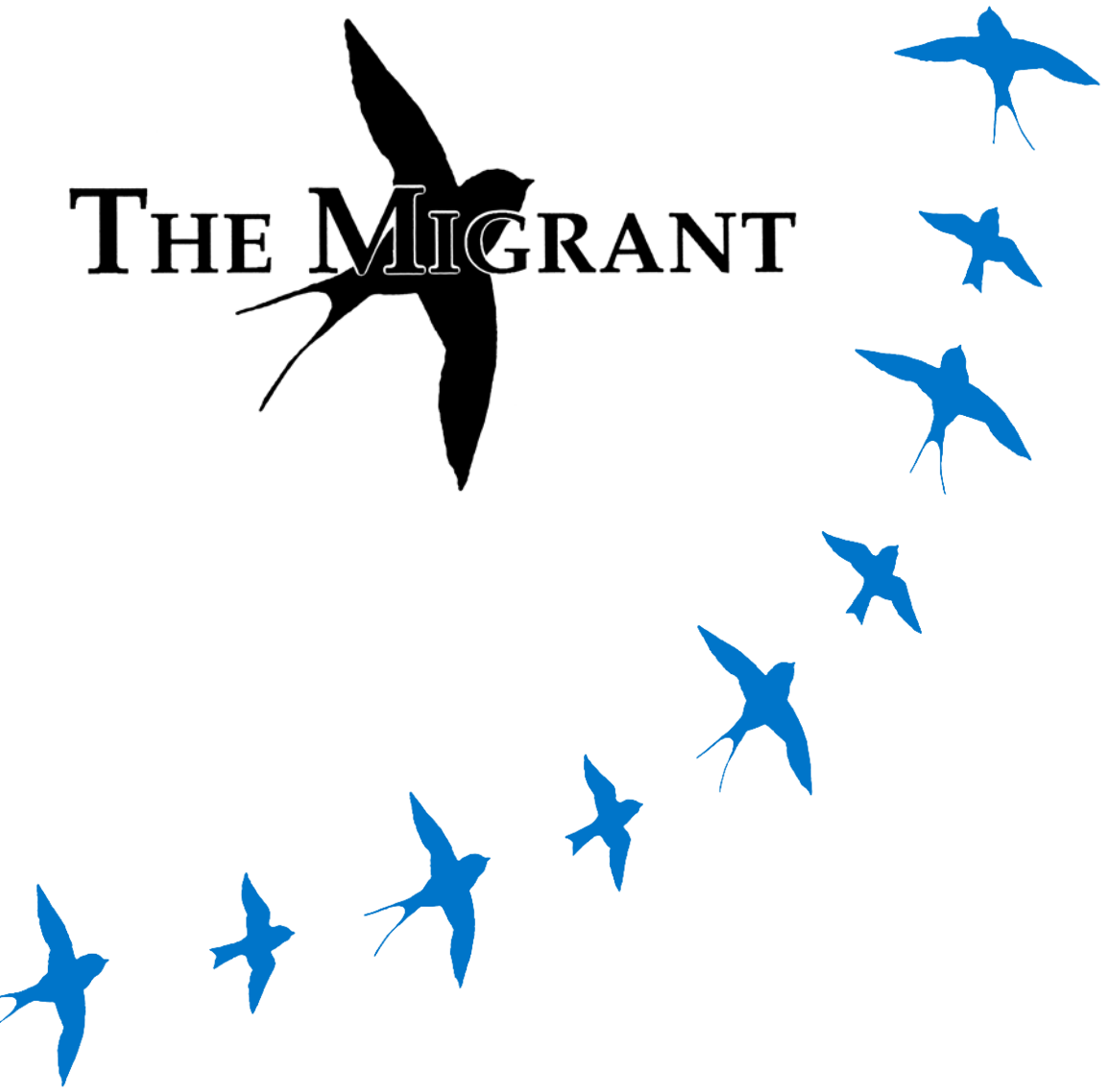




THE MIGRANT



A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS: WARNER PARK SUMMARY OF WORK FROM 2007 - 2025

Laura Cook*, Kathy Shaw, Sandy Bivens, and Jenna Atma
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Northern Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) nest across much of North America in mature forests (Brinker and Dodge 1993, Monroe 1994). In Tennessee, they nest only in the eastern mountains (Ganier 1973, Stupka 1960, Milling et al. 1997). Although the species is highly migratory, little is known of its migration patterns or overwinter distribution in the southeastern United States (Holroyd and Woods 1975, Speicher et al. 2011, Pruitt et al. 2024).

Northern Saw-whet Owls are known to have irruption migrations every 3-5 years when the breeding season has high prey abundance resulting in greater adult and juvenile survival (Cote et al. 2007, Brittain 2008). In irruption years, winter distribution expands from the breeding grounds to lower latitudes or elevations. This expansion during irruption years can be reflected at banding stations with higher capture rates compared with non-irruption years (Brittain 2008). To learn more about the species, a range-wide saw-whet migration banding effort, Project Owllet, was initiated in 1994 to facilitate communication and to standardize methods, and capture and data collection techniques of saw-whet owls during migration (Project Owllet 2013).

In Tennessee, outside the eastern mountains, saw-whet records were considered migrating birds (Parmer 1969, Riggins 1977 for Nashville area records). Coffey (1936) documented among the first saw-whets outside the eastern mountains 01 March 1936. A dead owl near Palmyra, Montgomery County on 13 November 1983 was considered a late migrant or possibly attempting to overwinter (Stedman 1984).

The Warner Park BIRD Program was started in 1982 by Sandy Bivens with support from Katherine Goodpasture, Michael Bierly, Dr. Ann Tarbell, and Dr. Charles Farrell and operates a year-round banding station, species specific research projects, and public engagement

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programs. The BIRD Program initiated a research project in 2007 to study Northern Saw-whet Owls to contribute to the broader understanding of saw-whets in the non-breeding season. Specifically, we hoped to document their migration and winter occurrence in middle Tennessee, especially within Warner Parks. Banding efforts followed Project OwlNet protocol where mist nets were used with a playback speaker system in the center as an audio lure (Project OwlNet 2013). Mist nets were opened at 30 minutes after sunset and remained open while Northern Saw-whet Owl “toot” recordings were played on the audio lure for 5-7 hours. Banding efforts occurred as early as the fourth week of October and as late as the end of December. In 2009, attempts were made in January, February, and March with the assumption that birds would be migrating north during these months. Banding attempt locations have included the Warner Park Nature Center grounds, the Lodge, the field station field/forest edge, and the Bells Bend campground.

In the first year of the project, the BIRD team succeeded in capturing one male hatch year saw-whet on 3 November 2007 (Figures 1a, 1b and 2, Table 1). Capture and banding attempts were made in 2008 and 2009, but no owls were captured. No field work was attempted in 2010 nor 2011 given the prediction of low irruption years. Banding attempts were made at Bells Bend in 2012 with no captures. The project was suspended between 2012 and 2019, then restarted in 2020 when reports of a promising saw-whet winter irruption were reported range-wide. Northern Saw-whet Owls were captured in Warner Parks on 5 November 2020 and on 8 November 2021.



Figure 1a. The first Northern Saw-whet Owl captured and banded by Kathy Shaw who helped lead the project. Photo by Denise Weyer.



Figure 1b. The 2007 hatch-year Northern Saw-whet Owl after being banded. Photo by Denise Weyer.

Table 1. Northern Saw-whet Owl captures and net effort by year at Warner Parks (HY = hatch year, SY = second year, Unk = unknown, Effort = # nets x hours, * = November -January)

Year	Capture	Date	Time	Owl weight	# sessions	Effort
Fall 2007	HY male	03 Nov	2250	75.6g	5	119
Fall 2008	0	-	-	-	2	45
Winter 2009	0	-	-	-	3	64
Fall 2009	0	-	-	-	2	46
Fall 2012	0	-	-	-	2	44
Fall 2020	SY unk	05 Nov	2100	82.1g	4	67.5
Fall 2021	HY male	08 Nov	2215	76.9g	2	34.5
Fall 2022	0	-	-	-	8	135
Fall 2023	0	-	-	-	4	137
Fall 2024*	0	-	-	-	4	36
TOTAL:					36	728



Figure 2. With both a state and federal permit, a unique, size 4-short U.S.G.S Bird Banding Laboratory leg band is applied to a Northern Saw-whet Owl captured at Warner Parks in 2020. Photo by Kathy Shaw.

To complement banding efforts and determine if saw-whets overwinter in Warner Parks, the banding team was trained by Master Bander Amy Wilms and received a federal auxiliary permit to radio-tag saw-whets in 2022. The U.S. Geological Survey auxiliary permit would allow us to place a Cellular Tracking Technologies PowerTag transmitter (transmitter weight = 2.5 grams) on a captured saw-whet using a backpack harness design. Two permanent Motus receiver stations in Warner Parks and hand-held receivers could be used to track radio-tagged owls to determine presence and duration in the area. While our team of dedicated staff and volunteers contributed significant effort for this project in 2022, no saw-whets were captured.

In 2023, banding efforts were expanded by simultaneously using two locations within Warner Parks; at the Warner Park Nature Center and the Lodge near the Little Harpeth River (Figure 3). At the Warner Park Nature Center location, an additional net was added to the row of historical nets to cross Vaughn's Creek. This low elevation site is mostly free of non-native invasive plants but does not have thick understory coverage and is bordered on two sides by busy roads. Despite the less-than-ideal habitat, this location is where we had previously captured three saw-whets. At the Lodge, a new capture location approximately 1 km to the south, we used four, 12-m mist nets in a line to form a U shape. This location is

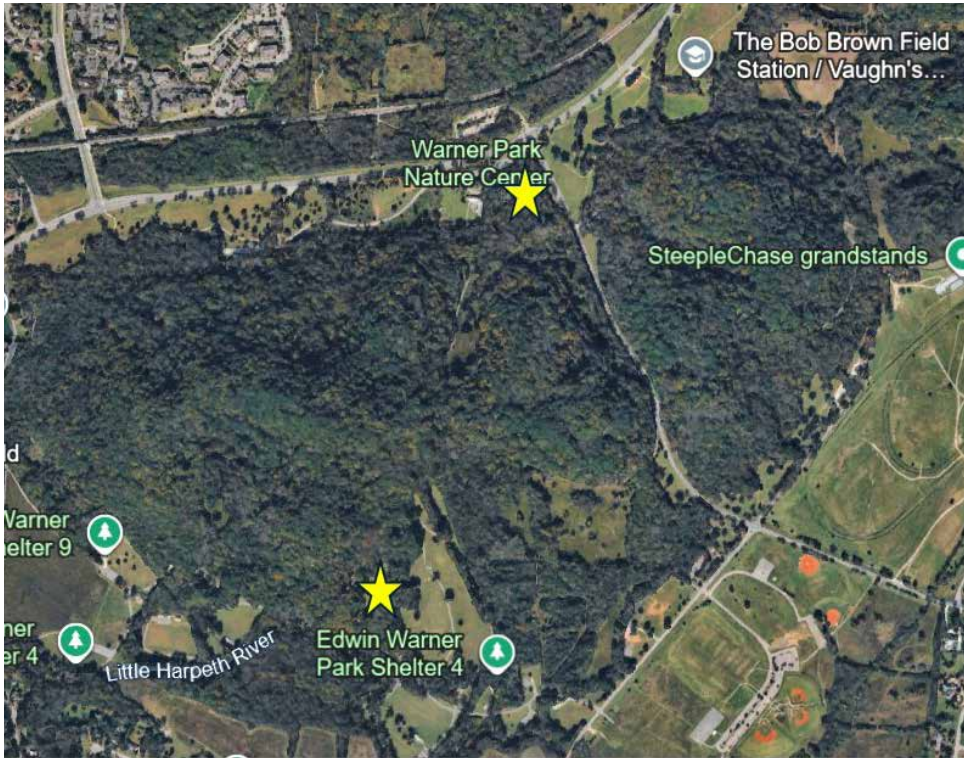


Figure 3. In 2023, banding efforts were expanded by simultaneously using two locations within Warner Parks (as indicated by the yellow stars); at the Warner Park Nature Center and the Lodge near the Little Harpeth River. Map adapted from Google Earth.

higher in elevation and in oak-hickory forest with thick non-native honeysuckle as understory. We conducted 4 simultaneous banding sessions. No saw-whet owls were captured in 2023 at either location (Figure 4).

In the 2024/2025 season, we implemented a new approach by conducting three saw-whet detection surveys throughout Warner Parks each month in November, December and January. The intention was to detect a saw-whet and then attempt to capture and radio-tag the owl at the detection location. Detection survey protocol was established in consultation with Mitchell Pruitt with points located a minimum of 0.5 km apart and in forested habitats with densely mixed structured trees, dense understory, and presence of Eastern Red Cedar. Surveys began 30 minutes after sunset with three simultaneous routes throughout Warner Park, each route with four survey points (Table 2). Each of the three teams had a red spotlight to assist in locating owls (Figure 5). During the surveys, simultaneous trapping efforts were made at the Warner Park Nature Center location. A potential saw-whet detection was made on 3 December 2024 in Edwin Warner Park and a trapping effort was made at that location the following evening with no captures. One confirmed saw-whet detection was made during the 8 January 2025 survey in the southern part of Percy Warner Park. A trapping effort was made at that location the following evening with no captures.



Figure 4. Laura Cook, Kim Bailey, Zak Holden, Kathy Shaw, and Caroline Crews (left to right) checking empty nets during the 2023 season but still smiling. Photo by Laura Cook.



Figure 5. The December 2024 Northern Saw-whet Owl survey team preparing to head out in the field. Photo by Laura Cook

Table 2. Northern Saw-whet Owl detection survey protocol during Fall 2024/Winter 2025. Three simultaneous routes throughout Warner Parks, with 4 survey points each and spaced minimum 0.5 km apart beginning at 30 minutes after sunset. At each of the 12 survey points, playback protocol included (NSWO = Northern Saw-whet Owl, BOOW = Boreal Owl).

Playback song	Duration of playback	Duration listen/observe
NWSO toot	20 seconds	5 minutes
NSWO bark	20 seconds	5 minutes
NSWO whine/wail	20 seconds	5 minutes
BOOW call	20 seconds	5 minutes

This same survey protocol was followed on 7 January 2026 within Warner Parks with a team of twelve volunteers. No Northern Saw-whet Owls were detected during this 2026 survey.

While significant effort has resulted in few captured saw-whets, the information gained is nonetheless valuable. With so few saw-whet encounters, it is possible saw-whets are not very common here during the winter. Warner Parks may not have the ideal winter range habitat for saw-whets given the limited coniferous cover. Pruitt (2024) found pine forests to be the preferred overwintering habitat in the Ozarks. The 08 January 2025 saw-whet detection indicates Northern Saw-whet Owls may overwinter in Warner Parks. However, significant efforts indicate they occur in very low abundance, and perhaps not every year. The information gained about this species relative abundance, dates of occurrence, general habitat conditions at capture sites, and the rarity of overwintering individuals are valuable. Further study, potentially using bioacoustics or autonomous recording units, will allow us to continue to gather more data and to establish patterns of Northern Saw-whet Owl occurrence in middle Tennessee.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Warner Parks BIRD Program located in Nashville, Tennessee contributes to our understanding of the long-term health of bird populations while fostering respect and stewardship for birds, their habitats, and nature. Since 1982, researchers and volunteers host a year-round bird banding station, conduct species-specific avian research, and engage in community education and engagement at Warner Park Nature Center. This is made possible through a collaboration with Nashville Metro Parks, Warner Park Nature Center, and funding from Friends of Warner Parks.

The BIRD Program thanks the Tennessee Ornithological Society for support including a conservation grant in 2007 that allowed us to purchase equipment for a Northern Saw-whet Owl fall migration research project. In 2023, we received another grant from the Tennessee Ornithological Society to purchase equipment to expand our efforts by trapping simultaneously at two locations within Warner Parks. We are also thankful for funding from the Mapp Foundation which allowed us to purchase three PowerTag transmitters from Cellular Tracking Technologies.

This project could not be possible without the dedication of Warner Park Nature Center

and Friends of Warner Parks staff and volunteers whom despite the late and cold nights with no owl captures, still had great attitudes.

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A RECORD-BREAKING MALE RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Cyndi Routledge
Clarksville, Tennessee

In the tapestry of nature, few creatures capture the imagination quite like a hummingbird. With their iridescent plumage, impossibly rapid wingbeats, and boundless energy, these diminutive birds seem touched by magic. Yet, beyond their well-known feats of aerial agility and long migrations, a more subtle marvel has occurred in Dover, Tennessee. The record-breaking lifespan of an adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). This tiny bird, defying all odds, has rewritten the limits of longevity for the species much to the delight of the hummer's dedicated and longtime hummer host.

The story of this record-breaking male hummingbird began on a sunny summer morning in July of 2017 at the home of Mrs. Bonnie Crutcher. Southeastern Avian Research (SEAR) had been invited to band hummingbirds at her residence as part of our migration study because as other Stewart County residents told us, "Ms. Bonnie had lots of hummingbirds..."

So, on July 14, 2017, we set up our traps, and we banded 78 ruby-throated hummingbirds including adult male ruby-throat K78219 at Ms. Bonnie's feeders. By all accounts, a very successful first morning up on top of Crutcher ridge. We saw male K78219 again in 2018, 2020, 2021 and then not again until 2024. When we re-caught him in August of 2024, he was 8 years, 2 months old. Knowing the longevity record for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was 9 years and 2 months and that bird was a female, our excitement began to rise, and we began to wonder if perhaps he was a male record? A quick email to the Bird Banding Laboratory and we were informed there were a few a 'bit older'.

We thought about K78219 all winter and again as I worked on the schedule for summer/fall migration banding.

On July 22, 2025, we arrived at the Crutcher home. Ms. Bonnie had lemonade and cookies waiting for us and a sense of excitement filled the air. Family and friends began arriving, traps went up and shortly after 8am K78219 was 'in-hand'! Ms. Bonnie, herself a young, spry 96-year-old, couldn't believe it. But there he was, itching to get loose and head back to the feeders, which he did and was re-caught 2 other times that morning.

But the story doesn't end there. On August 20, 2025, we were back for our normal research banding at Ms. Bonnie's home, and there was male K78219 back in our trap and with this capture the longevity record for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird!! The OLDEST known ruby-throat is now 9 years and 3 months, captured in Dover, Tennessee (Figure 1). We released him back into Ms. Bonnie's garden and hope to see him again next season!!

The reasons behind extraordinary longevity in hummingbirds are still being unraveled. Hummingbirds face an array of dangers: predatory birds, inclement weather, habitat loss, collisions with windows, and the immense physical demands of their daily routines. For a hummingbird to survive for nearly a decade, every factor must align in its favor. Genetics may play a significant role. Some birds may be born with naturally robust constitutions, superior immune systems, or metabolic quirks that help them weather the trials of life more successfully than their peers. Habitat quality is another major influence. Birds living in locations rich in flowers, with abundant food and suitable nesting sites, are more likely to thrive. Behavioral strategies might also contribute. Older, more experienced birds tend to



Figure 1. Ms. Bonnie Crutcher holding K78219, a 9-year and 3-month-old male Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Photo by Cyndi Routledge.

become adept at avoiding dangers, finding the best territories, and timing their migrations to coincide with favorable conditions.

The discovery of such a long-lived hummingbird is more than a scientific curiosity; it has practical implications for conservation. If some individuals can survive so much longer than previously thought, it suggests that under the right conditions, population longevity can be enhanced. Protecting critical habitats, ensuring connectivity across migratory routes, and minimizing human-caused dangers may make a profound difference.

For SEAR, this remarkable bird along with others offers a living laboratory. By studying the life history—diet, movements, nesting success, migration patterns—we can gain valuable insights into the factors that promote avian longevity. This knowledge can then help plan strategies to protect not just hummingbirds, but a wide array of migratory birds facing similar challenges.

Beyond science, the story of this male hummingbird resonates on a deeper level. Across cultures, hummingbirds symbolize resilience, joy, and the triumph of spirit over adversity. The idea that such a tiny creature can endure and flourish through almost a decade of storms and migrations is a powerful metaphor.

It also underscores the importance of long-term research and community science. It was the collaboration of an enthusiastic hummingbird host who for years created a wonderfully rounded habitat for her hummingbirds, dedicated SEAR volunteers, and years of record-keeping that allowed this discovery to be made. And as technology advances with the advent of light radio-tracking devices, who knows what else we might discover?

As climate change and habitat destruction threaten all bird populations worldwide, maybe the story of this remarkable little hummingbird will help remind us that even tiny measures, such as planting native flowers or preserving migration corridors, can yield outsized rewards

In the end, the hummingbird's story is one of hope—hope that with care, attention, and respect for nature, life can flourish in all its dazzling diversity and tenacity. And perhaps, as we watch these tiny jewels flit from blossom to blossom, we are reminded of the boundless possibilities that await when life is given the chance to endure.

All bird banding is conducted under a federally authorized Bird Banding Permit issued by the U.S. Geological Survey, as well as additional state and local permits and permissions.

ROUND TABLE NOTE

HUMMINGBIRD HISTORY IN TENNESSEE - Southeastern Avian Research (SEAR) made hummingbird history in Tennessee on June 11, 2025, as they deployed 15 Cellular Tracking Technologies BluMorpho radio tags on 8 female and 7 male adult Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) for an in-season study of movement, use of food resources and habitat at three different locations with historic banding connectivity (Figure 1).



Figure 1. A BluMorpho radio tag attached to a Ruby-throated Hummingbird in June 2025 in Tennessee. Photo: Cyndi Routledge.

The size of a tapestry needle and weighing 0.06 grams, these tags were first designed and deployed on Monarch Butterflies to help locate additional places where they might be over-wintering in Mexico. Hummingbird researchers soon realized they had the potential for monitoring hummingbirds. Glued to the dorsal side of the hummingbirds between the shoulder blades, using non-toxic super glue, these solar tags send out a signal every second. Volunteers at each location kept track of the tagged birds using Cape May Point Science Center's Project Monarch APP entering data in a Google Document which will be analyzed in the coming months.

The summer 2025's radio tagging project was just the latest chapter in hummingbird research in Tennessee and was made possible in part by a conservation grant from the Tennessee Ornithological Society. SEAR has banded 20,000 migrating and wintering hummingbirds since its inception in 2014.

Cyndi Routledge, Clarksville, Tennessee

THE 2024-25 TENNESSEE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUMMARY

Ron Hoff
Loudon, Tennessee

The 2024-25 Tennessee Christmas Bird Count season was the 81st consecutive compilation of CBCs in Tennessee (began in 1930), and the 94th overall (no count was reported for 1943). Thirty-one counts reported data this season. This year a record high 603 observers in 265 parties volunteered 1538.58 party hours to record 444,522 individual birds. This represented 158 species, plus 26 count week species. The average species total for the past 20 years is 155.35. The weather across the state was about average for the season but eight counties experienced high winds. Only one count had heavy rain. Temperatures ranged from a frosty 17° in GSMNP to a comfortable 66° in Savannah.

The all-time total species found on the Tennessee CBC compilation stands at 283 (+ 3 count week). Count highlights included White-winged Scoter, Red-necked Grebe, Black-chinned Hummingbird (3rd record), Whooping Crane (first in 6 years), Great Black-backed Gull (6th), Pacific Loon, Anhinga (3rd year in a row, none before), Neotropic Cormorant (4th year in a row; none before), Broad-winged Hawk (6th, first since 2000), Blue-headed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Evening Grosbeak, American Tree Sparrow, Bobolink (2nd), Baltimore Oriole, and Common Yellowthroat.

The following species were recorded in record or notably high numbers for this compilation: Greater Scaup, Common Merganser (most since 1973), Lesser Black-backed Gull, Red-throated Loon, American Bittern (highest since 1960), Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Barn Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Merlin (tie for 2nd high), White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Sedge Wren, Brown Thrasher, and Hermit Thrush. Record low or notable low numbers were recorded for Miles owling. Record high numbers were also recorded for Observers, Parties, and Hours on foot.

COUNT SUMMARIES

cw = count week species

(3 days before & 3 days after actual count date, but not on count day).

F/Y = feeder/yard watcher

BENTON (35.20069, -84.61837) – 14 December 2024; 0600-1800. Weather: cloudy; winds were S/SE 8-15 mph; 30-60°F. Evening Grosbeak was a new species for this count. Other count highlights included Greater White-fronted Goose, Red-breasted Merganser, American Barn Owl, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Rusty Blackbird. Observers: Jamin Beachy, Joanna Beachy, Mathan Beachy, Sylvan Beachy, and Titus Oberholtzer.

BIG SANDY (36.34050, -88.08210) – 15 December 2024; no times given. Weather: cloudy; 52-56°F. New high totals from a single count were set for Greater Scaup and Lesser Black-backed Gull. Other count highlights included White-winged Scoter, Red-necked Grebe, American Barn & Northern Saw-whet owls, Sedge & Marsh wrens, Le Conte's Sparrow, and Orange-crowned Warbler. Observers: Cyndi Routledge, Steve Routledge, Ruben Stoll (compiler), Victor Stoll, and Alan Troyer.

BRISTOL (36.58300°, -82.10000°) – 29 December 2024; 0600-1900. Weather: partly cloudy/partly clear/rain, heavy at times; wind gusts to 26 mph; 47-64°F. This was the 69th Bristol CBC. The count species record is 91, set in 2004. Notable highlights included American Black Duck, American Barn Owl, and Peregrine Falcon. Observers: Rob Biller, Cade Campbell, Chris Campbell, Ron Carrico, Angela Cross, Rack Cross (compiler), Sam Evans, Ron Harrington, Rick Knight, Roy Knispel, Adrianna Nelson, and Michelle Sparks.

BUFFALO RIVER (35.30000°, -87.46700°) – 14 December 2024; 0630-1700. Weather: mostly cloudy; winds were WSW 0-10 mph; 52-60°F. This count continues to produce the most Loggerhead Shrikes of any Tennessee CBC. The totals for Red-shouldered Hawk, American Barn Owl, Eastern Bluebird, and House Finch were all new high totals for this count. Other notable highlights included American Woodcock, Short-eared Owl (2nd count record), House Wren, Lapland Longspur, Pine Siskin, Vesper and Lincoln's sparrows, and Brewer's Blackbird. Observers: Don Beckman, Ed Daniels, Jeanene Daniels, Dana Dodd, Bernie Fuller, Jeff Garner, Ann Hartsfield, Tim Hartsfield, Paul Kittle, Frances Markine, Gary Markine, Fran Menapace, Royce Neidert, Cynthia Rohrbach, Damien Simbeck (compiler), Don Simbeck, Ruben Stoll, and Alan Troyer.

CADE'S COVE (35.60000°, -83.83300°) – 1 January 2025; 0500-1800. Weather: cloudy; 30's°F. The all-time species total for this CBC is 105. Average species total for this count is 61. Highlights included Green-winged Teal, 49 Common Mergansers, Short-eared Owl, Sandhill Crane, and House Wren. Observers: Mark Armstrong, Kat Barrow, Rick Barrow, Wanda DeWaard, Daniel Geleynse, Julianne Geleynse, Susan Hoyle (compiler), Kristine Johnson, Evan Kidd, Martha Rudolph, and Harumi Tsuruoko.

CHATTANOOGA (35.10000°, -85.23300°) – 14 December 2024; 0545-1900. Weather: partly clear/clear; wind calm; 35-53°F. The all-time species total for this count is 175. Gray Catbird and Common Yellowthroat were new species for this count. Other highlights included Greater Scaup, Pacific Loon (2nd record), 3 falcon species, and Orange-crowned Warbler. Observers: David Aborn, Harold Birch, Gary Brunvoll, Brian Bullard, Andrew Burgess, Rachel Burgess, Kevin Calhoon (compiler), John Diener, Bruce Dralle, Danny Gaddy, William Haley, Barbara McMahan, Mike McMahan, Pete Robinson, Tommie Rogers, Patti Russell, Tim Russell, Jeffrey Schaarschmidt, Bianca Soto, Stephanie Soto, David Stone, and Luke Thompson.

CLARKSVILLE (36.50000°, -87.38300°) – 14 December 2024; 0700-1615. Weather: cloudy all day; wind SE 3-9 mph; 38-60°F. Notable species were American Black Duck, Fox Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird. Observers: John Beasley, Alan Bottomlee, Bee Dennie, Elaine Faust, Skie Griest, Deborah Hamilton (Compiler), Steve Hamilton, Sherrie Hanson, Ashlynn O'Hare, Mike O'Malley, Cyndi Routledge, Steve Routledge, Tristan Salinar, Nicole Santoyo, Joe Schiller, Sally Schiller, Brandy Schnettler, Phoebe Schnettler, and Stanley York.

COLLIERVILLE (35.067342, -89.660547) – 4 January 2025; 0615-1715. Weather: clear/cloudy; Winds N 5-10 mph; 28-48°F. This is the first compilation for this CBC. Notable finds included Pine Siskin, Brewer's Blackbird, and Orange-crowned Warbler. Observers: Amy

Ballentine, Sheila Bentley, Chad Brown, Larry Chitwood, Sophie Dismukes, Gregg Elliott, Adrian Hall, Liz Hall, Scott Heppel, Sarita Joshi, Neil Lovett, Andrew Murray, Clarence Murray, Leo Old, Ryan Pudwell, Caroline Schratz, Allen Sparks, Cliff VanNostrand, Deon VanNostrand, Solomon VanNostrand, Jim Varner, and John Walko.

COLUMBIA (35.600°, -87.16700°) – 20 December 2024; 0600-1200. Weather: partly clear/partly cloudy; Wind 0-10 mph; 37-45°F. Highlights included Canvasback and Sharpshinned Hawk. Observers: Edward Bolenbaugh and Tommy Edwards (compiler).

DUCK RIVER (35.53300°, -86.90000°) – 21 December 2024; no times. Weather: partly cloudy/clear; wind N 0-10 mph; 30-41°F. Bobolink was a new species for this count. Numerous other count highlights. Observers: Adam Beachy, Anna Marie Beachy, Deb Beachy, Evan Beachy, Jamin Beachy, Joanna Beachy, Marvin Beachy, Dave Bradley, Sue Bradley, Mary Ganaway, Paul Graber, Mark Greene, Joe Hall, Patrick Higgins, Andrew Lydeard, Daniel Redwine, Phineas Robles, Ruben Stoll (compiler), Victor Stoll, Luke Thompson, Alan Troyer, and Keith Yoder.

EAST KNOXVILLE (35.95761°, -83.78847°) – 14 December 2024; 0715-2100. Weather: clear/cloudy; 25-57°F. This was the 5th year for this CBC. Count highlights included American Woodcock, Common Raven, Gray Catbird, American Pipit, Common Yellowthroat (cw), Pine Siskin, Vesper Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird. Observers: Kat Albrecht, Todd Amaker, Mark Armstrong, Candy Barbee (F/Y), Karin Beuerlein (F/Y), Warren Bielenberg, Stephen Blackwell (F/Y), Bonnie Coe (F/Y), Linden Craig (F/Y), Margaret Cumberland, Clare Dattilo (co-compiler), Wanda DeWaard, Tyler Edmondson, Kelly Fox, Joe Gordon, Brandon Hamrick, Liz Hamrick, Patricia Harmon (F/Y), Madelyn Harper, Paul Hartigan, Lindsey Hayter, Lark Heston, Cheryl Holcombe (F/Y), Tucker Holt, Barbara Howell (F/Y), Holly Hoyle, Jane Kading, Evan Kidd, Riley Kneale, Sandy Lanzoni, David Lee (F/Y), Kat Livar (co-compiler), Emilee Maney, Sylvia McClaurin (F/Y), Steve McGaffin, Judy Minnick (F/Y), Sirena Mueller, Stephanie Mueller, Elysse Myers, Brennan Perkins, Easton Perkins, Mac Post, Kylie Preston, Patrick Rakes, Shelia Rygwelski, Courtney Shea, Ron Shrives, Hannah Smith, Lucas Smith, Nick Smith, Cristina Swilley, Troy Swilley, Joey Terlizzi, Johnathon Towe, Angie Vicars (F/Y), Constance Whitehead (F/Y), Chris Wightman, and Todd Witcher (F/Y).

ELIZABETHTON (36.33300°, -82.12300°) – 14 December 2024; 0520-1630. Weather: 1 inch snow on top of Holston Mtn.; pty cloudy; wind 0-10 mph; 27-61°F. This was the 82nd consecutive Elizabethton CBC. The average for the last 30 years is 73 species. The all-time high on this count was 85 species in 2017. Highlights included Red-breasted Merganser, Gray Catbird, and Orange-crowned Warbler. Observers: Fred Alsop, Jerry Bevins, Tammy Bright, Debi Campbell, Catherine Cummins, John Dollard, Dianne Draper, Elliot Edwards, Eric Elrod, Harry Lee Farthing, Dave Gardner, Don Holt, Connie Irick, David Irick, Phillip Joyner, David Kirschke, Rick Knight (compiler), Roy Knispel, Vern Maddux, Joe McGuinness, Tom McNeil, Susan Peters, Brookie Potter, and Jean Potter.

FAYETTE (35.20000°, -89.42000°) – 21 December 2024; 0600-1700. Weather: clear; wind N 6-14 mph; 28-43°F. Fish Crow was a new species for this count. Count highlights included Northern Bobwhite, American Woodcock, American Barn Owl, Orange-crowned Warbler, Pine Siskin, and Rusty Blackbird. Observers: Adrienne Bolton, Larry Chitwood, Judy Dorsey, Gregg Elliot, Bob Ford, Kate Gooch, Adrian Hall, Elizabeth Hall, Scott Hoppel, Sarita Joshi, Kay Lait, Gaynell Perry, Dick Preston, Ryan Pudwell, Allan Trently, Cliff VanNostrand (compiler), Deon VanNostrand, Jim Varner, Anita Vincent, Martha Waldron, and Joanie Webb.

FRANKLIN/COFFEE COUNTIES (Highland Rim chapter) (35.30200°, -86.05700°) – 14 December 2024; 0800-1200. Weather: cloudy/partly cloudy; 40-58°F. Highlights included Cedar Waxwing. Observers: Larry Bowers (co-compiler), Susie Bowers, Bonnie Collins, Liz Huber, Cheryl King, Murray King (co-compiler), Merrill Meadows, Monica Oosting, and Jimmie Tucker.

GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAINS N. P. (35.71700°, -83.48300°) – 4 January 2025; 0715-1900. Weather: clear/cloudy; wind was 0-5 mph; 17-38°F. Count highlights included Common Merganser, Wilson's Snipe, Black-capped Chickadee, Gray Catbird, and Red Crossbill. Observers: Pat Adams, Mark Armstrong, Alan Ballew, Deb Ballew, Kat Barrow, Rick Barrow, Dolora Batchelor, Warren Bielenberg, Emily Boring, Gordon Brugman, Victoria Cassidy, Kent Cave, Meredith Clebsch, Colleen Conboy, MacKenzie Connor, Jennifer Darden, Claire Datillo, Wande DeWaard, Danielle Espy, Connor Fad, Jeanine Ferrence, Courtney Fitzgerald, Julianne Geleynse, Marilyn Hughes, Kristine Johnson, Evan Kidd, David Krebs, Andrea Kupfer, Hern Kupfer, Jaimie Matzko, Matthew Maynard, Chris Myers, Cordelia Norris, Laura Pierce, Patrick Rakes, Jarren Rendon, Logan Rosenburg, Shelby Sanders, Amelia Schmidt, Bobbie King Tweed, Harumi Umi, Greg Ward, Keith Watson (compiler), Imelda Wegwerth, Randy Wegwerth, Jacob Wessels, and Sarah Wilcer.

GREENEVILLE (36.11810, -82.97220) – 14 December 2024; 0600-1900. Weather: partly cloudy all day; wind was 3-15 mph; 39-55°F. This is only the 2nd year for this CBC. Highlights included American Woodcock, American Herring Gull, 7 Virginia Rails, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Rusty Blackbird. Observers: Tom Blevins, Leon Graber, Paul Graber, Kathy Gunther, Mark Hopey, Warren Massey (compiler), and Kelly Sharp.

HICKORY-PRIEST (36.20000°, -86.66700°) – 1 January 2025; 0600-1630. Weather: cloudy; winds 5-15 mph; 28-42°F. The average species total for this CBC is about 90. The all-time species total for this count is 164. Notable highlights included Snow Goose, Great Egret, American Woodcock, American Herring Gull, 3 Merlins, Marsh Wren, Gray Catbird, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Observers: Kathleen Bark, Rachel Brenner, Andrew Cameron, Suzanne Cameron, Richard Connors (compiler), Jennifer Dickson, Robert Dickinson, Cassy Dorff, Brad Dowd, Ariel Dunham, Richard Fox, Tarcila Fox, Lena Friedman, Lou Friedman, Joe Hall, Tim Loyd, Judy Luna, Matthew Palmeri, Tim Ryan, Sheila Shay, Kathy Smith, Michael Smith, Shelly Smith, and Barry Tillman.

HIWASSEE (35.36700°, -84.90000°) – 1 January 2025; 0545-1900. Weather: foggy early/partly clear; winds were 3-10 mph; 36-47°F. Osprey and American Barn Owl were new species for this CBC. This brings the all-time species total for this CBC up to 154. Count highlights included Whooping Crane, American Herring Gull, American Barn Owl, Merlin (2nd record), Loggerhead Shrike, Orange-crowned Warbler (2nd), and Rusty Blackbird. Observers: David Aborn, Harold Birch, Gary Brunvoll, Kevin Calhoon (compiler), Ryan Davenport, John Diener, Bob Dornfield, Danny Gaddy, William Haley, Jeff Jones, Olivia Lowman, Charles Murray, Tommie Rogers, Lori Stenger, Doug Strickland, Lyndsey Strickland, Luke Thompson, Libby Wolfe, and Len Young.

JACKSON (35.61700°, -88.81700°) – 2 January 2025; no times. Weather: cloudy; 27-38°F. The all-time species total for this CBC is 132. Count highlights included Merlin, Gray Catbird, Palm Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, and Pine Siskin. The totals for Fish Crow and Red-breasted Nuthatch were new count records. Observers: Wade Baker, Bob Ford, Mark Greene (compiler), Rick Light, Ruben Stoll, and Allan Trently.

KINGSPORT (36.50000°, -82.51370°) – 4 January 2025; 0630-1500. Weather: partly cloudy; wind 0-8 mph; 29-34°F. Count highlights included Fox Sparrow and Palm Warbler. Observers: Betty Bailey, Gary Bailey, Belinda Bridwell, George Bridwell, Tammy Bright, Ben Chaney, Sunny Chaney, Bambi Fincher, William Grigsby (co-compiler), Steve Hanor, Jean Henson, Neal Henson, Mike Hubley, Susan Hubley, Jim Johnston, Rick Knight, Roy Knispel, Cindy Lambert, Michael Lambert, Roger Lemaster, Sue Lepsch, Priscilla Little, Daryl Owens, Sherrie Quillen, Melanie Sheppard, and Michele Sparks. Non-participating co-compiler was Helen Sirett.

KNOXVILLE (35.91700°, -84.08300°) – 4 January 2025; 0615-1742. Weather: clear/partly clear; winds 10-15 mph; 22-37°F. Black-chinned Hummingbird was a new species for this CBC. Other count highlights included Greater Scaup, Osprey, Sora, Merlin, Marsh Wren, Baltimore Oriole, and Orange-crowned Warbler. The totals for Osprey and Sandhill Crane were new count highs for this CBC. Observers: Patti Armistead, Zach Arnold, Lachlan Bebout, Deedee Blaine, Eric Bodker, Holly Brabazon, Jared Brabazon, Maegan Bringhurst, Howard Cox, Glenn Cross, Michael Crouse, Maria Crowe, Terry Crowe, Jeremy Dotson, K. Dean Edwards (compiler), Ashley Ferris, Cheryl Greenacre, Dottie Habel, Michael Harper, Paul Hartigan, Angela Hoffman, Tom Howe, Susan Hoyle, Jerry Ledbetter, Seth McConchie, Jessica Moore-Pyle, Ronan Nicholson, Burak Ozpineci, Sierra Ozpineci, Natalie Pheasant, Joseph Pyle, Kelly Roy, Martha Rudolph, Michael Ryon, Beth Schilling, Christian Smith, Kristen Smith, Colin Sumrall, Laura Tappan, Tyler Thomas, Merikay Waldvogel, Chris Welsh, Heather Wilson, Michael Winck, Valerie Wininger, and Randy Winstead.

LEBANON (36.19440, -86.38920) – 16 December 2024; no times. Weather: cloudy/light rain pm; 45-62°F. Count highlights included Cooper's Hawk, Merlin, and Orange-crowned Warbler. Observers: Jo Albert, Siti Hidayati, Susan Lanier, Christy Lawson, Ann Mables-Vaught, Laura McCall, Justin Nation, Robin Nation, LouAnn Partington, Susan Schenk, Carol Swann, Melissa Turrentine (compiler), Roy Turrentine, Don Vogt, and Jeffrey Walck.

MEMPHIS (35.15000°, -89.93300°) – 15 December 2024; 0715-1715. Weather: foggy in am/cloudy with light rain in pm; Winds were SE 0-10 mph; 53-62°F. This was the 96th year for the Memphis CBC. The first Memphis CBC was done in 1928, with only one observer who found 42 species. The all-time species total for this count, including count week species, is now 184. Count highlights included Cackling Goose, Sora (4th record), American Woodcock, American Bittern, Blue-headed Vireo, Marsh and Sedge wrens, Horned Lark, American Pipit, Pine Siskin, and 13 species of sparrows. Observers: Betty Blaylock, Chad Brown, Bill Bullock, Sydney Calderon, Larry Chitwood, Michael Collins, Sophie Dismukes, Judy Dorsey, Bob Ford, Mary Ganaway, Adrian Hall, Elizabeth Hall, Van Harris, Scott Heppel, Margaret Jefferson, Lisa Jorgensen, Sarita Joshi, Keith Kunkel, Kay Lait, Rick Light, Neil Lovett, Madison Mash, Morgan Mattingly, Georges McNeil, Alex McWhirter, Gina McWhirter, Andrew Murray, Clarence Murray, Wendy Ouyang, Xaioguang Ouyang, George Payne, Gaynell Perry, Dick Preston, Ryan Pudwell, Connor Robinson, Michelle Rogers, Caroline Schratz, Nick Smith, Edwin Thomas, Allan Trently, Cliff VanNostrand, Jim Varner, Anita Vincent (compiler), Steven Wagner, and Martha Waldron.

NASHVILLE (36.05000°, -86.93300°) – 14 December 2024; 0445-1600. Weather: cloudy/light rain all day; wind SW 10-15 mph; 35-62°F. Count highlights included Broad-winged Hawk, American Woodcock, and American Pipit. Observers: Rachel Anderson, Kim Bailey, Kathleen Bark, Frank Berryman, Clay Bibby, Sandy Bivens, Carla Bevins, Susan Bradford, Trae Bradford, Richard Connors, Elizabeth Cook, Laura Cook, Jennifer Cox, Samantha D'anna, Brad Dowd, Stephanie Durman, Francis Fekel, Richard Fox, Tarcila Fox, John Froeschauer, Alex Hernandez, Melissa James, Cindy Johnson, Denis Lovell, Tim Lloyd, Judy Luna, Roy McGraw, Joe McLaughlin, Tera Rica Murdock, Ken Oeser, Amy Pardo, Cherie Parker, Susan Rice, Vera Roberts, Karen Roland, Susie Russenberger, Tom Seador, Kathy Shaw, Sheila Shay, Margaret Shelman, AJ Shelman-Cohen, Laura Smith, Shelly Smith, Anne Snyder, Marcus Snyder, Jo Ann Staples, Laurel Staples, Lisa Stevenson, Kren Teren, Barry Tillman, Rita Venable, Kaiti Windrow, Grant Winter, and Paul Yoder.

NICKAJACK LAKE (35.06700°, -85.51700°) – 21 December 2024; 0600-1900. Weather: clear/partly cloudy; Winds were NW 10 mph; 32-43°F. Red-throated Loon was a new species for this count. Other notable species included Brown Creeper and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (2nd record). Observers: Harold Birch, Bruce Dralle (compiler), Traci Dralle, Danny Gaddy, Ann Glass, William Haley, Barbara Johnson, Sharon Klein, Tommie Rogers, and Libby Wolfe.

NORRIS (36.21700°, -84.08300°) – 14 December 2024; 0645-1630. Weather: clear/cloudy; wind variable; 30-55°F. The long-term species average for this count is 67. New high totals were recorded for Red-headed Woodpecker. Low totals were recorded for Ring-billed Gull, Field Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow. Highlights included Wilson's Snipe, Merlin, House Wren, Gray Catbird, American Pipit, Pine Siskin, and Palm Warbler. Observers: Karen Eagle, Chuck Estes, Lola Estes, Bob Frey, Ron Hoff, Susan Hoyle, Nell Moore, Dollyann Myers, Charles Nicholson (compiler), Martha Rudolph, Dan Thomas, and Steve Weaver.

PERRY COUNTY (35.70800°, -87.77500°) – 25 December 2024; 0450-1730. Weather: cloudy; wind S 0-10 mph; 37-61°F. The all-time high species total for this CBC was 110 in 2017. Count highlights included Northern Bobwhite, Virginia Rail, American Barn and Northern Saw-whet owls, Merlin, Gray Catbird, Evening Grosbeak, and Le Conte's and Vesper sparrows. Observers: Adam Beachy, Anna Marie Beachy, Ruben Stoll (compiler), Victor Stoll, Alan Troyer, and Irma Troyer.

REELFOOT LAKE (36.41700°, -89.38300°) – 14 December 2024; no times. Weather: cloudy/light rain pm; 43-52°F. Totals for Lesser Black-backed Gull and Fish Crow represent new high counts for this CBC. Numerous other highlights. Observers: Chris Agee, Graham Gerdeman, Mark Greene (compiler), Patrick Higgins, Tim Lenz, John Noel, Daniel Redwine, Kathy Sellers, Chris Sloan, Ruben Stoll, Victor Stoll, Allan Trently, Alan Troyer, Donna Ward, Melinda Welton, and Austin Young.

ROAN MOUNTAIN (36.10600°, -82.11100°) – 15 December 2024; 0640-1530. Weather: fog above 4500 ft. all day; cloudy/showers; wind 5-15 mph; 35-51°F. This was the 72nd consecutive Roan Mountain CBC. The count circle is entirely above 2800 ft., with little water and open country. The recent 30-year average species total for this count is 46. The all-time high count was 55 in 1987. Red Crossbill and Palm Warbler were notable. Observers: Fred Alsop, Rick Knight (compiler), Tom McNeil, and Judi Sawyer.

SAVANNAH (35.13300°, -88.15000°) – 27 December 2024; 0515-1930. Weather: foggy early/clear; wind 1-12 mph; 50-66°F. Notable highlights included Red-throated and Pacific loons, Virginia Rail, Great Black-backed Gull, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 5 species of wrens, Vesper Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, and Brewer's Blackbird. Observers: Jamin Beachy, Joanna Beachy, Jeff Garner, Marcus Johnson, Ruben Stoll, Andrew Suddith, Allan Trently, Alan Troyer, and Brandon Weber. Non-participating compiler was Warren Massey.

SHADY VALLEY/MOUNTAIN CITY (36.50000°, -81.85000°) – 1 January 2025; 0730-1500. Weather: cloudy/light snow; 32-38°F. Count highlights included Ross's Goose, Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Pipit, Rusty Blackbird, and Purple Finch. Observers: Robert Biller (compiler), Jenny Britts Connors, Ron Carrico, Jennifer Kennedy, Rick Knight, Roy Knispel, Tom McNeil, John Shumate (F/Y), and Michele Sparks.

WHITE COUNTY (35.90800°, -85.59800°) – 16 December 2024; 0615-1600. Weather: partly cloudy; winds 0-15 mph; 28-59°F. Notable finds included Snow Goose, Loggerhead Shrike, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Rusty Blackbird. Observers: Douglas A. Downs (compiler), Margaret Downs, Janie Finch, Ric Finch, Jim Layzer, Nancy Layzer, Mac McWhirter, Susan McWhirter, Allan Nabors, Holly Taylor, Mark Taylor, and Kathryn Uziel.

Count name	MPHS	COLL	FACO	RLFT	JKSN	SVNH	BGSA	DKRI	PRRY	BFRI	CLVL	CLMB	NSHV	HKPR
Count date	15-Dec	4-Jan	21-Dec	14-Dec	4-Jan	27-Dec	15-Dec	23-Dec	25-Dec	14-Dec	14-Dec	20-Dec	14-Dec	1-Jan
Species														
Snow Goose	16	-	-	4119	10	6	538	5200	cw	-	cw	-	-	1
Ross's Goose	6	-	-	16	-	2	2	25	-	2	-	-	-	-
Greater White-fronted Goose	3	-	-	229	200	-	5056	3295	15	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	1	-	-	-	-	-	18	258	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	1474	259	15	36	22	121	214	846	227	431	198	27	142	290
Wood Duck	29	58	12	37	8	28	37	135	82	5	54	-	-	3
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	9	-	-
Northern Shoveler	231	8	-	135	-	1	5	862	11	-	2	75	-	13
Gadwall	165	2	-	1996	-	23	3503	6784	352	-	100	9	4	70
American Wigeon	-	1	-	109	-	-	1337	2184	155	-	-	-	8	2
Mallard	209	264	15	918	8	24	5692	9974	513	22	69	18	51	180
American Black Duck	-	-	-	2	-	-	121	5	4	-	1	-	-	4
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	1051	-	1	49	1224	8270	-	cw	-	-	4
Green-winged Teal	39	19	-	335	-	1	584	5711	30	-	60	9	-	-
Dabbling duck sp.	-	-	-	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	20	-	-	226	-	-	13	6	-	-	-	9	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	12	-	-	11	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	161	118	-	1377	-	24	556	682	64	2	12	43	40	24
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	6	-	34	747	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	14	11	-	2445	-	52	1368	295	-	2	-	-	12	4
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	43	-	2	199	-	64	201	388	-	-	-	2	-	60
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	50	-	26	1858	41	-	2	-	-	-	6
Hooded Merganser	41	29	44	123	2	2	65	135	6	4	18	96	-	2
Common Merganser	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	107	-	-	185	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	105	31	-	1769	-	-	4	11	-	-	-	-	-	9
Duck sp.	-	-	-	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	1	-	-	-	10	1	2	-	cw	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	9	-	11	31	-	65	222	277	398	1	cw	-	10	4
Pied-billed Grebe	21	20	-	65	1	39	98	14	1	4	3	-	-	102
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	16	-	140	290	50	-	1	-	-	-	158
Red-necked grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	1313	65	9	151	70	94	-	101	29	85	129	76	228	58
Eurasian Collared-Dove	27	-	-	1	1	13	-	12	11	9	-	-	-	2
Mourning Dove	591	26	109	123	61	201	43	164	63	359	108	17	65	50
Black-chinned Hummnbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Sora	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	17	33	-	25	-	148	35	688	-	-	-	15	-	1177
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	114	20	cw	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	76	22	194	287	9	105	30	993	11	579	7	2	33	44
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Woodcock	1	-	2	2	2	-	-	8	11	4	-	-	2	1
Wilson's Snipe	14	1	-	236	66	10	2	291	13	2	5	2	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	2587	-	122	1105	392	23	2	-	-	-	195
Ring-billed Gull	27	-	-	14435	-	3303	13634	6251	256	3	34	1	12	408
American Herring Gull	-	-	-	10	-	50	262	33	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	2	-	5	66	3	-	-	-	-	-	-

LEBN	FRCO	NKJK	CHAT	HIWA	BNTN	NORR	KNOX	TNEK	CDCV	GSMT	GRVL	KGSP	ELIZ	RNMT	BRST	SHDV	TOTALS
14-Dec	14-Dec	21-Dec	14-Dec	1-Jan	14-Dec	14-Dec	4-Jan	14-Dec	1-Jan	4-Jan	14-Dec	4-Jan	14-Dec	15-Dec	29-Dec	1-Jan	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	1	65	1	1	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	600
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
8	-	206	50	160	-	-	99	-	-	-	-	52	1	-	1	-	4461
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
36	-	-	14	59	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2370
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
5	-	22	53	128	4	9	133	15	2	7	10	16	9	-	24	3	816
232	34	75	198	177	37	38	20	50	-	8	116	86	18	-	157	51	3200
10	119	31	52	97	29	57	14	21	1	14	76	84	21	-	270	42	2501
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	4	5	-	-	3	2	-	6	-	-	-	-	1	147
-	-	-	1	-	4	-	2	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	1	1	29
2	5	-	7	5	2	-	9	6	-	1	2	1	5	2	4	1	101
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
2	-	10	12	50	cw	4	13	9	1	1	-	6	6	-	6	2	411
2	1	3	19	10	8	4	15	23	7	11	5	1	2	1	3	8	422
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
6	11	10	16	9	17	9	42	19	1	10	26	18	15	4	15	7	591
-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	28
-	-	7	2	3	-	-	cw	1	-	-	4	2	6	-	3	-	74
-	-	-	1	1	29	3	6	2	-	-	2	-	1	2	-	-	94
1	-	-	1	1	1	3	3	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	101
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
1	-	6	18	13	7	4	24	16	5	8	4	14	12	2	10	4	296
-	-	10	14	1	1	37	6	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	195
6	1	20	47	13	28	53	104	117	20	62	23	57	30	4	29	24	1594
5	-	11	21	9	14	20	87	40	9	17	10	14	8	-	6	2	615
12	3	30	43	13	31	35	96	83	19	66	13	47	26	5	20	20	1350
3	-	4	3	6	8	2	15	11	9	20	3	3	2	1	2	1	229
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
4	8	32	7	33	39	22	55	86	10	19	29	26	32	2	31	12	1411
6	-	3	5	3	6	11	11	17	18	26	9	8	19	-	10	5	482
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
4	29	1	5	11	7	4	5	9	1	2	31	9	16	1	17	16	399
1	-	-	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	17
-	-	-	1	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	4
-	-	17	31	17	42	9	46	28	10	35	22	7	13	6	5	7	542
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
25	23	62	143	86	102	111	209	260	31	101	162	198	107	14	174	74	3248
49	80	190	101	157	327	143	204	541	87	168	450	174	339	122	250	433	7882
-	-	-	2	-	-	-	10	7	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	86

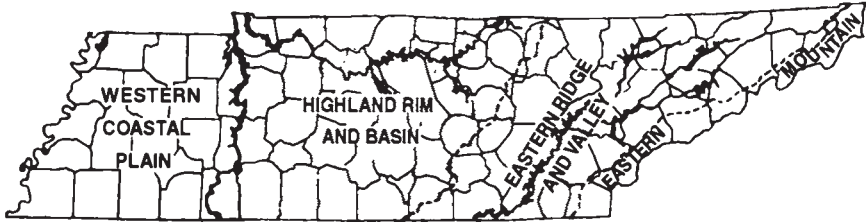
Count name	MPHS	COLL	FACO	RLFT	JKSN	SVNH	BGSA	DKRI	PRRY	BFRI	CLVL	CLMB	NSHV	HKPR
Count date	15-Dec	4-Jan	21-Dec	14-Dec	4-Jan	27-Dec	15-Dec	23-Dec	25-Dec	14-Dec	14-Dec	20-Dec	14-Dec	1-Jan
Species														
Common Raven	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	146	104	74	90	38	205	135	313	199	102	101	2	159	87
Black-capped Chickadee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chickadee sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	203	118	100	128	65	181	141	219	91	170	72	3	161	33
Horned Lark	2	-	-	716	-	9	18	4	-	45	cw	-	-	-
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	48	29	21	78	6	131	51	159	49	17	10	-	12	11
Golden-crowned Kinglet	21	66	44	78	16	71	44	93	28	11	7	-	17	28
Cedar Waxwing	1181	66	61	400	28	361	199	303	74	406	49	-	571	156
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
White-breasted Nuthatch	32	27	31	33	11	90	67	151	63	73	49	-	93	8
Brown-headed Nuthatch	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown Creeper	9	11	14	27	2	-	12	32	10	1	1	-	5	9
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Wren	217	58	43	94	45	159	119	190	81	92	84	-	115	70
House Wren	1	3	-	4	1	4	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	-
Winter Wren	9	26	22	41	11	28	21	87	13	5	5	-	8	13
Sedge Wren	5	-	-	1	-	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marsh Wren	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Gray Catbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Brown Thrasher	43	17	18	19	10	16	22	63	5	17	6	2	10	-
Northern Mockingbird	91	33	50	24	34	80	22	85	53	167	98	8	94	56
European Starling	3955	200	41	1155	1021	1216	232	2540	410	5338	572	54	2591	577
Eastern Bluebird	83	71	151	57	53	225	147	358	189	489	96	7	179	101
Hermit Thrush	37	14	15	41	13	36	54	171	47	34	11	-	36	20
American Robin	667	271	25	244	100	196	38	293	101	157	286	147	3229	767
House Sparrow	18	22	10	184	6	30	22	17	27	194	32	4	8	16
American Pipit	1	-	-	4	-	25	3	26	-	125	cw	-	1	-
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
House Finch	41	38	51	159	12	81	52	39	63	127	51	6	87	18
Purple Finch	34	2	12	9	1	8	12	24	71	17	cw	-	22	7
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	79	28	47	83	41	84	109	195	122	75	49	-	134	59
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	1554	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	-
Chipping Sparrow	8	8	66	1	2	112	4	80	57	86	23	-	4	4
Field Sparrow	92	24	51	14	14	81	84	184	79	176	66	-	43	20
Fox Sparrow	68	4	17	36	4	7	7	25	7	4	2	-	26	15
American Tree Sparrow	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco	260	255	283	261	148	497	424	600	269	314	107	-	32	187
White-crowned Sparrow	78	-	7	8	4	10	30	11	23	59	19	5	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	807	356	426	371	252	534	409	1092	236	362	175	6	317	339
Vesper Sparrow	3	-	-	-	8	12	-	5	1	2	-	-	-	-
Le Conte's Sparrow	13	-	-	6	-	-	17	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	204	10	20	508	32	161	104	221	37	109	2	-	1	5
Song Sparrow	186	72	100	79	45	224	148	457	130	163	64	1	86	78
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Swamp Sparrow	63	92	52	243	55	71	160	403	125	12	41	-	15	38
Eastern Towhee	79	16	56	13	24	75	41	64	12	64	48	4	52	14
Bobolink	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Count name	MPHS	COLL	FACO	RLFT	JKSN	SVNH	BGSA	DKRI	PRRY	BFRI	CLVL	CLMB	NSHV	HKPR
Count date	15-Dec	4-Jan	21-Dec	14-Dec	4-Jan	27-Dec	15-Dec	23-Dec	25-Dec	14-Dec	14-Dec	20-Dec	14-Dec	1-Jan
Species														
Eastern Meadowlark	182	25	13	146	48	276	76	123	9	374	6	-	2	9
Western Meadowlark	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	908	22	63	4376	32	400	96	30842	14	261	201	-	159	227
Brown-headed Cowbird	383	18	17	186	2	36	-	1573	4	57	3	-	106	4
Rusty Blackbird	186	73	6	95	2	59	5	76	-	10	11	-	-	-
Brewer's Blackbird	-	1	-	171	-	4	-	1	-	15	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	2781	461	27	562	4	6753	193	30871	2	1414	100	-	325	6
Blackbird sp.	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	712	-	-	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	6	2	1	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	3	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	1	12	2	2	1	14	8	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
Yellow-rumped Warbler	202	20	19	52	10	96	38	65	9	8	16	-	26	5
Warbler sp.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cardinal	274	91	300	220	135	201	151	513	167	212	207	8	292	142
Total individuals	19426	4478	4086	48842	3126	19882	43259	126118	14559	14269	5134	741	10681	7104
Total Species	103	81	74	123	77	107	112	129	89	94	74	45	73	89
Count Week species	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	7	-	-	-
Observers	45	22	21	16	7	9	5	27	5	18	19	2	54	24
Parties	16	8	9	6	4	9	4	11	4	7	7	1	9	6
Party Hours	89.2	41.5	46.5	48	39	60	39	92.5	35	64.25	48.5	4	42.5	31.25
Hours by car	19.75	1.5	28	28	26	41.5	20	29	13.5	45.75	26.25	3	12	12
Hours by foot	69.45	40	18.5	20	13	18.5	19	61.5	21.5	18.5	22.25	1	30.5	19.25
Hours by boat or other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miles by car	186.3	21	156.64	277	106	265	255	209	105	445.2	311.54	150	154	116
Miles on foot	71.45	42.5	20	15.5	11	17	12	43	15.5	11	16.54	1	36	15.5
Miles by boat or other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hours Owling	3	1	2	1.5	0.5	2.75	3	4	2.5	1	-	-	2.45	2
Miles Owling	2.5	-	-	20	7.5	9.5	9.5	11	9	3.5	-	-	13.2	1.8
Feeder / yard watchers	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	-	-	4
Feeder / yard hours	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	2.5	-	-	-

LEBN	FRCO	NKJK	CHAT	HIWA	BNTN	NORR	KNOX	TNEK	CDCV	GSMT	GRVL	KGSP	ELIZ	RNMT	BRST	SHDV	TOTALS
14-Dec	14-Dec	21-Dec	14-Dec	1-Jan	14-Dec	14-Dec	4-Jan	14-Dec	1-Jan	4-Jan	14-Dec	4-Jan	14-Dec	15-Dec	29-Dec	1-Jan	
-	45	39	7	25	26	12	33	26	2	-	56	21	11	-	-	-	1592
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
932	-	1	220	956	6670	1	64	213	-	100	456	1	-	-	1	2	47218
-	-	1	10	14	1092	-	102	97	-	7	48	-	-	-	-	-	3760
-	-	-	71	5	3	-	32	3	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	1	646
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	192
7	38	3	70	-	249	-	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43873
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	720
-	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	21
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	1	8	3	14	1	6	-	-	2	1	2	-	1	-	-	49
-	-	4	8	-	2	2	4	1	1	2	1	-	cw	-	-	-	68
29	-	30	145	62	70	27	166	91	14	38	60	173	98	4	13	20	1606
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
52	20	73	185	162	123	123	288	288	41	272	89	158	118	26	96	76	5103
3040	1743	5369	16584	22599	13314	2333	17554	7701	1493	4381	9117	4508	3430	693	6115	2843	444522
61	32	79	101	96	87	74	99	82	65	68	88	70	71	42	76	61	158
-	-	-	-	-	2	-	7	4	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	26
9	9	10	22	19	5	10	46	58	11	48	7	26	24	4	12	9	603
4	5	6	7	5	4	6	34	24	6	24	6	13	6	3	7	4	265
20.28	13	42	60	58	27	31.3	92.75	121.35	37.25	115	49	50.95	46	18	48.5	27	1538.58
12.5	-	31	28	27	11	17.3	8.17	30.81	9.75	35.6	44.5	15.88	23	10.5	36.25	16.5	664.01
7.78	-	11	32	28	16	14	84.58	90.54	27.5	79.4	4.5	35.07	23	7.5	12.25	10.5	856.57
-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
119	222	177	227	235	101.5	166	108.16	288.3	35.1	315.82	266	186.7	287	106	252.6	205	6055.86
7.69	-	14	30	19	22	12	68.28	63.08	20.6	83.62	3	31.51	10.5	6	11.25	5.5	736.02
-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
-	-	2	3	4	1.5	1	0.42	-	2	-	1	1.5	3.5	0.5	-	1	47.12
-	-	13	2	2	4	-	-	-	0.5	-	10	8.6	4	-	-	6	137.6
-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	14	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	38
-	2	-	-	-	-	3.2	9.77	46.25	2	20.75	1	-	-	-	-	4	92.97

THE WINTER SEASON

Graham Gerdeman, Editor



1 December 2024 – 28 February 2025

Climatic conditions this winter were mixed. December started out with a blast of cold air that saw temperatures from 5-12°F cooler than normal across the state, and precipitation which led to flash flooding in several areas. We then quickly warmed back up to 5-10°F warmer than normal by the end of the month. Parts of the Cumberland Plateau and East Tennessee ended 2024 still in extreme drought, while drought conditions were mostly eased across the rest of the state. January was several degrees cooler than normal statewide. February was a typical roller coaster, beginning with temperatures 12-15°F cooler than normal, but ending 12-14°F warmer than normal. The second week in February brought widespread rainfall which eased drought conditions even in the driest regions. [1]

The many rarities this season included Calliope Hummingbird, Purple Sandpiper, California Gull, Cassin's Kingbird, Vermillion Flycatcher, Sprague's Pipit, and both Chestnut-collared and Smith's Longspurs. A likely first Tropical Kingbird record could sadly not be concretely identified to species. It was a good season for sea ducks and dabblers alike, and a banner year for Red-throated Loons in the state. Purple Finches were widespread, but other irruptive finches were very low, with virtually no Pine Siskins anywhere and only a few Evening Grosbeak reports.

Sightings are extracted from eBird [2], submissions from regional compilers, the tn-birds listserv, and when necessary, verified social media posts or iNaturalist. 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). Capitalized species records below indicate species requiring TBRC review. Inclusion in this report does not imply that all records have been officially accepted.

Readers will note that this Seasons report does away with the use of observer's initials. Being entirely digital in format, *The Migrant* is no longer constrained by space, so the use of initials and an observer key is no longer necessary.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

ad - adult	max - maximum count
au - audio recorded	m.ob. - many observers
ba - banded	Mtn - Mountain
Co - County	NWR - National Wildlife Refuge

ers - earliest reported sighting	ph - photographed
et al. - and others	SNA - State Natural Area
fide - reported by	SP - State Park
im - immature	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; GSMNP - Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Black-bellied Whistling Duck: Obion Co (50) on Central High Road 18 Feb (ph., max. Mark Greene) demonstrates continued population expansion in Obion.

Snow Goose: Lake Co (10,000) at Lake Isom NWR 25 Jan (ph., max. Allen Trently).

Ross's Goose: Lake Co (100) at Mud Lake 20 Feb (ph., max. Mark Greene).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Henry Co (5,000) at Britton Ford 15 Dec (max. Alan Troyer).

Cackling Goose: Humphreys Co (312) at DRU 3 Jan (max. Ruben Stoll).

Mute Swan: Two records may have been migrants from an established population: Hawkins Co (4) at Phipps Bend, including juvenile and adult birds 14 Feb (ph. Shane Falin); Sullivan Co (4) flyovers at Riverfront Seafood on 15 Jan (Sherrie Quillen, Bambi Fincher). Other reported birds in the state were either known or likely escapees, or pets.

Trumpeter Swan: Sequatchie Co (1) juvenile at Kell Branch Pond 16–18 Jan (Simone Madson, ph. Roi Shannon, m.ob.).

Tundra Swan: Hardin Co (8) at Wilkinson Bottoms 27 Jan (ph., max. Alan Troyer, Ruben Stoll, Victor Stoll); Lake Co (5) at Tiptonville Ferry Road 25–27 Feb (ph. Allen Trently, m.ob.); Gibson Co (2) at Ed Davis Fish Farm 14 Feb (ph. Mark Greene); Individuals reported from Knox Co 10–14 Dec (ph. Eric Bodker, Jeremy Dotson, m.ob.), Hawkins Co 21 Jan–26 Feb (ph. Susan Huble, m.ob.), Rhea Co 26 Jan–25 Feb (ph. Roi Shannon, Debbie Shannon, m.ob.), and Benton Co 16–17 Feb (Wes Prebeck, ph. Sue Bradley).

Eurasian Wigeon: Humphreys Co (1) adult male captured on a trail camera at DRU 12 Jan (ph. Clayton Ferrell).

Northern Pintail: Decatur Co (10,600) at TN NWR–Busseltown Unit 30 Jan (max. Alan Troyer) was an exceptional high count.

Canvasback: Henry Co (4,000) at Britton Ford 31 Jan (Melissa Turrentine) set an apparent second highest count record for the state.

Greater Scaup: Henry Co (700) at Pace Point 15 Dec (max. Ruben Stoll) appears to set the second highest winter count for the state.

Surf Scoter: Davidson Co (7) on J. Percy Priest Lake, Cook Rec Area 17 Dec (ph., max. Daniel Redwine) was a notable state high count and a new high count for the county; Single birds reported from Knox Co 16 Dec (ph. Jeremy Dotson), Hamilton Co 28 Feb (ph. Tim Lenz, m.ob.), Hardin Co 12 Jan (Allen Trently), and Shelby Co 1 Dec (Cliff Van Nostrand).

White-winged Scoter: Henry Co (1) at Pace Point 15 Dec (Ruben Stoll); Knox Co (1) at Concord Park 16 Dec (ph. Jeremy Dotson).

Black Scoter: Davidson Co (8) at J. Percy Priest Lake from Long Hunter SP 6 Jan (ph., max. Bubba Singleton) was notably high and a high count for the county; Williamson Co (1) at Franklin Reservoir 31 Dec (ph. Roy McGraw, m.ob.); Hamilton Co (2) at Chickamauga Lake 13 Jan (Kent Dubois, Tim Russell, Stephen Johnson); Humphreys Co (3) at DRU 7 Jan (Ruben Stoll, Victor Stoll, Nolan Walker); Hardin Co (1) at Pickwick Dam 18 Jan (ph. Damien Simbeck); and Shelby Co (1) at Maynard C. Stiles WTP on 1/7–9 Dec (ph. PJ Pulliam, m.ob.).

Long-tailed Duck: Davidson Co (1) at SBP on 23 Dec (ph. David Parsley); Sumner Co (1) likely the same individual at Memorial Park 26 Dec (Michael Smith, Sarah Smith); Jefferson/Grainger Co (1) bird reported from both sides of Cherokee Lake 24 Dec (ph. Dallas Herrell, Jason Cole); Blount Co (1) at Ft. Loudon Lake–Louisville Point Park 22 Dec (ph. Christie Jones); Hamilton Co (3) were reported throughout the season beginning 23 Dec from Chester Frost Park (ph. Susan Hubley) and last reported 24 Feb from Booker T. Washington SP (Tim Lenz); Marion Co (1) at Nickajack Dam 1 Feb (ph. Nolan Wright).

Common Goldeneye: Henry Co (800) from Paris Landing 19 Jan (max. Alan Troyer).

Common Merganser: reported from 21 counties across all three grand divisions; Blount Co (49) at Laurel Lake 1 Jan (ph. max. Rick Barrow, Kathryn Barrow) was the highest count.

White-winged Dove: Shelby Co (1) in Memphis 14/16 Feb (ph. David Hamilton).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Williamson Co (1) at a private residence 5 Dec (ba. Cyndi Rouledge).

Black-chinned Hummingbird: Blount Co (1) adult male at a private home reported 7 Dec (ph. Lesa Cameron Boatman, m.ob.) had reportedly been present at least a week prior. It was last seen 24 Dec; Knox Co (1) adult male banded at a private home 3 Dec (ba. Mark Armstrong) had been present since 29 Nov (Kristen Smith *vide* Graham Gerdeman), seen by many state birders, and was last seen 19 Jan (ph. Kristen Smith).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: Hamilton Co (1) hatch year female coming to a private feeder 4 Dec–18 Feb (ph. Julius Basham, m.ob.) was the first Tennessee record since 2013.

Rufous Hummingbird: Johnson Co (1) hatch year male continued from fall and was last reported 6 Jan (Peter Jones, m.ob.); Blount Co (1) hatch year female at a private residence 7 Dec (ba. Cyndi Routledge); Smith Co (1) hatch year male 11 Dec (ba. Cyndi Routledge); Weakley Co (1) second year female 4 Jan (ba. Cyndi Routledge); Bedford Co (1) female in Shelbyville 10 Jan (Cyndi Routledge *vide* Graham Gerdeman).

Common Gallinule: Hawkins Co (1) adult at John Sevier Lake 6 Dec–5 Jan (ph. Susan Hubley); Hamilton Co (1) at Standifer Gap Marsh 13/18 Jan (Tim Lenz, Peter Robinson, m.ob.).

Whooping Crane: Meigs Co (2) were observed throughout the season at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge (m.ob.); Fentress Co (4) adults were observed flying over in Jamestown 31 Dec (ph. Allen Barlow).

American Avocet: Shelby Co (2) at Ensley continued from fall for at least a day before departing, reported 1 Dec (ph. PJ Pulliam).

American Golden-Plover: Obion Co (1) in a field on Sharps Ferry Road 5 Dec (ph. Mark Greene) was an unusual winter record.

Wilson's Snipe: Humphreys Co (145) at DRU 21 Dec (max. Luke Thompson, Patrick Higgins) was a notably high count.

Spotted Sandpiper: Hawkins Co (1) on Jesus Church Road 15 Dec (ph. Tammy Bright); Hamilton Co (1) at Island Cove Marina 20 Jan (Patrick Higgins); Rhea Co (1) at Piney Point 16 Feb (ph. Barbara Yoakum); Rutherford Co (1) at J. Percy Priest Field Trials Area 5 Feb (Avery Fish).

PURPLE SANDPIPER: Davidson Co (1) at SBP 13 Jan–6 Feb (ph. Geoffrey North, m.ob.), establishing the fifth state record, the first since 1976, and the first record to be photo documented. Reported by well over 100 birders during its almost month-long residency.

Little Gull: Marion Co (1) second cycle individual at Nickajack Lake 18 Jan–23 Feb (ph. Tim Lenz, m.ob.), an apparent first county record.

Bonaparte's Gull: Sevier Co (6,500) at Douglas Dam 2 Jan (max. Keith Watson) seems to be the second highest state count, after the 7,500 reported in the same location in Dec 2021; Davidson Co (3,000) from Cook Recreation Area 19 Dec (Graham Gerdeman) was notably high for the Nashville area.

Franklin's Gull: Hamilton Co (1) at Chester Frost Park 19 Nov (ph. Tim Lenz, Nolan Keyes).

Ring-billed Gull: Henry Co (41,000) on Kentucky Lake from Port Road Overlook 24 Jan (max. Alan Troyer) was exceptional.

American Herring Gull: Henry Co (500) on Kentucky Lake from Port Road Overlook 24 Jan (max. Alan Troyer).

Great Black-backed Gull: Hardin Co (1) first cycle individual at Pickwick Dam 30 Dec–3 Feb (ph. Alan Troyer, Ruben Stoll, m.ob.).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Henry Co (75) on Kentucky Lake from Port Road Overlook 24 Jan (max. Alan Troyer) was just shy of the new state high count of 77 set last season in Hardin Co.

CALIFORNIA GULL: Benton Co (1) adult bird reported sporadically at the Benton Co Landfill 24 Jan/14/22–23 Feb (ph. Alan Troyer, Daniel Redwine, Chris Sloan, Graham Gerdeman).

Iceland Gull: Benton Co (3) was the highest at the Benton Co Landfill 7 Jan (ph. Victor Stoll, Ruben Stoll, Nolan Walker), including an adult *thayeri* type and two other first cycle individuals; Sumner Co (1) first cycle *kumlieni* type at SBP 26 Jan (ph. Tim Loyd); Rutherford Co (1) first cycle *thayeri* at the Rutherford County Landfill 7 Jan (ph. Graham Gerdeman, Daniel Redwine, m.ob.); Rhea Co (1) *thayeri* at Piney River Boat Ramp 28 Jan (ph. Austin Young).

Red-necked Grebe: Henry Co (1) at Pace Point 15 Dec (Ruben Stoll); Davidson Co (1) at Bryant Grove Recreation Area 24 Dec (ph. Daniel Redwin, Jeffrey Walck, Patrick Higgins); Dekalb Co (1) at Edgar Evins SP 24 Dec (ph. Holly Taylor, Mark Taylor); Franklin Co (1) at Woods Reservoir 21–22 Feb (ph. Tim Lenz, Luke Thompson, Duane Yarbrough); Knox Co (1) from the general area of Admiral Farragut Park 23–26 Dec (ph. Jeremy Dotson, m.ob.).

Eared Grebe: Davidson Co (1) at Cook Recreation Area 19 Dec (Graham Gerdeman) and from Bryant Grove Recreation Area, including the portion in Rutherford Co, sporadically 24Dec–18 Jan (ph. Patrick Higgins, m.ob.); Franklin Co (1) at Woods Reservoir 16 Feb (ph. Tim Lenz, Nicole Koeltzow, Kent Dubois).

Red-throated Loon: Grainger Co (5) in Bean Station 21 Feb (ph., max. Dallas Herrell, Jason Cole); Knox Co (1) at Ft. Loudoun Lake reported between Louisville Point Park and Concord Park 23–26 Dec (Tom Howe, ph. Evan Kidd, m.ob.); Hamilton Co (3) was the most reported on Chickamauga Lake 27/ 30 Jan–3 Feb (Patrick Higgins, m.ob.) where at least one individual was present from 23 Jan–27 Feb (m.ob.); Marion Co (1) at Raccoon Mountain Reservoir 21–22 Dec (Bruce Dralle, m.ob.); Franklin Co (3) was the most at Woods Reservoir 21–23 Feb (ph. Luke Thompson, Tim Lenz, m.ob.); Davidson Co (2) was the most at J. Percy Priest Lake from Cook Recreation Area 6 Dec (Graham Gerdeman, Daniel Redwine); Sumner Co (1) from Lock 3 on 27 Jan (ph. Tim Loyd), also reported from SBP 21 Jan (Robert Deegan); Hardin Co (2) was the most reported from Pickwick Lake 30

Dec–1 Jan (ph. Ruben Stoll, Chris Agee, m.ob.).

Pacific Loon: Hardin Co (1) at Pickwick Lake 30 Dec–1 Jan (Alan Troyer, Ruben Stoll, m.ob.); Davidson Co (1) at J. Percy Priest Lake from Long Hunter SP 17 Jan (ph. Daniel Redwine); Hamilton Co (1) at Chickamauga Lake 8 Dec–20 Feb (ph. Tim Lenz, Brian Bullard, m.ob.).

Anhinga: Humphreys Co (1) at DRU 21 Dec (Adam Beachy) constitutes the fourth winter record in TN and the third winter in a row one has apparently toughed it out at DRU.

Neotropical Cormorant: Lake Co (1) at Reelfoot Lake–Keystone Pocket 14 Dec (Ruben Stoll, Victor Stoll); Humphreys Co (1) at DRU 21 Dec (Patrick Higgins, Luke Thompson, m.ob.).

American Bittern: Shelby Co (2) at Ensley 15 Dec (ph. Jim Varner, Connor Robinson, m.ob.) where at least one was observed until 6 Feb; Hamilton Co (1) was at Standifer Gap Marsh throughout the season, 21 Dec–24 Feb (ph. Tim Russell, m.ob.).

Black-crowned Night Heron: Meigs Co (47) at Watts Bar Landing 19 Dec (ph. Roi Shannon, Debbie Shannon) was a notably high winter count.

Golden Eagle: Humphreys Co (2) at DRU 24 Jan (ph., max. Alan Troyer); otherwise single individuals reported from Johnson, Morgan, Benton, Montgomery, and Knox Cos.

Bald Eagle: Montgomery/Stewart Cos (11) at Fort Campbell on 30 Dec was the most ever seen in one day on the base (Daniel Moss *vide* Graham Gerdeman).

Rough-legged Hawk: Clay Co (1) flyover near Celina, TN 8 Jan (ph. Terry Campbell) was the first county record in eBird.

Long-Eared Owl: Lake Co (12) established a state high count at a known roost location (ph. Patrick Higgins, m.ob.); Davidson Co (1) flushed near J. Percy Priest Lake 17 Dec (ph. Daniel Redwine).

Short-eared Owl: Reported in good numbers throughout the season from eight counties in west and middle TN, and one from east TN: Lake Co (8) was the most along Vaughn Road 1/17 Feb (max. Lisa Clift, ph. Mark Greene); Shelby Co (1–2) at Shelby Farms Park 1 Dec–28 Feb (m.ob.); Henry Co (4) at Haggler Ridge Road 15 Dec/19 Jan (ph. Victor Stoll, Alan Troyer); Humphreys Co (1–2) at DRU 17/21/22 Dec (Avery Fish, ph. Alan Troyer, m.ob.); Lawrence Co (3) along Midway Road 17 Dec (ph. Alan Troyer, Ruben Stoll); Davidson Co (1) seen periodically in newly restored habitat at Cornelia Fort Airpark 28 Dec–6 Feb (ph. David Francy, m.ob.) was a rare, but increasing record in the metro Nashville area; Montgomery Co (3) at Fort Campbell on 2 Dec (Daniel Moss *vide* Graham Gerdeman) and (2) at the regular Jim Johnson Road location 1 Jan (ph. Cyndi Routledge, Steve Routledge); Rutherford Co (3) was the most in the Swamp Road vicinity on 29 Dec (ph. Isaac Brown); Lincoln Co (4) was the most at the Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 27 Jan (ph. Alan Troyer, Victor Stoll,

m.ob.) where up to 2 were last reported 23 Feb (Daniel Moss, m.ob.); Blount Co (2) was the highest count at the regular location of Cades Cove 17 Jan (Rita Lewis, Luke Lewis).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Henry Co (1) on Joe Milam Road 15 Dec (Victor Stoll); Humphreys Co (1) on West Watered Hollow Road 1 Feb (Tim Lenz, Ruben Stoll, m.ob.); Perry Co (2) was the most along Tree Farm Road 25 Dec/7 Jan (Victor Stoll, Ruben Stoll, Nolan Walker); Davidson Co (1) in Percy Warner Park 8 Jan (au. Joe McLaughlin, m.ob.); Wilson Co (1) at Cedars of Lebanon State Forest 25 Jan/1–2 Feb (Daniel Redwine, Jeffrey Walck, Isaac Brown); Hamilton Co (1) on 26 Jan (Patrick Higgins).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Davidson Co (15) at Radnor Lake SP 11 Jan (max. Melinda Welton) and (12) at the Warner Parks Burch Reserve (Graham Gerdeman, Melissa James) were the highest counts in what was an irregular irruption year for the species in the Nashville area, with high numbers reported from area parks all winter and into spring.

Say's Phoebe: Shelby Co (1) at Shelby Farms Park 14 Dec–25 Feb (ph. Cliff VanNostrand, Deon VanNostrand, m.ob.).

VERMILLION FLYCATCHER: Shelby Co (1) adult male at Robbins-Halle Nature Preserve 18 Dec (ph. Cliff VanNostrand).

TROPICAL/COUCH'S KINGBIRD: Lake Co (1) photographed behind the Boathouse Restaurant in Samburg, TN 2 Dec (ph. Kerry Speer). Accepted as "Tropical/Couch's" by the TN Bird Records Committee.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD: Hamilton Co (1) continued from fall on Snow Hill Road and was last reported 7 Jan (ph. Andrew Theus).

Tree Swallow: Anderson Co (1) near Oak Ridge on 23 Dec (Natalie Pheasant) was a rare winter record; Hamilton Co (1) at Amnicola Marsh 31 Jan (ers. Bruce Dralle) was likely an extremely early spring migrant.

Purple Martin: Shelby Co (1) returning male over the Mississippi River 16 Feb was the earliest (ers. Ty Sharrow).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Anderson Co (1) at Melton Lake Islands 25 Feb (ers. Brandon Hambrick, Thomas Cox).

Barn Swallow: Davidson Co (1) at Bryant Grove Recreation Area 30 Dec (Daniel Redwine) was an exceptional winter record; Lincoln Co (1) at Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 9 Feb (Avery Fish); Chester Co (2) returned to a nest on a private porch 27 Feb (Lori Moore).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Hardin Co (1) at Savannah Bottoms 30 Dec (ph. Alan Troyer).

Sedge Wren: Davidson Co (1) at Cornelia Fort Airpark 30 Dec (ph. Ariel Dunham, m.ob.)

is an uncommon winter record in Nashville, another testament to the benefit of habitat restoration efforts in this Metro Parks location.

Marsh Wren: Davidson Co (1) at Crooked Branch Park 1 Jan (ph. Tim Loyd, Michael Smith) was a rare Nashville winter record.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT: Gibson Co (1) flyover at a private home 29 Jan (Mark Greene).

Evening Grosbeak: Perry Co (1) winter resident at Lick Creek Farm 8 Dec–18 Jan (ph. au. Alan Troyer, m.ob.) gave state birders false hope for a busy irruption year; Polk Co (1) in Benton 14 Dec (Jamin Beachy, Joanna Beachy); Knox Co (3) at Atlee Fields 27 Dec (au., max. K. Dean Edwards).

Purple Finch: Widely and consistently reported across the state this season. Perry Co (46) at the Stoll Farm 19 Jan (max. Ruben Stoll, Philemon Friesen) was the highest count.

Pine Siskin: a very weak irruption year with only scattered reports, some unreliable. The three highest counts in the entire state were only four individuals each! Knox Co (4) at Melton Hill Lake 16 Feb (Chuck Estes); Marion Co (4) at a private home 30 Jan (Tommie Rodgers); Madison Co (4) on Odell Road 19 Feb (Allen Trently).

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR: Lincoln Co (1) associated with a large flock of Lapland Longspurs at Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 26 Jan–22 Feb (ph. Avery Fish, m.ob.) established the fifth state record.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR: Lincoln Co (2) associated with a large flock of Lapland Longspurs at Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 26 Jan–24 Feb (ph. Alan Troyer, Patrick Higgins, m.ob.), establishing the easternmost record in the state.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Lincoln Co (1) at Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 1–2/21 Feb (ph. Melissa James, Randy Herrod, m.ob.).

American Tree Sparrow: Obion Co (3) at Reelfoot NWR Visitor Center 14 Dec (Austin Young, ph. Patrick Higgins, m.ob.); Shelby Co (1) at Eagle Lake Refuge 28 Dec (Cliff Van-Nostrand); Henry Co (1) at Britton Ford 24 Jan (ph. Alan Troyer, Wade Baker) and (1) in Paris 24 Feb (Robert Wheat); Cannon Co (1) at a private home 11 Jan (Don Burgess); Clay Co (1) at Celina Sewage Lagoons 20 Jan (Jamin Beachy); Bradley Co (1) at South Mouse Creek WMA 13 Jan (David Chaffin); Stewart Co (1) on Fort Campbell 22 Jan (Daniel Moss *vide* Graham Gerdeman).

LeConte's Sparrow: Obion Co (20) at Reelfoot Lake NWR Visitor Center on 14 Dec (ph., max. Alan Troyer) was the highest count.

Bobolink: Humphreys Co (1) at DRU on 23 Dec (ph. Alan Troyer) established only the second winter record in the state.

Western Meadowlark: Hardin Co (28) at Savannah Bottoms 20 Feb (ph., au., max. Alan Troyer) was the highest count in a seasonal flock in the location with surprisingly high numbers that far east; Humphreys Co (1) at DRU 17/21 Dec / 11 Jan (ph. Avery Fish, Mary Ganaway) was notable; Lincoln Co (5) at Fowler Road Irrigation Pond on 2 Feb (ph. Avery Fish) where 1–2 were reported 28 Jan–23 Feb (m.ob.) was a first for the county in eBird and a rare, but increasing record in southeast TN.

Baltimore Oriole: Shelby Co (1) coming to a feeder 1–7 Dec (ph. Adrienne Bolton); Obion Co (1) in Samburg 6/14 Dec (ph. Alan Troyer, m.ob.); Hamilton Co (1) in an East Ridge backyard 25 Dec (ph. Kevin McKinney); Polk Co (1) at a home in Benton 1 Feb (ph. Morgan King *vide* Tim Lenz); Knox Co (1) on Chilhowee Dr in Knoxville 29 Dec–20 Feb (ph. Jack Hutter, Elizabeth McWhirter) and (1) several miles further south 7 Jan (ph. Andy Caylor) were two of possibly three individuals in the county throughout the season (one additional report was anonymous).

Brewer's Blackbird: Lake Co (167) at Lake Isom NWR 14 Dec (max. Alan Troyer) was a notably high count.

Northern Waterthrush: Knox Co (1) at Seven Islands State Birding Park 28 Dec (ph. Jacob Wessels).

Black-and-white Warbler: Rutherford Co (1) at Murfree Spring Wetlands 20/24 Dec (ph. Jo VerMulm, Isaac Brown, Susan Hubley).

Cape May Warbler: Hamilton Co (1) at a backyard feeder 9 Dec (ph. John Odom).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Hamilton Co (1) at a private home near Cleveland 24 Dec (ph. Rachel Lee).

Summer Tanager: Weakley Co (1) adult male at a private home 11 Dec (ph. Alex McNeal).

Western Tanager: Wilson Co (1) at the home of local birder 3–21 Jan (ph. Robin Nation, m.ob.).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Cumberland Co (1) adult male coming to a feeder 11 Dec–17 Feb (ph. R. Hodge); Marion Co (1) female-type coming to a feeder on 21 Dec (Barbara Johnson, Sharon Klein).

Dickcissel: Sullivan Co (1) at a feeder in the snow in Bristol on 5 Jan (ph. Anne Cowan, Bennett Cowan).

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- [3] *Birds of Tennessee - a New Annotated Checklist*, Scott G. Somershoe and Christopher A. Sloan (2015)



Davidson County's celebrity Purple Sandpiper was a reliable resident of "Snow Bunting Peninsula" on Old Hickory Lake for almost an entire month, to the delight of many birders across the region. Photographed here on 27 Jan 2025 ©Graham Gerdeman.

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

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

SUBMISSIONS: The manuscript should be submitted electronically to Bob Ford at editorthemigrant@gmail.com. Submission of hard copies is optional. If so desired the original and two copies of the manuscript should be sent to the: Editor: Bob Ford, 808 Hatchie, Brownsville, TN 38012. Manuscripts that have been published in other journals should not be submitted.

MATERIAL: The subject matter should relate to some phase of Tennessee ornithology. It should be original, factual, concise and scientifically accurate.

STYLE: Both articles and short notes are solicited; recent issues of *The Migrant* should be used as a guide in the preparation of manuscripts.

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NOMENCLATURE: The scientific name of a species should be given after the first use of the full common name in the text. The scientific name should be italicized and in parentheses. Names should follow the *A. O. S. Check-list of North American Birds*.

TITLE: The title should be concise, specific and descriptive.

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LITERATURE CITED: List all literature citations in a “Literature Cited” section at the end of the text. Text citations should include the author and year.

IDENTIFICATION: Manuscripts including reports of rare or unusual species or of species at atypical times should include: date and time, light and weather conditions, exact location, habitat, optical equipment, distance, behavior of bird, comparison with other similar species, characteristic markings, experience of observer, other observers verifying the identification and reference works consulted.

SEASON REPORTS: Observations that are to be considered for publication in “The Season” should be emailed to the Season Editor, Graham Gerdeman, at grahamgerdeman@gmail.com.

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