



THE MIGRANT



A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

PUBLISHED BY
THE TENNESSEE
ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2024
VOL. 95, No. 4

THE MIGRANT
A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGY
PUBLISHED BY

THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
The TOS is a non-profit, educational, scientific and conservation organization.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: Bob Ford, 808 Hatchie, Brownsville, TN 38012 <editorthemigrant@gmail.com>

Associate Editors:

Susan McWhirter, 274 Beech Grove Road, McMinnville, TN 37110 <snmcwhirter@gmail.com>
and

Martha Waldron, 1014 Murray Hill Lane, Memphis, TN 38120 <martha.waldron@gmail.com>

State Count Compiler: Ron Hoff, 166 Chahyga Way, Loudon, TN 37774 <webe2brdrs@gmail.com>

Season Editor: Graham Gerdeman <grahamgerdeman@gmail.com>

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<npmcwhirter@gmail.com>

West Tenn. - Allan Trently, 580 East Lafayette Street, Jackson, TN 38301 <Allan.Trently@tn.gov>

Curator: Dr. Stefan Woltmann, Austin Peay State University, 601 College St., Clarksville, TN 37044
<woltmanns@apsu.edu>

Webmaster: Amy Wilms, 407 Tawodi Way, Rocky Face, GA 30740 <wilmsab@indianaaudubon.org>

The Tennessee Warbler (TOS Newsletter) Editor: Theresa Graham, 155 Irwin Ave., Oakland, TN 38060
<2graham@bellsouth.net>

The TOS website can be found at: www.tnbirds.org

Send subscriptions & address changes to:

Tennessee Ornithological Society, 5886 Wilshire Drive, Nashville, TN 37215

Printed by: Russell Printing Options, 1800 Grand Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916

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THE MIGRANT

Published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society
to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Tennessee
Issued in March, June, September and December

VOL. 95

DECEMBER 2024

NO. 4

The Migrant 95(4): 75-77, 2024

LATE FALL NESTING BY KILLDEER IN STEWART COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Scott A. Rush¹ and Elizabeth B. Hamrick²

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) are known to have multiple broods per year throughout much of their range (Jackson and Jackson 2020). First broods of the year are typically initiated in late February to early March (Jackson and Jackson 2020), and breeding can continue through fall. A historical account of Killdeer breeding in Mississippi notes late season nesting occurring as late as 15 November (Jackson et al. 1995). This extensive breeding season can provide up to six broods per breeding season (Schardien 1981). Despite having a relatively long breeding season, population estimates for Killdeer have trended downwards in the southeast since 2000 (Sanzenbacher and Haig 2001; Ziolkowski et al. 2025).

In the southern United States, some mating pairs of Killdeer stay together throughout the year (Jackson and Jackson 2020). In more northerly areas mating pairs may separate during the winter but re-pair with their mate when they return to their breeding grounds in the spring (Lenington and Mace 1975). Typically, Killdeer have four eggs per brood. However, broods containing five to six eggs are sometimes documented, with a maximum of 8 eggs documented in one nest in Mississippi (Jackson and Jackson 2020). Nests are constructed in shallow depressions created by the pair scraping the ground in a sequence. The scrape is usually barren but can be lined with various materials including gravel, shells, bones, plastics, or other man-made materials (Jackson and Jackson 2020). Site selection may occur on a variety of substrates, including along gravel roads with frequent vehicular traffic (Jackson and Jackson 2020). These types of nest sites can be prone to disturbance yet pairs selecting such sites appear to develop a tolerance to such disturbance (Jackson and Jackson 2020).

Here we report on an active Killdeer nest found in November 2024 in Cumberland City, Stewart County, Tennessee (Fig. 1). On 11 November 2024, a Killdeer nest with two eggs was observed in a gravel construction yard at the Tennessee Valley Authority's Cumberland Fossil Plant, located along the Cumberland River in Stewart County, Tennessee. Upon discovery of the nest, site personnel put precautions in place to protect the nest from dis-

¹ Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Mississippi scott.rush@msstate.edu

² Tennessee Valley Authority, Biological Compliance, Knoxville, Tennessee ecburton@tva.gov

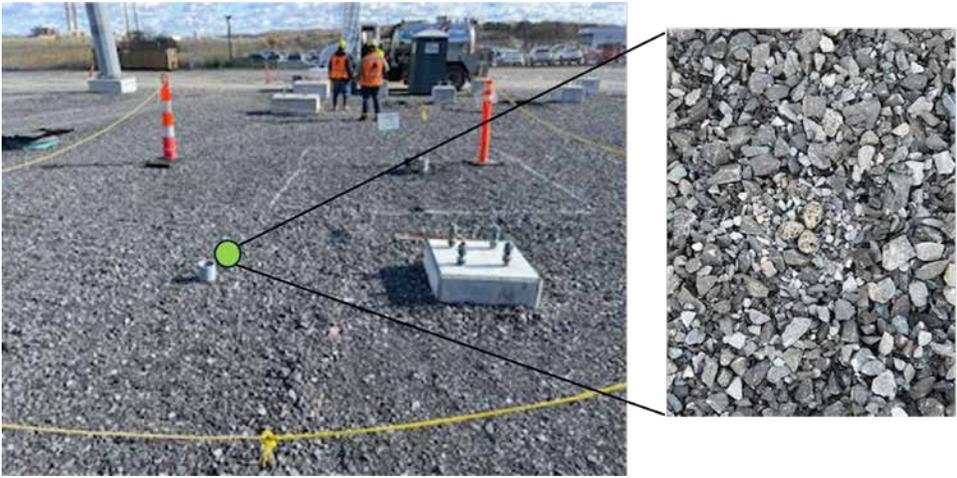


Figure 1. Location of Killdeer nest found 11 November 2024 in Cumberland City, Stewart County, Tennessee.

turbance. A third egg was documented in this nest on 14 November. This was also the last day the adults were observed tending to the nest. Daily survey efforts continued until 2 December 2024, with no further observation beyond that date. It is unclear what happened to the adult birds once the nest was abandoned.

Weather was likely a factor in nest failure. Observers noted temperatures of 3°C during morning observations and below freezing temperatures overnight for several nights during the observation period. Ambient temperatures in Dover, Tennessee (closest location with weather data, 21 km southeast of the study site) dipped below 0°C on 23 November 2024, (National Weather Service, <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/Climate?wfo=ohx>). Given the internal temperature of viable Killdeer eggs during incubation is approximately 42.8°C (Bergstrom 1989), and that for many bird embryos, physiological zero is between 24 – 27°C (Decuyper and Michels 1992), we deduce that eggs did not survive soon after adults stopped incubating.

A variety of bird species have been documented shifting their nesting period seemingly in response to warming temperatures (McPherson et al. 2025, Torti and Dunn 2005). Toti and Dunn (2005) observed birds (including Killdeer) laying eggs earlier than previously documented during a period of warmer spring temperatures. This finding is interesting within the current context as it could suggest an extended breeding season for Killdeer and other birds that are sedentary to medium-distance migrants, where temperatures remain warmer longer relative to historic conditions. This longer breeding season could result in additional reproductive output among birds that are able to continue to breed for a longer period each year (Halupka and Halupka 2017).

Killdeer in Puerto Rico, and potentially other tropical and sub-tropical areas breed year-round (Jackson and Jackson 2020). If indeed this late-season Killdeer nest in Tennessee, and the one previously documented in Mississippi (Jackson et al. 1995), are a reflection of an expansion of the breeding season in response to warming conditions, these southeastern birds may be shifting toward a breeding phenology currently expected only in tropical and

subtropical locations. Responses of Killdeer and other birds to changing climates should be explored further to better understand current and future population dynamics.

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REPORT OF THE TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE, 2024

Graham Gerdeman
Nashville, Tennessee

It is the job of the Tennessee Bird Records Committee (TBRC) to maintain the Official List of the Birds of Tennessee and to ensure that sightings of rare species are documented accurately and adequately for posterity. This list, along with the by-laws of the committee and information for submitting documentation, may be viewed in the TBRC section of the TOS website (<https://tnbirds.org/tennessee-bird-records-committee/>). The TBRC also maintains status codes for abundance and frequency of each species on the Official List. Species which are coded as anything other than “Regular” or “Casual” require review of the committee.

Current members of the committee are Graham Gerdeman (Secretary), Chris Sloan, Beth Schilling, Mark Greene, Michael Smith, Jeff Walck, and Stefan Woltmann (alternate). We wish to thank all who have taken the time to document and submit rare bird records. Many of these reports are accompanied by photographic documentation, which is especially valuable to the work of the committee. If a recently submitted record is not included in this list, it is probably still under review. If an older submitted record is not included, please send an email to tbrc@tnbirds.org. Please note, a species is considered provisional if it is not verified by an extant specimen, extant photograph or sound recording, or the written documentation of three independent observers of a species or of the same individual bird.

Reviewed records are listed in taxonomic order:

Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*) - Written documentation and photograph of two individuals submitted by Daniel Redwine; TN River NWR–Duck River Unit, Humphreys County, 31 May 2023. Accepted 6-0.

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*) - Written documentation and photograph and audio recording of one individual submitted by Mark Greene; Kenton, Gibson County, 7 August 2024. A seventh state record. Accepted 6-0.

Giant Hummingbird (*Patagona gigas*) - Written documentation and photograph of one individual submitted by Nanette Brown; Carthage, Smith County, 12 June 2024. Rejected as a Ruby-throated Hummingbird 6-0.

Allen’s Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) - Written documentation and photographs and in-hand measurements of one hatch-year male individual submitted by Mark Armstrong; Knox County, banded on 29 November 2023. Approximately the 12th state record. Accepted 6-0.

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*) - Written documentation with photographs of one adult male individual submitted by Paula Dycus; Covington, Tipton County, 19-20 March 2024. A second state record. Accepted 6-0.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) - Written documentation of one individual submitted by Tony Lance; Sumner County, 25 September 2024. Rejected 2-4 based on documentation failing to rule out other species.

Heerman's Gull (*Larus heermanni*) - Written documentation of one subadult individual submitted by Rack Cross; Warriors Path SP, Sullivan County, 24 April 2024. A potential first state record, the submission was rejected 6-0 due to the documentation not sufficiently ruling out other dark juvenile gull species.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) - Written documentation and photograph of one adult individual submitted by Daniel Redwine; Benton County Landfill, Benton County, 12 February 2021. Accepted 6-0.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) - Written documentation and photograph of one adult and one first cycle individual submitted by Daniel Redwine; Benton County Landfill, Benton County, 12 February 2021. Accepted 6-0.

Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) - Written documentation and photograph of one adult and one juvenile associated with remnants of Hurricane Beryl submitted by Daniel Redwine; Bruton Branch, Hardin Co 9 July 2024. Accepted 6-0.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) - Written documentation and photograph of one individual submitted by Daniel Redwine; Paris Landing SP, Henry County, 23 September 2020. Accepted 6-0.

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) - Written documentation and photograph of one juvenile individual submitted by Will Wiggins; on the Buffalo River, Wayne County, 19 June 2024. A first state record. Accepted 6-0.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) - Written documentation and photographs of one individual submitted by Mark Greene on behalf of the observer Kerry Speer; Reelfoot Lake, Obion County, 2 December 2024. Though the opinions of consulted experts were that the bird was most likely a Tropical Kingbird, this species is virtually identical to Couch's Kingbird, with which it has often been considered conspecific. The two are best separated by voice, which was not documented. The submitted photos were not of high enough resolution to judge newly described differences in "primary ratios" to any degree of satisfaction. The submission was therefore rejected 6-0. It was, however, accepted as the first state record of "Couch's / Tropical Kingbird" 6-0.

Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*) - Written documentation and photographs of one individual submitted by David Parsley; Shelby Park, Davidson County, 14 November 2024. A second state record. Accepted 6-0.

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) - Written documentation and photographs of one individual submitted by Cliff Van Nostrand; Shelby County, 1 November 2024. A second

state record. Accepted 6-0.

Blue Rock-Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) - Written documentation of one individual submitted by Joshua Martin; Benton County, 29 April 2024. Rejected 6-0 as documentation not ruling out an Eastern Bluebird..

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*) - Written documentation and photographs of one individual submitted by Mark Greene; Obion County, 31 October 2024. A fourth state record. Accepted 6-0.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) - Written documentation and photographs of one individual coming to a feeder submitted by Melissa James; Davidson County, 22 December 2023. Accepted 6-0.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) Written documentation and photographs of one individual submitted by TBRC Secretary Graham Gerdeman (observer Tim Lenz); Soddy Mountain Hawk Watch, Hamilton County, 24 August 2024. Rejected in two rounds of voting (3-3 and 5-1).

MINUTES OF THE FALL TOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 28 September 2024

The annual Fall Board of Directors meeting was held 28 September 2024 in Memphis, Tennessee at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. President Michael Collins called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm. Secretary Cyndi Routledge determined there was a quorum. Minutes of the Spring Meeting were presented and approved

OFFICERS REPORT

TREASURER: Pam Lasley reported TOS remains in excellent financial shape. Our membership dollars are running approximately 10% less than last year; a significant portion of that decline is due to fewer life members in 2024 than 2023. Grants totalling \$20,000 were awarded this year and thus far the society has published three editions of *The Migrant*.

Dividends are slightly higher than last year at this time, and our investments have gained market value of approximately \$40,000 this year. We were running the same potential gain in September of 2023. Market value of our investments was \$460,133 as of 30 June 2024.

Full results will be presented at the Spring 2025 meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH FUNDING: Chair Michael Collins reported there were a large number of requests for 2024 grants, and \$20,000 was awarded. Some requests were fully funded while others were partially funded. The announcement for 2025 grants will be published in the upcoming Warbler with a February deadline for submission.

TOS WEBSITE: A proposal was made to place all issues of *The Migrant* on our website instead of SORA or the University of Florida. The Board was asked to consider this proposal for a vote at the Spring meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

President Michael Collins reported no chapter has volunteered to host the Spring meeting. He suggested we go back to a rotational meeting schedule so chapters can plan and know when they will host a meeting. Pam Lasley made a motion to establish a contingent rotation plan for Spring and Fall meetings. Spring rotations will begin in 2025 with Chattanooga, followed by Kingsport in 2026, Memphis in 2027, Knoxville in 2028 and Nashville in 2029. Seconded by Susan Hubley. Passed unanimously. President Collins will notify the chapter presidents about this new system and make adjustments accordingly. Per Fall rotations, it was decided to wait to formulate the rotation until President Collins spoke to the Elizabethton Chapter since it is believed that they had informally volunteered to do the Fall 2025 meeting.

Dick Preston made the motion to increase funding for Chapters hosting the Annual Spring and Fall state meetings to help offset increased expenses; a maximum of \$3,000 for Spring and \$1,000 for Fall. Chris Welsh seconded. Passed unanimously

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steve Routledge. Seconded Pam Lasley.
Passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Cyndi Routledge, Secretary

THE 2024 TENNESSEE FALL BIRD COUNTS

Ron Hoff
Loudon, Tennessee

There were six Fall Bird Counts conducted this year. One hundred sixty observers in 88 parties volunteered nearly 355 party hours. The weather was fairly mild during the count period. Shelby County experienced rain most of the day. Temperatures ranged from 55° F in Elizabethton to 89° F in Knox and Montgomery counties.

A Black-capped Chickadee in Blount County was a new species for the Fall Count. Other count highlights included White-winged Dove, American Avocet, Black-bellied plover, Red-necked Phalarope, Lark Sparrow, Swainson's Warbler.

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

COUNT SUMMARIES

(F/Y = feeder/yard watcher)

Blount County (BLNT) – 21 September; 0315-1906. Weather: foggy early/clear; wind variable 0-5 mph; 62-75° F. Count highlights include Common Merganser, Ruffed Grouse, Barn Owl, Saw-whet Owl, Merlin, Loggerhead Shrike, Black-capped Chickadee, Marsh Wren, Bobolink, and Pine Siskin. Observers: Jean J. Alexander (F/Y), Kathryn Barrow, Rick Barrow, Christie Bass, Wanda DeWaard, Andy Feldt, Marian D. Fitzgerald (F/Y), Tom Fitzgerald (F/Y), Sandy Graves, Kim Henry, Stephen P. Henry, Thomas D. Howe, Susan Hoyle, David M. Johnson (F/Y), Kris Johnson, Evan Kidd (compiler), Julie Labhart, Michael G. Ryon, Ruben Stoll, Mary Tankersley, Harumi Tsuruoka, June D. Welch, Valerie Winger, and Randy C. Winstead.

Elizabethton (ELIZ) – 5 October; 0600-1900. Weather: some fog early/ptly cloudy; wind light and variable; 55-81° F. Many areas were inaccessible due to recent treefalls or flood damage from the remnants of Hurricane Helene. Highlights included Ruffed Grouse, American Pipit, and Lark Sparrow. Observers: Rob Armistead, Rob Biller, Tammie Bright, Janet Brown, Debi Campbell, Ron Carrico, Dianne Draper, Harry Lee Farthing, Bambi Fincher, Dave Gardner, David Hollie, Don Holt, David Irick, David Kirschke, Jackie Knight, Rick Knight (compiler), Roy Knispel, Dale Ledford, Larry McDaniel, Tom McNeil, Susan Peters, Brookie Potter, Jean Potter, Sherrie Quillen, Chris Soto, Kim Stroud, and Rex Whitfield.

Knoxville (KNOX) - 22 September; 0611-2045. Weather: clear/mostly cloudy; wind W 0-10 mph; 67-89° F. Count highlights included Caspian Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo, Alder Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Mourning Warbler (banded), and Yellow-breasted Chat. Observers: Mark Armstrong, Zachary Arnold, Karen Beuerlein, Frank Bills, Deedee Blane, Eric Bodker, Alison Boyer, James Davis, Tara Davis, Kerri Dikun, Jeremy Dotson, K. Dean Edwards (compiler), Chuck Estes, Dottie Habel, Patricia Harmon, Howard Haysom, Lis Henry, Phil Henry, Ron Hoff, Angela Hoffman, Nathan Hoffman-McConchie, Susan Hoyle, Jessie Huth, Yetta Jager, Kristine Johnson, Evan Kidd, Andrea Kupfer, Herbert Kupfer, Luke Lewis, Rita Lewis, Bruce Marshall, Morton Massey, Seth McConchie, Elizabeth McWhirter, Janet Meier, Dollyann Myers, Patrick Rakes, W. Kelly Roy, Martha Rudolph, Sheila Rygwelski, Michael Ryon, Ernesto Saurez, Beth Schilling, Luke Thompson,

Rachel Treadwell, Chris Welsh, and Deb Welsh.

Montgomery (MONT) – 21 September; 0530-1830. Weather: clear/mostly cloudy; wind W 0-10 mph; 67-89° F. Highlight sightings included Northern Bobwhite, Peregrine Falcon, Blue-headed Vireo, Sedge Wren, and Bobolink. Observers: Elaine Foust, Debbie Hamilton, Steve Hamilton, Sherri Hanson, Daniel Moss, Cyndi Routledge, Steve Routledge, Brandy Schnettler, Rick Shipkowski (compiler), and Sue Shipkowski.

Nashville (NASH) – 10 October; 0515-1845. Weather: sunny/clear; 60-88° F. Notable sightings included Merlin, Purple Martin, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Sedge Wren, Marsh Wren, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Baltimore Oriole. Observers: Krista Allen, Jenna Atma, Kim Bailey, Rachel Brenner, Lise Brown, Phillip Casteel, Richard Connors, Elyse Dilkes, Brad Dowd, Stephanie Durman, Robert English, Avery Fish, Graham Gerdeman, Steve Goodbred, Barbara Harris (compiler), Pam Lasley, Steve Lasley, Tim Loyd, Kathryn McCanless, Amy Pardo, Vera Roberts, Aaron Rushin, Shelia Shay, Anne Marie Snyder, Michael Smith, Shelly Smith, Pandy Upchurch, Linnann Welch, Grant Winter, and Mary Zimmerman.

Shelby County (SHLB) – 14 September; 0600-1930. Weather: rain most of the day/overcast; 66-78° F. Notable highlights included White-winged Dove, American Avocet, Black-bellied Plover, Red-necked Phalarope, Caspian Tern, Loggerhead Shrike, and Cape May Warbler. Observers: Becky Campbell, Emily Conant, Sophia Dismukes, Mary Ganaway, Adrian Hall, Margaret Jefferson, Lee Johnson, Mila Kedz, Douglas Logan, Skylar Lowrey, Morgan (Walt) Mattingly, Dick Preston (compiler), P J Pulliam, Mary Randolph-Frye, Ed Thomas, Alan Troyer, Cate VanNostrand, Cliff VanNostrand, Deon VanNostrand, Jim Varner, Tricia Vesely, and Martha Waldron.

2024 Fall Bird Counts Count Dates	SHLB 14-Sep	MONT 21-Sep	NASH 5-Oct	BLNT 21-Sep	KNOX 22-Sep	ELIZ 5-Oct	Totals
SPECIES							
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	15	-	-	-	-	-	15
Canada Goose	212	146	104	331	228	199	1220
Wood Duck	41	52	26	25	25	14	183
Blue-winged Teal	109	29	12	143	23	-	316
Northern Shoveler	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mallard	39	6	163	15	35	116	374
Common Merganser	-	-	-	45	-	-	45
Northern Bobwhite	-	7	-	-	-	-	7
Wild Turkey	-	23	33	34	1	44	135
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Pied-billed Grebe	3	4	25	3	4	3	42
Rock Pigeon	241	6	20	40	45	107	459
Eurasian Collared-Dove	65	5	5	1	-	2	78
White-winged Dove	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mourning Dove	625	61	59	150	156	118	1169
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	5	1	4	5	4	20
Black-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Common Nighthawk	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Chimney Swift	197	18	91	125	80	7	518
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	41	25	1	51	46	9	173
Sora	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
American Coot	-	-	52	-	-	-	52
Black-necked Stilt	18	-	-	-	-	-	18
American Avocet	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Black-bellied Plover	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Killdeer	92	35	49	108	49	31	364
Semipalmated Plover	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Stilt Sandpiper	48	-	-	-	-	-	48
Least Sandpiper	235	-	-	2	-	-	237
Pectoral Sandpiper	26	-	-	2	-	-	28
Semipalmated Sandpiper	15	-	-	-	-	-	15
Western Sandpiper	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Short-billed Dowitcher	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dowitcher sp.	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Wilson's Snipe	6	-	-	-	-	3	9
Spotted Sandpiper	1	1	1	-	-	3	6
Solitary Sandpiper	1	-	-	1	-	1	3
Lesser Yellowlegs	37	-	-	-	-	1	38
Red-necked Phalarope	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	24	-	-	-	24
Caspian Tern	1	-	4	-	1	-	6
Forster's Tern	-	-	1	-	3	-	4
Double-crested Cormorant	17	-	188	23	42	47	317
American White Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Black-crowned Night-Heron	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	5	-	-	1	-	-	6
Green Heron	7	1	-	3	3	1	15
Great Egret	57	4	17	7	3	-	88
Western Cattle Egret	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Great Blue Heron	8	5	40	17	22	16	108

2024 Fall Bird Counts Count Dates	SHLB 14-Sep	MONT 21-Sep	NASH 5-Oct	BLNT 21-Sep	KNOX 22-Sep	ELIZ 5-Oct	Totals
SPECIES							
Black Vulture	24	95	420	73	8	54	674
Turkey Vulture	8	44	53	83	29	119	336
Osprey	1	-	2	2	5	1	11
Northern Harrier	1	1	-	2	-	1	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Cooper's Hawk	3	1	4	9	6	4	27
Bald Eagle	-	1	2	2	2	2	9
Red-shouldered Hawk	22	10	8	21	14	5	80
Broad-winged Hawk	1	1	1	5	5	1	14
Red-tailed Hawk	8	9	15	6	6	11	55
Barn Owl	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Eastern Screech Owl	-	2	8	4	2	19	35
Great Horned Owl	1	1	3	3	1	5	14
Barred Owl	9	4	8	4	2	-	27
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Belted Kingfisher	4	7	14	11	17	21	74
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	10	17	6	4	7	45
Red-bellied Woodpecker	35	46	123	68	93	75	440
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	1	8	1	-	11	21
Downy Woodpecker	19	26	85	53	87	49	319
Hairy Woodpecker	2	3	11	7	7	9	39
Northern Flicker	-	3	87	22	29	95	236
Pileated Woodpecker	13	14	28	21	9	22	107
American Kestrel	7	7	5	2	3	17	41
Merlin	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Peregrine Falcon	-	1	-	-	2	-	3
Great Crested Flycatcher	2	5	-	2	3	1	13
Eastern Kingbird	3	2	-	1	1	1	8
Eastern Wood-Pewee	26	23	30	29	43	17	168
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Acadian Flycatcher	8	2	-	4	5	-	19
Alder Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Willow Flycatcher	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Least Flycatcher	3	-	-	2	4	-	9
Empidonax sp.	2	-	-	3	-	-	5
Eastern Phoebe	18	18	42	36	66	67	247
White-eyed Vireo	39	23	13	44	47	4	170
Yellow-throated Vireo	9	5	1	5	8	1	29
Blue-headed Vireo	-	1	1	14	-	10	26
Philadelphia Vireo	1	-	10	4	8	1	24
Warbling Vireo	5	2	1	-	3	-	11
Red-eyed Vireo	7	8	5	7	28	12	67
Loggerhead Shrike	2	-	-	1	-	-	3
Blue Jay	19	51	408	211	256	235	1180
American Crow	62	47	124	166	111	133	643
Fish Crow	2	-	7	10	4	1	24
Common Raven	-	-	-	14	1	11	26
Carolina Chickadee	38	67	187	17	205	139	653
Black-capped Chickadee	-	-	-	26	-	-	26
Tufted Titmouse	86	52	186	93	115	130	662

2024 Fall Bird Counts Count Dates	SHLB 14-Sep	MONT 21-Sep	NASH 5-Oct	BLNT 21-Sep	KNOX 22-Sep	ELIZ 5-Oct	Totals
SPECIES							
Bank Swallow	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
Tree Swallow	4	-	-	85	10	340	439
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	223	2	3	-	14	2	244
Purple Martin	2	-	2	-	-	-	4
Barn Swallow	257	-	2	1	-	30	290
Cliff Swallow	28	1	-	-	-	-	29
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	-	11	4	1	9	25
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	2	-	-	4	6
Cedar Waxwing	-	-	108	20	51	130	309
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	1	2	5	-	5	13
White-breasted Nuthatch	16	42	76	38	52	50	274
Brown-headed Nuthatch	-	-	-	3	9	-	12
Brown Creeper	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	14	2	1	8	2	-	27
Carolina Wren	38	70	164	177	197	179	825
House Wren	-	3	3	6	10	5	27
Winter Wren	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Sedge Wren	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
Marsh Wren	-	-	1	1	2	-	4
Gray Catbird	5	11	41	38	57	30	182
Brown Thrasher	9	7	34	30	55	9	144
Northern Mockingbird	29	29	141	65	140	62	466
European Starling	427	267	230	504	571	523	2522
Eastern Bluebird	38	39	155	92	148	100	572
Veery	-	-	2	10	1	-	13
Gray-cheeked Thrush	-	-	8	49	12	7	76
Swainson's Thrush	-	2	28	315	105	39	489
Hermit Thrush	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Wood Thrush	1	2	7	76	10	8	104
American Robin	177	14	198	205	189	151	934
House Sparrow	44	8	8	12	12	13	97
American Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
House Finch	33	32	79	89	133	40	406
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	5	-	-	5
American Goldfinch	31	33	86	102	99	77	428
Lark Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Chipping Sparrow	20	37	9	17	3	34	120
Field Sparrow	3	18	77	20	25	5	148
Dark-eyed Junco	-	-	-	44	-	5	49
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	5	-	-	-	5
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	5	6
Song Sparrow	-	-	4	32	38	66	140
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	3	-	1	-	4
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	3	-	-	5	8
Eastern Towhee	10	17	63	48	44	48	230
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	2	2	-	4
Bobolink	-	7	-	2	-	-	9
Eastern Meadowlark	12	6	19	4	2	10	53
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

2024 Fall Bird Counts Count Dates	SHLB 14-Sep	MONT 21-Sep	NASH 5-Oct	BLNT 21-Sep	KNOX 22-Sep	ELIZ 5-Oct	Totals
SPECIES							
Red-winged Blackbird	55	-	79	20	45	7	206
Brown-headed Cowbird	105	-	50	68	1	16	240
Common Grackle	7	-	35	8	39	56	145
Ovenbird	-	-	5	10	8	3	26
Worm-eating Warbler	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Northern Waterthrush	-	-	-	3	4	3	10
Golden-winged Warbler	-	-	1	-	3	-	4
Blue-winged Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Black-and-white Warbler	1	2	3	18	21	2	47
Prothonotary Warbler	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
Swainson's Warbler	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Tennessee Warbler	2	4	46	159	58	52	321
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Nashville Warbler	2	3	2	2	3	1	13
Mourning Warbler	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
Kentucky Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Common Yellowthroat	4	27	24	19	42	19	135
Hooded Warbler	1	2	-	18	24	6	51
American Redstart	3	8	22	15	52	13	113
Cape May Warbler	1	-	-	14	20	15	50
Northern Parula	22	7	12	9	20	5	75
Magnolia Warbler	8	8	77	65	98	12	268
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	4	13	42	17	31	108
Blackburnian Warbler	-	-	7	10	7	15	39
Yellow Warbler	3	3	-	-	1	-	7
Chestnut-sided Warbler	-	4	14	19	27	4	68
Blackpoll Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Black-throated Blue Warbler	-	-	-	9	1	4	14
Palm Warbler	-	2	7	15	23	101	148
Pine Warbler	1	7	3	2	11	7	31
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	-	17	1	1	27	46
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	1	10	-	4	3	19
Prairie Warbler	-	3	1	-	-	-	4
Black-throated Green Warbler	5	2	24	17	4	11	63
Warbler sp.	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Summer Tanager	22	15	8	6	13	1	65
Scarlet Tanager	-	3	5	12	9	14	43
Northern Cardinal	62	81	278	166	280	153	1020
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	8	43	57	17	143	268
Blue Grosbeak	5	3	3	-	2	-	13
Indigo Bunting	37	58	58	34	104	2	293
Dickcissel	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Total individuals	4459	1938	5266	5164	4973	4750	26550
Total species	117	103	121	128	124	124	189

Observers	22	10	30	24	47	27	160
Parties	12	5	10	18	33	10	88
Party hours	30	27.25	58.05	100.96	76.47	62	354.73
Hours by car	10.5	13.25	12.78	26.96	3.85	-	67.34
Hours by foot	19.5	14	45.27	74	71.57	-	224.34
Hours by boat or other	-	-	-	-	1.05	-	1.05
Miles by car	16.5	111	208.5	144.75	22.7	-	503.45
Miles by foot	20.5	3.2	42.07	48.94	68.62	-	183.33
Miles by canoe or other	-	-	-	-	0.34	-	0.34
Hours owling	1	1	3.1	5.3	0.5	2.5	13.4
Miles owling	1	0.1	10.3	3.34	-	-	14.74
Feeder/yard observers	-	5	-	5	-	-	10
Feeder/yard hours	-	6.4	-	7.75	6.82	-	20.97

THE FALL SEASON

Graham Gerdeman, Editor



1 August – 30 November 2024

Climatic conditions this season were generally hot and dry. A heat wave in late August brought daily maximum temperatures to 100°F or more for multiple locations, and much of the state was in moderate to severe drought, particularly in southern Middle Tennessee, parts of the Cumberland Plateau, and southern/central East Tennessee. Overall precipitation in November was above average, which helped to reduce drought conditions. [1]

The remnants of Hurricane Helene swept through the state 27–28 Sept, bringing at least two Pomarine Jaegers, single Sooty and Royal Terns, and many Magnificent Frigatebirds with it. There were numerous other significant rarities this season, including Inca Dove, Sabine’s Gull, Western Flycatcher, Cassin’s Kingbird, Sprague’s Pipit, Chestnut-collared Longspur, and Sage Thrasher. Definitely an exciting season for Tennessee birding.

Sightings are extracted from eBird[2], as well as submissions from regional compilers, the tn-birds listserv, and when necessary, verified social media posts. Comments on historical records rely on *Birds of Tennessee - A New Annotated Checklist* [3], archives of the tn-birds listserv as well as subsequent eBird records and submissions to the Tennessee Bird Records Committee (TBRC).

eBird database compiler: Tim Lenz, Chattanooga, Tennessee

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

ad - adult	max - maximum count
au - audio recorded	m.ob. - many observers
ba - banded	Mtn - Mountain
Co - County	NP - National Park
Cr - Creek	NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
ers - earliest reported sighting	ph - photographed
et al. - and others	fide - reported by
SNA - State Natural Area	im - immature
SP - State Park	WMA - Wildlife Management Area
lrs - latest reported sighting	yg - young

Locations: SBP - "Snow Bunting Peninsula" on Old Hickory Lake, Davidson Co; DRU - Duck River Unit of TN NWR, Humphreys Co; Ensley - Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex and TVA Lake, southwest Shelby Co; Lock 3 - Old Hickory Lake, Sumner Co; LBL - Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area

Black-bellied Whistling Duck: A major population boom in Obion Co, (4) Hornbeak 1 Aug (ph. MAG), also (36), including downy young, the highest count Mockingbird Hills Lake 12 Aug (ph. MAG), and (84) Will Dickerson Road 2 Nov (RS, AT); Camden/Humphreys Co (20) seen flying from DRU and into Camden Co 12 Sep (AT); Shelby Co (168) Ensley 1 Aug (max. CRu).

Snow Goose: Lincoln Co (1) very early bird among a large flock of Canada Geese first reported 3 Sep (ph. ers. RS, AF) and continued on its own until at least the end of Sept; Shelby Co (1200) seen headed south from Mud Island 21 Nov (max. AH, CVN).

Ross's Goose: Humphreys Co (1) DRU 8 Sep (ers. RS); (34) DRU 28 Nov (max. RS, AT).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Sumner Co (1) continuing, likely injured bird at Memorial Park, last reported 9 Sep (ph. JWY); Henry Co (3) Big Sandy 6 Oct (ers. RS).

Cackling Goose: Davidson Co (1) long-staying *B.h.minima* individual finally strayed over to Radnor Lake from its location in Brentwood on 29 Oct (ph. MB) and again 31 Oct/3 Nov (ph. RH, MJ).

Tundra Swan: Cumberland Co (4) Lake Holiday 23 Nov (ph. TL, KD, NKO).

Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal (hybrids) reported from three locations: Davidson Co (1) Shelby Bottoms - Cornelia Fort Airpark 30 Nov (ph. AD); Hamilton Co (1) Chester Frost Park 25 Sep (ph. TL); Lincoln Co (1) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond (ph. TL, PH).

Northern Shoveler: Shelby Co (2) Shelby Farms Park 2 Aug (ers. DDP) very early.

Mottled Duck: Humphreys Co (1) DRU 12 Aug (ph. DR, RS, AT).

Surf Scoter: Blount Co (1) Ft. Loudon Lake 23 Nov (ph. RW, m.ob.) only report this fall.

Black Scoter: Davidson Co (1) female/immature bird, Long Hunter SP - Bryant Grove Rec Area 10 Nov (ph. AF, MS) was likely the same bird reported from nearby at the J. Percy Priest Lake Field Trial Area in Rutherford Co 12-14 Nov (ph. JWa, AF, m.ob.); Hamilton Co (1) drake at Booker T. Washington SP 3 Nov (ph. TL, m.ob.) reported further upstream in Chickamauga Lake until 18 Nov (ph. KDu, RDu), followed by (2) hens in the same location 15-21 Nov (ph. TL, m.ob.); Knox Co (1) drake, Ft. Loudon Lake 5-7 Nov (ph. EBo, JD, m.ob.); Shelby Co (1) hen, Maynard C. Stiles WTP 14-29 Nov (ph. PJP, AH, m.ob.).

Long-tailed Duck: Davidson Co (3) hens at Radnor Lake SP 23 Nov (ph. MB, m.ob.) nota-

ble fall count and tied the high count for the county; Shelby Co (1) hen was seen from Mud Island in a flock of Buffleheads on the same day 23 Nov (ph. CVN, PJP, AH).

Common Merganser: Shelby Co (4) drakes flying over Mud Island 8 Nov (CVN, RH) rare fall record, and (1) female/immature bird was also reported from Maynard C. Stiles WTP 12 Nov (PJP); Humphreys Co (3) DRU 28 Nov (AT) was a similarly rare sighting. There were reports from two counties on the Cumberland Plateau and six in the eastern mountains where the species now breeds and is expanding. Blount Co (43) Little River 21 Sept (max. ph. RW) established a new state high count for the season.

Inca Dove: Gibson Co (1) bird was heard singing on a farm in Kenton in early August and reported to Mark Greene 6 Aug (ph. au. MAG) who identified it. The bird continued to sing incessantly for many visitors from across the state. It was last reported 23 Aug (ph. JWe). There are six previous state records.

Common Ground Dove: Lincoln Co (1) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 8–23 Nov (ph. AF, m.ob.).

White-Winged Dove: Davidson Co (1) coming to a feeder in Nashville 6–10 Sept (ph. SS, m.ob.); Shelby Co (1) Millington 14 Sept (AT); (4) Mud Island 12 Oct (max. JHu).

Common Nighthawk: Blount Co (1241) counted by seven observers at Townsend Visitor Center 31 Aug (max. EK, m.ob.) notable fall migration count.

Chimney Swift: Coffee Co (4000) roosting at Tullahoma High School (max. MTu); Bradley Co (1775) at a known roost chimney in Cleveland 18 Sept (RLe).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Stewart Co (132) caught and banded at a private residence 30 Aug (ba. max. CR) appears to be the sixth highest fall count on record [2,3]. Montgomery Co (1) hatch year male 18 Nov (CR *fide* GG) and Coffee Co (1) hatch year female 29 Nov (ba. CR *fide* GG) were late.

Rufous Hummingbird: Dickson Co (1) adult male, Charlotte 10 Aug (CR *fide* GG); Davidson Co (1) adult male, Nashville feeder 15 Aug (ph. MJ), and (1) adult female 9 Nov (ba. CR *fide* GG); Maury Co (1) adult male, Spring Hill 22 Sept (ph. SCu); Hickman Co (1) adult male caught and banded 1 Oct (ba. CR *fide* GG); Knox Co (1) Heiskell 13 Nov (ph. SHk, ba. MA *fide* GG); Shelby Co (1) adult female 16 Nov (CR *fide* GG); Anderson Co (1) hatch year female 30 Nov (ba. CR *fide* GG); Unicoi Co (1) adult female 30 Nov (ba. CR *fide* GG); Johnson Co (1) subadult male reported 8 Oct–30 Nov (ph. PJ) continued into the winter.

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird: Carter Co (1) adult female, Roan Mountain 9–12 Nov (ph. JS) not identified to species.

Virginia Rail: Davidson (1) Shelby Bottoms–Cornelia Fort Airpark 29 Oct (AD) rare Davidson Co record. There were reports from 11 other counties, mostly in the eastern moun-

tains; Greene Co (5) was the most at the Wal-mart Distribution Center Marsh 20 Oct (DHu).

Sora: Humphreys Co (9) DRU 15 Oct (max. RS, DR) notable fall count.

Common Gallinule: Incredibly, reports of adults and young in two locations indicate there were likely two nesting records this season, Blount and Hamilton Cos: Blount Co (6) reported (two adults and four juveniles) at Kyker Bottoms Refuge 6 Oct (max. VW, ph. EK); one juvenile was last reported 9 Oct (ph. RW); Hamilton Co (4, two adults and two juveniles) Standifer Gap Marsh (ph. PHy, m.ob.), after two juveniles had originally been reported 1 Oct (ph. TL, m.ob.); two were last reported 16 Oct (PH); Anderson Co (1) Melton Lake 30 Sept–4 Oct (ph. JDa, TDa, m.ob.); Roane Co (1) single immature bird, Lakeshore Park–Gupton Wetland 2/6 Oct (ph. RU, PP); Hawkins Co (2) John Sevier Lake 30 Oct–12 Nov (ph. SU) individuals were reported 27–29 Oct/13–26 Nov (ph. SH).

Sandhill Crane: Bradley Co (775) flyover flocks Cleveland 29 Nov (max. PMc).

Black-necked Stilt: Benton/Humphreys Cos (3) reported from each county on the mudflats on Tennessee River 10 Aug (ph. RS); Obion Co (6) Mockingbird Hills transient Lake 17 Aug (ph. AT, RS); Shelby Co (167) Ensley 1 Aug (max. CRu) and (1) 9 Nov (ph. lrs. PJP).

American Avocet: It was an incredible fall for the species, with reports from 14 counties across the state: Shelby Co (84) Ensley 1 Nov (ph. max. RS, AT) established a new statewide high count. Continuing from west to east, Tipton Co (12) Randolph Landing 29 Aug (ph. CRu); Lake Co (11) Fritz Landing 20 Oct (AT) and (1) Tiptonville Landing 17 Aug (ph. AT, RS); Benton Co (3) Camden WMA 25 Sept (RS); Humphreys Co (3) Tennessee River, New Johnsonville 25 Sept (RS) and (1–2) reported off and on from DRU 30 Aug–15 Nov (m.ob.); Lincoln Co (19) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 24 Sept (ph. max. AF), where 1–7 reported throughout the season; Franklin Co (8) Woods Reservoir 1 Nov (ph. RSh, DSh); Hamilton Co (17) Tennessee Riverwalk 24 Sept (ph. TCa, TL, m.ob.), also three birds seen flying down river 28 Sept from both Chickamauga Dam (BD, m.ob.) and Chester Frost Park (ph. TL, m.ob.); Meigs Co (4) Watts Bar Landing and Pinhook Boat Ramp 21 Oct (ph. RSh, DSh); Blount Co (3) Lowes Ferry Road Stilt Pond 3 Aug (ph. RW, EK, m.ob.), also (2/3) Fort Loudon Lake 25 Aug/26 Sept (RW, TH); Cocke Co (2) Rankin Bottoms 2 Sept (ph. CW, m.ob.); Sullivan Co (3) South Holston Lake 1 Sept (ph. SQ, BFi, m.ob.).

Black-bellied Plover: Benton Co (10) Evans Branch 10 Nov (max. RS).

American Golden-Plover: Humphreys Co (6) DRU 26 Oct (max. PH, m.ob.).

Piping Plover: Lake Co (1) Mississippi River, Island 13, 8 Aug (ph. VS, RS, OF).

Upland Sandpiper: Lincoln Co (1–2) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 2 Aug–18 Sept (ph. TL, PH, LT, m.ob.); Lauderdale Co (1) Chickasaw NWR, Plum Point 18 Aug (RS, AT); Davidson Co (2) Warner Parks Steeplechase Grounds 29 Aug (ph. GG, m.ob.); Shelby Co (1) Shelby Farms Park 2 Aug (au. MMA) and also (1) Ensley 31 Aug (ph. JN); Warren Co (1)

Hickory Creek Nature Trail, McMinnville 8 Sep (MBr).

Hudsonian Godwit: Lincoln Co (1) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 13/18 Sept (ph. TL, m.ob., MF).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Shelby Co (706) Ensley 1 Nov (ph. max. AT, RS), was an extraordinary count where numbers in the hundreds were reported by multiple observers from the last week of Oct into Nov. It established a new high fall count for the state.

Wilson's Phalarope: Shelby Co (6) Ensley 14 Sept (ph. max. TV, JV) one was present from as early as 7 Aug (ph. PJP) and two were last reported 15 Sept (ph. MGa); Humphreys Co (1) DRU 4 Aug (ph. RS) and (2) 31 Aug (ph. RS); Stewart Co (1) Cross Creeks NWR 4 Aug (ph. IK); Scott Co (1) Ponderosa Lake 15 Sept (BSD) very rare sighting on the upper Cumberland Plateau, a county first in eBird.

Red-necked Phalarope: Lincoln Co (2) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 20 Aug (ph. EDa, JDn), with (1) reported subsequently 21–24 Aug and 7/14 Sept (RS, AF, m.ob.); Tipton Co (1) Randolph Landing 22 Aug (ph. CRu); Shelby Co (1) Ensley 14–15 Sept (ph. TV, JV, MGa); Knox Co (1) Melton Hill Lake 30 Sept (ph. TCr, MCr).

Spotted Sandpiper: Shelby Co (38) Ensley 1 Aug (CRu); Lake Co (36) Mississippi River, Island 13, 8 Aug (RS, VS, OF) notable fall counts.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Shelby Co (125) Ensley 4 Sept (max. JV, CRu).

Willet: Hawkins Co (1) Cherokee Lake, Mooresburg 30 Aug (ph. TB); Monroe Co (1) Tellico L WMA 2 Sept (ph. CJo); Humphreys Co (2) DRU 28–31 Aug (ph. RS, RSk); Tipton Co (1) Randolph Landing Boat Ramp 24 Aug/ 1 Sept (DDP, RS); Lake Co (1) Tiptonville Landing 17 Aug (AT, RS).

Greater Yellowlegs: Shelby Co (200) Ensley 22 Oct (ph. max. AH).

Ruddy Turnstone: Humphreys Co (3) Tie Landing 31 Aug (ph. max. RS); Benton Co (1) apparent county first at Nathan Bedford Forrest SP 30 Aug (ph. MGa, RS); Shelby Co (1) adult male, Ensley continued from July until last reported 6 Aug (ph. CRu, JV, SD); Tipton Co (1) Randolph Landing 24 Aug (DDP) and 4 Sept (ph. CRu); Gibson Co (1) Gibson Co Lake 3 Sept (MAG); Lincoln Co (2) Fowler Road Irrigation pond 3 Sept (ph. EDa, JDn) where individual birds were reported until 15 Oct (ph. RSh, DSh); Cocke Co (2) Rankin Bottoms 28–31 Aug (CW, ph. CE, m.ob.).

Stilt Sandpiper: Lincoln Co (26) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 1 Sept (ph. max. TL, PH).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Benton Co (9) Nathan Bedford Forrest SP 30 Aug (ph. max. MGa, RS).

Sanderling: Cocke Co (6) Rankin Bottoms 7 Sept (ph. max. CE, CW, m.ob.); otherwise reported in ones and twos from 13 counties.

Dunlin: Benton Co (140) Evans Branch 10 Nov (max. RS).

Baird's Sandpiper: Cocke Co (5) Rankin Bottoms 7 Sept (ph. max. CE, CW, m.ob.).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Rare in fall, there were several records: Shelby Co (1) Ensley continued from late July and last reported 3 Aug (RP); later (3) was the highest in the same location 28 Sept (CW, DWe); Humphreys Co (1) DRU 30 Aug (RS); Lincoln Co (2) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 28 Aug (ph. TL), where reports of 1–2 birds continued until 15 Sept (ph. RSh, DSh); Cocke Co (3) Rankin Bottoms 28 Aug (max. CW, DWe), where (1) was last reported 7 Sept (CE, m.ob.); Sullivan Co (1) Wesley Road 22 Aug (SQ, BFi).

Least Sandpiper: Shelby Co (3700) Ensley 4 Sept; notable fall count (max. CRu, JV).

Pomarine Jaeger: Sumner/Davidson Co (1) adult bird, Old Hickory Lake between SBP and Lock 3 30 Sept–1 Oct (ph. TL0, MS, m.ob.); Hamilton Co (1) Chickamauga Dam and Chester Frost Park 27 Sept (BD, TLR, ph. KWh, SWH).

Pomarine/Parasitic Jaeger: Davidson Co (1) J. Percy Priest Lake, Anderson Road Rec Area 28 Jun (ph. DR, AF) not identified to species.

Sabine's Gull: Hardin Co (1) juvenile Pickwick Dam 12–14 Sept (ph. RS, VS, m.ob.); Monroe Co (1) juvenile Toqua Campground, Little Tennessee River 27 Sept (AF, ph. RS, TL, m.ob.); Anderson/Knox Cos (1) juvenile Melton Hill Lake 30 Sept–1 Oct (TCr, MCr, ph. EBo, m.ob.).

Bonaparte's Gull: Benton Co (1) juvenile Nathan Bedford Forrest SP 12 Aug appears to establish a new early fall date for TN (ph. ers. RS); (7) reported at the same location three weeks later 5 Sept were themselves notably early (MGa).

Laughing Gull: Humphreys Co (1) first cycle bird, Tie Landing 20 Aug (ph. RS); Hardin Co (1) juvenile Pickwick Dam 24 Aug/1 Sept (RS, AT) likely the same individual; Roane Co (1) adult Lakeshore Park 28–29 Sept (ph. RK, m.ob.); Lake Co (1) adult Tiptonville Bar 6 Nov (ph. MAG).

Franklin's Gull: Lake Co (102) Tiptonville Bar 9 Nov (max. RS)

American Herring Gull: Hardin Co (255) Pickwick Lake 10 Nov (max. RS) notable count.

Lesser Black-Backed Gull: Hardin Co (77) Pickwick Lake 10 Nov (max. RS) state high count. Additional counts further north on the lake undoubtedly put the actual numbers present above 100.

Iceland Gull: Benton Co (1) first cycle *thayerii* Evans Branch 25 Oct (ph. RS) appears to be an early fall record; Hardin Co (1) Pickwick Dam 27 Oct/11 Nov was believed to be the same lingering, first cycle bird (ph. RS, AT).

Sooty Tern: Monroe Co (1) Toqua Campground, Little Tennessee River 27 Sept (VS, CE, m.ob.) after the passing of the remnants of Hurricane Helene.

Least Tern: Always rare away from Mississippi River, there were a few much further east this season: Coffee Co (1) Hillsboro Hwy Pond 2 Aug (ph. LT, TL); Lincoln Co (6) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond the same day 2 Aug (ph. LT, TL, m.ob.) was a very high count away from west TN and an apparent first for Lincoln Co; Hardin Co (1) Pickwick Dam 1 Sept (AT); Benton/Humphreys Cos (1) on an exposed mud bar visible in Kentucky L 28 Aug (ph. RS); Lauderdale Co (187) Chickasaw NWR 9 Aug (max. DR, RS).

Caspian Tern: Sumner Co (1) Old Hickory Lake, Lock 3 Rec Area 1 Nov (ph. TLo) notably late; Hamilton Co (1) Chester Frost Park 19 Nov (ph. KWh, SWH) appears to establish a new late fall date for TN.

Forster's Tern: Blount Co (135) Fort Loudon Lake 27 Sept (max. TH, VW, m.ob.) notably high count associated with Hurricane Helene.

Common Tern: Meigs Co (109) Foshee Pass Rec Area 27 Sept (max. AT) as the remnants of Hurricane Helene passed was exceptional.

Royal Tern: Hamilton Co (1) Chester Frost Park 1 Oct (ph. KWh, SWH, m.ob.), four days after the passing of Hurricane Helene.

Horned Grebe: Sumner Co (1) Old Hickory Lake, Lock 3 Rec Area 30 Sept (ers. MS).

Eared Grebe: Hamilton Co (1) Chester Frost Park 31 Oct (ph. TL); Stewart Co (2) LBL-Gray's Landing 9 Nov (RS, WB, ZM).

Red-Throated Loon: Lake Co (1) Reelfoot Lake SP 2 Nov (ph. ers. RS, AT); Sumner Co (1) Old Hickory Lake, Lock 3 Rec Area 28 Nov (PH, EB, EH).

Pacific Loon: Lake Co (1) Reelfoot Lake SP 2/6 Nov (ers. RS, AT, MAG); Davidson Co (1) J. Percy Priest Lake, Anderson Road Rec Area 6 Nov (AF); Hamilton Co (1) Chickamauga L from Pecan Point as well as Booker T. Washington SP 15-16/23 Nov (ph. BO, TL, m.ob.).

Common Loon: Sullivan Co (1) juvenile continuing from 29 July (ers. BFi, SQ) South Holston Lake 3 Aug (RRK) may have summered there, otherwise it was a very early arrival; Hardin Co (232) Pickwick Lake 10 Nov (max. RS).

Wood Stork: Shelby Co (106) "Pete's Field," 25 Aug (ph. max. CRu, RS, JV, m.ob.) of a large incursion into the county which continued for several days in the vicinity, with (32)

reported at Riverport Road Sloughs 31 Aug (JV, CVN, CRu) and finally (1) bird in the same location 4 Sept (ph. CRu, JV).

Magnificent Frigatebird: reported from seven eastern counties with the passing of Hurricane Helene: Marion Co (2), an adult male and a female/immature bird Nickajack Dam 28 Sept (AT, ph. AF, m.ob.); Hamilton Co (1) seen along the Tennessee River from several locations 27–28 Sept (DRJ, ph. DR, JSc, m.ob.); Polk Co (2) flying over the Amish community at East TN Nursery 28 Sept (MBe); Monroe Co (2) photographed together over a yard in Madisonville 27 Sept (ph. JSh), and (2) at the Toqua Campground the same day (ph. AT, KAC, m.ob.), possibly the same birds; Blount Co (1) Louisville 27 Sept (SEn); Roane Co (1) Lakeshore Park 27 Sept (ph. RK, RHu, RDH, DMY); Knox Co (2) Lyons Bend 27 Sept (ph. SHo); Hawkins Co (1) Cherokee Lake 1 Oct (ph. TB, SQ, m.ob.), a first county record.

Anhinga: Knox Co (1) Lyons Bend 21 Aug (ph. SHo) notable record for the location, a second county record in eBird; Humphreys Co (1) DRU 10 Aug (AT); McNairy Co (1) Big Hill Pond SP 1 Sept (ph. AT); Obion Co (2) Reelfoot Lake NWR 17 Aug (RS, AT); Shelby Co (3) Cockleburr Lake 25 Aug (max. RS, CRu).

Neotropical Cormorant: Humphreys Co (5) Tie Landing 28 Aug (max. RS); Benton Co (1) Nathan Bedford Forrest SP 6 Aug/8 Sept (RS, ph. MGa); Shelby Co (1) Pete's Field 25 Aug (ph. SD, CRu, m.ob.) and (1) Shelby Farms Park 12 Oct (ph. NSo, JBa); Sumner Co (1) Drake's Creek Rookery 28 Aug (ph. TLo); Rutherford Co (1) Fate Sanders Marina 12/28 Sept (ph. AF, JWa); Marion Co (1) Nickajack Lake 5 Sept (ph. TL, KD).

White Ibis: Continuing from summer in greater than normal numbers, reported from ten counties across the state: Shelby Co (10) "Pete's Field" 27 Aug (max. CRu, SD, m.o.b), and (2) Robbins-Halle Nature Preserve 8 Aug (CVN); Benton Co (2) Nathan Bedford Forrest SP 19 Aug (ph. RS, MGa, OF); Humphreys Co (3) DRU 10 Aug (ph. RS, MGa, AT), where (1) was last reported 25 Aug (ph. GG, CAS); Lincoln Co (1) continuing bird 6 Aug (ph. AF, SP); Hamilton Co (4–5) Brainerd Levee 7–12 Aug (BD, ph. TL, m.ob.); Roane Co (2) Amory Bend Wetland 3 Aug/1 Sept (ph. EBo, RK); Monroe Co (2) Tellico Lake WMA 16 Aug (ph. CJo); Grainger Co (1) Condry Bend Road 4 Aug (ph. DH); Sevier Co (1) Pigeon Forge 18 Aug–1 Sept (ph. MA, KWa, m.ob.); Hawkins Co (3/1) John Sevier Lake 10 Aug/19 Sept (ph. SH).

Glossy Ibis: Shelby Co (1) Ensley 27 Oct (ph. TV).

Glossy/White-faced Ibis: There were several sightings of first year *Plegadis* ibises which were not identified to species: Shelby Co (3) Ensley 30 Sept (ph. GM) and (1) also there 27 Oct–11 Nov (ph. PJP, CVN, m.ob.); (1) "Pete's Field" 27 Aug (CRu, AH, CVN); Humphreys Co (1) DRU 7 Sept (ph. DR, RS); Davidson Co (1) Walter S. Davis Blvd Marsh 28 Oct (ph. FE, RD) was possibly the same individual seen that afternoon at Shelby Park–Cornelia Fort Airpark (ph. AD); Lincoln Co (1) Don Davidson Park 10 Oct (ph. PS, AF, EBo).

Roseate Spoonbill: Lincoln Co (1) continued from July, Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 1 Aug

(ph. AF, RS); another (1) adult bird also reported there 14 Aug (AF).

American Bittern: Shelby Co (2) Ensley 16 Nov (ph. max. JV, PJP, SHe), individual birds were reported regularly from 12 Oct–26 Nov (m.ob.); (1) Shelby Farms Park 1/4 Nov (CVN, DVN, m.ob.); Humphreys Co (1) DRU 19 Oct (DR); Davidson Co (1) Shelby Park–Cornelia Fort Airpark 12 Oct (ph. AR); Lincoln Co (1) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 14 Sept (ph. KBe); Hamilton Co (1) Standifer Gap Marsh 29 Sept/8 Oct/1 Nov (PH, DRJ); Sullivan Co (1) Meadowview Golf Course 20 Oct (ph. SQ, BFi).

Least Bittern: Hamilton Co (1) Standifer Gap Marsh 16 Oct (PH); Rhea Co (1) Dayton 1–2 Oct (AY); Roane Co (1) Lakeshore Park (RK).

Black-crowned Night Heron: Rhea Co (41) Watts Bar Dam Overlook 13 Nov (max. TL, KD, Nko) notable count.

Tricolored Heron: Hamilton Co (1) juvenile Baylor School 2–21 Aug (ph. TL, LT, m.ob.), apparent fourth county record.

Green Heron: Hamilton Co (1) Tennessee Riverwalk 9 Nov (KAC) late date.

Great Egret: Humphreys Co (762) DRU 4 Aug (max. RS) second highest count for the county in eBird.

Black Vulture: Blount Co (830) Louisville Point Park 27 Oct (max. VW) new fall high count for the state.

Turkey Vulture: Sevier Co (700) in a migrating kettle, Pittman Center 16 Oct (max. KWa) notably high count.

Swallow-tailed Kite: Carter Co (1) Roan Mtn SP 17 Aug (DG, MV) first county record in eBird; Washington Co (1–2) Charlie Carson Rd, Jonesborough 10–30 Aug (ph. DHo, LT, m.ob.); Meigs Co (1) Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge 3 Aug (CMu); Sequatchie Co (2) J. Condra Road 2 Aug (ph. JDo). Single birds were reported in the area 1–5 Aug (ph. AF, RSh, m.ob.); Franklin Co (5) Tims Ford Lake 15 Aug (DTi); Lincoln Co (1) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 14 Aug (ph. TL, PH, AF, LT); Montgomery Co (1) Shelton Ferry WMA 20 Aug (ph. DMA); Lake Co (1) Tiptonville Bar 2 Sept (ph. RS); Lauderdale Co (1) Chickasaw NWR 18 Aug (RS, AT); Shelby Co (1) Stateline Sandbar 25 Aug (ph. CRu, SD, RS, SHe).

Golden Eagle: Davidson Co (1) Radnor Lake SP 8 Oct (MB) very rare county record; Monroe Co (1) Madisonville 25 Oct (JSh).

Northern Harrier: Lauderdale Co (1) TN-88 Bottoms 17 Aug (ph. ers. RS, AT).

Great Horned Owl: Humphreys Co (6) DRU 25 Oct (max. AF).

Burrowing Owl: Humphreys Co (1) - this first state record, banded bird returned for the *fifth year* to the restricted TVA New Johnsonville plant 17 Oct (TRo *fide* GG). It was last seen 4 Nov (BSe *fide* GG).

Short-eared Owl: Lake Co (1) Ridgeley Solar Farm 2 Nov (ers. DR, AL) and (1) Vaughn Road, Tiptonville 9 Nov (RS); Shelby Co (1–2) Shelby Farms Park 22–29 Nov (ph. CVN, DVN, m.ob.); Rutherford Co (1) J. Percy Priest WMA Field Trial Area 13 Nov (RS).

Northern Saw-Whet Owl: There were two reports outside of the high mountains: Lake Co (1) Reelfoot Lake SP Airpark Campground 1 Nov (AL); Dickson Co (1) Montgomery Bell SP 24 Oct (JMi).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Hamilton Co (53) Point Park 19 Sept (max. BD) more than doubled the previous high count for the county in eBird; Davidson Co (21) the highest count at Radnor Lake SP 7 Nov (MWe) and set a new county high in eBird. This fall saw an exceptional irruption in the Nashville area, especially at Radnor Lake, where high single and double digit numbers were reported all season.

Merlin: Shelby Co (1) Ensley 18 Aug (ers. JWY).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Marion Co (2) seen together Prentice Cooper SF 29 Aug (LT). Individuals were reported from 11 counties.

Least Flycatcher: Sumner Co (1) Memorial Park 11 Nov (ph. TLo); Fentress Co (1) Jamestown 25 Nov (ph. RDH, DMY) both exceptionally late. The Fentress Co bird establishes a new late fall date for the state. Tennessee has only one previous record in November.

Western Flycatcher: Lake Co (1) Reelfoot Lake–Champey Pocket 9 Nov (ph. au. RS). Pending TBRC acceptance, a third state record.

Ash-throated Flycatcher: Hamilton Co (1) Soddy Daisy 29 Oct (ph. RSh, DSh, m.ob.); Cumberland Co (1) Cumberland, Nicholson Drive Fields 23 Nov (ph. TL, NKO, KD).

Cassin's Kingbird: Two sightings established second and third state records, though it was possibly the same individual: Davidson Co (1) Shelby Park–Cornelia Fort Airpark 14–15 Nov (ph. DPa, m.ob.); Hamilton Co (1) Snow Hill Road Pond 22–30 Nov (ph. PR, LT, m.ob.).

Western Kingbird: Humphreys Co (1) Tie Landing 31 Aug (RS) a first for the county.

Eastern Kingbird: Washington Co (1) Kyker Road 2 Nov (Irs. RRK) extremely late date. There is only one other November date for the state, from 1971 [3].

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Decatur Co (17) Wyatt Farm 3 Aug (max. ph. MGA, SBr).

White-eyed Vireo: Lake Co (1) Reelfoot Lake SP 23 Nov (ph. RS); Davidson Co (1) Edwin Warner Park Burch Reserve 29 Nov (ph. lrs. DF) both exceptionally late dates.

Bell's Vireo: An exceptional fall for the species—Lauderdale Co (6) highest count of continuing birds at Chickasaw NWR 18 Aug (au. max., AT, RS); Dyer Co (1) last reported Thorny Cypress WMA 13 Aug (JN, RN); Perry Co (1) Stoll Farm 6 Sept (RS); Montgomery Co (1) Fort Campbell 17 Sept (DM *fide* GG); Warren Co (1) Carrier Drive 26 Sept (ph. MBr); Grainger Co (1) Harrell's Farm 30 Sept (ph. DH). The latter two records were the furthest east the species has been reported in Tennessee. The Grainger County bird establishes the first East Tennessee record and is also among the latest fall dates.

Fish Crow: Davidson Co (21) Nissan Stadium 7 Aug (GG) more than tripled the previous county high count as this species continues to expand along the Cumberland River.

Common Raven: Cumberland Co (1) Cumberland Trail 19 Oct (MWe); Carter Co (1) 5 Aug (NKo, WH) and 20 Sept (TL, LT), and (2) on 22 Nov (NK) - all apparent interstate flyovers - were all rare sightings as this iconic species is re-establishing itself on the Cumberland Plateau.

Bank Swallow: Lake Co (6,000) Island 13 8 Aug (RS, VS, OF) a new state high count.

Purple Martin: Davidson Co (100,000–250,000) range of peak estimates of the massive downtown Nashville roost 4–15 Aug (GG, AD, m.ob.).

Sage Thrasher: Shelby Co (1) second state record Shelby Farms Park 1 Nov (ph. RH, m.ob.).

Cedar Waxwing: Hamilton Co (2,100) Baylor School 10 Nov (ph. TL, LT, PH) second highest fall count on record.

Sprague's Pipit: Lake Co (3) Ridgely Solar installation 27 Oct (ph. VS, RS, AT) and (1) 2/6 Nov (DR, AL, MAG).

Evening Grosbeak: Polk Co (1) Delano Road 21 Oct (MBe) the only report.

Purple Finch: Marshall Co (50) single flock at Henry Horton SP 26 Nov (max. SWK) was exceptional. There were fall reports from ten counties.

Red Crossbill: Sequatchie Co (3) flyover near Palmer 28 Nov (RCa); Hamilton Co (5) flyover at Point Park 13 Nov (BD); Blount Co (18) Cades Cove, GSMNP 2 Oct (ph. max. HU); Carter Co (14) Piney Road 5 Sept (TMc, CMc).

Lapland Longspur: Humphreys Co (17) DRU 28 Nov (ph. AT, RS) notably early; Lincoln Co (36) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 29 Nov (AF) also early.

Chestnut-Collared Longspur: Obion Co (1) North Garrett Sawmill Road 31 Oct (ph.

MAG) established a fourth state record and first for the county.

Smith's Longspur: Shelby Co (1) Shelby Farms Park 2/4 Nov (MAG, CVN, BFo, RH).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Shelby Co (1) DRU 5 Oct (ph. RS); Davidson Co (1) Woodlawn Cemetery 7–12 Oct (ph. NS, m.ob.); Meigs Co (1) Cameron Road, Decatur 9 Sept (ph. RDu, KDdu).

Lark Sparrow: Davidson Co (1) juvenile Shelby Bottoms Nature Center 9 Sept (AC) notable (but increasing?) Nashville record.

LeConte's Sparrow: Humphreys Co (21) DRU 26 Oct (ph. RS, Nko, m.ob.).

Nelson's Sparrow: Shelby Co (1) Shelby Farms Park 11–15/20/28 Oct (ph. JV, SD, m.ob.); Humphreys Co (2) DRU 15 Oct (ph. max. RS, DR, m.ob.) where single birds were also found from 5 Oct (RMG, WL) to 25 Oct (ph. AF); Rutherford Co (1) J. Percy Priest WMA–Field Trial Area 10/14/23/24/29 Oct (ph. AF, SHa, JWa); Roane Co (1) Lakeshore Park 25–28 Oct (ph. RK, EBo, BS, CE).

Savannah Sparrow: Lake Co (250) Ridgely Solar location 27 Oct (max. AT, RS).

Henslow's Sparrow: Shelby Co (2) Shelby Farms Park 19–20 Oct (ph. max. SD, CVN), where individual birds were seen 8 Oct–1 Nov (ph. AT, m.ob.); Benton Co (3) at the breeding location near Big Sandy River Road 2 Sept (RS); Humphreys Co (1) heard singing DRU 19 Oct (AT); Montgomery Co (1) Fort Campbell 1 Aug (JG).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Humphreys Co (13) DRU 19 Oct (ph. AT) second highest state count and a new high count for fall.

Swamp Sparrow: Humphreys Co (390) on a 9+ hour long count DRU 26 Oct (max. RS, AT, m.ob.) establishes a new high fall count and the second highest for Tennessee.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Lincoln Co (3) flyovers Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 21 Sept (ph. AY).

Western Meadowlark: Shelby Co (1) found at three locations: President's Island 1 Nov (RS, AT), Maynard C. Stiles WMA 10 Nov (ph. PJP), and Shelby Farms Park 18 Nov (CVN); Dyer Co (1) Bogota WMA and (1) Hwy 103 on 2 Nov (DR, AL), also (1) Hurd Loop Road 20 Oct (AT); Lake Co (3) Old Cargill Granary Overlook 2 Nov (au. max. RS, AT) and (2) Ridgeley Solar Farm Pull-off 2 Nov (DR, AL); Humphreys Co (1) at DRU 15 Oct (ph. DR, RS) notable record away from the Mississippi River.

Brewer's Blackbird: Rhea Co (1) Spring City 13 Nov (ph. AY) notable east TN record; Lincoln Co (1) Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 29 Nov (ph. AF) was also notable.

Black-and-White Warbler: Rutherford Co (1) Murfree Spring Wetlands 18 Nov (ph. IB).

Tennessee Warbler: Marion Co (325) migrating over Prentice Cooper SF 2 Oct (ph. max. TL, LT, PH) exceptional count, fourth highest for the state [3]. It topped an earlier count of (279) from the same location on 16 Sept (ph. TL, LT).

Connecticut Warbler: Davidson Co (1) Shelby Park 17 Sept (ph. CAR) rare fall record.

Cape May Warbler: Davidson Co (1) Walter S. Davis Blvd Marsh 29 Nov (ph. Irs. MPI) late fall record for TN.

Northern Parula: Shelby Co (51) Meeman-Shelby Forest SP 2 Sept (CRu, JV, SD) tied the high fall count for the state set on a fall bird count in the same location in 2010 [3].

Magnolia Warbler: Hamilton Co (1) Lookout Mountain 10 Nov (Irs. BD, TD).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Marion Co (50) estimated migrating over Prentice Cooper SF 2 Oct (ph. max. TL, LT, PH) was noteworthy.

Prairie Warbler: Shelby Co (1) Shelby View Lake 1 Nov (ph. Irs. RP).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Shelby Co (1) Chickasaw Gardens Park 3 Nov (JWi); Hamilton Co (1) Rock Springs 2 Nov (SEs), and (1) Booker T. Washington SP (ph. Irs. TL).

Canada Warbler: Sumner Co (1) Memorial Park 21 Oct (TLo) tied the previous late fall record.

Wilson's Warbler: Rutherford Co (1) Murfree Spring Wetlands 2–3 Nov (ph. SRu, JRu).

Scarlet Tanager: Marion Co (35) Prentice Cooper SF 11 Sept (ph. max. TL, LT) second highest fall count for the state.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Hamilton Co (160) in migration Booker T. Washington SP 1 Oct (ph. max. TL) notably high count; Sevier Co (1) private feeder 21 Nov (ph. Irs. HMc) exceptionally late.

Dickcissel: Humphreys Co (1) DRU 26 Oct (PH, AT, m.ob.); and Hamilton Co (1) Baylor School 27 Oct (ph. Irs. LT, WJo).

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OBSERVERS

CAr – Cameron Archer
 EB – Emily Badri
 WB – Wade Baker
 JBa – Judith Barrie
 MBe – Matthan Beachy
 KBe – Kenny Bengé
 EBo – Eric Bodker
 MB – Matthew Bowling
 SBr – Sue Bradley
 TB – Tammy Bright
 IB – Isaac Brown
 MBr – Mark Brown
 TCa – Ted Caldwell
 KAC – Kevin Calhoun
 AC – Andrew Cameron
 RCa – Richard Candler
 SCu – Shannon Cummings
 MCr – Maria Crowe
 TCr – Terry Crowe
 EDa – Ed Daniels
 JDn – Jeanene Daniels
 JDa – James Davis
 SDa – Sarah Davis
 RD – Robert Deegan
 SD – Sophie Dismukes
 JD – Jeremy Dotson
 JDo – Janet Dowlen
 BD – Bruce Dralle
 KD – Kent DuBois
 KDu – Kelly Ducham
 RDu – Robert Ducham
 AD – Ariel Dunham
 BSD – BettySue Dunn
 TE – Tyler Edmondson
 SEn – Spencer England
 LE – Leslie Eselgroth
 SEs – Stephan Eselgroth
 CE – Chuck Estes
 FF – Frank Fekel
 BFi – Bambi Fincher
 AF – Avery Fish
 BFo – Bob Foehring
 KF – Kelly Fox

DF – David Francý
 MF – Michael Fritts
 OF – Obed Frixzen
 MGa – Mary Ganaway
 GG – Graham Gerdeman
 SGo – Steve Goodbred
 DG – Danielle Gordon
 JG – Jared Gorrell
 MAG – Mark A. Greene
 AH – Adrian Hall
 RH – Rob Harbin
 SHa – Serene Hayden
 PHy – Paula Haynes
 EHi – Erin Higgins
 PH – Patrick Higgins
 SHk – Silke Hecht
 SHe – Scott Heppell
 DH – Dallas Herrell
 RDH – Ron D. Hoff
 TH – Tom Howe
 SHo – Susan Hoyle
 SH – Susan Hubley
 WH – William Hull
 RHu – Robert Hunt
 DHo – David Hollie
 JHu – Jaime Hudgins
 DHu – Danny Huffine
 DRJ – Daniel R. Jacobson
 MJ – Melissa James
 WJo – Will Johnson
 CJo – Christie Jones
 PJ – Peter Jones
 NK – Nolan Keyes
 EK – Evan Kidd
 IK – Iris Kilpatrick
 NKO – Nicole Koeltzow
 RK – Roger Kroodsma
 RRR – Roy R. Knispel
 RLe – Rachel Lee
 TL – Tim Lenz
 WL – Walker Lincoln
 TLo – Tim Loyd
 AL – Andrew Lydeard

OBSERVERS (CONT.)

DMa – David Magers	RSh – Roi Shannon
MMa – Morgan Mattingly	RSk – Rick Shipkowski
ZM – Zach McClay	JSh – Jarvis Shirky
RMG – Roy McGraw	CAS – Chris Sloan
GM – Georges McNeil	MS – Michael Smith
JMi – Jacob Miranda	PS – Paige Smith
DM – Daniel Moss	SS – Shelley Smith
CMu – Charles Murray	NS – Nathan Snell
DMy – Dollyann Myers	NSo – Norman Soskell
CN – Charles Nicholson	RS – Ruben Stoll
JN – Justin Nation	VS – Victor Stoll
RN – Robin Nation	LT – Luke Thompson
PMc – Preston McDonald	DTi – Dave Tietjen
TMc – Tom McNeil	AT – Alan Troyer
CMc – Cathy McNeil	MTu – Mellisa Turrentine
HMc – Helen McNutt	HU – Harumi Umi
BO – Bryan Otis	RU – Rob Upchurch
SP – Serena Pedane	CVN – Cliff VanNostrand
PP – Pat Phillips	DVN – Deon VanNostrand
MPI – Michael Plauché	JV – Jim Varner
DDP – Dick Preston	TV – Tricia Vesely
RP – Ryan Pudwell	MV – Mark Vitrone
PJP – P.J. Pulliam	JWa – Jeffrey Walck
SQ – Sherrie Quillen	KWa – Keith Watson
DR – Daniel Redwine	SWK – Satchell Watts-Kerr
PR – Pete Robinson	JW – John Webster
TLR – Tommie L. Rogers	JWi – Julia Weil
TRo – Tammy Ross	CW – Chris Welsh
AR – Aaron Rushin	DWe – Deb Welsh
JRu – Jennifer Russom	MWe – Melinda Welton
SRu – Scott Russom	KWh – Kristen Whitson
CRu – Cameron Rutt	SWh – Stefanie Whitson
JS – Judi Sawyer	BW – Brady Wilson
JSc – Jeffrey Schaarschmidt	VW – Valerie Wininger
BS – Beth Schilling	RW – Randy Winstead
BSe – Becky Seaton	JWy – Jacob Wyco
DSh – Debbie Shannon	AY – Austin Young

**EDITOR'S NOTE:
CHANGES IN EDITORIAL VOLUNTEER STAFF AT THE MIGRANT.**

Several volunteer staff changes are happening for *The Migrant*. Bob Ford is leaving his role as Editor of *The Migrant* after 11 years. Starting with the 2025 issues, Dr. Jeffrey Walck, professor at Middle Tennessee State University, will assume that role. Jeff has a BS from Cornell University and a PhD from the University of Kentucky. His areas of expertise include ornithology, plant ecology, and conservation biology, which has resulted in 95 published papers across a range of science journals.

Martha Waldron and Susan McWhirter are “retiring” from their role as Associate Editors for *The Migrant*. Each has a long history with *The Migrant*. Martha started as West Tennessee Season Compiler in 1974, she continued for 25 years until 1999. Susan was the Tennessee State Count Compiler for seven years, from 1989 – 1996. Both have served in an editorial capacity for *The Migrant* in a variety of ways throughout the years. More formally, they were co-editors from 2011-2014, then Associate Editors from 2014 until 2024.

Ron Hoff served as Tennessee State Count Compiler for 25 years, from 2000 through 2024. As such, he compiled state-wide counts that include spring and fall counts, as well as Christmas Bird Counts. Liz Rutmeyer will be the new State Count compiler starting with the 2025 issues.

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to compile data, review and edit articles, and publish *The Migrant*, as well as those who are starting in their new roles.

Bob Ford, Editor, Brownsville, Tennessee

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The Migrant records observations and studies of birds in Tennessee and adjacent areas.

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