and made accessible to all of our people. Too often, we return in later years and find only a pile of sawdust from a band-mill, the fallen treetops seared by woods fire, lean cattle grazing the young plants struggling to carry on, the streams dried up, and hillside gullies beginning to form.

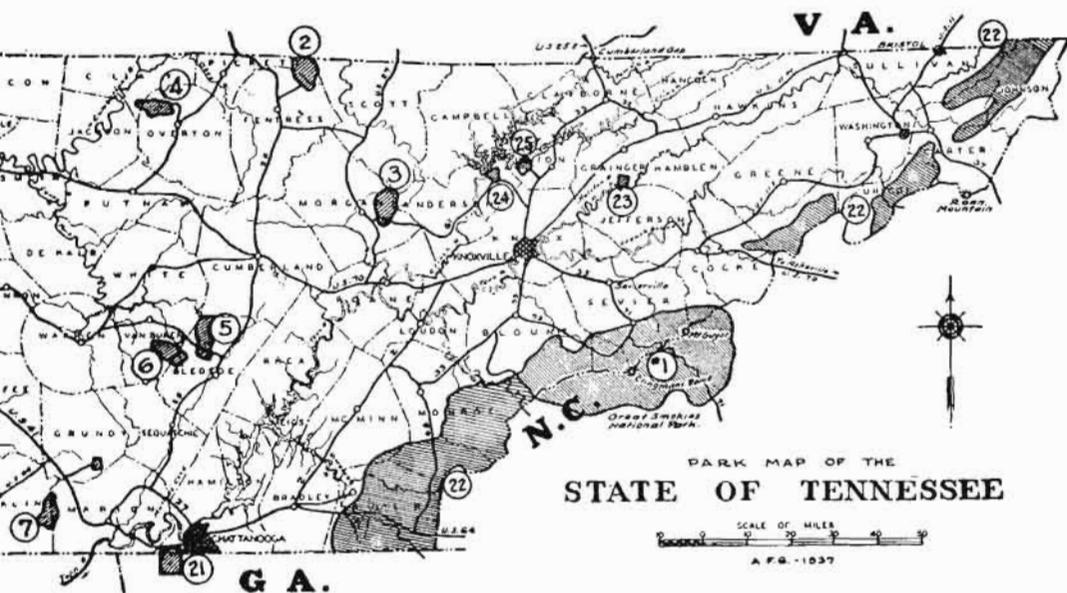
The hope of saving at least a few of these areas has been strong among all members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society and conservationists generally. We who have learned to appreciate the charm of the woods and fields have longed to put Dame Nature "on parade," where she might become known and enjoyed by the rank and file. We have aspired to create havens for our hard pressed birds, mammals and even the fish, turtles and other humble creatures, where they might live in safety from human enemies and be as they were in the days of the Redman.

Our Great Smoky Mountains National Park was splendid in its conception and in its final realization. Here were rescued, in the nick of time, some thousands of acres of the forest primeval, in an area where plant and animal life will always be a joy to the naturalist. The sentiment developed during the Smokies campaign, under the fine leadership of Col. David Chapman,



helped pave the way for lesser parks of varied interest thruout the State and in this latter movement great credit is due Mr. J. O. Hazard, our present State Forester. Although most of these parks are as yet only in the making, it would seem timely to give their status and to urge our readers to visit them and to co-operate in their final development.

No.	Name.	Purpose.	County.	Acreage.
1.	Great Smoky Mountains National Park.		Sevier-Blount	440,000
2.	Pickett Forest. State park and forest.		Pickett	11,500
3.	Morgan Forest. State park and forest.		Morgan	8,500
4.	Standing stone. State park and forest.		Overton-Clay	8,500
5.	Bledsoe Forest. State park and forest.		Bledsoe	7,500
6.	Falls Creek Park. State park and forest.		Van Buren-Bledsoe	15,000
7.	Franklin Forest. State park and forest.		Franklin-Marion	7,000
8.	Lebanon Cedar Forest. State park and forest.		Wilson	10,000
9.	Montgomery Bell Park. State park and forest.		Dickson	4,000
10.	Lewis Forest. State park and forest.		Lewis	1,259
11.	Merriwether Lewis National Monument Park.		Lewis	300
12.	Stewart Forest. State forest and park.		Stewart	4,000
13.	Natchez Trace Forest. State forest and park.		Henderson-Carroll	45,000
14.	Chickasaw Forest. State forest and park.		Chester-Hardeman	10,000
15.	Shelby Forest. State park.		Shelby	10,600
16.	Reelfoot Lake. State recreation park.		Lake-Obion (water)	14,400
17.	Shiloh Battlefield. National Military Park.		Hardin	3,583
18.	Nathan Bedford Forest State Memorial Park.		Benton	80
19.	Ft. Donelson National Military Park.		Stewart	92
20.	Stones River Battlefield. Nat. Mil. Park.		Rutherford	410
21.	Chickamauga Battlefield. Nat. Mil. Park.		Hamilton, etc.	5,951
22.	Cherokee National Forest. Federal.		Polk-Monroe	474,934
23.	Buffalo Springs Game Preserve. Federal.		Grainger	400
24.	Norris Park. Tenn. Valley Authority.		Anderson	4,000
25.	Big Ridge Park. Tenn. Valley Authority.		Union	3,000
26.	Pickwick Dam Park. Tenn. Valley Authority.		Hardin	1,500



Additional data on the above mentioned parks.

1—In our Great Smokies National Park is found the grandest mountain chain east of the Rockies, rising on Clingman's Dome to 6,642 feet above sea level. Under National Park Service administration, the native wild life will be carefully conserved, a park naturalist and assistants being provided for. Of the designated acreage, 402,000 acres have been actually purchased. The park has not yet been formally opened and camping facilities have not been constructed as yet. Auto roads and many trails have been built.

2—The Pickett Forest takes in the western portion of "The Wilderness" and contains the headwaters of Wolf River whose tributaries here cut their way into the Cumberland Plateau with deep canyons rimmed by high sandstone cliffs. With possibly one or two exceptions, this will be our most beautiful park. It is being developed under National Park Service supervision as is also the Falls Creek Park and several others. A 12-acre lake has been built and 30 miles of trails have been constructed, leading to natural bridges, rock shelters, waterfalls, etc. A commodious lodge and two cabins have been built to date. This park is on highway No. 28, north of Jamestown.

3—Morgan Forest lies northwest of Petros, where the state mines are located. It embraces the valleys of Flat Fork Creek to the summit of Frozenhead Mountain and others of the Cumberland Range which reach their apex at Cross Mountain (3350's.l.) a few miles east. Improvements in the park are under way.

4—Standingstone, so called for a large stone set on end to mark an Indian boundary, lies on the Cumberland Plateau west of Livingston. A 35-acre lake has been created and nearby is a 12-room lodge, several overnight cabins and other recreational facilities.

5—Bledsoe Forest, also on The Plateau, was originally purchased many years ago as The Herbert Domain. On it is located a reform school for negro youths. It embraces the deep "gulfs" of Bee and Glade Creeks which are rimmed with high cliffs. The streams are bordered with hemlocks. Between Spencer and Pikeville on highway 30. Facilities are not as yet ready for the public.

6—Falls Creek Park, also between Spencer and Pikeville, is on and south of highway 30. It embraces the deep "gulfs" of Caney, Falls, Piney Creeks and lesser streams, each of which make beautiful waterfalls as they leap over the cliffs into the gorges below. These waterfalls, with their hemlock filled canyons and pine-clad varicolored escarpments, are considered the most beautiful bits of scenery in the State. Falls Creek Falls is said to be 256 feet in height and the highest in the Eastern United States. Dams are to be constructed above the falls to form recreation lakes and to insure adequate water for the cataracts in dry weather. A lodge and several cabins have been constructed.

7—Franklin Forest lies south of Cowan on the Cumberland Plateau which here begins to take the name of Sand Mountain. Developments here are in their early stages.

8—Lebanon Cedar Forest will endeavor to feature the cedar woods which from earliest times has been a great resource of this region. Cedar "glades" too are here and are of interest to the naturalist. Jackson Cave is an attraction as are also some of the high knobs which lie within this area. It is located about midway between Murfreesboro and Lebanon.

9—Montgomery Bell Park, named for an early iron founder, lies in the Highland Rim area, on highway No. 1 a few miles west of White Bluff. Its feature will be a 50-acre lake which will be fed by a creek and a very fine spring. Week-end cabins are being built and the dam is under construction.

10—Lewis Forest, a few miles southwest of Hohenwald, is unimproved.

11—About the monument of the early explorer, is a well wooded tract, typical of the this "Flatwoods" region. The old "Natchez Trace," an old pioneer road, is here visible. East of Hohenwald.

12—A cut-over Highland Rim area, unimproved as yet.

13—This immense tract is chiefly a re-settlement and forestation project but three lakes are being constructed with recreational areas adjacent. These lakes are to be 55, 95 and 147 acres respectively. A lodge and vacation cabins have been built. The area lies between Lexington and Camden. The old pioneer trace, from Natchez to Fort Massac (near Paducah), gives the park its name.

14—The Chickasaw Indians were found in this region, hence the name of this park. Highway 100 runs thru this area which lies a few miles west of Henderson. One of several lakes planned, is under construction. Piney woods are to be found here.

16—The Shelby Forest, a short distance north of Memphis and near the Mississippi River, will have the usual recreational facilities of a State park and will be attractive to the naturalist wishing to study the fauna and flora of the Mississippi "bottoms."

16—Reelfoot Lake, so widely known to all of us, needs no introduction. The lake itself with its picturesque cypress trees and the abundant bird life, deserves one or more visits from all. Camp grounds are being provided but are as yet entirely inadequate. Privately owned camps however are available in sufficient numbers.

Other areas, for lack of space, must be more briefly mentioned. 17—Shiloh Battlefield occupies an oak-woods flat plain on the west bank of the Tennessee River. On its bluffs above the stream are some well preserved Indian mounds. 18—The Forest monument is located on a high hill overlooking the Tennessee River and on its west bank. It is reached from Camden. 19—Ft. Donelson is picturesquely located on high hills with a commanding view down the picturesque Cumberland. Lock D is here and at Dover nearby is the historic Hobing House and local museum. 20—The battlefield is just north of Murfreesboro and is a flat cedar-grown area of little other than historic interest. 21—Chickamauga lies mostly below the Tennessee line; a rolling terrain, partly grown with some fine forests of pine and oak. 22—The greater portion of the vast Cherokee Forest lies in the watersheds of the Tellico, Hiwassee and Ocoee Rivers, occupying the mountain areas in the south-east tip of the state. There are many fine forests here, rapid streams, waterfalls and the southern Unakas, the highest of which is Big Frog Mountain, of more than 4300 ft. elevation. 23—The Buffalo Springs project is chiefly a breeding ground for game with extensive rearing pools for fish, the recreational facilities are also provided, including a lake and cabins. 24—Norris Park lies adjacent to and just east of the great Cove Creek Dam. It is on the lower end of Norris Lake which has a maximum area at flood stage of

34,200 acres and a low water area of 13,500 acres. This immense lake is destined to become a very important way-station for migratory waterfowl. A few miles north-east and bordering on the lake, is Big Ridge Park (25), in which a permanent lake of 45 acres has been created. Recreational facilities, a lodge and cabins have already been constructed. 26—At the Pickwick Dam, across the Tennessee River in Hardin Co., 1500 acres have been set aside as a park to be similar to the last two mentioned. Development is in progress.

Aside from the above described areas which have been definitely set aside for public use there are many more areas of park calibre or interest. Among these are Open Lake (1365 a) in Lauderdale Co.; Lake Obion (1100 a) in the west part of Weakley Co.; Horn Lakes (2300 a) south of Memphis; Sulphur Well with its tupelo swamp, in Henry Co.; "The Peninsular" of Cheatham Co., west of Nashville; Short Mountain in Cannon Co.; Mullin's Cove and The Palisades of The Tennessee near Chattanooga; Roan Mountain; and a number of other areas of scenic interest in East Tennessee.

Our State in time could well earn the reputation of being the premier state for parks of natural and scenic interest.

NASHVILLE, TENN., March 1937.

THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: The Xmas Census again covered the most likely spots around Memphis and last year's record total of 70 species was reached. Some of last year's best places proved disappointing altho the fact that we reached them in the afternoon instead of in the morning may have had an appreciable influence on the results. Swamp Sparrows were more common than ever before. Of the most uncommon species, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Thrasher, and Hermit Thrush were not as common as last year but the Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Fox Sparrow were against above the average. Last season we reported the Brown Thrasher as wintering for the first time in the city, being found fairly common in park and yard. This species was almost as common this year except on the census itself. The number of hawks listed were above the average. Cedar Waxwings, absent some years, were common and have remained so, invading city yards the last two months. The only Rusty Blackbirds listed on any of several census trips in this area were 50, seen just east of Hickory Flat, Mississippi. Mrs. Coffey listed 43 species there on the 25th, while Harold Elpingstone and the writer listed 57 at Houston, 50 miles further south. Mrs. Coffey, as usual, found the resident pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches. While at Houston, a special search netted two pairs in nearby areas east of town and a third pair on the opposite side where the only Pine Warblers (2) for all trips were found. A Pied-billed Grebe and three Ring-necked Ducks on a small stock pond, a Great Blue Heron on a narrow sand creek, and a bat flying over the road at dusk, are worthy of mention.

December 27, 1936, a trip was made to Moon Lake near Lula, Miss., where our party last year had outstanding opportunities for closer acquaintance with several species of ducks, some of which we failed to find this trip.

Heavy downpours delayed our start and an almost continuous drizzle made us stay close to the car and reduced our land bird count. A fog over the lake lifted and allowed us to use a 40x telescope as well as our usual 8x glasses in trying to pick out other species of ducks from among "strings" of Ruddy Ducks. The number of this rare species was carefully estimated at 4220, a surprising concentration to say the least. Also listed were Shoveller, 23; Canvas-back, 4; beautiful Buffle-head, 17; Am. Merganser, 4 (second personal record); also Coot, 7; and Double-crested Cormorant, 40. The writer failed last year to see the 3 Horned Grebes noted separately by Fred Carney, et al. But this species was really added to the "life-list" on this trip, 22 being recorded, compared with 8 Pied-billed.—Unfavorable weather limited field work in January and February. A single trip was made to Lakeview Feb. 20, when nothing unusual was seen except a LeConte's Sparrow as noted elsewhere. On March 13 we saw two Lesser Yellowlegs there. This species might have been recorded earlier but on the 6th we didn't reach favorable territory until dark and on the 7th we were rained out. On March 20 three Lesser Yellowlegs and sixteen Pectoral Sandpipers were found at the same "highway" pit. Four Baldpates were noted on the big "roost" pit along with Coots, six Shovellers and other ducks. They or four others, were seen the next day on Mud Lake by Whittemore, et al. who added 8 Gadwalls, 7 Ruddy Ducks, and 8 Wood Ducks. On the 25th at North Lake, McCamey and party listed 70 Ruddy Ducks, 80 Shovellers, and 2 Tree Swallows. At the "highway" pit, 25 Pectorals, 3 Lesser Yellowlegs, and 5 Shovellers were noted. The actions of a Pied-billed Grebe indicated it was attempting to build a nest. This "highway" pit is that barrow-pit in the triangle formed by the Y. and M. V. R. R., the levee, and Highway 61, and the site of as many as ten grebe nests in certain previous years which have been recorded in past issues of *The Migrant*. The pit is full of water this year after being dry last season, but there is now practically no cover, weed stalks having been burned off last fall. However, cover has not always been adequate heretofore and we may expect a few nests anyway, in situations entirely different from that favored by this species in other sections of this continent.—On March 13 the first Purple Martins were reported. Mr. L. G. Guth had six arrive and remain at his nesting box at Whitehaven and Mr. Jesse Cunningham reported one the same day which inspected the box as it sat on the ground preparatory to re-mounting on its pole. A House Wren was seen on the river bluffs edge at Trigg Avenue, March 11. Harold Elphinstone reported hearing a Black-throated Green Warbler on the 20th and 21st and finally seeing it on the 22nd. Except for March 19, 1933, the previous earliest date has been the 27th. A single Woodcock was noted on a few occasions thruout the winter in the cane-brake in Overton Park.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

LECONTE'S SPARROW IN MEMPHIS AREA: On Feb. 20, 1937, at Lakeview, Miss., Mrs. Coffey, Miss Alice Smith, John Pond and Tom Simpson discovered a LeConte's Sparrow in the weeds and sedge grass along the big barrow-pit where the blackbirds roost, a mile from the Tennessee line. The bird was collected and later identified by the writer. This is our first record for the Memphis area. A. A. Allison reported this species as fairly common, November 15, 1897, in Amite County, southern Mississippi (*Auk* XVI 1899 p. 268). In Tennessee it has been reported rarely from Middle and East Tennessee.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

A TRIP TO SULPHUR WELL: A trip to Henry County to locate a heron colony, had been talked of all winter by our local group. Finally the day was set, the ham was baked for lunch and then at the last minute the trip had to be postponed. It was set for the next week-end but "flu" broke this second engagement. The following Saturday however, in spite of cold weather and steady rain, Mr. A. F. Ganier and Dr. H. S. Vaughn drove over from Nashville and we were all ready for an early start next morning. The former had located the herons two years ago and knew there must be a "cranetown" nearby. Those in the party from Clarksville were Mrs. John Y. Hutchinson, Mr. Alfred Clebsch, Alfred Jr. and Billy Clebsch, Lamar Armstrong, Clarence Collier Jr. and Dr. and Mrs. Chas. F. Pickering.

We crossed the Cumberland River at Dover, noting a flock of Lesser Scaup Ducks here in a slough, and then the Tennessee River, pausing on the bridge to watch three Herring Gulls on the water. All thru this section an ice storm prevailed, the trees were bending with their glassy loads and the road was slippery with sleet. Sulphur Well, an old summer resort on Big Sandy River, was our destination and its chief interest to us lay in the extensive swamp of tupelo gum that lies adjacent. When we reached there our party split; five equipped with hip-boots waded into the "Big Slough" section while the balance scouted a route around its edge. At noon, the latter group returned to the grove at the Well and soon had a good fire going and lunch in preparation. A half hour later, whoops and yells from the returning waders gave notice that the quest had been successful. They reported that thirty nests of Great Blue Herons had been found in the tree-tops and that half as many of the birds themselves were already at the nests and ready to repair them. Several last year's nests of Night Herons were also identified in the swamp.

Meanwhile, we had been joined by Mr. Buster Thompson of Paris, bringing with him Messrs. Paul Crosby, Fred Holder, Jr., Joe Witherington and Charles Frazier. After thawing out and eating a good lunch (we discovered that some of the ham had been saved after all), we made another excursion thru the woods to add to our bird records. Our total list for the day was 51 species and of these, 46 were found at or near Sulphur Well, including 5 species of hawks, 6 species of woodpeckers and a woodcock. We are planning to re-visit this interesting place again, later on in the spring.—MRS. CHAS. F. PICKERING, Clarksville.

BALD EAGLES NEAR PARIS: I have records of five immature Bald Eagles having been seen or killed in and around Paris, Tenn., during the past five years. The most recent of these is of a bird that was winged about three months ago at Vale, 16 miles south of here. It is kept in captivity for the wound healed so that it cannot fly again. The bird eats heartily. In 1932, I mounted a specimen for Mr. Will Bruton of Dover, it having been shot east of there on the Cumberland River, near Carlisle. Two birds were killed near the Kentucky line during 1933. The only eagle I have ever seen in life was in Holly Fork bottom in March 1934. Eagle Creek, which runs into the Tennessee near the Kentucky line, may have gotten its name from a resident pair of these birds in early days.—BUSTER THOMPSON, Paris.

TWO INCIDENTS are here given to illustrate the daily drama of bird life.

No. 1, Tragedy.—The following happening was related by Clarence Collier, Jr., whose father became the eye-witness and participator, while the two were bird-hunting early in December. A Bob-white, which had been winged by Mr. Collier's shot, was caught in mid-air by a Cooper's Hawk that darted out of the grove of trees nearby. With another shot Mr. Collier killed the rival hunter and took from his talons the still living Bob-white.

No. 2, Comedy.—Not long ago Dr. Pickering was at one of our favorite haunts, the woods near Dunbar's Cave. Hearing a commotion in the sky he looked up and saw a bunch of Crows having a wonderful time pestering a Barred Owl. The fugitive spied a large, woodpecker-eaten hollow tree and dove headlong into the opening in the top. Promptly there squeezed out of three woodpecker-made side entrances, three much bewildered Gray Squirrels, who had evidently not been looking for company just then.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, SR., Clarksville.

A WINTER LIST FROM WINCHESTER: The following birds were noted in and about Winchester, Tenn., during the last week in December. I was out on four days for about two hours each day. Great Blue Heron (1 on Belvidere pond), Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk (1 near the mountain), Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bob-white, Dove, Kingfisher (1 at Belvidere pond and 1 on a stream), Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker (2 pair), Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker (seen in 3 places), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe (seen on two occasions), Horned Lark (a flock of 30), Blue Jay, Crow (thousands in the fields), Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Bewick's Wren (singing on warm mornings), Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Robin (noted fairly common), Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Migrant Shrike (4 seen on a 10 mile drive), Starling, English Sparrow, Myrtle Warbler, Meadowlark, Redwing (1, a female), Cardinal, Goldfinch, Towhee, Junco, Field, White-throated and Song Sparrows. Driving westward, on Jan 3rd near Pulaski, I observed a large flock of male Redwings and Bronzed Grackles.—F. A. PATTIE, JR., Rice Institute, Houston, Texas.
JOHN BAMBERG, Guntersville Dam, Ala.

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS AT CHATTANOOGA: The following list was made on Dec. 31, 1936, between 9 a.m. and noon. A distance of about two and a half miles was covered afoot, along White Oak Road and around Baylor Lake. The weather was partly cloudy, warm (60 to 65 degrees F.) and no wind. Birds seemed scarce and there were no water birds on the lake or Tenn. River nearby. Those in the party were Robert Sparks Walker, Preston Lawrence, Carl Gevers and the writer. Twenty-three species were listed, as follows: Sparrow Hawk 1, Mourning Dove 1, Belted Kingfisher 1, Flicker 4, Downy Woodpecker 2, Blue Jay 4, Crow 4, Tufted Titmouse 10, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Carolina Wren 4, Mockingbird 1, Brown Thrasher 1, Hermit Thrush 1, Bluebird 2, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, English Sparrow 4, Cardinal 3, Goldfinch 4, Towhee 3, Slate-colored Junco 6, Field Sparrow 3, White-throated Sparrow 5, Song Sparrow 15.—WILBUR K. BUTTS, PH.D., Dept. of Biology, University of Chattanooga.

THE SEASON AT KNOXVILLE: Now that winter is officially over, a brief resume of the bird news of that period, as reported by members of the Knoxville Chapter is given below.—Shrikes have been found regularly in three localities around Knoxville this winter, and in addition two birds were seen in the Maryville-Alcoa area on Feb. 14.—Both Grackles and Robins wintered here in small numbers. However, on Jan. 10, Robins estimated at 1000 to 1200, appeared at Lake Andrew Jackson. The writer estimated that fully sixty per cent of this flock were in a half-starved condition, an indication they had moved South to a milder climate and a more abundant food supply. Two weeks later a larger flock of Robins was found about 5 miles southeast of the lake. The birds were reported on Jan. 22 and the next day Charles Baird and the writer faced intermittent driving showers to look over a one by two mile area where the birds were found. This trip yielded 30 species, including 2500 Robin, 750 Starling, 500 Cedar Waxwing, 125 Crow, and numerous Purple Finch. Evidently the Robins remained in this vicinity until the flock disbanded the middle of February when small flocks were everywhere abundant.—Altho it is never safe to state the abundance or scarcity of birds, unless you wish to hear the opposite condition from some one else, I might say my personal observation and the records of the Knoxville group give us a basis for the following: The Cedar Waxwing, Goldfinch and Purple Finch are more than normally abundant this season, while records for the Red-headed Woodpecker, White-throated Sparrow, Marsh Hawk, Prairie Horned Lark, Bluejay, Towhee, and some others, indicate a scarcity of these species in relation to previous years.—Last November a Black Duck was found in a steel trap that had been set on a submerged willow near the river bank. Later in the winter, the Wood Duck, which is seldom seen on the rivers after early November, was the victim of another steel trap. It was on Jan. 4 that this latter species was caught at Looney's Island. Arrangements were made to band and release it at Big Ridge Park but the bird died before the wounded leg healed.—Mr. Stupka, Park Naturalist, reports that during the first week in March the Dove, Phoebe, Meadowlark and Mockingbird reappeared in the foothills of The Great Smoky Mountains. Altho these species wintered within a few miles of the mountains they were not present in the foothills during the winter months.—Migrating Grackles appeared March 10, but the usual large flocks have not been reported to date.—The Purple Martin arrived at the colony box at Dr. Alexander's place on Feb. 27, one day earlier than last year's first arrival date.—The Chipping Sparrow was seen March 7, near Bearden, and again in the same field on the 13th. Two were reported at Solvay March 7, and 5 were listed on the Club's field trip to Caryville Lake on March 21.—The Brown Thrasher was reported the last of Feb. but did not become common until about March 18 or 20.—Other March arrivals were, Redwing Blackbird the 9th, Pine Warbler 18th, Pectoral Sandpiper 21st, Tree Swallow 21st, Bachman's Sparrow 23rd and Vesper Sparrow on the 24th.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville.

NOTES FROM NORRIS LAKE: Repeated trips on Norris Lake during the course of the past few months have shown the presence of several hundred ducks during the winter months. Blacks and Mallards have been by far the commonest; some American Mergansers, Buffle-heads, Golden-eyes,

Pintails, Green-winged Teal, and Baldpates have been present, but their numbers have been small. Soon after the first of March, Ring-necked and Scaup began to supplement these, and are now by far the most abundant ducks present. An all-day canoe trip made in Big Valley of Norris Lake on March 21, 1937, with Jim Trent, Jr., of Knoxville, revealed the presence of over two thousand ducks in the area at that time. The day's list included: Horned Grebe, 15; Double-crested Cormorant, 5; Great Blue Heron, 1; Canada Goose, 22; Lesser Snow Goose, 1; Mallard, 75; Black, 125; Gadwall, 12; Baldpate, 150; Pintail, 60; Green-winged Teal, 5; Shoveller, 4; Readhead, 10; Ring-necked, 1000; Lesser Scaup, 500; American Merganser, 13; Bald Eagle, 1; Herring Gull, 2; Ring-billed Gull, 12; Coot, 80.—In the area which was formerly known as Poor Land Valley before its inundation by Norris Lake, Bald Eagles have been repeatedly found this winter. Three were seen at one time on March 14th.—A Duck Hawk was seen on the Lake on January 19th of this year—my first winter record.—To date (March 26th) the passerine movement has been quite regular. The Bachman's Sparrow was heard at sundown March 22nd near my home, and has been singing regularly since that time.—GEORGE FOSTER, Norris, Tenn.

TREE SPARROWS AT CLARKSVILLE: These neat visitors were discovered by us soon after our Mid-winter Census and have been observed, off and on, until today, March 17. The flock under observation—around fifty birds, usually in company with Juncos—has been fairly close to town and the birds have even come to our feeding stations, especially during the ice storm of January 23. The flock has changed its location but little and has been stable at its present site since early February.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, SR., Clarksville.

PIPITS NEAR SPRINGFIELD: A flock of about twenty American Pipits were seen at the State Fish Hatchery near Springfield, Tennessee, on November twenty-fifth. They were walking around the edges of the ponds, flitting their tails and frequently taking short flights. Two Wilson's Snipe were also seen at the waters edge. Pipits are very rarely recorded in Middle Tennessee; a list of previous records was published in *The Migrant* for March 1935.—M. LEO RIPPY, JR., Nashville.

The hawk and owl protective division of the National Association of Audubon Societies is anxious to have bands placed on as many of these birds as possible in order to trace their wanderings and age. Mrs. F. C. Laskey (Graybar Lane, Nashville) will supply bands to those who can apply them.

T. O. S. CHAPTER MEETING DATES: The NASHVILLE Chapter meets on Monday evening; March 22, April 5, 19, May 3, 17, and 31, at 7:30 p.m., at Peabody College. The Spring Field Day and election is set for Sunday, May 9, and members from other chapters are urged to be present.—KNOXVILLE Chapter meets on Wednesday evenings, April 7, May 5, June 2, Sept. 1, etc., at Flowercraft Shop. Field trips will be taken on March 21, April 4, April 25 (or May 2) Spring Census at the Ijams farm, May 16, June 20, Sept. 19, etc.—The MEMPHIS Chapter meets on Monday evenings at the Memphis Museum, on March 29, April 5, 19, May 3, 17, 31, and June 7; a Spring Field Day will be taken on a Sunday in early May.—The names of local secretaries were published in our last issue.

THE MIGRANT

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

EDITORIAL CHAT

A Department of Conservation has been created by our newly elected Governor Browning and Mr. Sam F. Brewster was appointed on Feb. 27 to head it as Commissioner. The new Department will embrace the bureaus of the State Geologist, that of the State Forester, the Department of Game and Fish Conservation, and the development of our new system of State parks. The last mentioned activity will be looked after personally by Mr. Brewster, he having been recently connected with the T. V. A. doing this type of work. The State Game and Fish Commission, of five, has been dropped in favor of the new set-up. Mr. Howell Buntin, who succeeded Mr. Damon Headden as State Game Warden last fall, is administering that department. Messrs. Walter F. Pond and J. O. Hazard, the two very capable specialists who have been heading the divisions of Geology and Forestry, will doubtless continue in their respective capacities. The new Commissioner has a splendid opportunity to develop a worthwhile chain of State parks and to cultivate a real appreciation among our citizens for this type of out-of-door recreation.

In behalf of the birds, we express appreciation of the thoughtfulness of the late Mrs. Nancy Boyd Miller, formerly of Tennessee, who died at Washington, D. C., on Sept. 29, 1935, in her 88th year. Mrs. Miller left a small legacy to the Tennessee Audubon Society for its uses and purposes. In conjunction with the T. O. S., the funds will be expended over a period of years to advance the work of bird study and conservation.

Mrs. Olah Pruette, of Moscow, Fayette Co., Tenn., succeeded Miss Sallie Walker as custodian of the State Museum of Natural History at Nashville.

It has often been demonstrated that the abundance of our summer birds may be greatly increased by catering to their needs. Clean out the old nesting boxes and put up new ones, plant shrubbery and vines, and finally, eliminate cats, the most destructive enemy of bird life.

The Editor's 13 year old banded Cardinal has not been seen about the premises since Nov. 20 and is believed to have died shortly after. He was the oldest known small wild bird. A young male has taken his place.

Record the spring arrivals from the south and the departure of our winter visitors. Refer to migration tables in *The Migrant* of March 1936.

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