

The "Mid-South Bird Notes" of Ben B. Coffey, Jr.

Special Publication No. 1
Mississippi Ornithological Society

edited by
Jerome A. Jackson
Dept. of Biological Sciences
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, MS 39762

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Lula and Ben Coffey
Memphis, Tennessee
1981

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Preparation of The "Mid-South Bird Notes" of Ben Coffey, Jr. has taken nearly a year and numerous individuals have assisted with the project. My foremost thanks are to Lyda Eubank who skillfully retyped my edited copy of the original Mid-South Bird Notes. Lula Coffey provided the frontispiece and much additional information that was useful as I prepared the introduction and bibliography of Ben's writings. Melanie Mullenax, Sue Mabry, Lyn Branch, and Bette Schardien helped with library work and proofreading. Vicki Bennett typed some of the introductory materials. John O'Neill, Douglas James, Bill Hardy, and Bob McGowan provided helpful insight into the magnitude of the contributions that Ben has made to ornithology in the mid-south. The Memphis office of the Boy Scouts of America provided help in identifying the location of scout camps mentioned as bird localities. Finally, this endeavor could never have taken place had it not been for the generosity of Ben Coffey who gave me a set of the original Mid-South Bird Notes for my files.

INTRODUCTION

From 1952 to 1956 Ben Coffey wrote, mimeographed, and issued Mid-South Bird Notes at his own expense. The five volumes published included 111 pages. At the time there were no state ornithological societies in Arkansas and Mississippi and Mid-South Bird Notes became a repository for mid-south bird records and a stimulus for those interested in birds in the region. Ben recognized the need for bird study in the mid-south and was himself stimulated by the words of Sewall Pettingill in A Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi (Oxford University Press, New York, 1951):

"With the possible exception of Alabama and western North Carolina, no large area in eastern United States has been so little explored ornithologically as Mississippi. The three counties bordering on the Gulf of Mexico, and several of the lakes, sloughs, and swampy forests in the immense Yazoo-Mississippi Delta, have been carefully investigated. But fewer than a dozen ornithologists, amateur or professional, have more than a casual acquaintance with the rest of the state. To bird finders who yearn to chart new trails, to discover hitherto unnoticed bird associations, Mississippi is still virgin territory."

Interestingly these same words kindled a fire of excitement in me when I accepted a position at Mississippi State University. Ben nurtured that fire in me and continues to generate enthusiasm for birds from all corners. Robert W. McGowan, Professor Emeritus of Biology at Memphis State University was similarly influenced by Ben:

"In 1948, when I first came to Memphis, ... Ben Coffey made an extra effort to welcome me with bird lists, field information, and literature of the region. This is typical of Ben's generosity and concern. ... Ben Coffey's contribution to the science of ornithology is immeasurable." (Letter of 15 March 1981.)

Douglas James, Professor of Zoology, University of Arkansas commented that:

"Mid-South Bird Notes ... was indispensable to me, at that time a newcomer in an unfamiliar region. ... The issues of Mid-South Bird Notes served as a needed supplement to the then Audubon Field Notes in providing me with a knowledge of bird distribution in Arkansas and adjacent states. Thanks to Ben's efforts I was able to gain a quick understanding of bird distribution patterns in the mid-south and also keep up with developments as they occurred. ... Mid-South Bird Notes also served as the first newsletter for the Arkansas Audubon Society. ... There is no doubt that Ben's contribution to the knowledge of bird distribution in Arkansas and the rest of the mid-south has been highly significant." (Letter of 23 March 1981.)

Mid-South Bird Notes includes an amazing volume of information from an equally amazing number of contributors. While circulation was never much more than 100 copies per issue, a very high percentage of recipients seem to have responded by adding their own records to those of Ben and Lula. Ben initially compiled all bird records for the region, but later Douglas James compiled Arkansas records for Mid-South Bird Notes. In addition to seasonal records of bird activity, Ben prepared short articles on various species, detailed his and Lula's efforts to assist with George Lowery's study of nocturnal bird migration, and encouraged readers to join local, regional, and national ornithological and conservation organizations.

Ben's style of writing is clear, but often abbreviated - often conveying the urgency with which he seemed to publish each issue and perhaps conveying the need for brevity associated with this personally financed project. Many of the bird records and articles were later published in other journals, but often with even less detail and insight as in Mid-South Bird Notes. One of Ben's most valuable contributions through the publication of Mid-South Bird Notes was his compilation of negative data. Most writers publish records of birds they have seen - Ben often published records of birds he did not see when he thought there was some reason he could have or should have seen them. Thus, Mid-South Bird Notes is a goldmine for ornithologists seeking to document the range expansion of such species as Barn Swallows, Phoebes, House Wrens, and others.

The focus of Mid-South Bird Notes is an area extending about 150 miles from Memphis, Tennessee. Most records are from Tennessee, Arkansas, or Mississippi and records for 200 or more species are included from each of these states. Records of over 70 species are included from Oklahoma and a few records are included for Louisiana, Alabama, and Missouri. Certainly Mississippi ornithology benefited from having Lula as a native - trips to her family home and side excursions always produced interesting bird records.

Mid-South Bird Notes could not be reproduced from existing copies. Having been mimeographed, some were nearly illegible. My contribution has been to have the five volumes retyped, line-for-line, page-for-page. The only changes made from the original are the addition of consecutive page numbers centered at the bottom of each page and the correction of typographical errors. In a few places incomplete sentences were completed, but every precaution was taken to preserve the author's original style and meaning. To facilitate the use of Mid-South Bird Notes, I have also prepared a listing of "feature" articles, a gazetteer of unusual localities, and a species index for each state. The biographical sketch and bibliography of Ben Coffey's other ornithological contributions further identify Ben's role in the development of ornithology in the mid-south.

Finally, I recognize that Lula's contribution has been much more than "carrying the knapsack" as she once said. This is also a tribute to her.

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF BEN BARRY COFFEY, JR.

A few years ago Ben prepared a brief autobiographical sketch for the Inland Bird Banding Association. In preparing this account I have relied heavily on a carbon copy of that manuscript as well as on the insights of Lula and others who have known Ben well.

Ben was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee, but his father was formerly from Lafayette County, Mississippi and his mother, the former Lily Miller, from Iuka. Thus Ben's ties with Mississippi were early.

On becoming an Eagle Scout in Nashville, Ben resolved that the easiest and most rewarding way to earn the Bird Study merit badge was to have an experienced birder lead the student hikes. Scouting and birding were thus pursued for many years. Ben was a scoutmaster in Memphis and later received the Silver Beaver Award, scouting's highest honor for an adult leader. Many of Ben's scouts accompanied him on birding trips throughout the mid-south and are mentioned in Mid-South Bird Notes. Some retained their interest in birds to exceptional degrees - such as Jim Vardaman of Jackson, Mississippi. Scout camps across the mid-south frequently provided camp sites and good birding for Ben's excursions.

After attending Vanderbilt University and Armour (now Illinois) Institute of Technology, Ben was employed by the Tennessee Inspection Bureau as a fire protection and rating engineer. In January, 1928, he was transferred from Nashville to Memphis. His bird work in a "new" area was encouraged by Albert F. Ganier and Professor George R. Mayfield of Nashville, two of the founders of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. In January, 1930, a small group met at the Y.M.C.A. to form the Memphis Chapter of the T.O.S. with Ben as president.

The most important personal event in Ben's life was his marriage, on November 17, 1930, to Lula Evelyn Cooper of Memphis and Hickory Flat, Mississippi. Lula has always shared in his bird work and leadership. In 1949 Lula became the first woman to be president of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

In addition to distributional studies, Ben has been a very active bird bander. Between 1932 and 1959 over 106,000 Chimney Swifts were banded at Memphis under his permit number. More swifts were banded at Shreveport, Louisiana, Texarkana and Crossett, Arkansas, and Birmingham, Alabama. Four heronries in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta were visited from 1935 thru 1949 and over 15,000 herons and 1,500 Anhingas were banded. Results of these studies were published in The Migrant, Bird-Banding, the Auk, Wilson Bulletin, and in Mid-South Bird Notes.

Ben served as president of the Tennessee Ornithological Society and in 1940 was elected honorary president of the Inland Bird Banding Association. From 1938 to mid-1942 he was editor of the Migrant.

World War II interrupted his mid-south birding activities, though Lula took charge and banded a very large flock of Chimney Swifts. She later joined Ben at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. An account of the bird life they encountered at Ft. Sill is included in an early issue of Mid-South Bird Notes. Ben volunteered for the field artillery and went to Fort Bragg, North Carolina where his enthusiasm for birding still came through. He made news, for example, in the November 1942 issue of The Chat, the bulletin of the North Carolina Bird Club:

"The first Horned Larks of the season arrived October 17th at Fort Bragg, the date is more than a month earlier than former reports. ...They were reported by Pvt. Ben Coffey, of Memphis...And what was Ben doing when the larks arrived? He was standing at attention, unable to even glance aside, for he was being inspected by a four-star general. All he got was the call of the larks as they flew overhead."

From Fort Bragg Ben went to Officer Candidate School and then remained at the Field Artillery School as an instructor. After two years he was transferred to fire protection work in the Air Transport Command, inspecting their bases in this country. Later, Captain Coffey served as Division Fire Marshall in India and China.

Favorite field projects of Ben and Lula have been the annual Christmas Bird Counts of the National Audubon Society. At the time of writing his autobiographical sketch for the Inland Bird Banding Association, Ben estimated that he had participated in about 175 such counts and that Lula had taken part in about 150. The Coffeys also conducted breeding bird surveys each spring in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Mississippi.

Almost every year from 1946 thru 1968, the Coffeys took their vacations to bird in Mexico. On retirement they made extended trips. In 1964 Ben seriously began to tape bird songs and he has since become one of the leaders in this field. In addition to work in Mexico and the mid-south, since 1969 more than a dozen trips have been made to Peru, Columbia, Ecuador, Nepal, India, and other parts of the world. Since 1946 Ben and Lula have had a close association with the Museum of Zoology at Louisiana State University. There they learned to identify the Neotropical birds they recorded. Ben and Lula are now both field associates of the Florida State Museum where their tapes of bird songs and calls are deposited in the Coffey Neotropical Collection in the museum archives. In 1980 a phonograph record, "Voices of New World Nightbirds," featuring Ben's recordings, was produced by John William Hardy. Other similar records and also cassettes of Ben's recordings are planned. Ben's expertise in this field is highly praised by Bill Hardy:

"When I established the Bioacoustic Archives at the Florida State Museum in 1973, I began to search for private sound collections ... Although I was aware that Ben had been recording birds in Mexico, I could not believe my eyes or ears when, on a visit with George Lowery at L.S.U., I encountered a stack of tape recordings that Ben had left for study. Here was a man who was making superb sound recordings under difficult conditions and getting many rare and little known species." (Letter of 20 March 1981.)

John P. O'Neill, Director of the L.S.U. Museum of Zoology provides a fitting tribute with which to end this sketch:

"I have known Ben and his lovely wife, Lula (one cannot think of or write about one of these two people without including the other!) for nearly twenty years. It is hard for me to realize that Ben is really an amateur; the way in which he works and the amount of time he puts into a project make him a "professional" even if he never earned a living in ornithology. Ben is one of the most dedicated people that I have ever known, and the long hours and hard work he puts into what he does set a good example for anyone to follow.

In short, Ben Coffey is the epitome of what the amateur can do to contribute to the furthering of ornithology. Ben may be intensely interested in Neotropical birds, but he and Lula never forget their breeding bird surveys, their Christmas counts, their backyard banding program, or any of the many and varied projects that they continue in their home state of Tennessee."

THE PUBLISHED WORKS OF BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

The following bibliography includes published articles other than those appearing in Mid-South Bird Notes. In addition to those articles listed below, Ben published numerous records in Audubon Field Notes, American Birds, the Migrant, Mississippi Ornithological Society Newsletter, the Mississippi Kite, and other newsletters.

1931. Summer warblers of Shelby County. Migrant 2:1-2.
1931. Along the Mississippi in August and September. Migrant 2:21-23.
1931. A state bird for Tennessee. Migrant 3:43-44.
1933. The Mockingbird, state bird-elect. Migrant 4:1.
1933. Notes on the Painted Bunting at Memphis. Migrant 4:1-2.
1934. Wayside notes from west Tennessee. Migrant 5:59-60.
1935. A Piping Plover at Memphis. Migrant 6:35.
1935. Bell's Vireo at Memphis. Migrant 6:67-68.
1936. Saw-whet Owl at Memphis. Migrant 7:19-20.
1936. Brewer's Blackbird at Lakeview, Mississippi. Migrant 7:38.
1936. August waterbird visitors at Mud Lake. Migrant 7:61-68.
1936. Henslow's Sparrow near Memphis. Migrant 7:69.
1936. Chimney Swift migration at Memphis. Migrant 7:79-82, 96-98.
1936. Willow Thrush at Memphis. Migrant 7:99.
1936. A preliminary list of the birds of Mississippi. Mimeographed.
1937. LeConte's Sparrow in Memphis area. Migrant 8:15.
1937. Golden Eagle in Mississippi. Migrant 8:35.
1937. Swift banding at Memphis - sixth season. Migrant 8:70-72.
1937. Nocturnal migration at Memphis. Migrant 8:74-75.
1938. American Egret in Saskatchewan. Auk 55:518.
1938. Prothonotary Warblers make news. Migrant 9:21-22.

1938. Summer resident lists: Shelby County. Migrant 9:46.
1938. Blackbird banding in the mid-south. Migrant 9:59-63.
1939. Rare shorebirds at Mud Lake. Migrant 10:15-16.
1939. Summer birds of Tishomingo State Park, Mississippi. Migrant 10:50-56.
1940. The Upland Plover. Migrant 11:8-9.
1940. Lapland Longspurs at Memphis. Migrant 11:13-14.
1940. Prairie Horned Lark notes (Miss.-Tenn.). Migrant 11:78-79.
1940. Mississippi Kite nesting in a city park. Migrant 11:79.
1940. Unusual methods of attracting birds. Migrant 11:91-92.
1940. Shelby County bluebird housing project. Migrant 11:93-95.
1940. With our banders, Memphis. Migrant 11:104.
1940. Another tall tale. Migrant 11:106.
1940. Grit for birds in winter. Migrant 11:106.
1941. Memphis area census notes. Migrant 12:15-16.
1941. Symposium on Swainson's Warbler: Swainson's Warbler in the Memphis area. Migrant 12:30-31.
1941. Summer range of mid-south towhees. Migrant 12:51-57.
1941. LeConte's Sparrow tragedies. Migrant 12:69.
1942. Fish Crow at Memphis. Migrant 13:42.
1942. Cliff Swallows nesting at Chattanooga. Migrant 13:47-48.
1942. Chattanooga notes. Migrant 13:48.
1942. Chimney Swift notes. Migrant 13:68.
1943. Swift notes at Memphis. Migrant 14:52-53.
1943. Purple Gallinule in Arkansas and in Memphis area. Migrant 14:54.
1943. Phoebe tunnel. Migrant 14:70-72.

1943. Winter movements of Starlings. Migrant 14:78.
1943. Post-juvinal migration of herons. Bird-Banding 14:34-39.
1943. Notes of mid-south towhees. Auk 60:104.
1944. Lowery: Probable migration routes of Chimney Swifts. Migrant 15:3-6.
1944. Notes on the breeding birds of the Natchez Trace State Park. Migrant 15:25-27.
1944. Winter home of Chimney Swifts discovered in northeastern Peru. Migrant 15:37-38.
1945. Roosting of Chimney Swifts on buildings. Migrant 16:2-3.
1946. Biographical sketches of members lost in the armed services during World War II. Migrant 17:33-38.
1946. Bell's Vireo and other Natchez Trace notes. Migrant 17:46-47.
1946. Summering towhees at Memphis. Migrant 17:47.
1946. Winter bird count at Moon Lake, Miss. Migrant 17:69.
1947. Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Mississippi. Migrant 18:8-9.
1947. Franklin's Gull at Memphis. Migrant 18:60-61.
1948. July fourth notes from Natural Bridge, Tennessee. Migrant 19:4-7.
1948. Louisiana Heron recorded in Tennessee and north Mississippi. Migrant 19:71-72.
1948. Southward migration of herons. Bird-Banding 19:1-5.
1950. Chattanooga revisited. Migrant 22:31.
1951. Swallow-tailed Kite at Lakeview, Miss. Migrant 22:41.
1952. Double-crested Cormorants nesting in Mississippi. Migrant 23:31-32.
1952. Southwestern Tennessee heronries. Migrant 23:45.
1952. White Ibis at Mud Lake, Tenn.-Miss. Migrant 23:46.
1953. Sprague's Pipit in the mid-south. Migrant 24:28-29.

1953. Buff-breasted Sandpiper date correction. Migrant 24:39.
1954. Ceilometer and other indications of nocturnal migration, Memphis, October, 1953. Migrant 25:11-13.
1954. Smith's Longspur in the mid-south. Migrant 25:46-48.
1955. A November hike at Manchester. Migrant 26:16.
1955. The Short-eared Owl in the mid-south. Migrant 26:24-25.
1955. The Knot recorded in Memphis. Migrant 26:32-33.
1955. Notes on the Blue Grosbeak in the mid-south. Migrant 26:41-42.
1956. Harris's Sparrow in the mid-south. Migrant 27:37-39.
1956. Whip-poor-will in the mid-south in summer. Migrant 27:63-64.
1956. Memphis-banded Chimney Swift in Peru. Bird-Banding 27:84.
1956. Half-day flight of a banded Chimney Swift. Bird-Banding 27:84-85.
1956. The Sprague's Pipit and Smith's Longspur in Mississippi. M.O.S. Newsletter 1(1): abstracts of papers read at 1st M.O.S. meeting.
1957. Natchez Christmas count and enroute. M.O.S. Newsletter 2(1):2.
1957. Columbus count. M.O.S. Newsletter 2(1):2.
1958. Notes from north Mississippi. M.O.S. Newsletter 3(3):1-2.
1958. Hernando-Grenada notes. M.O.S. Newsletter 3(4):2.
1959. The season: Memphis. Migrant 30:36.
1959. The Starling in eastern Mexico. Condor 61:299.
1960. Late North American spring migrants in Mexico. Auk 77:288-297.
1961. Some shorebird records from Mexico. Wilson Bull. 73:207-208.
1961. The Sprague's Pipit and Smith's Longspur in Mississippi. M.O.S. Newsletter 6(2):1-4.
1961. Andrew Allison. M.O.S. Newsletter 6(3):1-3.
1962. Mid-south Whip-poor-will distribution runs. Migrant 33:55.

1963. Mid-south Whip-poor-will distribution runs. Migrant 34:92.
1964. Cliff Swallow colonies. Migrant 35:52.
1964. Two bird kills at WMC-TV, Memphis. Migrant 35:53.
1965. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Phillipy. Migrant 36:59-60.
1965. Song Sparrows at Manchester. Migrant 36:60.
1965. Late Bobolinks in Cades Cove. Migrant 36:60.
1965. Natural Bridge, Tennessee, revisited. Migrant 36:61-62.
1966. Warbler notes from Natchez Trace State Park and Forest. Migrant 37:14.
1970. A 1969 spot count of summer birds of Shelby County. Migrant 41:56-57.
1970. Summer Whip-poor-wills in Mississippi. M.O.S. Newsletter 15(1):6.
1971. Summer Whip-poor-wills - 1970. M.O.S. Newsletter 16(1):2.
1971. 1970 Evening Grosbeak records. M.O.S. Newsletter 16(1):2.
1972. Vermillion Flycatchers. M.O.S. Newsletter 17(1):7.
1972. Washington County notes. M.O.S. Newsletter 17(2):9.
1976. The Eastern Phoebe as a summer resident in Mississippi. Mississippi Kite 6:38-40.
- and L. Coffey. 1971. Whip-poor-will counts, 1971. M.O.S. Newsletter 16(3):4-5.
- and L. Coffey. 1972. Some fall records of note. M.O.S. Newsletter 17(2):9-10.
- and L. Coffey. 1974. Moon Lake (Lula), Mississippi. M.O.S. Newsletter 19(2):9.
- et al. 1942. The wrens of Tennessee. Migrant 13:1-13.

Gazetteer of Unusual Localities Mentioned in Mid-South Bird Notes

Ben Coffey has a penchant for place names - and the more unusual the better. Ben and Lula spotted the name of Rara Avis on a Mississippi map and conducted Christmas Bird Counts there solely because of the name. In reporting bird records in Mid-South Bird Notes, Ben usually gave the reader specific information to identify the location of the siting - often a name on a map referring to a crossroads community, a local church, or some physiographic feature. In the 25+ years since the observations were recorded, some localities have ceased to exist, have changed names, or at least are no longer found on maps. For example, Spring Lake State Park is no longer a state park and a considerable amount of searching was required to find out where it had been located. The following localities are small towns, physiographic features, parks, dams, scout camps, or refuges. Some no longer exist, others have the potential of "disappearing." While most are adequately identified at least once in the text, they are listed here with additional locational information for the convenience of the reader.

Arkabutla Dam = Desoto Co., Miss.

Ashport = on Mississippi River, Lauderdale Co., Tenn.

Camp Cedar Valley = ca. 4 miles w. of Hardy, Sharp Co., Ark.

Camp Currier = ca. 1 mile S. of Hernando, Desoto Co., Miss.

Capleville = Shelby Co., Tenn.

Chickasaw State Park = Hardeman and Chester cos., Tenn.

Coffey Grounds = the home of Ben and Lula Coffey, 672 N.
Belvedere, Memphis, Tenn.

"Coro" Puddles = Shelby Co., Tenn.

Duncan Park = Natchez, Adams Co., Mississippi

Ensley = Shelby Co., Tenn.

Fisherville Lake = Fayette Co., Tenn.

Fletcher Field = Clarksdale, Coahoma Co., Miss.

Glen Allan = s. Washington Co., Miss.

Golddust = on Mississippi River, Lauderdale Co., Tenn.

Good Hope Slough = near Walls, Desoto Co., Miss.

Greenwood Springs = Monroe Co., Miss.

Hickory Flat = Benton Co., Miss.

Horn Lake = Desoto Co., Miss.

Horseshoe Lake = Crittenden Co., Ark.

Hulburt = 10 miles s.w. of Memphis in Crittenden Co., Ark.

Imboden = Lawrence Co., Ark.

Kamp Kia Kima = near Hardy, Sharp Co., Ark.

La Joie = Lake Lajoie, Chickasaw State Park, Hardeman Co., Tenn.
Lake Cormorant = w. Desoto Co., Miss.
Lake Placid = Chickasaw State Park, Hardeman Co., Tenn.
Lakeview Levee = Desoto Co., Miss.
Loosahatchie Bottoms = near Woodstock, Shelby Co., Tenn.
Lula = n. Coahoma Co., Miss.

McKellar Lake = s.e. of President's Island, Shelby Co., Tenn.
Michigan City = n. central Benton Co., Miss.
Moon Lake = n. Coahoma Co., Miss.
Mud Island = Mississippi River s. of Wolf River, Shelby Co., Tenn.
Mud Lake = Shelby Co., Tenn.-Desoto Co., Miss.

New Hope Slough = 8 miles w. of New Hope, Yalobusha Co., Miss.
Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge = Noxubee, Oktibbeha, and Winston Cos., Miss.

Open Lake = near Ripley, Lauderdale Co., Tenn.
Overton Park = Memphis, Shelby Co., Tenn.

Penal Farm = Memphis, in central Shelby Co., Tenn.
Percy Quin State Park = s.w. of McComb, Pike Co., Miss.
Petit Jean State Park = Conway Co., Ark.
Pickwick Dam = Hardin Co., Tenn.
Porter Lake = s. of Horseshoe Lake, Crittenden Co., Ark.
President's Island = Mississippi River at Memphis, Shelby Co., Tenn.

R = Ripley, Tippah Co., Miss.
Rara Avis = e. central Ittawamba Co., Miss.
Riverside Park = Memphis, Shelby Co., Tenn.

Sanders Field = Desoto Co., Miss.
Sardis Dam = Panola Co., Miss.
Scout Camp Yocona = e. of Toccopola in Pontotoc Co., Miss.
Shelby Forest = Shelby Co., Tenn.
Shiloh National Military Park = Hardin Co., Tenn.
Spring Lake State Park = ca. 5 miles s.e. of Holly Springs, Marshall Co.,
Miss. (This site is no longer a state park.)

Tennessee Chute = s. of President's Island, Shelby Co., Tenn.
Toccopola = Pontotoc Co., Miss.
Tupelo Fish Hatchery = Lee Co., Miss.

Wabbaseka = Jefferson Co., Ark.
Wahpeton Hill = near Hardy, Sharp Co., Ark.
Waldron = Scott Co., Ark.
Walls = Desoto Co., Miss.
White River National Wildlife Refuge = Arkansas, Desha, Monroe, and Phillips
Cos., Ark.

Williford = Sharp Co., Ark.
Woodall Mountain = Tishomingo Co., Miss.
Woodstock = n. of Memphis, Shelby Co., Tenn.

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Mid-South Bird Notes

Volumes 1-5
1952-1956

Nocturnal Bird Migration Studies Resumed

In the spring of 1948 we cooperated with Louisiana State University's Museum of Zoology in a quantitative study of night migrants by recording the birds observed passing between us and the moon, or rather, across our line of sight thru a telescope. A fall project, embracing over 200 stations, is now under way. Observations are to be made during the period of each full moon and are next scheduled for the nights of Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 2 and 3, and possibly a third night. See "Wings Across the Moon" in Audubon Magazine, July-August, 1952, for a popular account.

Our station is in the northwest center of Southwestern's back campus. An auto trail leads off Jackson Avenue just beyond University Street. Thru the kindness of Luther Keeton we are using a 20x B & L prism telescope. Previously, at least two observers would work together for two up to five hours, being relieved by two others. Then, about midnight, a shift of three would go on until dawn. One person observed, a second recorded; on the late shift, the third party slept on a bed roll or in a car and relieved the others in turn. Volunteers are needed to man the station at all hours. If any group of three can take a morning shift, we can be sure of operating two full nights, at least. Please telephone 2-7209; if no answer over the holidays, try again Sept. 2, 5:30 - 6:30 PM. And keep the subsequent periods in mind, please.

The Season at Memphis, June - Aug. 30, 1952

As you know, June and July made up the hottest period in Memphis records, tying July-August, 1934, with a mean temperature of 84.2. There was an all-time high of 106 on July 28. June had 28 days over 90 degrees, July had 29. A heavy rainstorm, July 30, ended a 67-day drouth and five straight days of 100 degrees and above. The effect of the drouth on bird life is adverse; how much is problematical. It was rough for bird observers and results not rewarding the time spent because of reduced avian activity. Undoubtedly, second and later broods were affected. Robins continue below normal as in '50 and '51. More immature Starlings are evident as the species increases its local population. No flocks of cowbirds noted at the Penal Farm as in '50. The late rain saved, to some extent, the wild fruit yield which will have some effect later.

In early June a "Whip-Chuck" trip was made to Meridian and Greenwood Springs, Miss. by Demett Smith and the writer. On June 7 at Tupelo a Horned Lark at the airport, a Pectoral Sandpiper and two Lesser Yellowlegs (one a cripple) at the fish hatchery, and on June 8 two Red-tailed Hawks between Meridian and Whynot were of interest. No Whip-poor-wills were heard. This lengthy week-end trip was the result of the writer's vacation being postponed. Further postponement resulted in a quickly planned Sunday trip, June 15, by the same two, to the Open Lake, Tenn. area, after several hours making a Bank Swallow trap. A third nesting colony of this species was found, - at Golddust. Estimated number of nesting holes for Ashport,

Barr, and Golddust were: 65, 200, and 225, respectively. Near the latter colony several Barn Swallows were present at a barn. Baltimore Orioles were common in the cottonwoods along the Mississippi River there. A Mississippi Kite and a Swainson's Warbler were of interest.

Results of the vacation study, reduced to a fast 9-day tour of East and South Central Mississippi, will be summarized at a later time. The usual July 4th trip to the Hardy-Mammoth Spring, Ark. area and its Memphis campus was at the time of a full moon; so the writer ran the highways until 2 A.M. the three nights. One Whip-poor-will was heard, - midnight July 4, 4 miles SE of Salem, Ark. None were heard at the area of the 1951 (and only previous) record, 4 miles W of Hardy and near Camp Cedar Valley. I started one evening north of the area and found the species common in the Clark Forest of Missouri. When I reached Eleven Point River and Greer Springs shortly afterwards, there was generally open country south to the Arkansas-Missouri line. Daytime records included Oven-bird at Hardy on July 4; two localities between Kamp Kia Kima and Cedar Valley. There is only one previous record (1949).

Returning warblers included, on Aug. 23 in Overton Park; Black and White, Canada, and Redstart, fairly common; Blue-winged, Parula, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, and Blackburnian. A transient Chuck-will's-widow and Whip-poor-will were flushed, separately. Dr. Wendell Whittemore reports hearing a Whip-poor-will at 4 A.M., Aug. 16, on Wahpeton Hill, Hardy, Ark. Nine Upland Plovers were seen at the Penal Farm July 12. High grass on Aug. 24 made it necessary to walk them up (11) in the same field.

The outstanding feature of the season has been Mud Lake which was too high in 1950 and 1951 for herons and shorebirds but has almost dried up at this writing. The July 30 rainstorm gave it a decided reprieve. Two second records for Tennessee, - Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Aug. 16, Lula Coffey, et al, and White Ibis, immature, Aug. 23 Coffey-Mcpherson - will be sent in to The Migrant. The Pectoral Sandpiper was most numerous, - 550 on Aug. 10 and 425 still present on Aug. 30. "Peeps" were next in this period, up to 250 estimated, with a drop to 25; the Least was slightly more numerous than the Semipalmated. A Western was recorded Aug. 10 and another Aug. 16. Stilt Sandpipers were fairly common with 60 on Aug. 17, compared with 30 Lesser Yellowlegs that date. Unusual species seen one to three times each were Greater Yellowlegs, Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, and Sora. A tabulation will be given later since it is desired to expedite this issue account the Nocturnal Migration project.

CHIMNEY SWIFT flocks increased (one of 600) with the cool weather, Aug. 23, but have again apread out and broken down to smaller flocks. We hope to band, starting at once, every Sat. & Sun. morning until they leave in late Oct. Please report all flocks seen, if possible before 5:30 PM each Thursday. We could use assistants for the banding and for watching certain chimneys.

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American Ornithologists' Union

70th Stated Meeting
Oct. 20-24, 1952

Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, La.

For the first time since 1937 at Charleston, the A.O.U. is meeting in the South and almost on our doorstep here in the lower Mississippi Valley. We should be grateful to Dr. George Lowery and his associates in Louisiana for making this possible. The meeting will be slightly longer than the recent W.O.C. meeting, but we feel that for whatever time you can be present, you will be amply rewarded. Public meetings are Oct. 21-23, Tuesday to Thursday, inclusive, with motion pictures set generally for the last afternoon. A trip to an antebellum plantation, Wednesday afternoon, ends with an outdoor barbecue. A highlight will be the field trip Friday, Oct. 24, to famed Grand Isle, 140 miles south of Baton Rouge and 40 miles west of the mouth of the Mississippi River.

Besides the city's hotels and courts, accommodations are available at Pleasant Hall on the campus for \$2 per night. Registration is \$2. Annual banquet Thursday evening at the Heidelberg Hotel, price not given. Luncheons available on the campus. This is a chance not only to attend a meeting of nationwide interest and personalities but also to visit a fast growing and leading Museum of Zoology with a young outstanding staff. A visit to the "Bayou Country" is then topped off with the field trip to the Louisiana Gulf Coast.

BANDING SUMMARY, 1951-52: - Our report to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the period, May 1, 1951, to Apr. 30, 1952, showed a total of 1162 birds, exclusive of Chimney Swifts, banded at Memphis. These were: Bob-white, 21; Flicker, 6; Barn Swallow, 18; Blue Jay, 84; Mockingbird, 26; Brown Thrasher, 73; Robin, 26; Cedar Waxwing, 59; Starling, 110; Bronzed Grackle, 363; Cowbird, 4; Cardinal, 202; Towhee, 11; Slate-colored Junco, 11; White-crowned Sparrow, 22; and White-throated Sparrow, 126. The majority of these were banded by Oliver Irwin but the following cooperated in producing the noteworthy results above. Some operate only at certain seasons, specializing in one species. These were Thompson Bonner, Jesse Cunningham, J. Edward Jolly (Waxwings, plus), Chas. McPherson, Jr. (White-crowneds), Patricia Moore, F. George Shaffer, Bro. Leo Thomas (Bob-whites, plus). Others who had operated substations since 1946 were: Bro. Vincent, Howard and Evelyn Barbig, John O'Callaghan, Jack & Jim Harris, Lawrence Kent, Robt. McGowan, Ralph Sinclair, and Plato Tuliatos.

* * * * *

CURRENT SWIFT BANDING: - Results are less than any season yet. Flocks are scattered and it's hard to spot them in the short time available each evening. Sunday, Sept. 21, we banded 437 at a Whitehaven School shop and retrapped 36 with bands. Of these latter, 4 were banded here in 1948, 3 in 1949, 3 in 1950, and 26 in 1951. Only 4 from a flock of 381 banded at this chimney Oct. 6, 1951, were present but 12 from 615 banded Aug. 19, 1951 at Levi School were.

	MUD LAKE, TENN. - MISS., 1952									
	July 2	13	26	Aug 3	10	17	23	31	Sept. 6	20
Gt Blue Heron	5	19	4		4	3	5			
Am Egret	20	152	136	1	22	3	4	2		
Ltl Blue Heron: Ad	12	31	2	7	9	5	1			
" " " Imm	14	25	75	4	50	20	4	4	3	1
Snowy Egret	2		10		5					
Blue-wgd Teal						6	31	7	1	33
Wood Duck		1	14	18	60	16	5			
Semipalm'd Plover						10	4	1		
Killdeer	12	2	1	30	4	60	10	30	20	6
Solitary Sandpiper			32	10		5	1	3		
Lsr Yellowlegs			2	6	15	30	20	25		39
Dowitcher					See	1	below	6		
Pectoral Sandpiper			26	88	550	450	400	500	25	8
Least "				40	215	120	100	200	350	200
Stilt "					11	60	30	35		1
Semipalmated "				5	25	50	50	25	100	100
Western "					1	1		2	5	8
Least Tern	40	5	11							

Other species: Yellow-crowned Night Heron, immature, 1, Aug. 17. Am. Bittern, 1, Sept. 20, Wood Ibis, - July 26, 7; Aug. 16, 70 overhead, McPherson & Barbigs; Aug. 24, 1, McPherson, (elsewhere - Aug. 14, 40, President's Island, Orville Wood; Sept. 14, Harahan Viaduct, Ark. and levee, 70, RDS & BC). White Ibis, 1 immature, Aug. 23, BC & Bro. LT. Green-winged Teal, 1, Aug. 16, 17, 23, CMcP. Osprey, 1, Horn Lake, Sept. 20. Sora, 1 on Aug. 23 & Sept. 20. Greater Yellowlegs, 1, Aug. 3. Dowitcher, 1, Aug. 9 (Keeton & Kent); 1, Aug. 16 and, 2, Aug. 24 (McPherson). Buff-breasted, 1, Aug. 16, LC, BC, RDS. Wilson's Phalarope - 2, Aug. 16, CMcP & Barbigs; 1, Aug. 17. Black Tern, 20 overhead, Aug. 17. Towards the end, the Am. Egrets were seen passing over, rather than on the lake. The lake had very little water and area about 1/10 normal in September; the heavy rain of July 30 saved it. It was practically dry, Sept. 13, and practically nothing present. For the first time (1930 -) Arrowhead moved in and by August there were acres of this plant, up to two feet high. This habitat was run for rails and gallinules but the Am. Bittern and the two Sora records were the only things flushed. A trip on Aug. 16 recorded 41 Stilt Sandpipers, 14 Semipalmated Plovers, and counts similar to Aug. 17. Likewise Aug. 30 counts were like those on Aug. 31, except for a temporary drop in "peeps."

Water bird notes elsewhere include: Black Tern, 15, July 26, tip of Mud Island; Am. Egret, 70, Sept. 7, near Harahan Bridge, and 180, Sept. 14, Harahan Viaduct and levee, in Arkansas. At the Florida Street "pit", which is north of the Nonconnah Levee, a moist area has reappeared. No shoebirds noted but at dusk on Sept. 6 a large flock of Wood Ducks were seen there. The next day we counted 66, of which only 3 were in adult male plumage. This is inside the Memphis city limits. A large flock of ducks near Lonoke, Ar., Sept. 14, were estimated as 3,000 Blue-winged Teal and 800 Gadwalls. A newspaper report of Mallard flocks recently may be in error.

Marsh Hawks noted were: Sept. 6, Penal Farm, female or immature; Sept. 14, Harahan Viaduct, Ar., same, and Lonoke, one; Sept. 20, between Leland and Indianola, Miss., a male. On the 14th we had only the two records for 110 miles of U. S. highway 70 and a full afternoon in the Lonoke rice field area. The swallow migration has been very light, groups of from 5 to 50 noted occasionally on Mud Lake trips and elsewhere (both Lonoke and the Delta), mostly Trees and Rough-wingeds, some Barn and Banks. However, Ed King and the Wilmeths saw 1200 Tree Swallows (est.) at Shelby Forest, Sept. 7. The latter also reported 2 Lark Sparrows there. Jim McWhorter reported 6 Lark Sparrows two miles north of Turrell Ark. Sept. 3.

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NOCTURNAL OBSERVATION REPORT

Enough observers volunteered that we could man the Memphis station two nights and part of a third for the September period. Cooperators were the Coffeys, Nell Coleman, Bobby Cooper, Rev. Bill Hearn, Dr. Pauline James, Lawrence Kent, Ed King, Nelle Moore, Lydel Sims, Alice Smith, Demett Smith and Brother Leo Thomas. Columnist Lydel Sims wanted to cover the project so we put him on a regular shift. The peculiar thing is that altho we spent two nights here this August and a number of nights in the spring of 1948, a squad car investigated our activities only when a newspaper man was present. Anyway, it made a good stor! To us the most unusual thing occurred after Lydel left. We took the last shift, set from midnight until 3 A.M. because the moon was to set at 3:17 at Memphis according to my almanac. When we finally left at 4:15 A.M. the moon still had about 15 minutes before setting!

The next period is Oct. 1-5, Wed-Sun., incl. Since many of the 200 stations cooperating will probably observe all five nights, we would like to see Memphis do as well. (The next two periods should indicate much nocturnal passage.) Demett and the writer will have to climb buildings and cover chimneys Fri. & Sat. eves. Best results usually occur before midnight. Luther Keeton who has made this fall's observations possible thru the loan of his Balscope, leaves on vacation, Friday, Oct. 3. In order that we can have complete coverage at such a strategic location as Memphis, Bob Newman of L. S. U. has arranged for the loan of a telescope. Now, we cannot fail. In The Scissortail we note that our Oklahoma friends are going all out. One Science class took the responsibility for a night. Here our shifts have been 7 to 9:30 P.M., 9:30 to 12, 12 A.M. to 4 A.M. or later. If we can get the response our membership warrants, we might shorten the shifts. However, some might prefer one long shift to two or more short ones. At least two work together early, three on the last shift.

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SEASONAL NOTES, APRIL - JUNE, 1952: These supplement those appearing in The Migrant (1952:32). Osprey records have been: 1, Mar. 30, Spring Lake S. P., Miss. (TOS); Apr. 6, one dead, Lakeview levee, Chas. McPherson, Jr. and Chas. Seahorn; 1, April 12, Cobb's Lake Whitehaven, Thompson Bonner. On Apr. 20 I almost stepped on a Virginia Rail at Lakeview, Miss. Four Purple Gallinules were at the Lonoke, Ark. fish hatchery May 11 but none June 7th at the Tupelo, Miss. hatchery. Additional records for the Lonoke hatchery on May 11 (RDS & BC) were: Semipalmated Plover, 7, White-rumped Sandpiper, 2, and private goldfish ponds nearby (drained) Black Tern, 113. On the

same trip at Hulburt, Ark. were Semipalmated Plover, 17, and L. Yellowlegs, 40. Terns at the tip of Mud Island were: May 11 - Least, 20, (1st arrival noted) and Caspian, 1, and May 24 - Common, 2. No Barn Swallows near Capleville, - latter species reduced in numbers; Penal Farm, May 20, Aycock Road (NE of Naval Base), May 25, and US 78, Oakville-Capleville, May 31. Of special interest were the number of marsh wrens on May 4 (TOS) and the gurgling chorus of the Long-billeds at the pit 5 miles SW of Lakeview where 25 were found (a record number). Six Short-billeds were there and two others nearer Lakeview. -- Two Lark Sparrows at the former N. 2d St. dump were our first post-war (II) record, Apr. 20.

In Overton Park Black and White Warblers, 5 on May 7 and 3 on May 13 were apparently transients (and probably Apr. 19-22), assuming birds of the nearby resident areas followed closely on the first one, Mar. 22. The Cerulean appeared much below normal, 4 on Apr. 19 and 8 on Apr. 22. (A very early one was singing Apr. 6 in the Loosahatchie bottoms, Woodstock. Similarly a Wood Pewee was heard at the same time, the first in the park was on Apr. 22). (Other Ceruleans, 2, May 4, T.O.S., and 1, May 10, Mrs. J. H. McWhorter). The Canada Warbler was about normal; Olive-backed Thrush, half-normal, Gray-cheeked Thrush, 1 on May 7 and 10, Veery, none. Philadelphia Vireo, 1, May 24 (BC); Olive-sided Flycatcher, 1, May 7 (BC). A female Wood Duck was seen entering a cavity, 40 ft. up in a sycamore, Apr. 2 & 3. House Wrens were in the park Apr. 16 and 22, at Coffey Grounds Apr. 19 & 20 and at Geo. Ragsdales' May 1, 2, 5 & 7. Gray-cheeked Thrush elsewhere, May 10, Mrs. McWhorter, May 12, Coffey Grounds.

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"The Season at Memphis". For many years this caption was a regular feature of The Migrant and gave our Memphis members and others a summary of field trip results and general observations. At various times it was compiled and evaluated by Eugene Wallace, Austin Burdick, Jr., Robert Tucker, Mrs. Coffey, Luther Keeton and Southgate Hoyt as well as this writer. With the repeated increases in the cost of printing, The Migrant was reduced in size so that there was room only for the very unusual. Lately, space was available in some issues but it appears still inadequate for the field work undertaken in this area even tho such work is below that of former seasons when the above were active and others such as McCamey, Pond, Whittemore, Carney, and Vardaman. In addition, the absence of such a summary from an overall compiler and evaluator allowed the significance of certain isolated notes submitted, to be misinterpreted in some cases. This summer the writer decided that the solution was a simple little publication devoted to this area. Obviously, those in Middle and East Tennessee are not too much interested in the seasonal come and go in West Tennessee and the contiguous areas which are our special interest. A local bulletin will allow us to go into more detail such as, in some cases, specific locations so that in later seasons one could visit any spot for further observations. Because there was no organizational activity during the summer it was decided to make this a personal undertaking insofar as the expense and the work of reproduction and mailing. Another reason for this is the expectation of working up and presenting certain personal data. Altho these have laid in rough form for many years and the time available for tabulation, study, and analysis is less than ever, we still have hopes.

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NOCTURNAL MIGRATION STUDY

Splendid cooperation of members of the Memphis chapter of the T.O.S. plus a few other volunteers enabled us to maintain observations the five nights, Oct. 1-5, inclusive. Alan Ziegler, home on leave before reporting to a west coast Air Force staging center, extended our data for parts of a sixth and a seventh night. Those who responded were Harold Clark, Ben and Lula Coffey, Bobby Cooper, Mary Davant, Richmond Gill, Jack Goodman, Lee Grimmig, Oliver Irwin, Johnny Johnson, Lawrence Kent, Ed King, W. A. Kinney, Charles Marcus, Nelle Moore, Brother Leopold Robert, Mrs. Sarah O. Rogers, R. Demett Smith, Jr., Kirby and Ellen Stringer, Brother Leo Thomas, Dorothy Wild, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Wilmeth, Orval M. Wood, III, and Alan Ziegler. Some have already signed up for the next period which is Thursday, October 30, thru Monday, November 3. We will return from the A.O.U. meeting on October 28 so please call us that night or the next if you can take a watch. Please do not call us October 30 - November 3 after 8 P.M. There was some bunching up of observers at two or three watches. If those who came without registering will take the responsibility of a watch this time, it would save me having to call on some two and three times.

The night of October 1 was warm and birds seen were uncommon with moderate numbers 10:28 - 11:16 (12) and 11:55 - 12:50 (14). Then at 2:15 A.M. the rush began with Demett observing 47 (14 also heard) until 2:56 and Bobby Cooper 33 in the next 25 minutes. From then until 4 A.M. 6 others, all between 3:24 - 3:40. Demett indicated the wind apparently shifted from the south to the northwest about 2:30 and the air cooled. The Weather Bureau at the airport didn't indicate this until later with the surface wind at 3 A.M., SW 6 mph; 4 A.M. W 11 mph; 5 A.M., N 17 mph. The winds aloft at 3 A.M. varied but only slightly from WNW. After the change the wind remained from the north all during the day of October 2 and that night, but with moderate temperatures. It was expected that this movement which could have started either in our general area or much farther north, would resume with darkness October 2. From 7 P.M. to 7:23, we recorded 27 passages, then 142 from 7:23 to 8:11, 148 from 8:11 to 9:38. Because of the relation of our cone of sight to the arena of migration and its variation as the moon moves higher, one bird seen when the moon is overhead is roughly equivalent to four when the moon is on the horizon. So, even tho the density of the migration continues unchanged, we can expect our records to decrease as the moon appears higher. So, in the next 2½ hours, lesser numbers are recorded, but, indicative of a gradual change we note periods of 8, 12, and 12 minutes when no records were logged. After midnight the records become spotty and altho the moon now apparently moves lower, the observations fall off with only 5 from 3:50 to 4:30 A.M. This followed the general pattern of the spring of 1948.

This movement had spent its major force by midnight October 2, and on the night of October 3-4 and again October 4-5 we find even less recorded than early October 1. The wind was again S to W. Slightly over 20 records each night with the two after-midnight shifts seeing a disappointingly 2 and 3 birds, respectively. On October 5 at noon the wind shifted and continued from the N the remainder of our watches. That night, with temperatures of low 50s, no movement materialized. From a count of 18, 7:17 to 8:02, it fell off until nothing was noted from 10:45 to 1:15 when an unbroken overcast closed the station. Rain came at 1:27 A.M. and continued until daylight.

Conditions seem to be favorable for some migration so the night of October 6-7 Alan Ziegler set up on the Lick Creek bridge adjacent to Coffey Grounds. The moon rising later now, Alan kept a watch of 9 to 1, recording 230 passages, - 63 the first hour, 36 the fourth hour. Doing his own recording, he missed some, undoubtedly, - using about 30 minutes away from the telescope. On the night of October 7-8 he was not so fortunate, recording 4 birds from 11:12 to 2, with only 77 minutes of observation because of heavy clouds.

You can see that one night does not tell the story. The observation for five nights straight helps us learn what is happening at this season of the year.

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: Since the tabulation in the last issue Mud Lake was visited twice. Shorebirds still remained Sept. 27: Killdeer, 30; Lsr Yellowlegs, 8; Pectoral Sandpiper, 1; Least Sandpiper, 300; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 30; and Western Sandpiper, 6. Passing over: Am. Egret, 15; Black Tern, 1; Nighthawk, 18. Returning along the levee, a Great Horned Owl perched in the open was of interest. On Oct. 4 practically no water remained and 33 Killdeers were all that were left; 2 Wilson's Snipes and 16 Wood Ducks passed by. A Pigeon Hawk was seen along the cypress edge of Horn Lake. -- The shore birds are still present at places not dried up by the record dry five months. Moderate numbers have been seen at Lonoke. At Sardis Dam, 2 Caspian Terns and only 4 Pectorals and a "peep" were found Sept. 21, but Demett Smith on Oct. 18 recorded: 35 Pectorals, 150 Leasts, 5 Red-backed Sandpipers, and 3 Semipalmated Sandpipers. Others of interest were 9 Blue Geese, and, too far out on the lake for specific identification, 200 gulls. His most interesting record was there on Oct. 12, -- two Sanderlings in first year fall plumage, seen at 20 feet and flushed repeatedly. This is our first record. There are two 1936 records for Hot Springs and a few records for the Tennessee River Valley of Alabama. At Spring Lake S. P. on Oct. 11 Chas. McPherson and Chas. Seahorn found: Green-winged Teal, 4; Blue-winged Teal, 16; Killdeer, 30; Wilson's Snipe, 10; and Lsr Yellowlegs, 20. A Greater Yellowlegs was seen Oct. 18 at Rossville, Tenn. (EC & AZ).

We regret carrying over many interesting records but we want to mail this at once in order to alert you on the next "moon watch." Mrs. Coffey, Alan Ziegler, and I leave for the A.O.U. meeting and a few days along the Louisiana coast.

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THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS

Certain species, chiefly shorebirds, were listed up thru Oct. 20 of this season but many others have not been reported on since our No. 2 issue, Sept. 25. A Common Loon was seen at Arkabutla Dam, Miss. by R. Demett Smith, Jr. on Nov. 15; studied 15 minutes at 50 to 75 yards. This species is not often seen and then close enough to permit certain identification.

Marsh birds at Lonoke, Ark. on Nov. 16 (BCs, RDS, Alice Smith) included 5 immature Yellow-crowned Night Herons at the Fish Hatchery, then later 6 of this species, - probably the same group - two miles west at edges of ponds and roadside marsh. In the latter habitat 11 American Bitterns were flushed in rapid succession as against only 2 which we had to really work to get at the hatchery. Demett got the "find" here, a very late Least Bittern. Other herons were uncommon, about 8 American Egrets at Lonoke on Oct. 12 and none Nov. 16, with only an occasional Great Blue Heron. At Sardis Dam, Miss. Oct. 18: Am. Egret, 30; Great Blue Heron, 15 (RDS); at Horseshoe Lake, Ark. same date: Am. Egret, 15; Great Blue Heron, 6 (Alan Ziegler and Rev. Wm. Hearn); and at Memphis, Oct. 19, on McKellar Lake (Tennessee Chute) - Am. Egret, 4 (RDS & AZ). Fulvous Tree Ducks, not found in 1951, were present at Lonoke for a second season; 7 seen Sept. 14 (BC & RDS); 25 reported present, as early as a week previously. Other ducks were present in moderate numbers, our third and last visit being Nov. 16, the day before the hunting season opened.

A late hawk migration was noted Nov. 10 by Oliver Irwin. The first good rain in some months occurred Nov. 9. On the 10th it was misty and cool with a stiff north wind. The clouds broke about 11 A.M. A total of 34 buteos, probably Red-tailed Hawks except for one Red-shouldered Hawk, were counted from several points in town (East End to South Gate). They were first noted at 12:15 P.M. with a peak 12:45 to 1:45, on to 3:30 P.M., moving SSW, apparently on a line from east of Overton Park. About half were singles, others in pairs, with three in sight twice. Their flight was leisurely. No special hawk watch was kept this fall but several were alert on field trips and while on roofs banding swifts. Only a few Broad-wingeds were seen.

An extralimital and late record was that of a Swainson's Hawk at Lonoke on Nov. 16 (BC & RDS). Hearing an unusual squealing, Alice Smith and Mrs. Coffey rushed three hawks fighting over a dead cottontail. Two were Red-taileds but the first up moved leisurely away, then came directly over me at about 50 feet elevation, for my first of this species since a stay at Ft. Sill, Okla.

The 4th and 5th fall records of the Golden Plover for our area are: 8 on Oct. 30 near Neuhardt, Ark. (AZ, WH) and 1 on Nov. 8 on President's Island, Memphis (RDS). It has been reported from Stuttgart, Ark. as late as Nov. 16, 1950, by Meanley (Aud. Field Notes). An earlier record of Wilson's Snipe than those given in the last issue (1952:8) were 9 near Lonoke, Sept. 14; none were at the favored hatchery then where 71 were counted Oct. 12 and 47 Nov. 16. Late records include: a Spotted Sandpiper at Pickwick Dam, Tenn. on Nov. 1 (AZ); a Greater

Yellowlegs at Lonoke, Nov. 16, and two at our Penal Farm, Nov. 23 (Brother Leo Thomas, RDS, BC, et al); Pectoral Sandpiper, two at Lonoke, Nov. 16; and, at Lonoke on Oct. 12, - Solitary Sandpiper, 1, Lsr. Yellowlegs, 28, Dowitcher, 8, and Stilt Sandpiper, 5. Of the "Peeps" remaining there Nov. 16, at least 15 were Semipalmated Sandpipers while most of the remaining 170 were probably Least Sandpipers, some of which should winter on the drained ponds of the hatchery.

Mrs. J. H. McWhirter reports a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at her home, Oct. 24. Late Nighthawks were two on Oct. 14 (Victor Julia) and one on Oct. 17 at Southwestern College (BCs); also 6 at Lonoke, Oct. 12. Late Swallows were: a Barn Swallow at Horseshoe Lake, Oct. 18, a Routh-winged without a tail, at Lonoke, Nov. 16, and an adult Tree (RDS) at Reelfoot Lake, Tenn., Nov. 30. Large numbers at Lonoke, Oct. 12 were Tree, 500, and Barn, 350 and at Horseshoe Lake, Oct. 18 (AZ, WH), Tree, 1,000.

Marsh Wrens were fairly common on the rail hunts, Oct. 13-19, but too fast to determine species (AZ, RDS); 17 Long-billeds were flushed at Lonoke, Nov. 16, - some should remain. Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen Nov. 1 at Pickwick Dam, Tenn. (AZ and Jack Goodman).

Arrivals recorded Oct. 4 in Overton Park by Richmond Gill were: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, and House Wren, - one each. Ziegler saw 4 Winter Wrens and 3 Myrtle Warblers in Overton Park, Oct. 9, and these transient warblers - Black and White, 2, Magnolia, 4, Black-throated Green, 12, Bay-breasted, 3 (1 on the 10th), and Redstart, 2, plus a Blue-headed Vireo. In the park on Oct. 19 (BC) were Magnolia, 1; Black-throated Green, 2, and Chestnut-sided, 2. Blue-headed Vireo, 1, Oct. 9 Overton (AZ), and Oct. 18, Coffey Grounds (LC). Gill and Peyton had a female Wilson's Warbler at home Aug. 26-29; and Sept. 15 & 23; while Reed Knight and Donald Wilson had a pair about this time. Our first fall records of Bobolinks were made by Alan Ziegler, one on Oct. 16 near West Memphis and two on Oct. 18 at Lehi, Ark. (Details later in The Migrant). The only Brewer's Blackbirds reported were several flocks of 50 to 100 each at Lonoke, Ark. on Nov. 16 (total estimated as 300).

Early arrivals near Whitehaven (Thompson Bonner) were: Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Song Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 2; all on Sept. 27. At his home near Germantown, Chas. McPherson saw his first White-throat on Oct. 4, a White-crowned Sparrow on Oct. 11. Any records of these and similar species might be considered early before an average date of Oct. 10. Single Juncos were seen at 3 locations, Oct. 6, 7, 8. Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Oct. 6, at Forest Hill Cemetery, (OI), a pied Blue Grosbeak, Oct. 25, Mrs. Torti at her home, and 7 Pine Siskins, Nov. 29, Overton Park (Keeton) are of interest. Two sparrows rarely on record for Arkansas altho their status for East Arkansas should be the same as for West Tennessee, seen Oct. 19 (RDS & AZ) were Leconte's, 1 at West Memphis, and Vesper, 1 at Lehi. Another of interest was a Lincoln's Sparrow at Horseshoe Lake, Oct. 30 (AZ & WH).

200 extra copies of pages 11-12 have been sent to the Inland Bird Banding Association for distribution with its News bulletin.

SEASON'S GREETINGS Ben B. Coffey, Jr. 672 N Belvedere.

1952 CHIMNEY SWIFT TRAPPING AT MEMPHIS

By Ben B. Coffey, Jr.

	New Banded	Repeats ('52)	Returns '51	'50	'49	'48	'47	'46
7-19 1779 Glenview	107	-	11	-	-	1	-	-
9-21 Whitehaven	436	-	26	3	3	4	-	-
9-27 St. John's M.E.	129	-	14	1	2	-	3	1
10-4 Main P. O.	203	-	7	3	1	(1)	-	1
10-5 Levi School	1407	17(2)	48(4)	10(2)	4(1)	10(1)	2	1
10-6 Frayser "	*545	10(2)	21	9	6	1	2	-
10-11 Woodstock	1594	15	18(2)	8	5	7	1	-
10-12 Woodstock	268	8	4(1)	3	1	-	1	1
Total Records	*4694	54	156	39	23	25	9	4
Total Birds	4149	50	147	36	22	22	9	4

The numbers shown () are those originally banded in an earlier year, retaken in and thus representing other seasons also. They are added into the first line of totals. The second line of totals will be 4 less than shown in the columns since 4 returns were taken twice this season (thus these are also the 4 extra repeats indicated). The total birds banded include 5 pulled from the base of Sacred Heart Church chimney the eve of Oct. 11; one banded that morning was also found. The latter and 5 others died eventually from suffocation by soot dislodged by a flock of about 2,000 going to roost there. These could not be discouraged from using this chimney which is inaccessible for banding. On the previous evening, Oct. 10, we managed to discourage a flock of about 6,000, the largest we have seen since 1932, 1938, and 1940. However, only a few went to 4 nearby banding sites. In fact, this fall, the entire city where we usually band 4,000 to 8,000 swifts, we banded 332. If it hadn't been for three Shelby County schools, there would have been a big dent in our longevity tables. (We are actually more interested in trapping for the returns than in just adding to our total banded.) We are indebted to Mr. George Barnes, Supt. of Shelby County Schools, and personnel at the sites, for the banding at Whitehaven and Levi Schools, south of town, and Shelby County Training School at Woodstock, north of Memphis.

*Coincidentally, a tragedy developed at another county school, Frayser, just north of town. About daylight, Oct. 6, trouble occurred in placing the heating boiler in service for the first cool weather of the season. Mr. Robt. W. Hall, maintenance engineer for the Board, was called and it was discovered that a large flock of swifts had been suffocated in the chimney. Several loads of dead birds were carried to the dump. Mr. Hall later learned of our bandings, returned twice and with his son secured 26 bands from the pile. Alan Ziegler and I spent the afternoon of Oct. 11 counting and examining the dead birds, and finding another 23 bands, or 49 bands from a total of 594 dead swifts. At the time the hot gases hit them, any number of others from several hundred to a thousand probably escaped. Harold Clark had reported a large flock there earlier but they were inaccessible.

Only two "foreign" swifts were caught - one on Oct. 5 and one on Oct. 11 - both banded Aug. 29, 1952, at St. Cloud, Minn. A Memphis banded bird was taken there then but we have been unable to ascertain the size of the St. Cloud flock. For banding assistance we are indebted to Mrs. Coffey, R. D. Smith, Alan Ziegler, Harold Clark, Alice Smith, Thompson Bonner, Richmond Gill, John Johnson, G. Peyton.

BANDING REPORT FROM GLENVIEW - I

By Oliver F. Irwin

We began banding Dec. 11, 1949, in a small backyard at 1789 Glenview Avenue in a southeast residential section of Memphis, an area with an ample complement of trees and shrubs, including coniferous and broad-leaved evergreens. At times the station is on a flyway for feeding flocks of Starlings and/or Bronzed Grackles, especially in winter and early spring. A sparrow trap, three Glenhaven 6-cell traps and three Wharton traps are used during the blackbird "runs," then only three to four at other times. One of the Glenhavens has 6 Chardonneret cells, the other two have half, Potter cells. Thru the courtesy of Mrs. Irene Daniel I operated some large, dove traps (2-cell Potters), then four Whartons near Forest Hill Cemetery, in the spring of 1950 and of 1951, with the prime objective of adding to the catch of White-throated Sparrows at Memphis. Some nestlings (97) have been banded there and other places, including all doves but one. From our start the following have been banded:

SPECIES	12-11-49	5-1-51	5-1-52	TOTAL	Main Stations	
	to 4-30-51	to 4-30-52	to 11-30-52		1789	Forest H.
Blue Jay	23	39	44	106	70	36
Mockingbird	15	9	3	27	19	6
Catbird	-	5	7	12	11	1
Brown Thrasher	45	37	39	121	67	45
Robin	34	12	18	64	40	18
Starling	378	71	51	500	498	1
Bronzed Grackle	57	334	140	531	483	48
Cardinal	134	66	64	264	175	86
Towhee	20	2	-	22	4	14
Junco, Slate-col.	3	2	19	24	24	-
White-throated Sp.	162	39	29	230	102	128
Other species (18)	52	13	18	83	30	31
Totals (29 sp.)	923	629	432	1984	1524	416

Totals for the other species are as follows: Sparrow Hawk, 3; Bob-white, 4; Mourning Dove, 17; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2; Night-hawk, 1; Chimney Swift, 1; Flicker, 9; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Crested Flycatcher, 1; Barn Swallow, 9; Tufted Titmouse, 5; Carolina Wren, 7; Wood Thrush, 4; Hermit Thrush, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 8; Myrtle Warbler 2; Red-wing, 3; and Summer Tanager, 4.

RECOVERIES OF BLUE JAYS: The following are of special interest. Altho of recent date they are the only recoveries of Memphis-banded Blue Jays away from Memphis and its environs since banding started here in 1935. Northern individuals of this species banded in the summer, have regularly, tho not frequently, been reported from points to the south in winter.

47-301535	Feb. 11, 1949	at	1896 Cowden by Lawrence Kent
killed, about	Oct. 20, 1950		Tippo, Miss. (9 mi SSW Charleston)
50-300800	Sept. 5, 1950	at	439 Patterson, Patricia Moore
found dead	April 4, 1951		Rt. #3, Oxford, Miss.
50-300672	May 4, 1951	at	Forest Hill Cem., Oliver Irwin
shot	Nov. 22, 1951		Itta Bena, Miss.

CHRISTMAS COUNT COMMENT

Other field work being apparently scanty we present here some remarks on Christmas Counts in the general area. The number of participants in the Memphis and Moon Lake Counts was lower than at any time since World War II ended, especially on the 4 all-day main parties (11) of the former. Despite this, energetic coverage produced a good species list. The Memphis total of 80 was second only to last year's record of 82 (78 in 1941, previous high) while Moon Lake totaled 77 against 82 in 1951. A few very accidental species helped while the occasional, more southern species failed us, despite reports of high counts in the east due to a mild fall. There were three "firsts" on the Memphis Count, Dec. 21. One was a new species for Tennessee, - a Green-tailed Towhee (R. D. Smith, R. Gill) near Ensley (details in The Migrant soon). High for this species last year was 3 at El Paso, and west. (A Spotted Towhee reported collected in New Jersey this year.) Another western touch was an immature Harris's Sparrow (Keeton & King) near Raleigh, the 2d Memphis (1st was banded) and 3d Tennessee record. The 3d species showed when Demett (RDS) found 5 Short-eared Owls at the President's Island blackbird roost; one or more seen there since. Clarksville had previously (12-29-49) reported this owl on a Tennessee count. Another westerner, the Brewer's Blackbird, just made it (4), being uncommon so far this season; it was found on the counts of 1945 and 1951. A rare northerner, Tree Sparrow, 3 at Raleigh (Carney and Whittemore) helped.

A nice find at Lonoke, Dec. 20, lending credence to the Memphis single, was a flock of ten Harris's Sparrows (2 adults, 8 immatures). On Nov. 16, an immature was seen briefly, just short of the same spot. It was about dusk then, so we gave up temporarily. A lone Smith's Longspur (BC) was seen a mile SW of where the flock of 15 were found on the 1951 count. Marsh species were off, while the Least Sandpiper, 198, was again found; ducks higher, Coots lower. Harry Hobson of Wichita, Kan. found a Woodcock. The total of 80 species last year by one party was considered unusually good; so that only 82 by two parties this year (and more familiar with the area) was not unexpected.

At Columbus, Miss. on Dec. 25 (BC), 56 species were recorded, including an American Egret, and- expected- two flocks of Vesper Sparrows (7, 30). At Vicksburg, Miss. on Dec. 27, (BCs, RDS), 62 species were listed. I was surprised to see a yellowish bird, larger than any warbler we hoped to encounter. For 20 minutes we watched this oriole from all angles. While it differed somewhat from the many illustrations available, it was undoubtedly an immature male Baltimore Oriole. This species has been on N. C counts and was noted this season at two Maryland points. Demett and Lula each got a Western Meadowlark.

Unfortunately for the Moon Lake Count we didn't make contact on a second party for it before we left, 3 A.M. of a Saturday, for Vicksburg. We returned after that count to Clarksdale for the night and then made the Moon Lake starting point at daybreak, Dec. 28. After a wait, we delayed our run still more by going back to Tunica just in case the starting point was misunderstood. Going it alone, we managed to make most of the two routes, except

the first 3-4 hour run of the usual No. 1 party. Species listed were 72. Subsequently we learned that a second party had come down later; their Turkey Vulture and four additional species of ducks raised the composite total to 77 species. Unfortunately their afternoon was spent to the south outside our area and their morning along the lake - to which we later gave primary attention - so that not much could be added to the totals of individuals. Three Bonaparte's Gulls were of interest (one there Dec. 29, 1946 also).

As always, the lists call attention as well to what was missed. Two relatively unfamiliar areas produced: no waterbirds except two herons at Columbus, and a few only at Vicksburg. We sometimes have this trouble at Memphis, however. The mild weather should have encouraged southern stragglers but the egret at Columbus, and a House Wren (BC) for Moon Lake were the only ones of this category. At the more southern localities we failed on hoped for warblers (besides the Myrtle), House Wrens, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and Solitary Vireos, and - in the pines (mostly second-growth and mixed) found no Pine Warblers, Chippies, or nuthatches (3 species). A lone White-breasted Nuthatch at Lonoke was the only one besides the 8 in Overton Park, Memphis (a record number for our only dependable habitat). The Bluebird again missed at Lonoke and this year the Robin, even after the town lawns were looked over in the evening. Flights of blackbirds were noted at Memphis and Vicksburg but the flocks of last year were missing at Moon Lake and no Cowbirds were seen there or at Columbus. The Brewer's has reverted to a rare status at Memphis so far this season but 4 were "lucked." At Columbus three Rusties were "lucked" but at Memphis we had to search the roost that night, getting 5. Lonoke, of course, continued to be more favorable for finding these two species. Can you imagine only 2 Bronzed Grackles at Columbus? This is not unexpected, tho, away from the big river.

After 5 straight counts at Moon Lake the hard-to-raise Leconte's Sparrow missed this year. One was found at Lonoke (BC) and one at Memphis (LC, CMcP). "Lapits" were disappointing at Moon Lake; to save time we skipped some fields, relying on the ever dependable levee. But we drove 8 miles of levee without seeing one. Elsewhere there we recorded 5 Am. Pipits, all singles, one Horned Lark, and not a Lapland Longspur! All the "lapits" were common as usual at the Penal Farm, Memphis, but the longspur missed all three Miss. counts (1 near Vicksburg area).

We know Screech Owls are present but seldom record them. At Memphis we got 2 "stashed out" - Chas. McPherson's box and South-western's roost cavity. At Lonoke I pounded a tree for my 200th try and got my first owl by that method. At Moon Lake one flushed from honeysuckle on a wire fence, 3 feet above ground.

WE ARE INDEBTED to Mrs. Coffey for typing most of the stencils for us and to the Tennessee Inspection Bureau for the use of the firm's mimeograph machine. The latter was a new A. B. Dick unit when we started these notes but we were ready to give up when we sat down to fold and mail our second issue and realized what a poor job had been done. The trouble was corrected shortly afterwards by replacing the entire cylinder of the machine. Now we hope that there will be only the usual amateurish shortcomings in reproduction. - Ben B. Coffey, Jr., 672 Belvedere.

JUNE, 1936, NOTES ON MISSISSIPPI BIRDS

The following notes were prepared shortly after a two-week intensive bird study trip thru central and southern Mississippi. Later we showed these notes to Dr. H. C. Oberholser, on one of his visits to Coffey Grounds, and he suggested that specific dates be given for most records before submitting the notes for publication. The press of banding and other activities caused them to be laid aside indefinitely. Indirect reports of official bird study projects led me to believe that much more thorough information on the state's bird life was being compiled and would be available. However, to date not much has been published other than by an individual, M. G. Vaiden of Rosedale, whose fine series of articles on collections and observations (principally at Rosedale) have appeared in The Migrant. Recently Dr. O. S. Pettingill, author of the "Guides to Bird Finding ---," at a Wilson Ornithological Club meeting discussed the extent of ornithological data available for the various states and declared less was known about Mississippi, ornithologically, than of any of the other states in the eastern half of our country. I decided then to complete and present these notes in our pages and to spend part of my 1952 vacation on another Mississippi trip and report its highlights herein subsequently. Possibly one reason for the small amount of published data is the lack of a state bird journal and the almost closed doors of other ornithological publications.

Just prior to this trip I had compiled and mimeographed "A Preliminary List of The Birds of Mississippi" as an aid to students of bird life in the state. Then, to supplement the numerous week-end trips into North Mississippi we spent June 7-21, 1936, on a trip thru the remainder of the state. I was fortunate in having Rover Scouts John Pond and Eugene Wallace of Memphis and George Foster of Norris, Tennessee, accompany me. Active and enthusiastic and seasoned field students as well, they contributed materially to the success of the trip. We drove down thru the Yazoo-Mississippi "Delta" and spent the first two days banding herons and Anhingas at Glen Allen. After three more days of stop, look, and listen, we reached the coast where we spent four days. Returning up the east side of the state we cut over to the central part often and even back south twice in our endeavor to outline the Towhee's summer range. The trip was concluded at Amory; we had covered 2500 miles and ventured out on back roads as well as touched nearly every highway in the state (before the present fine roads). Part of the central route is indicated on a map in The Migrant (1941:53 & 56). We also enjoyed the hospitality of the Boy Scout camps of the Jackson, Hattiesburg, and Meridian areas, located respectively at Clinton, Stafford Springs, and Whynot. Extended early morning trips were made at those camps.

HAWKS: were unusually scarce, an unfortunate condition to report. However, a number of Mississippi Kites were noted. The first was seen 16 miles south of Vicksburg on June 9. The next day a total of six was seen within ten miles (east) of Fort Adams. Three were seen in Marion County June 11 and on June 16 one near Moss Point and one between Lucedale and McLain. Cooper's Hawks were recorded at three places: June 13, Biloxi Back Bay; June 19, north of Union (with young) and near Kosciusko. Our most unusual record was an adult Red-tailed Hawk observed June 10, soaring over Fort Adams in the southwest corner of the state. This species is normally a winter resident only. Sixteen Red-shouldered Hawks were seen at seven places, nine being recorded in the pine barrens south of Van Cleave. This species and the Cooper's Hawk should be the hawks most frequently noted in summer. A Broad-winged Hawk was seen June 18, Camp Binachi at Whynot. It is a regular breeder in northeast Mississippi and should be found half way down the east side of the state. One Osprey was seen at Gulfport and one at Pascagoula. Two nests with young, just north of Moss Point, June 16, were probably Osprey nests. The only hawk seen in the Delta was a Sparrow Hawk, June 7, Ruleville. In the pine barrens of South Mississippi this species was fairly common but unfortunately rare elsewhere; the total observed was about ten.

SANDHILL CRANE: Not seen but the presence of from two to seven cranes on the pine barrens between Ocean Springs and Van Cleave was, we believe, well substantiated by talks with residents in that area. It might be well to record our reason for this investigation. In a letter of June 4, 1936, Miss Nannie-Mayes Crump, then a reporter on the Biloxi-Gulfport Daily Herald, wrote: "One piece of information I happened across last summer may be of some aid to you. I was told by Mr. W. T. Sparkman, newspaperman of Pascagoula, that the last flock of sandhill cranes in the U. S. feed and breed on the sand flats between Ocean Springs and Van Cleave; that some specialist from the Mississippi State College found them and reported them several years ago." The race here is evidently that found regularly in Florida.

BLACK RAIL: On June 14 near Clermont Harbor one was flushed by Pond and Foster and again by Wallace before I reached the spot. All three observers were previously familiar with downy black, young rails.

FLORIDA GALLINULE: Common on the coast.

SHOREBIRDS: As far as sandy beaches, spits, and bars were concerned the Mississippi Gulf Coast was a big disappointment. A large part is concrete beach wall and the remainder salt water marsh. A small strip of sand at Pascagoula was covered by high tide when we were there. At Gulfport we visited (June 12-13-15) the sand spit where the Municipal Terminal Warehouse was located. It was occupied chiefly by resting gulls and terns but we recorded Semi-palmated Plover, 1; Wilson's Plover, 8 (1 young banded); Black-bellied Plover, 2; Ruddy Turnstone, 2; Willett, 1; and Semi-palmated Sandpiper, 1.

Our plans to visit the islands off the coast did not materialize. The nearby Louisiana islands are blessed with a large number of breeding water birds but not so the Mississippi islands. Unable to ascertain which was the best island to visit we decided not to risk wasting our time and money on a visit to a barren locality. We took the excursion steamer to Ship Island but it was chiefly a boat ride with only 1½ hours on the island. Our records there included Cuban Snowy Plover, 6; Wilson's Plover, 10; Black-bellied Plover, 2; Willet, 2; and Semipalmated Sandpiper, 2, all on June 13.

We cannot thus expect to find many shorebirds on the Mississippi Gulf Coast without visiting Petit Bois, Horn, Ship, and Cat Islands and even there nesting colonies may be small or absent. Of course several of the above species do not nest on the Gulf Coast, the birds recorded being non-breeding individuals which remained behind.

TERNs: At the Gulfport Terminal June 12, 13 and 15, we noted Forster's Tern, 40; Least Tern, 100; Royal Tern, 50; Cabot's Tern, 14; Caspian Tern, 20; and Black Tern, 25. The latter species (non-breeding) was recorded previously as appearing as early as July 26 at Bay St. Louis, (Beyer, Allison, Kopman - Auk, July, 1907). About eighteen of the Black Terns were in immature plumage, but only one was mottled. On our first day, June 12, we saw 2 adult and 12 immature Black Terns. Though it was a poor location, two Least Tern nests were found, one being about 20 feet from a railway switch track.

BLACK SKIMMER: Only two were noted with the above but this species should be common later. A third was noted on Ship Island, June 13.

GROUND DOVE: Not one was seen altho we eagerly looked for it.

FLICKER: Decidedly uncommon to rare in the Delta and Bluff section as were the other woodpeckers to some extent.

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER: Another missing species. We had all hoped to add it to our life list except Wallace, who found a noisy pair south of Hattiesburg on a previous trip, July 14, 1935.

BARN SWALLOW: Fort Massachusetts on Ship Island is now a resort operated by the American Legion. Many vaulted archways are partitioned off for rooms. Seven small wood shelves were provided for the swallows which built nests on six. On June 13 there were four other nests plastered to the bricks. McIlhenny (The Auk 1933: 439 & 1935: 188, identical notes) found 68 nests there just prior to July 4, 1933, and before the fort was "improved." It was a thrill to see Barn Swallows nesting this far south. We have not found it elsewhere in the state in summer or as yet near Memphis. This wide gap may indicate a different race as in the case of the Towhee.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH: May be said to be rare.

BEWICK'S WREN: None recorded on the trip although probable; recorded at Clinton and at several points in north Mississippi, previously.

CATBIRD: Uncommon to rare. All records were north of Vicksburg-Durant-Louisville. Heard in several cases in towns where it will probably be most common. (Common at Iuka).

BLUEBIRD: Almost absent from the Delta. Common in pine areas and very common along the Laurel - Taylorsville - Raleigh road, June 17.

STARLING: Several nestfuls were banded, 5 miles west of Macon in the east central part of the state, June 19. Seen only a few times.

WARBLING VIREO: Not recorded on the trip. It is, however, fairly common in the Mississippi River region where it is a continuous singer.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER: A pair were seen June 10 south of Natchez and a family group found later the same day in the pretty, hilly country between Woodville and Fort Adams. On the east side of the state from one to two were seen June 17 near Stafford Springs, June 18, two locations east of Meridian, once south of Electric Mills, and June 21 at Greenwood Springs. It has been fairly common in the northeast corner of the state.

PARULA WARBLER: Not as common in the east central portion as elsewhere.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Uncommon.

PRAIRIE WARBLER: Not found at Stafford Springs but found 8 miles east of Laurel and in area northeast of Waynesboro, June 17. This seemed to be their southern limit. Four were heard June 19 four miles north of Carthage which was as far west as we recorded them. (Considered as common for the northeast corner).

LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH: At times uncommon. Not recorded south of Columbia - Stafford Springs.

AMERICAN REDSTART: Fairly common in all the larger wooded bottomlands except those of the Leaf River which we passed thru at several places from Lucedale to Hattiesburg. Not seen on the coast. One was recorded June 11 east of Bogalusa, La. but in Miss. The southernmost record on the east side was in the bottoms east of Pachuta, June 17 where we noted seven on brief stops. In northeast Mississippi it is not quite as common and is more often found on the hillsides.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: Recorded sparingly all the way down the west side to Fort Adams in the lower corner; also three June 11, near Monticello and Columbia and one, June 14, between Ansley and Claiborne on the coastal prairie. The only east side record was a pair $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Newton, June 19.

COWBIRD: Practically same as preceding species, but slightly less common. A few pairs were noted. An immature Cowbird at Picayune, June 11, was being fed by a first year Orchard Oriole. East Miss. records are - near Macon, 1, June 19; near Maben, 3, June 21. The dairy belt of the Northeast Prairie section was a likely habitat but none was seen except at Macon. Its presence in the west and rareness in the east, contrary to what was expected, suggests a different population.

BLUE GROSBEAK: Generally distributed in central Mississippi and status may be said to be between "uncommon" and "fairly common." Recorded from Good Hope (May, 1935) and on our trip from Clinton to Brookhaven, Hattiesburg to Columbus and back to Kosciusko and Pickens.

COMANCHE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA, NOTES

FOREWORD - During my stay at the Field Artillery School, Ft. Sill, Okla., Dec. 30, 1942, to Aug. 26, 1944, I undertook a study of the bird life there as circumstances allowed. Many observations were incidental, owing to my frequent duties in the field, while others were made on trips alone or with Mrs. Coffey and Jim Vardaman of Memphis, Chas. E. Price, Jr. of Moylan, Pa., S. T. Bivins of Georgia, and L. D. Thompson of Paris, Tenn. The nearby Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge was often visited on tactical problems and the eastern environs of Lawton kept under surveillance. No specimens were collected. The following four topics have been extracted from field notes, as of special interest. Compiled in October, 1944, any reference in them is based on published data to that date. Dr. George M. Sutton very kindly supplied us with separates of his articles on the state which supplemented the very helpful "The Birds of Oklahoma" by Mrs. M. M. Nice (1930).

SHOREBIRDS. - The only good habitat for these was a small pasture pond, southwest corner of Cache Road and Highway 277, Lawton. Occasionally some were seen on other ponds across Cache Road while Killdeer and transient Spotted Sandpipers were well distributed, including the lakes in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. The 1943 migration was poor.

Piping Plover: one, Apr. 24, 1944.

Killdeer: Fairly common except in winter when it was uncommon. Notable fall concentration on the Polo Field, - estimated 200 on Sept. 18, 1943, dwindling to 7 on Nov. 22, 1943.

Wilson's Snipe: Three recorded Dec. 19, 1943, at the State Fish Hatchery, Medicine Park, and one the next day west of Cow Creek in the Refuge. In 1944 at the Lawton pond it was seen Mar. 26, Apr. 7, and Apr. 19 (two).

Upland Plover (Sandpiper): In 1943 a few individuals were heard passing over the post Apr. 19-25 and 14 passed by on Apr. 30. In 1944 singles were heard Apr. 29 and May 1 and one seen in the pasture May 6; two were seen there Aug. 20. Individuals were heard passing over July 28 to Aug. 16 while during the night of Aug. 17-18 the species was heard overhead repeatedly along with Green Herons and other transients.

Spotted Sandpiper: Widely distributed at all ponds and lakes, usually singly, from Apr. 22 to May 21 and July 22 to Aug. 20, 1944.

Solitary Sandpiper: Uncommon, from Apr. 7 to May 2 and July 27 to Aug. 13, 1944, and two on Sept. 12, 1943.

Willet: Two seen May 6, 1944, and one on Aug. 13, 1944.

Greater Yellow-legs: One on Mar. 29, 1944.

Lesser Yellow-legs: In 1943 I saw four on Apr. 13 (West Range) and two on Sept. 12. In 1944 four were noted on Apr. 5 and singles on Apr 7, Apr. 8, and May 6.

Pectoral Sandpiper: From Mar. 23, 1944 (16) to Apr. 8 (23) including Mar. 26 (48) and Apr. 7 (5 groups totaling 75); singles were recorded on July 16 and Aug. 5, 1944.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Twelve were noted on May 6 and May 21, 1944, with smaller numbers on intervening dates.

Baird's Sandpiper: Seen in 1944 on Mar. 29 (8), Mar. 30 (15) and Apr. 1 (33); Apr. 7 (5); singles reappearing Apr. 24, May 17, and May 21.

Least Sandpiper: Small numbers were recorded Mar. 23 to May 21, 1944, - the maximum was 12. Singles noted July 16, July 22, Aug. 5, and three on Aug. 20.

Dowitcher: Recorded on most trips from Mar. 23, 1944 (8) to a high on Apr. 8 (16), again only on Apr. 24 (2), with Aug. 5 (3) the sole fall record before we left Aug. 26.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Two were seen Mar. 25, 1944, and three on April 22. A small flock (maximum of 14) was found May 6 to May 21 and three were recorded Aug. 5, 1944.

Western Sandpiper: Three were recorded Mar. 23, 1944.

Wilson's Phalarope: A female was seen May 8, 1944.

WRENS. - In Mrs. Nice's "The Birds of Oklahoma" (1931) the Canyon Wren and Rock Wren are listed as summer residents for certain portions of Oklahoma. Since the writer found them present more or less continuously during his stay the following notes on all species of wrens are given.

House Wren: The only transient noted in 1943 was one on May 16. (Three were seen Oct. 3 in the Oklahoma City Civic Center). In 1944 there was a wave, relatively speaking, of small birds near the Medicine Bluffs and five House Wrens were seen Apr. 29 and twelve the next day. There were no winter records.

Winter Wren: One was noted Dec. 24, 1942, by Chas. E. Price but we failed to find it except for one along Cache Creek on Feb. 6, 1944.

Texas Bewick's Wren: The most common wren and well distributed in later winter and spring. Apparently many left during winter.

Carolina Wren: Common resident along Medicine and Cache creeks.

Long-billed Marsh Wren: One, Apr. 29, 1944, near the Bluffs.

Canyon Wren: On Feb. 21, 1943, I had a quick glimpse of this wren and heard its beautiful song against the rocky backdrop of Medicine Bluff No. 3. A second was nearby and later on Rabbit Hill a third gave me the opportunity for careful identification. Subsequently I learned of Chas. E. Price's record in the Bluff area Dec. 24, 1942 (Audubon Magazine, Jan.-Feb. 1943, Section II:48). Visits to the Medicine Bluffs were frequent and to Rabbit Hill less so but, his species passed unobserved most of the time. Bluff records are: 1942 - Dec. 24; 1943 - Feb. 21, Apr. 25, Aug. 1, Aug. 9, Oct. 23, and Dec. 19. Rabbit Hill: 1943 - Feb. 21, Apr. 18; 1944 - Apr. 21. On Apr. 25, 1943, Price and I climbed Mt. Scott and recorded two. Subsequent records there were: 1943 - July 17, three, Nov. 22, none, and Dec. 19, one (windy); 1944 - Mar. 5, July 9, and July 23. A fourth locality was Panther Creek Canyon - singles recorded Dec. 20, 1943, and Jan. 3, 1944. I heard the species south of Little Baldy on Oct. 28, 1943, and Apr. 10, 1944. On Feb. 4, 1944, I was on Elk Mountain and Bat Cave Mountain most of the day. Although there was a brisk south wind, many suitable areas were sheltered; however, only one Canyon Wren, one Rock Wren, and very few other individuals were found. The only time the Canyon Wren was common and unhesitant about singing was on July 23, 1944, when we recorded six individuals on Mt. Scott plus one other on nearby Mt. Watt.

Rock Wren: The first of this species was also seen on Feb. 21, 1943, - a shy individual at Medicine Bluff No. 4. Despite frequent trips the next ones seen at the Bluffs were on Dec. 12 (2) and on Dec. 19 (3). The only Rabbit Hill record was Mar. 25, 1944. For Mt. Scott: 1943 - Apr. 25 (6); July 17 (2); Nov. 22 (2); Dec. 19 (1); 1944 - Mar. 5, none, July 9 (1), July 23 (3 places on Mt. Scott plus 1 on Mt. Watt). A pair was noted

Apr. 9 and May 14, 1944, in the small canyon below the Lake Elmer Thomas dam. One was seen at the Lake Quanah Parker Dam once only, Dec. 13, 1943. On Elk Mountain Feb. 4, 1944, only one was recorded.

SPRING MIGRATIONS. - There is some uncertainty in my mind as to which of the two spring migrations noted at Ft. Sill, Okla., 1943 and 1944, respectively, was the rule and which was the exception. From the records to be cited I believe a brief wave of warblers in 1944 was the exception. There was a pronounced influx of summer residents such as the Lark Sparrow and others while transient Goldfinches, Chipping, Claycolored, Field, and Lincoln's Sparrows and swallows passed through in moderate numbers, but the transient warblers of the East were practically absent. In 1943 one Orange-crowned Warbler was the warbler total for a full spring day afield - on Apr. 11, Apr. 18, and Apr. 25. A most striking exception was a string of Yellow Warbler records, totaling 19, for May 16. There were no warbler records for May 2, May 23, and May 30. A House Wren on May 16 was the only record of this species. Price had a small wave of Pine Siskins in the Post Chapel woods but we found only three May 2.

On Apr. 29, 1944, there was a heavy rain in the morning. From 5:45 to 7:45 P.M. (CWT) Mrs. Coffey and I worked the deciduous woods near Medicine Bluff No. 1 and then across the creek from Bluffs No. 1 and No. 2. The warblers recorded were: Black and White, 1; Orange-crowned, 3; Yellow, 7; Magnolia, 1; Black-throated Green, 1; Bay-breasted, 1; Louisiana Water-thrush, 2; Yellow-throat, 10; Yellow-breasted Chat, 1; Wilson's, 3; and Redstart, 3. The next morning we started at the Post Chapel woods and later retraced part of the Bluff area, recording: Black and White, 3; Blue-winged, 3; Tennessee, 1; Orange-crowned, 5; Nashville, 1; Parula, 1; Yellow, 5; Black-throated Green, 1; Connecticut, 1; Yellow-throat, 5; Yellow-breasted Chat, 2; and Redstart, 2. On May 6 we still recorded; Black and White, 1; Orange-crowned, 4; Nashville, 1; Yellow, 2; and Yellow-throat 1. May 9: Black and White, 1; Nashville, 3; Yellow, 4; and Yellow-throat, 1. Many of the species are uncommon to rare in central and western Oklahoma and the Connecticut Warbler is apparently the second record for the state. By May 13 and 14 only a Chat and a few Yellow Warblers remained except for a Black and White Warbler at Mt. Watt which was also found there July 23. There is good reason to believe one or two Yellow-throats resided in gardens of the older part of Lawton, but the above are our only records. From May 15 to May 27 we heard a Yellow-breasted Chat calling in Lawton.

Other uncommon transients were: House Wren - Apr. 29, 5, and Apr. 30, 12; Wood Thrush - Apr. 29, 1; Olive-backed Thrush - Apr. 29, 1; May 6, 1; May 9, 1; Willow Thrush May 13, 1; Black-billed Cuckoo - May 13, 1; Whip-poor-will - Apr. 29, 1; Empidonax (apparently the Alder Flycatcher) - Apr. 29, 5; Apr. 30, 1; Indigo Bunting - Apr. 30, 2. Unusually early were ten Franklin's Gulls on a windy March 28 and a Barn Swallow at nesting site on Apr. 5 and two at other distant sites Apr. 6. In 1943 this species escaped notice until numbers appeared with other swallows May 14.

The common transients such as the Goldfinch appeared more common in 1944 and mixed with them on Apr. 30 were about 180 Pine Siskins. White-crowned Sparrows, absent in 1943, were recorded - 10 on Apr. 29 and 30 on Apr. 30 with a female White-throated Sparrow seen each day. Earlier, on Apr. 24, a Gambel's

Sparrow and a White-crowned were distinguished, and one White-crowned remained on May 6. Two 1943 records of note were: a Chimney Swift watched for some time on Mar. 25 and a Black-headed Grosbeak by Chas. E. Price, Jr., late in April. The Swift was a fairly common summer resident there.

OWLS. - Barn Owl: A dead Barn Owl was found Feb. 12, 1943, in the Chatto Flats. Nine days later I located at Mt. Hinds two, of which one appeared to be an immature able to fly moderate distances. One was reported to me near here on Mar. 18. Near Crater Lake; eight miles west I flushed one on Apr. 13. Three miles south of the latter, at the railroad overpass east of Cache, a Barn Owl flew eastward over our truck at dawn, Dec. 13, 1943.

Screech Owl: Heard only occasionally on night problems but apparently fairly common in wooded areas.

Burrowing Owl: A small, prairie dog village north of Snow Ridge was visited a few times on foot and we often rode by but no Burrowing Owls were ever noticed there or at two villages in the Refuge. There was a pond and pasture at the southwest corner of Cache Road and Highway No. 277, Lawton, which was visited occasionally for over a year. Then on Mar. 26, 1944, on high ground there I found two Burrowing Owls. A total of five owls was seen on Mar. 30 and until Apr. 22, then only one was seen throughout the summer. Occasionally most of the holes were found stopped up, apparently to do away with the prairie dogs. No more than six dogs were ever seen; the holes increased in number to 22 (Aug. 5), but the area used was restricted. On Aug. 20, after stalking the usual single owl, a second owl was noted in a hole, and on a farewell visit, Aug. 25, two owls were flushed. It seems only remotely possible that a pair was always present, less so that a brood may have been reared.

Barred Owl: The common owl of the wooded portions of this area, frequently heard and seen.

Long-eared Owl: One was seen Dec. 16, 1943, along Cache Creek below Hoyle Bridge and I believe I heard one while climbing Jones Ridge the night of May 25, 1944. - Medicine Bluff No. 3 is a rocky precipice about 120 feet high. About 40 feet down is a hole about 3' wide, 4' high and 3' deep. During the spring of 1943 Price and I thought immature birds were present in the recess, but repeated examination through 8x glasses left us undecided. On Mar. 12, 1944, Bill Platt and I dropped a small tin can down the bluff. Instantly a small owl took off. When it flew back downstream I was reasonably certain it was this species. On the evening of Apr. 29 from across the creek, Mrs. Coffey and I watched two immature owls move around in the hole. Then, trying out their wings, they clambered awkwardly a few feet to nearby scrub. An adult was heard calling later. The next day we returned at noon and waited unsuccessfully for the return of adults to the two immatures waiting in the opening. On May 6 none was present.

Short-eared Owl: On Jan. 30, 1943, I flushed one from a pasture south of the Highland Cemetery, then, crossing Cache Road, two others in the large pasture at the southwest corner of Highway 277, Lawton. On Feb. 21, 1943, one took flight from the prairie on the reservation between Chrystie and Barbed Wire Hills. These areas were visited often the next season, but no other Short-eareds were recorded.

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Field work yielded many records of interest on the Counts and thus should have been continued. But apparently it has been sparse and notes are likewise. We have mentioned the 2d Memphis (3d state) record of the Harris's Sparrow near Raleigh, on the count, Dec. 21. Of paramount interest at present is the fact that any one who wants to add this beautiful western species to his life-list can do so by going out to Charles McPherson's, Riverdale Road, Germantown. (The field trip, Sunday, Jan. 25, under Mrs. C. E. Wilmeth, will include his place.) On Jan. 11 he noticed an immature Harris's Sparrow near the house, then later, while placing extra feed account the inclement weather, he saw 5 on the back lot. They were seen again Jan. 17 and two were trapped and banded. A third was banded on the 18th and a fourth on the 19th. Charlie believes that 8 to 10 are present. It might be noted that these, the Lonoke, Ark. flock of Dec. 20, the 1st Memphis record by Joe Mason, Jr., Dec. 28, 1939, and the 1st Tennessee record, at Nashville, by Mrs. F. C. Laskey, Dec. 10, 1933, were at localities favored by the White-crowned Sparrow. The latter species, near Memphis, is of local occurrence but has become more common in recent years. On the recent count it was found at seven places. The McPherson White-crowns have returned each winter for over twenty years. The Harris's at Raleigh was about 4 miles NNW of Mason's record, and McPherson's flock is 4 miles ESE of Mason's capture.

On Jan. 11, Ed King noted 12 "peeps" on the far edge of Mud Lake, Tenn.-Miss. Present on Jan. 18 were 60 Least Sandpipers and one Semi-palmated Sandpiper (BC,RDS). As a sight record the latter is open to question. The bird was viewed at about 25 yards thru 7x50 and 10x50 coated, and slightly larger size and almost whitish appearance noted. Before a good study of the bill could be made, the bird left. The Least Sandpiper has been recorded at Memphis only once in winter, -Dec. 22, 1946, by Herbert Clark and viewed by Mount and Coffey, and on three Christmas Counts at Tupelo, Miss. (RDS,BC). Vaiden (The Migrant 1948:61-62) gives several winter records for Rosedale, Miss. Flocks of up to 198 have been found at the Lonoke, Ark. fish hatchery this winter and last, but we have never been able to distinguish any peep but the Least. This is the first winter I've known of where Mud Lake was favorable for shorebirds. There are three very small and shallow pools of water there, - most of the lake is dry. A moderate number of Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe was present on the 11th and 18th, also on Dec. 28 (King) and Nov. 11 (Lee Grimmig) when no "peeps" were noted. After drying up, the very sparse pools reappeared in November. Unfortunately, no visits other than those above, have been made.

Ed King and the C. E. Wilmeths on Jan. 11 at Arkabutla, Miss. watched for some time a Krider's Red-tailed Hawk. On Jan. 4 Chas. McPherson and the Wilmeths saw 3 Brewer's Blackbirds at the Penal Farm. Moderate sized flocks of Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs continue there. On Mud Lake, Jan. 18, were 30 Am. Pipits (RDS, BC). All who can should drive across the dam to President's Island, about 30 minutes before sunset, and watch the blackbird flocks come to the roost. Perhaps a Short-eared Owl will be seen (please advise me dates when this species is noted).

The estimate of 895,000 blackbirds will be discussed at another time. Additional Count comments: A Woodcock at Vicksburg (RDS), no Red-tailed Hawk at Columbus and no Red-shouldered Hawk at Vicksburg. A comparison with past years is in order only for Memphis. There, most small songbirds continued in reduced numbers as for the last two seasons. One noticeable species, the Golden-crowned Kinglet, seemed low, - 33, compared with 71 last year, and 50 or less until the 1947 high of 132. Of these 33 the North party accounted for 23, Southeast, 2, South, 3, Raleigh, Riverside, and Overton Parks each had none, and Normal, 5. That's not many. Parenthetically, Arnold Hoiberg writes that he observed a Green-tailed Towhee for some time, Nov. 8, 1952, south of El Dorado, Ark. He didn't find it subsequently. Perhaps Audubon Field Notes will show other casual records of the species for this winter.

ROAD RUNNER AT PETIT JEAN STATE PARK, ARKANSAS: During the week of August 13-20, 1952, I was at Petit Jean State Park, southwest of Morrilton, Arkansas. I was able to do some bird study in the early morning and the late evenings and found just about what we see in August near Memphis. However, the Pine Warblers were common and three Western Meadowlarks were heard singing. I was surprised to see a Road-runner the afternoon of August 13, midway on the south slope of the mountain. The manager of Mather Lodge in the park stated he had seen one on the north slope. Baerg (1951) in "Birds of Arkansas" lists the species for several western border counties and for Logan County, the next county west of the park. However, Mrs. Ruth Thomas of Morrilton mentioned in a current Arkansas Gazette article that one was in her yard. --Nelle Moore.

NOCTURNAL BIRD MIGRATION STUDIES. The period of Oct. 29 - Nov. 4 did not indicate the major but sporadic movements recorded Oct. 1-5. Sampling was done at Coffey Grounds: Oct. 29, 9:20 to 10 PM, 2 passages, Ziegler; Nov. 2, 8:30 - 9:00 (3, BC) and 10:11 - 11 PM (3, LC); Nov. 4, 9:45 - 10:25 PM (2, BC). The station at Southwestern was manned four nights. Those cooperating were Robert Cooper, Richmond Gill, Reed Knight, Anne McCrahan, Patricia Moore, Geo. Peyton, Marie Smith, Demett Smith, Donald Wilson, Orval Wood, Alan Ziegler, and Mrs. Coffey. Alan took two of the midnight to dawn watches alone. On Oct. 30-31, 7:08 to 4:05 AM, 12 passages were recorded, all between 11:03 to 12:05 and 2:43 to 3:16 and at 3:38; 3 heard overhead. The watch from 7:05 PM Oct. 31 to 2:30 AM Nov. 1 yielded: 10 passages from 8:45 to 8:59, 1 each at 9:15, 9:16, and 2:24; 8 were heard. On Nov. 1-2, from 7:37 to 2:32, only 4 were seen and 2 heard. As a result we called off the full manning of the station the next night (the C. E. Wilmeths had volunteered). A cold front passed over, about 1:30 AM, Nov. 3, but the clouds moved in just as I completed setting up later. The station was then manned from 7:20 PM to 6 AM, Nov. 3-4. A moderate number of passages (123) was recorded, many apparently in 5 to 15 minute spurts of activity. The tabulation shows 7:20 to 8:35, 21; 8:39 - 8:55, 20; 9:01 to 9:08, 12; 9:13 to 9:40, 19; 9:53 to 12:10, 14; 12:24 to 12:55, 9; to 1:44, none; 1:44 to 2:30, 7; to 3:35, none; 3:40 to 4:35, 10; and 4:40 to 6 AM, 7. During the night 5 were heard. Twelve other passages were listed as probably bats, much higher than for other late fall nights.

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SPOTTED TOWHEE AT GERMANTOWN, A FIRST FOR TENNESSEE

While a Green-tailed Towhee, a first record for Tennessee (1952:13) remained apparently only five days (The Migrant, 1952: 76), another new species for the state is represented by a banded individual remaining for the season at the Charles Seahorns', Riverdale Road, Germantown, just east of Memphis. Charles, Jr. banded the bird, a beautifully marked male, on Dec. 20, 1952, and it is seen, almost every day, at the feeding table. Thru the kindness of the Seahorns many T.O.S. members added this species to their life list on the January (25th) field trip and subsequently. With bird students also trekking down to Chas. McPherson's, one mile distant, at the end of Riverdale Road, to watch Harris's Sparrows, your writer is referring to this road as Ft. Sill Blvd. The two species were noted fairly commonly during his winters in Oklahoma. The Towhee has wandered less than the sparrow. The first Louisiana record of the Spotted Towhee was Dec. 22, 1950, at Hackberry (Aud. Field Notes 5 (3):210) and one was reported this season at New Brunswick, N.J. The Germantown bird will be recorded in The Migrant by Charles after its winter sojourn has been completed.

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS

The open winter continued thru February with a mean temperature of 46.6 degrees, 2.1 above normal. Only 4 days dropped to freezing or below (low 26) while there were 41 such days, Oct. 1 - Jan. 31. Most stayed close to 32 degrees (low 23 on Nov. 4). Rain was normal for February, 25% deficient for January. Early in January Mud Lake was mostly dampened dried mud with our first wintering "peeps" on record at one shallow pool, then later at a corner of the lake before giving way to ducks. By mid-February the water was into the trees along the edge. The big river continues low for this season with one moderate rise, but the small ones have backed up several times. Some "pits" still remain dry; the Lakeview "highway pit" had first standing water on Feb. 22 but that was gone a week later.

The number of ducks at the Lonoke, Ark. fish hatchery on Feb. 1 was about half that seen on the Christmas Count, with Baldpates and Shovellers again the more common, in that order. Along the highway were, among others: Shoveller, 96; Canvas-back, 77; Gadwall, 46; elsewhere Mallard, 3,000 and Pintail, 375. The first ducks to move in on Mud Lake, Tenn.-Miss. were, on Feb. 8 - Mallard, 120, and Pintail, 210. On Feb. 22 there were only small numbers but nine species of ducks were present, including 5 Redheads; changing on the 28th to Mallard, 25; Ring-necked Duck, 550; and Canvas-back, 15. On Feb. 15, 80 Mallards were seen in open backwater at the Penal Farm, a number remaining back in the flooded woods on later dates.

Except for 4 Great Blues no heron or other marsh birds were found at Lonoke on Feb. 1 during an all-day Snipe Count (BCs, RDS, O. Wood). Based on this and the Christmas Count, compared with similar counts last winter, the Wilson's Snipe were 30% below

last season. Although none was found in the hatchery, it is evidently still the focal point of attraction. A single Least Sandpiper was seen in a muddy field nearby while the large flock at the hatchery had temporarily dwindled to 35. At Mud Lake, Tenn.-Miss., 83 Least Sandpipers were counted on Jan. 24. The largest number of Ring-billed Gulls ever reported on our river front have been present, chiefly in McKellar Lake (formerly Tennessee Chute). Estimates were 1,000 on Jan. 1 (RDS) and 475 on Feb. 22 (LC). We have no observations of Short-eared Owls at the black-bird roost reported since Jan. 24 (F. Carney, A. Smith, BCs).

Besides the House Wren previously reported (Moon Lake, Dec. 28), one was seen at Ensley, Dec. 26 (RDS). Long-billed Marsh Wrens logged (RDS) were: Reelfoot Lake (Walnut Log), 1, Nov. 30; Jan. 1, President's Island, 1, (1st winter record at Memphis); Lonoke hatchery, 6 on the Count, Dec. 20; also one at the latter on Feb. 1 (BC). With the "peeps" at Mud Lake on Jan. 24 were 100 Am. Pipits. Western Meadowlarks finally showed at Lonoke and near Memphis. Our 1st record of the species at Lonoke was opposite (W) the hatchery on Jan. 25, 1952. Since we had missed it Dec. 24, 1951, on that Xmas Count, we tried for it unsuccessfully on the 2d Xmas Count, Dec. 20, 1952. But it again was noted there on the 2d Snipe Count, Feb. 1, 1953. On this date we also heard one singing, 5 miles from the town, while we were digging out of a mudhole. The species would be expected to be more common than this on the Lonoke prairie. On Feb. 14, one was singing, 6 miles N. of Hernando, Miss. While the next day we heard ten separate singers at our Penal Farm. Incidental to special searches for pipits there, 8 Westerns were heard Feb. 21 and 4 on Feb. 28, - a persistent wind-limited singing. The previous high there was 6 on Feb. 3, 1952 (RDS). None had been reported there previously this season, including the Count, Dec. 21, and a brief passage, Jan. 25. On Feb. 22, our first records for East Arkansas, besides Lonoke, were just across the river, 2 (RDS) near Edmondson and 1 (BC) 6 miles SW of Hulbert. The Brewer's Blackbird and Rusty Blackbird continue rare at Memphis this season but fairly common at Lonoke. On the Lonoke Christmas Count, Dec. 20, we totaled 36 and 176, respectively, of these two species. On Feb. 1 we saw our first Brewer's; 5, at the hatchery itself (LC, RDS, BC) plus 15 Rusties. Generally we find only the Rusty around the hatchery while the Brewer's is out on the prairie where 21 more were listed Feb. 1.

The Pine Siskin has been found regularly on all sides of us but uncommonly at Memphis with three records previous to this season and a 4th reported (1952:10) last Nov. 29, - 7 in Overton Park (LFK). With the species unusually common in the East we might expect them here now. Rev. Wm. Hearn saw 30 in his yard for an hour, Feb. 23. On Feb. 28, your editor went to Overton Park for them and found 9 at the first stop but no others. These were his first in the Mid-South. Look for them now in budding elms; you'll probably find Goldfinch, Purple Finch, Junco, and White-throat similarly feeding. At Huntersville (Jackson), Tenn. Kilian Roever reports the Siskins in cottonwoods, three days during the last week of February while at Eldorado, Ark. Arnold Holberg reports them on Feb. 15. - Another Lonoke record for the Leconte's Sparrow was on Feb. 1 (RDS). A Vesper Sparrow was seen at Friar's Point, Miss., Dec. 28 (Chas. McPherson) and 3 near Lonoke, Feb. 1 (RDS, BC).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT IN TENN., MISS., AND ARK.

For the second straight monthly field trip, bird students at Memphis had a chance to see what was to most of them a new species. Our "lookout" for the Sprague's Pipit was rewarded this season with records for a locality in each of the three states frequented by Memphians. Apparently this is again a new species for Tennessee, the third for this winter. Baerg (1951) reports only one record for Arkansas, - flocks at Ft. Smith in the fall of 1879 by E. Coues. Andrew Allison collected one and saw another in Jan. 1902, at Bay St. Louis, Miss., and no other records for that state have appeared until this year. Jeter and Hamilton have found it at Shreveport, La. during recent winters and, as a result, we have looked more closely here. Generally a bird of the short-grass regions of the western prairie, a few accidentals have appeared on the Georgia and Carolina coast and in Fla., Mich., Ariz., and Yellowstone N. P., according to A. C. Bent.

Sanders Field is a small commercial airfield on US Hwy. 61 and a mile south of Walls, Miss. Late on Jan. 24, 1953, we walked a corner of it for "lapits" but got up only 5 Lapland Longspurs. However, I flushed an "unknown" three times. It was too dark to try to see it then, but I felt I would know its abrupt notes again. On Feb. 15 at the Penal Farm, east of Memphis, I walked a field and got up two of these birds and managed to flush one four more times before it left the field. An hour's search of surrounding fields failed to locate it again. White outer tail feathers were seen twice as it passed over. I got one look at it on the ground but couldn't see bill or legs. Changing plans, I went back to Sanders Field and got up 4 of these birds, separately or in twos, about a dozen times. Only once did I get a look at it on the ground but I was able then to check leisurely all field marks of the Sprague's Pipit. Pough's Audubon Guide served better than Peterson's; in fact, the latter threw me off the trail somewhat at the Penal Farm when I read that the notes were Bluebird-like. These birds gave two, more often three, abrupt notes; apparently slightly softer and possibly shorebird-like on Feb. 22. The flight is very bouncy, - sometimes it stays low over the field, sometimes goes up at once. In the latter instance when the bird comes down it drops like a Horned Lark. After alighting it often moves some distance.

On Feb. 21 Demett Smith and I worked the same field at the Penal Farm and then all fields to its north. After two hours Demett finally flushed one, three times, then watched it go a half mile to the original field. We returned there and got up three several times without a "still" look. We left the eastern part of the farm and tried two fields in the southwestern part. We finally got up two more several times with one good look at one bird on the ground.

With these experiences I was dubious of a group of bird students getting a good look at one of this species. But the Sprague's again confounded me. On Feb. 22 we had 19 persons out on the SW part of Sanders Field and all got repeated looks at four of the pipits which fed unconcernedly and allowed approach to within 20 yards. This day their flights were generally low over the field. Twelve of the species were counted (BC, RDS) in that area. Because of runways elsewhere, there were probably not many others on the field.

That afternoon we spent two hours across the river in Crittenden County, Ark. Unlike the American or Water Pipit Sprague's reportedly does not care for wet places and our first fields were very muddy although we picked fescue stands, hoping to find relatively dry fields. Finally, our 4th field, a two-acre pasture on US 79 near Edmondson, yielded one, flushed (RDS) and examined (BC). To the south on a much larger field a second was flushed (BC) and examined (RDS). Three other selected fields were walked, without results, before dark.

On Feb. 28 at the Penal Farm, one flushed and left the field. Our party tried another field without luck then drove to the previous southwestern location where two were finally flushed several times and examined thru binoculars by Rev. Wm. Hearn, Oliver Irwin, and Chas. Seahorn, Jr.

HARRIS'S SPARROW IN THE MID-SOUTH

On the Memphis Xmas Count, Dec. 21, 1952, a Harris's Sparrow was reported a mile SE of Raleigh (LFK, EK). With more time available for a search on Jan. 24, 9 were found there (BC,LC). On Feb. 28, 5 were found (BC,OI), - the remaining probably overlooked in the moving flocks of several species of sparrows there. Chas. McPherson's flock of about 10 (first one noted Jan. 11) remain at his home near Germantown while a mile south of him the Seahorns report three present recently. Luther Keeton decided to work over the flock of White-crowned Sparrows, US Hwy. 70, a mile E of Mason, Tenn. on Feb. 1 and finally found 3 Harris's Sparrows there. None was found on brief visits Feb. 22 and 28. The locality is 41 miles E of Memphis.

On Feb. 14, 6 miles N. of Hernando, Miss. and 6 miles S. of the Tenn. line, I found two Harris's Sparrows about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile W of US Hwy 51 and with Juncos, Fields, and White-throats; one immature White-crowned noted. This was a gray, windy day and I later called it quits. On other days I had worked near Horn Lake, Miss. (the town) and near Mud Lake, finding White-crowns often but no Harris's. The only previous record for Mississippi was that of a female collected at Gulfport, Feb. 17, 1942, by Burleigh (Burleigh, T. D., 1944: 482-483).

On Feb. 1 a protracted search (RDS, BC, OW) for the Lonoke, Ark. flock (1 on Nov. 16, 10 on Dec. 20) yielded only one Harris's but 40 White-crowns. Possibly the others were still in the area.

* * * * *

Many of us enjoyed the meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club last spring. The latest membership list shows 27 members in Tennessee with 8 at Memphis. These latter are Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coffey, Mary Davant, Luther Keeton, Abe Scharff (sustaining), Demett Smith, Kirby Stringer, and Robert Tucker. Other familiar names are Floy Cooper Burford in Virginia, Pauline James in Texas, Franklin McCamey in Connecticut, and Brother Vincent in Minnesota. Brother "V," in a recent letter, sends his best regards to all of us in Memphis and mentions a total of 24 species for his count.

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THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS - ARRIVALS

Feb. 28	Purple Martin, pair, Forest Hill, Tenn., Dr. J. E. Clark
Mar. 3	" " 1, Miss. & Carlton Rd., R. L. Irwin, Jr.
" "	" " male, Glenview & Kyle, Oliver Irwin.
" "	" " 1, Garden Lane, Scott Hutcheson.
" "	" " 3, 1328 Lamar, James Lancaster.
" "	" " Stout Rd., Germantown, Bart P. Mueller
(Mar. 8	Pine Warbler, 50, McNairy Co., E of Pocahontas) BC et al.
Mar. 7	Golden Plover, 3 Penal Farm, Chas. McPherson, Jr.
Mar. 14	" " 646, Crittenden Co., Ark. BC, LC, RDS.
" "	Pectoral Sandpiper, 50, Lehi, Ark. BC, LC, RDS.
" "	Semipalmated Sandpiper, 1, " "
(Mar. 15	Upland Plover, 6, Friar's Point, Miss) BC.
(" "	Least Sandpiper, 20, Maud, Miss.) BC OW Migrating.
Mar. 20	Chimney Swift, 3, Glenview, Oliver Irwin.
Mar. 20	" " 4, Poplar- Willett, BCs.
Mar. 21	Rough-winged Swallow, 5, Florida St. pit, LC, et al.
" "	Lesser Yellowlegs, 1, Tenn., US 61, 1 mi. N of Miss.
" "	Pectoral Sandpiper, 80, " " "
" "	Greater Yellowlegs, 9, Walls, Miss. (Also Lsr. Y. & Pect.
Mar. 22	" " 2, Penal Farm, BCs, Wood, Fleming.
Mar. 21	Chipping Sparrow, Overton Park, Geo. Peyton.
" "	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 9, BC, GP.
Mar. 22	Sycamore Warbler, 2, Penal Farm- Wolf River.
	La. Water-thrush, 1, Germantown Rd - Wolf River.
Mar. 27	Black and White Warbler, 2, Overton Park.
(Mar. 29	T.O.S., Spring Lake S.P., Miss: Osprey, 1; White-eyed
	Vireo, 3; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1; Prothonotary Warbler,
	1, (Barbigs); and high overhead, Broad-winged Hawk, 1,
	(Barbig, King & Julia). Latter is very early).
(Mar. 29	Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 2, Moscow, Tenn.)
" "	King Rail, 1
(Mar. 29	Whip-poor-will, 1, Parsons, Tenn., Mrs. R. L. Duck)
Mar. 30	Parula Warbler, 1, Overton Park.
" "	Black-throated Green Warbler, 1, Overton Park.
(Mar. 30	Whip-poor-will, 2, Parsons, Tenn., Mrs. Edd Davis).
Mar. 31	White-eyed Vireo, 1, Overton Park.

Relatively mild weather continued thru March but 1953's rainfall deficiency of two inches had been made up by the middle of the month and rain and wind continued to handicap week-end field work. Several pits continue dry while the big river has had moderate rises. A planned trip to Horseshoe Lake, Ark. was rained out for the second straight month and this is one winter no records are on file for that favored spot. On Mar. 1 we worked fields up US 61 to Blytheville, Ark., but in a drizzle and against a north wind we did poorly (BC, LC, RDS, hoping for Sprague's Pipit). We watched a flock of 20 Killdeer flying northward, for two miles. Near Osceola 60 Blue and 3 Snow Geese flew erratically towards the river. On Mar. 22 a hailstorm at Henning and a heavy downpour on our round trip beyond Ft. Pillow nullified our efforts for Golden Plover. Just north of Covington we saw 15 of this species

where we found a few on Mar. 25, 1951. Among records not in the last issue: Patricia Moore reports 3 Horned Grebes and 3 King Rails near Hickory Ridge, Ark. on Feb. 22. Luther and Evelyn Keeton and Alice Smith saw 5,000 Ruddy Ducks, 256 Canvas-backs, and 4 Black Ducks at Moon Lake on Feb. 7.

On Mar. 15 at the one-cypress rookery at Clayton, Miss. 9 Great Blue Herons were seen standing at their nests; apparently the Double-crested Cormorants had not yet taken over their old nests. On Mar. 29, two Yellow-crowned Night Herons were separately seen coming in to a marsh at Moscow, Tenn. A Yellow-crowned (?) Night Heron was heard passing over Coffey Grounds at 9:02 and another at 9:25 P.M., March 30; there was a slight drizzle then. On Moon Lake, Miss., Mar. 15, the only ducks noted were 800 (est) Ruddy Ducks. As on Feb. 7 only a few Double-crested Cormorants and Ring-billed Gulls were seen. Fishermen moved in on Mud Lake but a few L. Scaup remain on Horn Lake. On Mar. 17 from 10:12 to 10:22 P.M. a moderately large flock of Canada Geese was calling over Coffey Grounds; the drizzle shortly became a downpour. On Mar. 28, north of Lake Cormorant, Miss. we saw 44 Blue Geese and 5 Snow Geese turn towards the river. We have been informed that on the mornings of Mar. 16, 17, and 18, there was a large northward movement of waterfowl up the Mississippi as noted about 16 miles north of Memphis. Also a feeding and roosting area there (in Tenn.) had an influx of Blue-winged Teal, Shovellers, and Blue and Snow Geese on Mar. 7. The largest numbers of geese seen there were 1900 Blues and 25 Snows on Mar. 15.

Our Golden Plover records are: Penal Farm - Feb. 28 & Mar. 7: 0; Mar. 14: 3, 15; Mar. 22: 25; Mar. 28: 0. Walls - Lake Cormorant area, respectively for a mile west, 4 miles WNW of Walls (just S of T. P. Howard's), and old highway from gin (near Norfolk Landing) 3 miles to Lake Cormorant school. Mar. 15: 14, 11: 0; 65, 10, 80, 20, 15, & 70 (total 260). Mar. 21: 10, 12; 40, 80; 25. Mar. 28: 160, 100; 12, 80; 600. The Crittenden count on Mar. 14 showed 40 and 6, then at next stop we finally had in the air at the same time the following flocks: 200, 150, 150, 70, and 30. The migration appears above last year and about half that of 1950 and 1951. In an unsuccessful search for yellowlegs on Mar. 15, first and chiefly in the Lakeview area, we ended up at Moon Lake about 4:30 P.M. A mile north of Friar's Point we found 10 Golden Plovers and 6 Upland Plovers. The latter was not found elsewhere in March. Greater Yellowlegs recorded have been: Lakeview, Miss - Mar. 21, 9, and Mar. 28, 6, same slough; Penal Farm - Mar. 22, 2. Lesser Yellowlegs: "Coro puddles", US 61, 1 mile N. of Miss. line - Mar. 21 & 28, 1; Penal Farm - Mar. 28, 1; Lakeview, Miss. - Mar. 21, 6 & 4, Mar. 28, 5. Pectoral Sandpiper: "Coro puddles", Mar. 21, 80, Mar. 28, 21; Penal Farm - Mar. 21, 8; Mar. 28, 80; Navy Hospital, Mar. 22, 4. An early Killdeer nest on the CBC cinder track showed one egg on Feb. 15 and four on Feb. 19 (Bro. Leo Thomas); subsequently destroyed. One with 4 eggs noted at the Penal Farm, Mar. 22. Latter was in the edge of a gravelled road as was one at Arkabutla Dam, Miss. last year.

Two Prairie Horned Lark nests, Mar. 8, US 72, 8 miles W of Corinth (RDS, also Benj. R. Warriner, LC, & BC) were the

first actual nests of the species recorded in Miss., altho it has been considered a breeder since 1940, at least. One had 4 eggs, the other 3 eggs (4 the next day, BRW). A flock of 60 at the Penal Farm, Feb. 21, during intensive field coverage (BC, RDS) was the last flock recorded. All other observations have been of pairs including a pair along the levee, three miles N. of Friars Point, Miss. on Mar. 15. A House Wren, Mar. 7 (BC) was at the same spot at Ensley where seen Dec. 26 (RDS): evidently it wintered. Apparently the Am. Pipit in recent years is chiefly a migrant at the Penal Farm (10, 2 & 12 there on Xmas Count); a flock of 130 settling down at dusk, Mar. 7 (BC,LC,OI) and a flock of 240 on Mar. 28. Others were 110, W. of Corinth, Miss., Mar. 8, and 10 at Lake Cormorant, Miss., Mar. 15 (BC,OW). An Orange-crowned Warbler was seen and heard singing, Mar. 8, McNairy County (LC, also BC & RDS).

Western Meadowlark records added: Crawfordsville, Ark., Mar. 14, 2; Walls, Miss., 4 mi. WNW, 1 on Mar. 15 and 21, 4 mi. W, 1 on Mar. 15, 1/4 mi. W, 1 on Mar. 21 and 28, - overall plowing probably moved these out; Penal Farm, 3 on Mar. 1 (Bro. Leo Thomas), 2 on Mar. 7 and 14, 1 on Mar. 22 and 28. Five male Brewer's Blackbirds seen Mar. 28, 3d record of the season at the Farm. Pine Siskins noted at Overton Park (BC) were 13, 2, 5, 4, and 2 on Mar. 21, 25, 27, 30 and 31, respectively. The last three records were of singing birds (cicada-like). Vesper Sparrows on Mar. 8 were 3 and 1 E. of Ramer, Tenn. and 5 W. of Corinth, Miss.; on Mar. 22, 7 at the Penal Farm.

SPRAGUE'S PIPITS: Penal Farm - On Mar. 7 we found 2 at the previous SW field (2d location), skipped this field Mar. 14, trying to beat a rainstorm, but got caught out in the field where the species was first located and had to run before finding a pipit. Search here had been so time consuming (1952: 5-6) I dropped "No. 1" field for the remainder of this season. On Mar. 22 we tried "No. 2" (SW) field and dropped it also as clover there had grown rapidly. A pasture to its east had been partially worked before the rain, Mar. 14; on Mar. 22 (BCs, T. Fleming, O. Wood) and Mar. 28 we found 4 there. Miss. - At Sanders Field 11 were seen Mar. 7 (Keeton and Kent), 7 on Mar. 15 (BC, OW), 4 on Mar. 21 and 2 on Mar. 28. Keeton and Kent found the species at another field, 4 miles WNW of Walls, recording 12 on Mar. 7. We found 7, 4, and 2 there on Mar. 15, 21, and 28, respectively. A half-mile south of the latter field, 3 were found Mar. 15 (BC, OW) and one on Mar. 28. Several likely places were worked without further results. -- On Mar. 15 one was found a mile N of Friar's Point, Miss.

SPOTTED TOWHEE: Seen almost daily at the feeding table of the Charles Seahorns, Germantown. Still present at last report, Mar. 29. This is a male, banded Dec. 20, 1952, by Charles Seahorn, Jr. (1952: 3).

HARRIS'S SPARROW: Charles McPherson reports 7 or 8 seen Mar. 3, one on Mar. 5, none since then. He estimates he had ten of this species present on his place. Of the three seen recently one mile south, at the Seahorn's, Charles, Jr. states that the two he banded are still present (Mar. 28). A search on Mar. 22 for those at the Christmas Count locality near Raleigh failed.

NOCTURNAL BIRD MIGRATION STUDIES RESUMED: Some 335 stations cooperated in the fall studies and we learned that continent-wide observations will be carried out this spring just in time to set up station for three nights, Mar. 28-30. The next period will be Apr. 25-29 and the third period will be May 26-30 and we hope enough volunteers will serve that Memphis can have a full report. In fact, we plan to operate on two nights in April at two stations located near the river. Our last report (1953:2) carried us thru Oct. 29 - Nov. 4. During the next period, Nov. 29 to Dec. 3, the moon was obscured by clouds or rain. At the last period of the seasonal project we made short samplings at Coffey Grounds on Dec. 31 and Jan. 3; the moon was obscured the evenings of Jan. 1 and 2. No passages were recorded then. The periods were 7:03 to 7:43 P.M., Dec. 31 (BC), and 10:10 to 11:10 P.M., Jan 3 (LC). This completed the L.S.U. schedule. Samplings were continued as follows: Jan. 26, 9:10 to 10:45 P.M., Alice Smith and Lula Coffey; Jan. 28, 7:40 to 8:22 P.M. and Jan. 29, 9:40 to 10:32 P.M., Lula Coffey. One passage only, - at 9:48 P.M. Jan. 29, small, fast. February observations (LC) were - Feb. 27, 9:17 to 10:17 P.M., 2 passages, and 10:45 to 11:15 P.M. Feb. 28, too cloudy, Mar. 1, rain. Also 2 seen Feb. 26, 9:23 - 11:18 P.M.

March observations were made here on the nights of Mar. 27, 28, and 29, - late watches not extending beyond 2:30 A.M. because of the light activity. We are indebted to the following for their assistance and cooperation: Mrs. Elizabeth Barton, Mrs. Coffey, Bobby Cooper, Nell Coleman, Mary Davant, Lawrence Kent, Alice Smith, Mr. and Mrs. R. Demett Smith, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Wilmeth, and Mrs. Rose Wooldridge. Overhead passages were apparently light the first two nights. On the 27 (28)th, 7:25 P.M. to 2:30 A.M., the only passages recorded were 7 on the 9:30-11:30 shift, 4 being from 9:34 to 9:50 P.M. On the next night from 7:15 P.M. to 2:15 A.M., a passage at 9:02 P.M. and a glimpse at midnight were the only records. On the third and last night, Mar. 29 (30), a migration seemed underway. From 8:20 to 10 P.M., 16 passages, and 10 to 11 P.M., 13 passages were recorded, - bunched somewhat as 8 between 8:51 to 9:19, inclusive, and 5 from 9:49 to 9:54. From 11:05 P.M. to 12:20 A.M. there were 29 passages noted and from 12:20 to 12:47 A.M. there were 4, the last observed. Station was closed at 1:30 A.M. Having enlisted all volunteers for these three nights, we planned only a key watch from Coffey Grounds on the fourth night. However, clouds and a light drizzle prevented this.

BANDING NOTES: The outstanding work was the banding of over 1,000 Bronzed Grackles by Oliver Irwin who resumed intensive banding on Jan. 17 with the run continuing into March. Nearly 200 Starlings were also banded. Of great interest was the banding of the Spotted Towhee at the Seahorns' where White-crowned Sparrows, and two Harris's Sparrows were also tagged. Chas. McPherson, who has banded a number of his White-crowns each winter, had the enviable opportunity of banding Harris's Sparrows and managed to trap 6 of the 10 present before he quit banding. There were no repeats. Among some returns, a White-crowned Sparrow banded 5 years previously was noteworthy.

Compiled and privately reproduced, Ben Coffey, Memphis 7.

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS - ARRIVALS

- Apr. 1 Broad-winged Hawk, 1, Overton Park, calling, perched, BC
 Apr. 2 Whip-poor-will, male, Riverside Park, feeding notes, BC
 Apr. 3 Md. Yellow-throat, 1, Glenview, Oliver Irwin
 Apr. 4 Barn Swallow, 2, Penal Farm, Geo. Hoffman & BC
 Solitary Sandpiper, 4, " BC, GH
 Am. Egret, 1, Midway Corner, Ark., W. Whittemore
 Apr. 5 Am. Bittern, Lakeview, Miss., RDS, et al
 Upland Plover, 8, Sanders Field, Walls, Miss., BC et al
 Apr. 7 Cerulean Warbler, 1, Overton Park, BC
 Blue-winged Warbler, 1, "
 Red-eyed Vireo, 2, "
 Kingbird, 1, East High, Harry Landis
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 1, Overton Park, OI
 Hooded Warbler, 1, Overton Park, LC
 Apr. 9 Wood Thrush, 1, Overton Park, BC
 Prairie Warbler, 1, " BC; LC
 Chuck-will's-widow, 1, " OI
 flushed, afternoon; calling at dusk (& 4 "Whips");
 also - Riverside Park, 1 (& 1 "Whip") called 3 mins. BC
 Apr. 10 Orange-crowned Warbler, 1, Overton Park, RDS
 Nashville Warbler, 2, " R. Demett Smith, Jr.
 Warbling Vireo, 1, DeSoto Park, BC
 Apr. 11 Orchard Oriole, 1, Century St., HL
 Crested Flycatcher, 1, Overton Park, BC
 Olive-backed Thrush, 2, " HL & BC separately
 Spotted Sandpiper, 1, Penal Farm, BC
 (Apr. 12 Summer Tanager, 1, Lost Lake, Miss., RDS, BC & TOS
 Kentucky Warbler, 2, " BC, RDS, et al)
 Apr. 13 Summer Tanager, 1, Overton Park, BC
 Worm-eating Warbler, 1, "
 Apr. 14 Scarlet Tanager, 2, Jim & Mary Norman, BC - Overton Park
 Oven-bird, 1 " " " " "
 Kentucky Warbler, 1, BC "

Overton Park was also checked Apr. 3 (LC), 4 & 6 (BC),
 and 8 (RDS).

Shorebirds, western visitors, and general migration (still light) will be summarized for the month in the next issue. Of interest were a pair of Wood Ducks perched 50 feet up in a cypress in the open in a cotton field along a road south of Hulbert, Ark. on Apr. 5. Blue-winged Teal were distributed widely that day, even on near-mud puddles in pastures and on the 8th 2 males and a female were seen on the small lake in Overton Park (RDS). A thrilling sight on Apr. 12, a mile west of Walls, Miss. was a flock of 48 Greater Yellowlegs in the air over the "Good Hope" slough where a few have been since Mar. 21. They were walked up (RDS, BC) just in time for two cars of T.O.S. members to watch them. I believe this is 4 or 5 times the largest number ever seen here in the last 25 years. The "slough" is a low place, about 50 x 350 yards, in a cotton field.

For the first time a Fish Crow was heard over Overton Park (Apr. 9); the species stays very close to the river or the nearby city dump on N. Bellevue. Cedar Waxwings are beginning to appear in flocks throughout the city. On Apr. 5, 4 miles W of Walls, Miss. 6 Brewer's Blackbirds were seen, RDS, et al) and a nearby Leconte's Sparrow was flushed (BC,RDS). Sprague's Pipits continued in moderate numbers (Apr. 11-12). The number of Goldfinches along Lick Creek in Overton Park has been very much below normal this spring. A few Purple Finches were seen in late March; April records are 1 on Apr. 2 and 7, 8 on Apr. 8 (RDS).

AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS NEAR WALLS, MISS.: On Apr. 5, 1953, about 4 miles W of Walls and a mile S of the Tenn. line, we noticed a large hawk that was at first glance thought to be a Marsh Hawk. But as we drove nearer we saw that its shape and proportions differed slightly, principally in that the wings were not as long and as pointed, relatively. The bird perched on a telephone pole 40 yards distant, and we examined it closely, finding it to be more nearly like the descriptions of the "light phase." It flew back of us as we went nearer and a Red-tailed Hawk joined it momentarily, furnishing us a good comparison. We flushed it twice from the tops of poles in line along our road. It then went to a line of poles crossing nearby fields and we then saw there were three hawks perched on poles out there. Chancing a dirt road we moved in and got good looks at all three, two being of this species and one was a Red-tailed. Our party consisted of George Hoffman of Texarkana, Ark., Alice Smith, R. Demett Smith, Jr., and Lula and Ben Coffey and it was a first record of the species for them in the Memphis Area. We have not looked for past records at this time but there is at least one other and for this same locality and, I believe, by Whittemore and Simpson. The present record would appear to be in line with the "western influence" this season.

OVEN-BIRD AT HARDY, ARK. - A CORRECTION: It's hard to make corrections on mimeographed work and when a line is omitted, it means recutting the whole stencil. We try to complete the reproduction part of the job in one night, when we can find the night. On page 2 of VOL 1 (1952) we let an error of omission go for the time being. The correct data: On July 4, 1952, Oven-birds were heard singing at two localities between Kamp Kia Kima and Camp Cedar Valley, and a third on Hwy. 62, 3 miles west of Hardy. The next morning we heard a 4th at Camp Cedar Valley which is 5 miles WNW of town.

ROAD-RUNNER AT MORRILTON, ARK. - A CORRECTION: Recently (1953:2) in connection with my record of the Road-runner at Petit Jean State Park, Ark. I mentioned that, according to an Arkansas Gazette article, Mrs. Ruth Thomas had seen one in her yard at Morrilton, Ark. The article had been read hurriedly, clipped for reference, but subsequently lost. Mrs. Amelia Laskey of Nashville has kindly sent her copy of the news column in question and it develops that the record was for another locality and in a border county. - Nelle Moore.

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THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS - ARRIVALS

- Apr. 15 Baltimore Oriole, 1, Coffey Grounds, BC
Redstart, female, Overton Park, R. Demett Smith, Jr.
Lincoln's Sparrow, 1, " " RDS, close range
- Apr. 17 Tennessee Warbler, 1 " " RDS
Lark Sparrow, 1, Penal Farm, BC
Bobolink, 3 males, " " BC, very early
- Apr. 18 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, male, Overton Park, BC, Rev.
Wm. Hearn, George Peyton, Jr., Harry Landis.
- Apr. 19 Catbird, 1, 3107 Spottswood, Mrs. Leah Torti
House Wren, 2, Overton Park, BC, HL, Orval Wood
Tree Swallow, 20, O K Robertson Rd., "
Swainson's Warbler, 1, Lakeview, Miss-Tenn, "
Semi-palmated Plover, 6, Walls, Miss, 1 mi. W. "
- Apr. 20 Blackburnian Warbler, 1, Overton Park, BC
" " 1, Shone's Pond, Ashland, Miss, RDS
Palm Warbler, 1, " " "
- Apr. 21 Yellow-breasted Chat, 1, 2752 Barron, Hearn
- Apr. 22 Painted Bunting, 1, Leawood, BC, (not found Apr. 19)
Yellow Warbler, 1, N. Trezevant at Summer, BC
" " 1, W. of Walls, Miss, RDS
Nighthawk, 1, Southwestern College, Oliver Irwin
- Apr. 23 Indigo Bunting, 4, Overton Park, BC
Wood Pewee, 1, " " BC
Gray-cheeked Thrush, " " "
- Apr. 25 Dickcissel, 9, Penal Farm, BC & LC
Grasshopper Sparrow, 4, " "
- Apr. 26 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1, LC, RDS, BC
Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1, RDS, LC, BC
Stilt Sandpiper, 1, Florida St. Pit, BC, RDS, LC
Bank Swallow, 4, Lakeview, Miss.
- Apr. 27 Black-pollled Warbler, 1, 3107 Spottswood, Mrs. L. Torti
- Apr. 28 Golden-winged Warbler 2, Overton Park, BC
- Apr. 29 (Black-pollled Warbler, 1, " ")
- Apr. 30 Bay-breasted Warbler, 1, " RDS
Magnolia Warbler, 6, " "
(Swainson's Warbler, 1, " ")
Veery, 1, " "
- May 1 Cape May Warbler, 1, " Hearn, Ellen Stringer
- May 1,2 Wilson's Warbler, female, 3107 Spottswood, Mrs. L. Torti
- May 2 Acadian Flycatcher, 1, Penal Farm, BC et al
- May 3 N. Water-thrush, Lakeview, Miss., Geo. Peyton, Jr., 1.
*Blue-headed Vireo, 1, " T.O.S.
Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1, " "
Dowitcher, 1, " "
*Mississippi Kite, 2, Riverside Park, T.O.S.

*The Blue-headed Vireo is a first (and only report rather than an arrival since individuals have been recorded in March, - the bulk of the species evidently passing over us. Snowy Egret, 3, on Apr. 22 (RDS) and Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 3, on May 3 (TOS), at Lakeview, Miss-Tenn. are similar out-of-line reports. No Least Terns were seen by us along the river front, thru May 15, when we left on vacation, but they were probably up river. Because of the two spring field days and

minimum preparations for our trip, early morning trips to Overton Park were discontinued after our Field Day and few other reports were received. No Mississippi Kites were seen in Riverside Park on Apr. 26. Mr. J. E. Jolly kept watch and later saw the first, giving the date orally to a bird student in the park, to pass on, which the latter failed to do. So the arrival date was more correctly about April 30.

Overton Park was also visited Apr. 21 & 22 (RDS), Apr. 25 and, last regular trip May 2, (BC). A tabulation doesn't tell a complete story but an analysis will show the park was visited regularly. Hence, the dates for species which habitually frequent the park should be about correct, altho it is possible to miss early individuals. Open country generally checked week-ends (and Apr. 22, RDS). Negative data, usually not given, shed light on the probability of "first" dates being "first" dates. For example, an extensive check for Indigo Buntings was made without success all day Apr. 19, north and south of town. Several Painted Bunting localities were checked Apr. 19, 20, & 21, including Leawood on the 19th, where one was seen on the 22d. Results are somewhat a matter of chance for uncommon species or for common species in unfavorable habitat.

All reports presented, other than personal, were received first hand, and if necessary, discussed. No reports used are based on second or third hand information as we find misunderstandings sometimes result and data may be incorrect. Because the bulk of land bird records are for Overton Park we show the first park record (thus) even tho there is an earlier record elsewhere. There is also some arbitrary duplication because of points outside our local areas and because of state lines (as for shorebirds in an earlier number).

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: A female Hooded Merganser was seen in the Good Hope slough (Walls) on Apr. 12. At the same place and date we previously (1953:11) reported seeing 48 Greater Yellowlegs; on Apr. 19 the count was 49; Apr. 22, 8; Apr. 26, 28; and May 3, 5. The largest group of Lesser Yellowlegs was 12, - Penal Farm, Apr. 11. Golden Plovers, all near the above slough, were: Apr. 5, - 200, 15, 14, and (Sanders Field) 18; Apr. 12, 19, 22, and 26, respectively, - 30, 51, 19, and 1 (winter plumage). The Upland Plover appeared and remained late at the Penal Farm: 5 on Apr. 11, none Apr. 25, 3 on May 2; up to 7 at Sanders Field Apr. 5 - 26. The Semipalmated Plover at "that" slough were 6 on Apr. 19, 3 on Apr. 22 (RDS,WH), and 7 on May 3; 1 in Tenn., "Coro" puddles, Apr. 26. --- A Phoebe was setting, Apr. 26, Fuller S.P. (RDS, BCs), and nesting birds seen at the Germantown Road bridges, Penal Farm. House Wren records were Apr. 19, 2; Apr. 20, 1; Apr. 30, 1 (RDS); and May 2, 1; all in Overton Park. Warbler records for the park include: Orange-crowned, RDS - Apr. 10, 3 and Apr. 30, 1; BC - Apr. 14, 3. Swainson's, Apr. 30, 1 (RDS). Golden-winged, Apr. 28, 2, and (RDS) Apr. 30, 1. --- Apparently there was another nesting of the Western Meadowlark at the Penal Farm (no search made as in 1951), a pair gave strong indications Apr. 25 and May 2. Additional Pine Siskins were: 1, Apr. 4 (BC); 3, Apr. 10 (RDS).

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THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: May odds-and-ends not previously listed include a Black-billed Cuckoo at the Bill Hearn's', May 6 & 7; many birds heard overhead the drizzly night of May 12-13, Irwin; a Phoebe observed on the nest, hwy bridge 10 miles N of Ashland, Miss., May 17, RDS. Knight and the Wilsons reported warblers in Audubon Park, May 15, - Black and White 2, Tennessee 1, Nashville 1, Parula 1, Magnolia 15, Black-throated Green 2, Blackburnian 4, Chestnut-sided 18, Bay-breasted 10, Canada 2, and Redstart 6. Again, on May 18, - Magnolia common, Chestnut-sided few, and Bay-breasted 2. Mrs. Torti reported a Golden-winged Warbler in her yard, May 17. Lincoln's Sparrow continued uncommon, reported only on Field Day, May 3, - 2(G Peyton) & 1 (RDS). Grasshopper Sparrow, - 7 listed then but 15 (scattered) at the Penal Farm the day before. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 25, totaled more than the last 7 Field Days combined while 8 or more of this species were reported by Jim Ryland in Overton Park, May 4 thru 10. Mrs. Torti saw the last White-throated Sparrow in her yard, May 17 & 19.

The first week-end after our return from Mexico was the hectic wind-up of a week of painting and moving bird records, pamphlets, and junk into a new study. Birding on hot June afternoons being very poor, we rushed back from Shiloh the following Sunday, June 21, - then I drove out to the Penal Farm late in the day. Our first June record of the Upland Plover, 8, was a surprise. Three had been found there, May 2, our last previous visit, altho none were seen Apr. 25 on a shorter visit. Since the farm was not worked in our absence we will never know whether these had remained or were early transients. A Blue Grosbeak was heard singing, June 21, and on June 25, after work, we found a male but a search for young or a female was unsuccessful. Oliver Irwin reported seeing a Broad-winged Hawk and a pair of Miss. Kites in Riverside Park during June. J. E. Jolly advised him a Barred Owl was feeding young there on May 25 and that a Great Horned Owl had been raiding his chickens. Oliver saw this last owl, May 25. Merrill Schwartz reported herons very common during June near the heronry up river. Not many Least Terns were noted as the upper end of Redmond Bar had been washed out. On May 17, 1952, I had found the species starting to nest (no eggs) on that wide expanse of sand. The lower portion is occupied by willows or used by picnicking boaters. -Enroute home, June 7, we noted an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron 10 miles SW of Arkadelphia and another at Lonoke, Ark. On a brief stop at the Lonoke fish hatchery we noted: Least Bittern 1, Coot 14, Purple Gallinule 2 and nest with 6 eggs, and Warbling Vireo 3. A Barn Swallow was seen just E of Lonoke.

On June 20-21, with Mrs. Floy Burford, we visited Shiloh National Military Park and covered almost all of it in a full morning. Except for 5 Towhees against 2 the next day, we can disregard the card for the evening of June 20 other than after dusk, 7:30 to 8:25 P.M., we made listening stops on all roads (8 miles), logging 25 Chuck-will's-widows. None were heard on 10 of the 29 stops. Of note on June 21 were: Red-tailed Hawk 2, Sparrow Hawk 1, Carolina Chickadee 1, White-breasted Nuthatch 13, Bewick's Wren 8; Warblers - Prothonotary 1, Parula 2, Cerulean 2, Sycamore 2, Prairie only 2, La. Water-thrush 1, Kentucky 10, Yellow-throat 4, Chat 16, Hooded 2, and Redstart 5; Orchard Oriole 8, Scarlet Tanager 1 (singing male), Goldfinch none, and Pine-woods Sparrow 1 (another location on the 20th). All warblers found are given, The Black and White escaped notice if present. Most warblers were at the Dill Branch ravine near the river. The Cerulean

were our first altho we had regularly listed the species on several visits to a creek bottom .9 mile S on the Hamburg road. We failed to find them there on this date but found a Swainson's Warbler, our first in this general area.

On June 28 Ed King and the writer worked Chickasaw S P after "whip-chucking" backroads the previous night from La Grange and Saulsbury to the park and Pine Top. Occasional drizzle and light rain but much of the park was covered, including roads we shouldn't have tried. Noted were: Black and White Warbler 2 (sep), Goldfinch 2, and Towhee 2 (sep). Of special interest were two singing Scarlet Tanagers (possibly a 3d at time rain made us finally quit). Enroute home we found a small pocket of Towhees N of Oakland and one Towhee near Braden.

WESTERNERS, APRIL-MAY: Sprague's Pipits had gradually decreased in March (1953:9) but the numbers found at Walls, Miss. were up again in early April. These were, - at Sanders (air) Field and two fields S of T. P. Howard's, respectively: Apr. 5, - 9, 5, 3; Apr. 12, - 8, 10*, 1; Apr. 19, - 5, 2, 1 (& 1 W on the levee); Apr. 26, - 4, 3, 0. None were seen on the next visit, May 3. (*Field had been cut previous to this date.) In Tenn. at the Penal Farm pasture previously worked (3d site) we found 3, 2, 2, & 0 on Apr. 4, 11, 17, & 25 respectively. Harris's Sparrows were reported at the 4th current Shelby County location for this past spring by Reed Knight and David and Don Wilson. At a dump near a wooded area, E/S of Audubon Park they found 5 on Mar. 27 and on 4 other visits, thru Apr. 16 when one was in adult plumage. None were found there Apr. 23. Two adult White-crowned Sparrows were with them usually. The Charles Seahorns reported two Harris's on Apr. 28 as their last record. Their Spotted Towhee, seen daily until Apr. 3, reappeared with a cool spell from Apr. 10 to Apr. 28, inclusive.

RAIL COUNTS, CRITTENDEN COUNTY, ARKANSAS, - FALL, 1952:

Alan Ziegler, while home on leave, made a special hunt for rails in the nearby Arkansas rice areas, with the following results -

Oct. 13	30 Sora	- King Rail	1 Virginia Rail	W. Memphis
15	18	1	-	"
16	13	2	1	"
18	8	-	-	Lehi
Oct. 19	1	-	-	"
"	40	5	1	"
"	26	1	1	"
"	85	1	4	"

On the 18th he was accompanied by Rev. Wm. Hearn. This search was incidental to a trip to Horseshoe Lake, hence the lower results. On the 19th he was accompanied by R. Demett Smith, Jr., and four areas were worked (separately tabulated above) from 10:30 A.M. to 5:15 P.M. A special lookout was kept for the two rare rails, - the Black and the Yellow. The irony of it was that at the last area worked, Demett flushed a Black Rail and Alan missed it.

Only a few rail records have been logged here in the fall, 1928 - 1951. Elsewhere in the fall of 1952 we found: Mud Lake, Tenn.-Miss., Sora, 1 on Aug. 23 and Sept. 20, previously published (1952:4); Lonoke, Ark. fish hatchery, none on Sept. 14, Oct. 12, or Nov. 16; roadside W of same, King Rail, 3 on Sept. 14, 1 on Nov. 16, and Sora, 2 on Oct. 12.

Ben B. Coffey, Jr. 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis 7, Tenn.

MRS. ALICE THOMSEN GUTH. Members of the Memphis Chapter, Tennessee Ornithological Society, were saddened to learn of the death, July 5, of Mrs. Louis G. Guth, their gracious president in 1939. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, of a Danish father who was later a Memphis architect, she had been a Whitehaven resident 36 years. A graduate of the Univ. of Ark. and Oberlin (music), she served the Whitehaven Presbyterian Church variously as pianist, choir director, and Sunday School superintendent. She is survived by a daughter, three sons, and Mr. Guth who assists the chapter so much each Spring Field Day.

These pages now have an attractive printed heading and a printed return address envelope, the gift of unnamed Memphis well-wishers. We were pleasantly surprised one evening when a half dozen boxes of paper and envelopes were delivered by a printer. We deeply appreciate this unsolicited support at home as well as the other offers and favorable comments from those outside Memphis. Many thanks!

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: Visits to the Penal Farm failed to locate the Blue Grosbeak again. Upland Plover seen there were 6 on July 11 and 12 on July 17. (Our first visit to Sanders Field, Wall, Miss, revealed 3 there, July 25). At the Farm on the 17th: an early Pectoral Sandpiper, the largest number of M. Doves for the year (still much below 1950) - 38 (scattered), and a pair of Goldfinches. At 10 P.M., the 10th, a Yellow-crowned Night Heron was heard over Coffey Grounds (center of town) going south. Ed King reported 75 Am. Egrets and 15 Little Blue Herons at Mud Lake, July 5. On the 25th the water there was such that I could reach its edge at the trees. Herons were: Am. Egret 3; Snowy Egret 6; Little Blue 2 Ad, 70 Imm. Watching the 100-yard edge of an "island" of willows I counted a scattered 16 Solitary Sandpipers feeding in 2 inches of water (a high number). A flock of 11 Least Sandpipers were present at the lake. -Red-tailed Hawk noted July 18 from Shelby Forest Nature Trail; a Broad-winged, July 12, just W. of Clarksburg, Tenn.; and (Dr. Whittemore) an Osprey, July 28, at Maddox Bay, Ark. Small family groups of Rough-winged Swallows noted July 11, plus a flock of 30, July 18, and one of 60, July 25. Among the warblers noted along or near the Nature Trail at Shelby Forest, July 18, were these: Cerulean, two separate singers and one feeding an immature able to fly short distances; a female Redstart feeding an immature out of the nest; singing -Black and White 1, Prothonotary 1, Parula 6, and La. Water-thrush 1. A singing Chipping Sparrow was found near the Museum. Chas. Seahorn, Jr. reported seeing a Chippy 2 miles E. of Germantown early in the month while Richard G. Taylor recorded a Black and White Warbler, July 19, Lakeview, Miss. 100 yards S of the Tenn. line. Orchard Orioles continued below normal. Gerald Capers reported a male Scarlet Tanager, at Wahpeton Hill, our first Hardy, Ark. summer record. Local Towhee records were: July 11, E of Fuller S. P. (BC), Mid-July, immature, Rozelle & Person

(Irwin), Poplar and Yates (RGT), July 30, an immature (Spotted) singing at 275 Palisade (Nelle Moore). In Fayette County, July 18, 5 scattered singers noted at Gallaway and east.

A July 4 trip from Hickory Flat, Miss. to Tishomingo S.P. failed to find Scarlet Tanagers in Whip-poor-will areas but evolved into a Blue Grosbeak check-off. On awakening at the W. T. Cooper's I heard a Grosbeak singing, found another 2 miles to the south and on highway US 78 SE, 2 others, the latter in Union County. Since Mrs. Coffey has visited her parents quite often here (visits also by Mrs. Floy Burford) we can assume this species is now extending or re-occupying territory. Blue Grosbeaks logged: Tippah County - SW of Blue Mtn, Blue Mtn, hwy 15 to Ripley (by RDS who joined us), hwy 4 ten miles E of R; Prentiss County, 6 miles W of Booneville (hwy 4) and 11 miles E (hwy 30); Tishomingo County, crossroads about .7 miles W of NW entrance to S.P., and nest with 3 young about 8 days old at crossroads E of Bear Creek (old Mingo area). The next morning we found two (separate) just W of Woodall Mtn. and afternoon another just N of Iuka in the Short Creek section. At 3:50 PM we crossed into Tenn., thru Counce, Shiloh, and then from a new road-fill SW of Falcon, about 6 PM, we logged our only Tenn. Blue Grosbeak. Other records of note, July 4: Red-tailed Hawk, E of Ripley, Miss; first Prairie Warbler, 6 miles E of R, others in Tishomingo Co.; Goldfinch, 1 at Blue Mtn. and 2 near Old Mingo. July 5, in Tishomingo S.P.: Broad-winged Hawk 2, Phoebe, none, - nests of the year at Bearded Falls and Gardner Branch bridge, 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers feeding an immature Cowbird, poor warbler list. July 5, Miss., cont: Red-tailed Hawk 1, and Broad-winged 1, SW of Eastport; Ovenbird 1, at previous site, Woodall Mtn. July 5, Tenn; a brief stop at a Shiloh ravine failed to locate the Scarlet Tanager of June 21 but Black and Whites, missing there June 21 (complete coverage), were listed, - 1, 2; only Scarlet Tanager, Tenn. 57, 1.1 mile E of Hardeman County line, singing male, at dusk (near J. B. Calhoun's 1939 record). Towhees noted only: July 4 - from 9 mile E of Booneville to Tishomingo County line (1 inside), E and N of the S.P. but none to date in the S.P.; July 5 - Iuka area, and Ramer, Tenn.

These notes are privately published and sent to bird students in and outside the Mid-South interested in the bird-life of this area. There is no bulletin of the Memphis Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society nor has there ever been one authorized as yet, despite an unfortunate and erroneous statement appearing in The Migrant, March, 1953, page 11.

Chas. McPherson, Jr., Germantown, Tenn., has been fortunate in being able to band wintering White-crowned Sparrows. Last winter he had the following returns:

46-122755	Imm	banded	2-28-48	retrapped 11-27-52 (& 12-31-50)
48-184311	Imm		2-10-50	11-27-52
48-184051	Imm		12-31-50	1- 5-53

It is our pleasure to record the arrival of Steven Bryant Smith, June 13. Congratulations are in order to Mr. and Mrs. R. Demett Smith, Jr., 4441 Quince. Demett is president of the Memphis Chapter, T.O.S.

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: The month was as hot as the previous one with .43 inch of rain (mostly on Aug. 16) and the last rain, a heavy one, on July 21. A Green Heron was heard overhead, 8:22 PM, Aug. 21. At Mud Lake Tenn. - Miss. herons peaked Aug. 2 (Snowy 25, Little Blues - 25 Ads, 40 Imms, 4 peds) with a few remaining thru the 29th (two very small water shallows left). Shorebirds were also uncommon. "Peeps" were 12 on Aug. 2 plus 3 Least Sandpipers. The last of the latter species were 30 on Aug. 8 with a Western Sandpiper (George Peyton, Jr., BC), plus a Semi-palmated Plover and a few Wood Ducks. Pectorals numbered 85, 110, and 80 on Aug. 2, 8, and 23 respectively while the only Yellowlegs, a Lesser, was seen Aug. 2. No visits were made to Lonoke, Ark. since no hatchery ponds are usually drained before Labor Day. At the Penal Farm three individuals each of Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers were seen Aug. 16 and 22 with 2 Spotteds on Aug. 30. Killdeers and Upland Plovers increased temporarily at the Farm. Of the former, 81 were recorded Aug. 2, 102 on Aug. 16, and 65 on Aug. 30. The Uplands totaled were 29, 28, 48, 12 and 16 for Aug. 1, 9, 16, 22 and 30 respectively. The first Red-tailed Hawk of the season noted there was an adult on Aug. 1 (for Mud Lake - Aug. 29). Sparrow Hawks peaked at 15 there, Aug. 22. On Aug. 23 at 5:40 P.M. we watched (BCs, James) a flock of 17 Mississippi Kites over Coffey Grounds, gradually move west, mostly circling, a few leaving the group, flapping and soaring. Oliver Irwin reported similar actions for 7 at 6:15 P.M. the next day, moving WSW over Union & McLean. The only terns at Mud Lake were on Aug. 2: Least 3, and Black 3 (1 Ad.). On that date 15 Fish Crows were seen in Riverside Park. B. B. Cooper reports hearing 3 Whip-poor-wills (2 spots) call Aug. 30 (3 A.M.-), S. of Hickory Flat, Miss. These were previously heard Aug. 1 and Aug. 2. Migration not fully underway but small migration flocks of Barn Swallows noted at the Penal Farm, totaling 64 and 61 on Aug. 9 and 16 respectively. Nelle Moore reports a Black-billed Cuckoo, feeding on caterpillars in a pecan tree at home, 275 Palisade, on Aug. 27. For that date Mrs. M. L. Torti reports her young Cardinals leaving the nest while Mrs. Coffey heard two Blue Grosbeaks still singing, Aug. 13, at Hickory Flat, Miss. This last species reported fairly common at Bruce, Miss. by Newton Hanson (his first summer there) Goldfinch records were: Penal Farm, a pair on July 17 and one (2d area) on Aug. 1: Lakeview levee (Miss.), 3 on July 25 and 1 on Aug. 2. Grasshopper Sparrow only heard singing on Penal Farm summer trips - June 25 and Aug. 16. Towhees heard in Shelby County, Aug. 9: Austin Peay Hwy, 1 and 2 mi. S of Egypt-Central Rd. - area spotted some years ago (R Tucker & RDS).

Driving along the Lakeview-Mud Lake levee, Aug. 8 I heard a Short-billed Marsh Wren and in the weedy flat land Geo. Peyton, Jr. and I found 4. Since Brooke Meanley has found the species nesting in Aug. & Sept. near Stuttgart, Ark. (The Wilson Bulletin 64 (1):22-25, Mar., 1952) a 40-minute search for nests (LC, AS) was made Aug. 23 when 12 were found in one area and 4 in another. On Aug. 29 an hour search was made (Wm. Hearn, LC, BC, and home-visiting professors, - Pauline James of Edinburg, Texas and John

Pond, Auburn, Ala.) but only two wrens were noted. The only nests found were wasp nests and one found the writer. Apparently the wrens moved to rice country. This is the area where 40 were heard singing along a 3½ mile stretch, Aug. 9, 1936 (The Migrant 1936: 38 and 1942: 12-13), and the nearest approach to those numbers since, - in fact, we often fail to find the species there in the fall, Dickcissels noted there on Aug. 23 (LC, AS) were 24, of which 4 were distinguished as immatures being fed, 4 as females carrying food, and two others as adults; on Aug. 29, 14 - at least 2 as immatures.

BIGGEST NEEDS OF CONSERVATION WORK FOR WILDLIFE IN TENNESSEE AT PRESENT: According to the March, 1953, issue of the Tennessee Conservationist these are, in order of importance; "increased food plantings on individual farms; the elimination of poaching and free running dogs in big game areas; stream pollution abatement; reduction of forest fires; and wide dissemination and acceptance of educational material outlining the principles of conservation." The first is certainly needed in the heavily farmed Mid-South. Our wildlife is also dependent, as we all are, on the use of our land, water, and forests, generally geared to economic gain now. The severe drouths of the last two summers and resultant forest loss may indicate another turn of the cycle.

BROTHER LEO THOMAS is now at 200 Broadway, Jefferson City, Mo. He will be greatly missed by members of the Memphis Chapter, T O S, whom he served as vice-president and program chairman. He also did much hard work in mimeographing and mailing issues of a bulletin to the club. But it is the personal touch we'll miss and since he expresses it better than we can, reciprocally, we quote from his letter:

"My association with ... the T.O.S. over the past years has been one of the finest experiences of my life, and I can never forget it. I intend to keep in continual touch with you until posterity catches up with us. If only more people could realize the happiness, wholesomeness and freedom from cares and worry that comes with companionship with people like yourselves, I think there would not be enough clubs to handle all of them. Please convey my very best regards to members of the club with whom I had the happiness to associate." Happy birding, Brother Leo!

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW RETURNS LAST WINTER:

46-122607	banded	1-31-49	returned	1-19-53 (& 1-29-51)	J. E. Jolly
46-122652		3-13-52		1-22-53	"
48-154748		1-29-51		1-11-53 (11-51 to 4-52 & 11-28-52)	T. Bonner
48-184181		11-17-51		11-28-52	Thompson Bonner
47-166506		12-06-46		3-23-53 (various dates)	BC
48-154771		12-27-49		1-15-53	" "
48-184043		11-04-51		11-08-52	BC
48-184256		12-01-51		12-14-52	"
48-184268		1-10-52		1-09-53	"
48-184360		11-12-52	killed	11-22-52	in trap, by Shrike (BC)

We are happy to announce the birth of Bonnie Juanita Powell, Aug. 7, At Owensboro, Ky. Congratulations to Bert and Mildred Powell, 1908 Fleming, Owensboro.

NOCTURNAL MIGRATION - SEPT., 1953 PERIOD

We were requested to again make observations of night migrants for the full moon periods of September and October. The September period was for the nights of Sept. 20-24 and pleasant nights made the task an enjoyable one. The nights were really beautiful and those that couldn't be there, recording the tiny images as they flashed by, between us and the moon, missed something. We were able to enlist personnel for the five full nights and are indebted to the following: Jimmie Allen, Mrs. Elizabeth Barton (2 watches), Nell Coleman, Mary Davant, Tommy Fleming, Lee Grimming, Lawrence Kent (2), George Peyton, Jr., Edwin Poole (2), Mrs. Pearl Strickler, and Mrs. Rose Wooldridge. Alice Smith (2) and Mrs. Coffey (3) took an early morning watch also, as did Bobby Cooper and Leon Nall who were scheduled again for the same on the fifth night but were clouded out. The October watch is scheduled for October 19-23. We hope that you can take part and that you will telephone us now (2-7209) as we won't be able to see you personally before then.

Southward movements were moderately heavy the nights of Sept. 20-21 and 21-22, slowing down Sept. 22-23, very poor Sept. 23-24, then obscured. At times the passages were bunched and for some periods the notes of birds passing overhead were frequent while observations were infrequent. Approximate results for Sept. 20-21, 7:45 P.M. to 3:24 A.M.: 11 from 8:03 to 8:14, 10 from 8:23-58, 10 from 9:30 to 12:42. Business picked up with 25, 12:52-1:57, and 29, 2:01 to 3:00, with 3 others 3:12-16. The time periods given were selected for significance only; no passages were noted in the intervals. Notes heard overhead during the 12-3:24 watch (BC) indicated 89 birds, all but 9 in the two hours, 1-3 A.M. Included were an Upland Plover, 5 shorebirds, 5 Indigo Buntings, and nine with a characteristic "rasp" note.

On the second or "target" night we watch from 6:58 to 4:29. From 7:18 to 8:00, 38; 8-9, 18 including 7 from 8:53 to 9:01; same rate, 10, 9:05-34; but picking up 9:35 to 10:28 with 32; 12 in the next hour but 15 from 11:35 to midnight. From 12:03 to 3:21, 44, and the last hour only 3. Most passages, except the first hour, were slightly grouped such as 4 from 9:20-24, 6 from 11:44-49, etc. 37 birds were heard, 11 in the slow observation record (12) period of 10:30-11:28. Included were 4 Indigos and 4 shorebirds. On the third night, - 6:52 P.M., Sept. 22, to 2:45 A.M., there were 23 observations to 12:08 (with none 10:55 to 11:47) and 8 afterwards. However, during the late watch (BC, 12:08 to 2:45) 47 birds were heard overhead, including 3 Indigos and 4 shorebirds. Altho heard spasmodically, they continued to be chiefly singles. On Sept. 23, 7:39 P.M. to 12, 4 passages seen and 11 unknown chips, 4 shorebirds, and an Indigo heard; midnight to 2:30, 8 passages and 2 shorebirds and 13 chips heard. The station was closed early the third and fourth nights because of poor results with no change in prospect.

On the fifth night, Sept. 24, we set up at 7 PM but heavy clouds covered the eastern sky. We again set up at 9 PM but from 9:56 the moon was obscured much of the time and the station was closed down at 11:52. A bird was heard at 9:05 PM. -- Don't forget to call in now for a watch this month! We had just enough volunteers that the writer only had to stand one watch each night. We would like to have a second station across the river one night during the next period. - BC

FALL WARBLER NOTES: This fall has been a good one for warblers. The Wilson's Warbler, especially, has been more common than usual. A male was observed very well by a TOS group on the Sept. 19 trip in Overton Park. A very unusual record was reported by Harry Landis, of 2 in his yard on Sept. 26 and 3 there the next day. Other records were for Sept. 13, 21, and 25. Another species of special interest was the Worm-eating Warbler. I noted one on Sept. 5 and one on Sept. 13, - each appeared very tame and was easily seen.

I have been much surprised at seeing warblers in my back yard each morning. The neighborhood is an average urban one without many trees and previously it was an event to see a warbler in the area. But this fall I have already listed: Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Magnolia, and Black-throated Green Warblers. Early arrivals for this season at Memphis have been: Aug. 26, Blue-winged and Canada; Sept. 5, Black-throated Green (late); Sept. 13, Oven-bird; Sept. 19, Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided; Sept. 21, Orange-crowned, Nashville, and Bay-breasted; and Sept. 30, Tennessee. Other Oven-birds reported were in the yards respectively of Oliver Irwin on Sept. 23 and Wendell Whittemore on Sept. 24. -- George Peyton, Jr.

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: The hot, dry weather continued with birding and birds below normal. As reported elsewhere George Peyton worked a good warbler migration and the nocturnal migration study indicated a moderate movement over on Sept. 20 and 21. Records of interest include: Bald Eagle, 2 adults, Sept. 26, Horn Lake near Walls, Miss., Lee Grimmig and Ben Edwards; Caspian Tern 1 at 25', Sept. 12, McKellar Lake, Wm. Hearn; Purple Martin, 2, Sept. 7, over Overton Park (late), GP; House Wren, 1, Overton Park, WH. Arrivals noted have been: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1, Sept. 17, Germantown, Mrs. Chas. Seahorn, and 1, Sept. 24, Harry Landis, (early); Savannah Sparrow, 2, Sept. 19, Penal Farm, TOS. The only Wood Ibis reported to date were: 50 on Sept. 20, Island 40, Tenn., by Chas. A. Koepke, III, and 500 plus, Sept. 27, at Pocket Lake near Cold Creek (near Ft. Pillow), Tenn. by Ed Atterbury, a former TOS member. The swallow migration continued poor. -- BC.

A FIRST FOR TENNESSEE: SHARP-TAILED SPARROW

On the annual Fall Field Day at Memphis, October 25, 1953, the alertness of George Peyton, Jr., seconded ably by Harry Landis, picked up a species not previously reported here and apparently the first state record. Because of a three-month drouth Shelby Forest was closed and the field trip transferred to President's Island, now connected to and within the city limits of Memphis. The muddy shore and the weedy area fronting the extensive willow thicket (used as a blackbird roost) at the northeast corner of the island was our first objective. In the weedy strip (composed chiefly of three-square grass and barnyard grass with some cockle-burr) Song Sparrows were common and Swamp Sparrows fairly common. With these on all sides, George and Harry noted a sparrow with buffy yellow head markings and followed it up repeatedly. The group, now including Reed Knight, David and Donald Wilson, Miss Nelle Moore, and your editor, were able, after 15 minutes, to get a good look at the bird, and note the ochraeous buff superciliary and lower facial areas and other markings. After an equally long chase a second view, too close for binoculars, was obtained. After taking flight the bird would drop down into the low grass or go around to the far side of taller weeds. Unlike the Leconte's Sparrow, it would remain at such points, not moving until we surrounded it, than usually running a short distance before flying. In size and shape it more closely resembled our common species of sparrows than the Leconte's. We have seen Sharp-taileds on Long Island, in Virginia, Mississippi, and Louisiana but this is our first record inland. There are a few records (assigned to Nelson's Sparrow, a race) for eastern Arkansas and Missouri and The Migrant (1950:82) gives a record by Russell for Abingdon, Virginia. On a return visit, October 31, we failed to locate it. Three Short-billed Marsh Wrens were in the same vicinity both dates.

SPRAGUE'S PIPITS RETURN FOR SECOND SEASON

Our unusual western visitors have been slow in returning and the only one found to date, squeezed in under the dead-line the evening of October 31. With Tommy Fleming, Richmond Gill, and George Peyton, Jr. we checked Sanders Field at Wall, Miss., finding 10 Sprague's Pipits, and a field 4 miles W (near T. P. Howard's), finding 5 more. These fields and the Penal Farm had been walked a number of times. The last unsuccessful visits were: Penal Farm, Oct. 24; Sanders Field Oct. 17. At Shreveport on Oct. 18 we heard one and Horace Jeter stated his first was a week previous.

Alan Ziegler has been stationed at an airbase in Japan since his departure, November, 1952. His address is 17 Maint Sq Hgr 2, APO 950, care P.M., San Francisco. He has been seeing a lot of the country there and doing some "skin diving" for marine life. His stay has been extended until May, 1954. Karl Bickel, the young Marine from Philadelphia made the Naval R.O.T.C. program and was enrolled at Duke University last year. He attended many of our hikes while stationed at Millington.

ARRIVALS

- Oct. 1 White-throated Sparrow, Riverdale Rd, Germantown
1, near house, Mrs. Seahorn; several along drive, C. Jr.
- Oct. 4 Wilson's Snipe 17, Lonoke, Ark., BC, LC
Am. Pipit, 4 " " " "
- Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1, Lonoke, Ark., LC
- Oct. 6 Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3, Mrs. Seahorn, at home
" " " 2, Overton Park, Geo. Peyton, Jr.
- Oct. 7 White-crowned Sparrow, 3 Ads, the Seahorns, at home
- Oct. 9 Slate-colored Junco, 2, Coffey Grounds, BC
- Oct. 10 Brown Creeper, 1, Overton Park, GP
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2, Overton Park, GP
Myrtle Warbler, 5, Overton Park, GP
" " 2, Spring Lake S P, Miss, BC
- Oct. 11 Winter Wren, 2, Audubon Park, Reed Knight
Song Sparrow, 12, President's Island, BC, Alice Smith
- Oct. 16 Hermit Thrush, 2, Overton Park, GP

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: Very interesting Lonoke, Ark. records (BC, LC) were: Oct. 4 - Eared Grebe, 1, Bonaparte's Gull, 1, and Black-bellied Plover, 1. The grebe was studied leisurely at 75' and retained part of the summer pattern. This is my first of this western species in the Mid-South. There is a 1948 record for Ark., and a 1923 record for Tenn., but apparently none for Miss. Others there of interest were: Oct. 4 - Black-crowned Night Heron, 1 Ad, 2 Imm; Blue-winged Teal, 8 & 5; Ruddy Duck, pair (LC); Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Gtr Yellowlegs, 2; Lsr. Yellowlegs, 15; Stilt Sandpiper, 2; Oct. 18 - Lsr Yellowlegs, 3; Pectoral S., 24; Dowitcher, 1; no ducks. President's Island corner edge (Memphis) produced only: Oct. 11 - Pectoral, 1, and Least Sandpiper, 11. The first rain of consequence since July 21 came Oct. 26, varying from 1 to 2 inches. As a result on October 31, a damp spot and 7 Wilson's Snipe were found in the otherwise dry bed of Mud Lake; a few Snipe elsewhere. Downtown, Oct. 25, T.O.S. watched 13 Canada Geese over the river. Ducks seen from shore: Oct. 24, Fisherville Lake (BC, H. Landis), -Shoveller, 5, L. Scaup, 60, Ruddy Duck, 6, (& Coot, 15); Oct. 25, Porter Lake, Ark. (HL, RK, GP, Wilsons, BC), - Mallard, 30, Black Duck, 3, Gadwall, 40, Baldpate, 15, Ring-necked Duck, 60 & 80, L. Scaup, 25; Horseshoe Lake - Ruddy Duck, 26. Marsh Hawks seen: Oct. 4, Winterville, Miss., 1; Oct. 5, Lonoke, Ark., 1; Oct. 17, 1st seen near Memphis, - Sanders Field, Walls, Miss. Last Nighthawks reported: 1, Oct. 5, BC; 1, Oct. 6, GP. A flock of Chimney Swifts down to 500 on Oct. 22, none there Oct. 25, next check. The swallow migration continued chiefly poor, especially Oct. 3, Memphis to Crossett, Ark. via Greenville, Miss., and return, Oct. 4, via Lonoke; Oct. 17, to Shreveport via Greenville, and return, Oct. 18, via Lonoke. Of note at the latter's fish hatchery: Oct. 4, - Some Trees, Barns, and 40 Cliffs; Oct. 18, - Tree, 75, Barn, 350, and Cliff, 125. The Cliff Swallow is often missed.

On Oct. 31, during a 2-hour search for Harris's Sparrow (O!) SE of Raleigh, Tenn., I saw House Wren, 1, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Imm. Late warblers in parks (Peyton) include: Overton, Oct. 16 - Orange-crowned, 1, Nashville, 1, (also a Blue-headed Vireo); Riverside, Oct. 20 - Tennessee, 1, Nashville, 1; Black-throated Green, 3. A N'n Water-thrush was reported in Overton, Oct. 10 (GP) and Oct. 11 (HL). At Coffey Grounds, Oct. 10, I bathed a Magnolia at 12' with hose spray.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR IN TENNESSEE AND MISSISSIPPI

Last month I started to head the lead article "Here We Go Again!" since, after adding three new species to the Tennessee list last winter, another new one, the Sharp-tailed Sparrow, was being reported. Now, we are glad to list the fifth species added in the twelve months since Dec. 20, 1952, - the Smith's Longspur. Various fields in the Penal Farm, just east of Memphis, had been walked, ad exhaustum, for the Sprague's Pipit on November 1, 8, and 22. Still unsuccessful on the 22d, even tho the pipits were in numbers (relatively) at Walls, Miss. Oct. 31 (1953:23), I decided to try the rolling high pastures usually and still barren, and more specifically a low hill from where Demett Smith climaxed a similar hunt last season by flushing a Sprague's back to the flat areas. There, a Sprague's note sounded above and from the grass I flushed a similar bird which eventually alighted over the hill. Finally getting it up, I watched it go back over, out of sight, so I called Orval Wood off his circuit, for help. It came to me that this bird had a longspur rattle but that the white outer tail feathers were conspicuous from above. We got up 4 Sprague's Pipits separately and apparently just the one Smith's Longspur three more times before we had to leave, being then two hours late. The white on the wing of the Longspur was noted during these last flights.

On Nov. 26 I thought I could learn more concerning the species, at Lonoke, Ark. but we failed to find it then. So on the 28th I returned to the Penal Farm site and eventually got up a flock of 27 which after moving some distance, returned to circle (freely speaking) for about five minutes as I kept low and watched them thru 7 x 50 s. Next, I tried to find them on the ground but could only see them as they flushed, successively, in small numbers, at 15 to 25 feet. Watching for the "next" ones, I lost track of those overhead and the flock apparently left the immediate area.

The next day, Nov. 29, we tried for them in Mississippi. A mile of Highway U S #51 pasture yielded nothing to Harry Landis, Jr. and the writer. Then with Mrs. Coffey and George Peyton, Jr. we deployed on Sanders Field (1 mile S of Walls, Miss., U S #61) to study an assortment of "lapits" which included Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, and Sprague's Pipits. Mrs. Coffey and George flushed a small number of longspurs and after she called that their "rattle" was "different" we were all present for the second flushing of up to eleven Smith's Longspurs, - the first reported for the state of Mississippi. A few other fields, not quite suitable, were tried near Walls, and Moon Lake, without results.

Ft. Sill memories (1943-4) are vague and the flock of 15 Smith's at Lonoke, Ark. Dec. 24, 1951, (2d Ark. record) and the single there on the next Xmas Count, Dec. 20, 1952, didn't give me a chance to study them. In fact, the flock was with other species along the edge of a burnt off rice field and after

noting field marks, we rushed out in an effort to get Horned Larks before it was dark. Only later did I allow myself to think about what we had seen. But current observations reveal some pointers that will help us identify one that, more than any of the other prairie species, will be difficult to see on the ground. Remember, these are based on limited experience.

The Lapland Longspur has white outer tail feathers which show on the underside and are noted when the bird is over us, but which are very hard to see from above as the bird moves away from us. As we look down on the Smith's as it flushes, the white outer tail feathers are as noticeable as those of either pipit. (In my experience the Vesper Sparrow, usually in weeds, shows the white more noticeably when it alights.) In the air, a narrow white arc is noted at the front of the wing of the Smith's. The rattle of this species is softer than that of the Lapland and has been compared to the winding of a cheap watch. The bird guides do not mention similar notes for the other two longspurs. The Smith's also gives a weak sparrow-like note (or like that unexpectedly weak Meadowlark note), but, to date, I haven't heard it give any note resembling the "cheuuu" of the Lapland. The notes of the Sprague's Pipit are abrupt, hoarse-like, and high-pitched, given in twos, threes, or singles.

As yet we haven't found the two longspurs together and the Smith's has been restricted to an area where the grass Aristida (sp.) is found as pointed out by Horace H. Jeter (The Wilson Bulletin, 65(3):212). We are indebted to Mrs. Coffey for the identification of this grass. Jeter submits the first Louisiana record of the species, - Dec. 13, 1952, only one, old Municipal Airport, Shreveport; 35 a week later, then to 45 or 46, and tapering to 10 on Mar. 1, 1953. Parenthetically, Horace wrote me that his find was the result of my suggestion that he try airports for Horned Larks! This is what makes field work interesting. To complete the Mid-South picture of this species, the only other record not yet mentioned herein is the first and only previous Arkansas record. Baerg, "Birds of Arkansas" (1951) lists a record from Fayetteville, Feb. 28, 1885 (Harvey). We should develop more fully the present status by working likely fields.

On Oct. 18, 1953, at St. Mary's College, Winona, Minn. was commemorated the Silver Jubilee of BROTHER IGNATIUS VINCENT, F.S.C., in the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Needless to say, the theme was birds! Brother "V" writes that he had a marvelous summer in Puget Sound (field work) followed by a trip thru the Canadian Rockies, Glacier and Yellowstone Natl. Parks. Despite the weather he has some Kodachromes which he hopes to show in Memphis and may we add, soon! We were fortunate in that he was stationed at Christian Brothers College, Memphis, for two periods. Brother "V" ends "Give my best regards to the T.O.S. My heart is with all of you."

Goodwyn Institute presents a lecturer for the National AUDUBON Screen Tours on Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 12 & 13. Walter H. Shackleton, a retired businessman, with a background of botany and Kentucky, will illustrate his talks on "oddities in Nature" and "Rhapsody in the Blue Grass." Allen Cruickshank will be back Feb. 23 & 24. We are grateful to the Institute for including these excellent treats in its fine program.

CHRISTMAS COUNT COMMENT

The two counts scheduled for the Christmas week-end were marked by the recording of new species for the counts involved, three species being the same on both, - American Rough-legged Hawk, Sprague's Pipit, and Western Meadowlark. A fourth for Memphis (Dec. 27) was the Smith's Longspur. All four were firsts for Tennessee Counts; altho Nashville listed the hawk for the day after their 1934 Count. The hawk was seen in flight and perched, back of former Piney Woods (R. Demett Smith, Jr., George Peyton, Jr., and Richmond Gill, Jr.). Here, in this denuded (1942), former 20-acre pine woods, a male Pine Warbler was reported at 15 feet (RG). Previously, the species was there one season (1928), reappearing on one count (6 on 12-22-35). Three of the "firsts" were the responsibility of the Penal Farm party, two having been added there recently to the Tennessee state list and present this season on one low hill pasture (1953: 25-26). Listed were 5 Sprague's Pipits and 28 Smith's Longspurs (Mrs. Coffey, et al.) and also one Western Meadowlark heard singing (Dr. W. Whittemore). The farm was fully added to the count area two years ago, but the Western was missed then; last year the species was not reported there until Feb. 15. This season about three have been recorded each trip previously. The North party, in working Field 21, were surprised at flushing 9 Smith's Longspurs (Chas. Marcus, Edwin Poole, BC), giving us a 2d Tenn. locality for this species.

The Short-eared Owls returned to the blackbird roost and a record total of 9 were listed. Last year our 2d record (ever) of a Harris's Sparrow was on the count, followed by small flocks turning up at 4 locations. Since these latter failed to show by Christmas, this year, (other than a day or two) our hopes for this interesting species were low, but two parties separately turned it up at two new locations! Back of old "Piney" 5 were found (RDS, RG, GP) and at Mt. Moriah and Quince 2 were found (Mrs. McWhorter, Miss May, Knight and the Wilsons). The Cedar Waxwing (one report last year) was reported by several parties. After three counts the Fish Crow missed this year (only one heard last year). Ducks were scarce.

At Lonoke, Ark., Dec. 26, where we first recorded the Smith's Longspur (1951) we failed to record it, but the other three species were found. The Rough-legged Hawk (BCs) was compared with a Red-tailed Hawk near it. Both were at a moderate distance but on Dec. 20 we had closely studied a Rough-legged on roadside poles (E of Hazen, and about 22 miles from the Count record) which helped us at this time, a week later. The Short-eared Owl was seen feeding, just after daylight and was our 2d for 3 seasons (about 9 trips) here. The Sprague's Pipits had been found (3d Ark. locality) Nov. 26. The Western Meadowlark, missed on the two previous counts, always turned up a month later near or in the hatchery. On Nov. 26 we spotted two to the NE, but on the Count it was another one only, between these. Since this is only the 3d count here, "firsts" may or may not have significance.

However, others were Bluebird 17, Vesper Sparrow 3, and Short-billed Marsh Wren 1 (BC). The latter was in a damp, grassy stretch amid nearby rice stubble where I found a Leconte's Sparrow last count. Demett found this year's Leconte's in the hatchery, along with the Long-billed Marsh Wrens. Two Harris's Sparrows (LC) were found at a new spot, so a search for the others (returned in Nov.) was not pushed. Brewer's Blackbirds were not found, for the first time in 3 seasons. The "last stops" produced several species but not a Ruby-crowned Kinglet or Myrtle Warbler. No unusual marsh birds (but 2 King Rails) were found and ducks were low, 8 species against 13 last year and 14 on the first count. Baldpate and Shoveller, the two common species at the hatchery, were 20% lower than last year.

The number of species recorded at Lonoke, Dec. 26, was 81 (previously 80 & 82), at Memphis, Dec. 27, it was 79 (topped only by 82 in 1951 and 80 in 1952). Thirty persons took part in the Memphis Count, a fine turn-out. Half the Lonoke party was on foot, separately, in the morning; all in one auto for the afternoon. The weather was favorable except for a stiff wind. As last year (except 3 Tree Sparrows at Memphis) the species count had a western plains tinge while neither southern nor northern rarities showed. A House Wren, spotted Oct. 31 (1953:24) and Nov. 28, couldn't be found.

The writer made a Count, Dec. 25, at Rara Avis, Miss. for a low score of 41 species and 909 individuals. No Starlings and a total of one English Sparrow was listed. The better territory was reached late in the day.

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: Temperatures for Nov. and Dec. were about normal with slightly below freezing on Nov. 10, 11 & 18, and ten days below in Dec. with a minimum of 16 for Dec. 23. Precipitation was slightly below normal but mostly on Nov. 22 and Dec. 5. On Dec. 19 I decided to try Mud Lake for peeps but found water up to the edge to the trees (no ducks-hunters present). While Horseshoe Lake, Ark. was still low, White Pelicans were reported there, Oct. 24, indirectly; and by Edward Wooldridge who saw 200, Nov. 1, in one of the sloughs there. The latter listed 50 Am. Egrets while Rev. Wm. Hearn saw 100 Am. Egrets, Nov. 16, at Henley's, Sardis Lake (low, with dead fish). On Moon Lake, Miss., Nov. 29, we estimated 4,500 Ruddy Ducks (over two miles), 200 Hooded Mergansers, and a few others (BCs, GP, Harry Landis). At Lonoke, Ark. a Franklin's Gull was reported Nov. 22 (GP et al), Nov. 12, A.M., a Woodcock was flushed at Coffey Grounds while a late Yellow-breasted Chat was banded there Dec. 3, released Dec. 4. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, with injured wing, was brought in to J. E. Jolly, Riverside Park, on Dec. 9. On Dec. 24, Leo Grimming found a Long-eared Owl (shot), 4 miles W of Blackfish Lake, Ark. He made a study skin of it. On Dec. 13 at the former Dyersburg Army Air Base, Halls, Tenn. I found 4 Tree Sparrows. Capt. Burt Monroe writes me that he didn't record the species there during the winters of 1943 and 1944. - Notes on "westerners" and certain other species carried forward.

Mimeographed periodicals are generally looked down upon. One advantage, coincidental with lower cost, is that they can be issued generally at more frequent intervals and hence the data presented is more timely. Since last spring we have, by force of circumstances, lost that advantage. Work on the summer issues were stopped & started so many times, because of interruptions, that they consumed much extra time. We hope to continue, not monthly, but as time allows.

LEAST TERN AT MEMPHIS, TENN.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Last Date</u>
1928	May 20: 2-Lakeview, Miss	Sept. 16, 4 L. Bar
1929	May 25: 2-S of town	
1930	May 11: 2-Lakeview, Miss	
1931	----- May 31: 120-Lakeview	
1932	May 15: 2-Lakeview, Miss (None, 8th)	Aug. 4, 5 (Imm)
1933	May 9 : 4-Memphis Wharf, Mrs. C	Sept. 24, (Imm)Lkvw
1934	May 13: 3-Lakeview	---- (Sept. 9, none)
1935	May 12: 12-Lakeview	Aug. 11, 50 Lkvw
1936	-----	Aug 23, 30 Mud L.
1937	----- May 9, None	Sept 5, (None) Aug 29, 6 Lkvw
1938	----- May 14, None	Aug 17, 20 Memphis
	Seasonal Note: "appeared mid-May, up to 120 in a half-mile of river, 1st week of June."	
1939	----- May 7, None	Sept 3, 1 Mud L.
1940	May 5 : 2-Memphis (TOS)*	
	May 13: 12 "	Aug 12, 6 Mud L.
1941	May 11: 8	Aug 3: 50 -----
1942	-----	
1945	----- May 6, 0; June 3, 10(Mrs. C)	Sept 3, 19 Mud L.
1946	-----	(Mrs C)Aug 25, 2 town; 1 Mud L.
1947	May 22: 10-Memphis May 5, None	Sept 14, 20
1948	May 20: 3-Memphis May 9, None. Sept, None.	Aug 15, 5 Mud L.
1949	May 2 : 1-Memphis Mrs C	Aug 28, 5 Mud L.
1950	May 7 : 3-Memphis	Sept 11, 2 Lkvw
1951	----- May 6, None; June 15, 24	July 22-Sept 9: None---
1952	May 18: 2-Lakeview May 4, None	Aug 3-Sept 6: None---
1953	----- None seen thru May 15	Aug 2: 3

Spring observations: occasionally on lunch hour I would walk over to an overlook of Wolf River, which runs into the Mississippi about three blocks south. At the latter, at the tip of Mud Island, is a favored place for terns. Less frequently I walk to this point or pass in a car (more so in early years). The annual Spring Field Day starts about there. In recent years the caravan passes thru Riverside Park, from which terns are sometimes observed. The group spends the day at Lakeview on the Miss. - Tenn. line. At this season the terns show there on Horn Lake at times, less so on Mud Lake nearby. In early years we visited here two week-ends in May and often saw the terns on the second Sunday. Occasionally we went elsewhere, one or the other Sunday. Since World War II we have generally gone there the first Sunday and attended a state meeting on the second week-end which eliminated our best chance of checking in the species at about the date due. The May 5, 1940, record doesn't show who made it, presumably several, including the writer, did.

Fall observations were incidental, chiefly, to almost weekly visits to Mud Lake (state line passes thru it) for shorebirds. Often as the season waned, this lake would get too shallow for terns, then for herons sometimes, and occasionally become dry. "Borrow pits" across the river in Arkansas were sometimes checked but herons were the goal then.

The writer was in the service, Aug. 29, 1942, to Feb. 8, 1946. Records examined include those by B.F. McCamey, Jr. (1933-37), John Pond (1936), Jim Vardaman (1937), Eugene Wallace (1938-40), the late Austin Burdick, Jr. (1941), and R. Demett Smith, Jr. (1949-51). For some recent summer information we are indebted to Merrill Schwartz, an officer of the Memphis Yacht Club and of the local Coast Guard Reserve.

In the Wilson Bulletin for June, 1930, XLII (2): 103-107, Albert F. Ganier writes on the "Breeding of the Least Tern on the Mississippi River." He mentions the species at Vicksburg and Tiptonville, then gives my records for 1928 and 1929 and correlates the nesting dates with the river stages. In 1928 by walking and having fishermen put me across one chute and across and upriver at another I was able to reach a large sandbar about 4 miles above the tip of Mud Island. On the Memphis Quadrangle (1932) this is shown as Loosahatchie Bar but was generally referred to, then, as Middle Bar and also, I believe, as Owens Bar. The ferryman for the second lap stated the terns had nested there during the three years of his residence. High water from June 15 to July 15 delayed my first visit (and the nesting) until July 31. About 50 Least Terns were flying about and I found several depressions in the sand. On Aug. 3 I found three nests with two eggs each and one with one egg. On Aug. 5 sand had covered some and two sets of two were sent to Mr. Ganier's Tennessee collection. He estimated that they had been deposited about July 27 and 29.

The first visit to this bar in 1929 was on July 7 when I found six nests on slightly higher ground. One contained one egg, two held two eggs, while one held one young, two or three days old. On the 14th I found 13 occupied nests, in two groups about 100 yards apart, and 150 to 200 feet from the water's edge. Of eggs or young, one held three, seven held two, and five held one. Ganier estimated that the first eggs were laid June 19 with the river gauge at 27.6 feet. The bar emerged about June 12 when the gauge read 32.0.

For 1930 I find a field card from "Middle Bar" on May 21, listing 10 Least Terns present but noting that no nests were found. Since I had acquired an outboard motor and boat in 1929 so that I could visit the bar and also carry water and supplies more readily with me, I made a number of trips there but if notes were made, they are not available at present. In 1931 I made frequent trips during June, going up after work (5 PM) which often coincided with late evening thunderstorms. Certain nests were each marked by a nearby stick with linen tags and the trips were made to check on these and ascertain the incubation period. The planned article on this nesting was put aside account other commitments and the notebook is buried somewhere, I hope. From The Migrant, September, 1934, p. 24, I find that the first egg was laid about May 31 when the river gauge read 13 feet. On that day we had seen 120 Least Terns at Lakeview, - these were probably transients. The eggs were laid every other day generally, two or three comprising a set. The terns apparently rely on the sun to assist them in the task of incubation. They "fish" about 4 miles downstream (tip of Mud I), returning to the bar about 7 P.M. to roost. The published notes do not give the incubation period. As I remember it was about four weeks. A.C. Bent states that it "is said to be from

14 to 16 days." I do not think my brief visits caused disturbance or delay.

The next season, because of Scouting and land birding, I finally took the boat out of the water as I didn't have a chance to use it. In recent years the Least Tern has not seemed as common as previously. In 1950 the sandbars were under water until early August. In 1951 there was high water until late July, but Merrill Schwartz reported that the terns were nesting on the higher parts of the bars in July. On May 17, 1952, thru the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Schwartz, I rode to the bar and found Least Terns fairly common on the broad expanse of sand at the upper end. No nests, as such, were found but there were many shaped depressions in the sand, surrounded by their tracks. During the summer of 1953 Mr. Schwartz reports that not many Least Terns were noted in the area as the upper end of the bar had washed out.

My map, marked for the early trips, indicates nests were found both on Loosahatchie Bar and Redmond Point Bar, the next one above. In the next 15 miles up river I was unable to find any nesting colonies. From the shore I've never seen indications of the terns at Richardson Landing, Ashport, or Fulton, Tenn. President's Island's large expanse of sand was apparently unsuitable because of the size of the island. In 1940 I made a Sea Scout cruise from Memphis to New Orleans (and Biloxi), - other bird students being Fred T. Carney, the skipper, and Austin Burdick, Jr. and Ben Welch, Jr. We were on the river from July 20 to July 25 and expected to find Least Terns fairly common. However, we saw them at only a few places, chiefly near towns. We tied up and searched two large bars unsuccessfully for indications of nesting.

During nesting season we have found them feeding at lakes and "borrow pits" near the river, such as at Horseshoe Lake, Ark. and along the Harahan viaduct near West Memphis; at Reelfoot Lake, Tenn. but only a few at Open Lake; and in Mississippi at Lakes Lee and Washington and occasionally Moon Lake. After nesting, singles or pairs, usually, are occasionally found at some distance from the Mississippi. Most of the records on hand, tho, are for evident stragglers or far-ranging feeders, since they are for early summer. On June 11, 1951, two were noted at Lonoke, Ark. (fish ponds). In Mississippi I have records for "Legion Lake" at Tupelo, 1 on June 20, 1939, (caretaker reported ten each morning); June 19, 1936, 1 each at Macon and S. of Carthage; 8 seen May 20, 1934 from Clarksdale to Charleston via Crowder, probably on the Yazoo River; 2, July 19 and 20, 1938, on a 1-acre pond near Camp Coulter, Columbia (Jim Vardaman); and 3 at Arkabutla Dam, July 24, 1948.

Addenda: For the last date in 1945 we find in The Migrant (1945: 45) that 60 were seen here on Sept. 8 and 5 on Sept. 15 (Luther F. Keeton). In these pages (1952:6) we have found an earlier 1952 record, that of 20 at the foot of Mud Island on May 11.

Ben B. Coffey, Jr.

ON HEARING THE FIRST WHIP-POOR-WILL

Or Chuck-Will's-Widow, for that matter. Some apparently very early spring records present the possibility that these two species might arrive earlier than we have thought in the past. Some Whip-poor-wills winter unobtrusively in South Mississippi (Burleigh, 1944). Perhaps the early records were exceptional individuals or perhaps most of the southernmost breeders move up into this area early and are not heard nor seen. A personal hunch has been that if they are present, they may not call unless there is appreciable moonlight. Thus, during a period of full moon, we have our best chance of learning of their arrival and presence. This past spring of 1953, a full moon was scheduled for Mar. 30 and I was hoping that this timing would produce a number of March records. In this I was somewhat disappointed.

From 7 to 8:30 P.M., Mar. 27, I made stops along high and wooded areas towards and in Shelby Forest (Hqs to bluff) without hearing either species or even a Mockingbird. Three species of frogs were calling. Slight breeze; fair; 52° F. The next three nights I visited Overton Park (also Sweetbriar & Shady Grove the 29th), then Riverside Park, back to Overton on the 1st, with temp. up to 72° on Mar. 31. On Apr. 2, temp. 57°, I heard a Whip giving a feeding(?) note and watched it make frequent sallies and returns to a perch. Apr. 3 was rainy while dusk on the 4th at Overton Park yielded nothing. Apparently trips were discontinued; with the moon waning and rising later each night, our best chance was just at dusk. On Apr. 9, Oliver Irwin flushed a Chuck-will's-widow at Overton in daytime (several previous trips by him) and heard one plus 4 Whips calling at dusk. The same evening at Riverside Park I heard a Chuck and a Whip which called 3 minutes. No other special trips were subsequently made.

B. B. Cooper visits Hickory Flat, Miss. often on weekends and has located Whip-poor-wills there in summer and thus we expect early arrivals there. On Apr. 4-5, 12-3 A.M. he heard 3 separate Whip-poor-wills (a mile apart) call a few times. At the same place on Apr. 10 he heard a Chuck-will's-widow but no Whip-poor-will. On Apr. 18 (cold) he heard neither.

In 1952 thru Eldon Roark's "Strolling" in the Memphis Press-Scimitar I asked for reports on first calling of these two species. Consideration has to be given the fact that the Chuck-will's-widow is popularly known as a Whip-poor-will but after pertinent correspondence we believe that the records presented are correct as regards species. In 1953 these cooperators of the previous season kindly answered my inquiries, resulting in these reports on the Whip-poor-will: Near Parsons, Tenn. (Rt 1) Mrs. R. L. Duck heard one on Mar. 29 and Mrs. Edd Davis two on Mar. 30. Matt Marion, Supt. of Chickasaw S. P. reported one for Apr. 3, Gordon Armour, Supt. of Shelby Forest S. P.,

Apr. 7, and Nina Smith at Covington and Frank C. Drinkard at Gadsden, Apr. 8. In Mississippi Kilian Roever (TOS) flushed one in Tishomingo S.P. on Mar. 28 while Mrs. Odell Carr heard one near the town, 4:50 A.M. on Apr. 15, and L.C. Moser heard one in Iuka, Apr. 13. The early Chuck-will's-widows were evidently silent for the most part. Besides the records previously given (Irwin, Cooper, BC), Drinkard heard 3 at Gadsden on Apr. 14, while there were several reports for April 23 at LaGrange, Parsons, Iuka, and just N. and E. of Memphis with an Apr. 25 date for Camp Currie, Eudora, Miss. (Hope Ford). Also cooperating was Mrs. Cogbill of LaGrange and Mrs. G. W. Basey of Savannah.

We might consider "first" reports for spring, 1952, when there was a full moon on Apr. 10 but some unfavorable weather at that time. Whip-poor-will: Huntersville, Tenn., Apr. 6 (Roever); Memphis, Apr. 7, Overton Park (Albert Brandli), Apr. 9, Parsons (Mrs. Davis) and Chickasaw S.P.; Apr. 22, Savannah; and Apr. 23, Natchez Trace S.P. (Ernest B. Hoskins, Supt.). Chuck-will's-widow: Apr. 7, Parsons (Davis); Apr. 9, Gadsden, Huntersville, and Tishomingo; and Apr. 17, Natchez Trace S. P. At Memphis we apparently missed the latter species until Apr. 19 when I flushed three separate individuals in Overton. Richmond Gill flushed a "Whip" there on Apr. 6 but I didn't hear one at dusk until Apr. 8 (5 min.), the night after Mr. Brandli heard his in the same area.

In evaluating the above reports it must be remembered that most records given are incidental observations. But the majority give us an indication of their first "public" appearance. Because of the birds' habits (including an inclination to call only briefly at this period) and frequent unfavorable weather, even a special search does not always result in regular data. We would appreciate reports again this season.

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: The Count at Moon Lake, Miss., Jan. 3, listed 71 species, 9720 individuals with no outstanding records and a low to moderate landbird list. Waterfowl species were eleven. Mrs. Coffey and I listed 63 species, 2546 individuals, at Stafford Springs, Miss. on Jan. 2 and enjoyed visits at Laurel with Mr. & Mrs. Jim Vardaman (fmlly of Memphis) and at Ellisville with Rev. and Mrs. Andrew A. Allison. Rev. Allison was a noted Mississippi ornithologist (and botanist) in the early days of the A.O.U. - Noted at Moon Lake, Jan. 3, were: Horned Grebe, 5; Double-crested Cormorant, 10 (very low); Canvas-back, 606, and Ruddy Duck, 5153. - The Red-headed Woodpecker found locally, slightly above winter normals and many reports on Cedar Waxwings in town. Leconte's Sparrow: 1, Dec. 26 at Lonoke hatchery (RDS) was the only count (of 5) record. In rice stubble just E of the hatchery 3 were seen Jan. 31. A weedy, former rice field, S/S US 70, 2 mi. W of Ark. 11, Hazen, harbors some interesting Leconte's which can be walked up and often observed leisurely. A sharp, very abrupt Junco-like chip is given. On Nov. 26, 11 (BC,LC,AS), the streaked immatures plus abnormal behaviors (to us) confused us but at least two unstreaked ones noted). On Dec. 20 the former dry field now with some standing water, - 4 were seen and 1 found and made into a study skin (RDS). On Jan 31 we noted 16 (RDS, BC, Peyton, Wood). Juncos appear common in most of our area.

ARRIVALS

- Feb. 27 Purple Martin 1, 1559 Linden, Mrs. J. K. Speed (2-28 RG,GP)
 Feb. 28 " " 1, 1328 Lamar, Jas C. Lancaster. Both at boxes.
 Mar. 6 Golden Plover 7, Penal Farm, Harry Landis (4PM, BCs, RDS)
 Mar. 7 " " 1, N of Friar's Point, Miss. BC
 Mar. 13 Pectoral Sandpiper 24, Sanders Field, Geo Peyton, BC,RT
 " " 1, New Hope Slough, Walls, GP, BC
 Upland Plover 1, Sanders Field, BC, Richard Taylor
 Greater Yellowlegs 3, New Hope Slough, GP, BC
 Tree Swallow 5, New Hope; 8, W of NH (or S of TP Howard's)
 GP, BC (month earlier than average)
 Mar. 14 Lesser Yellowlegs 2, Sanders Field, Walls, Miss HL
 Mar. 19 Am. Egret 1, over 1521 Vance, GP
 Mar. 20 Pectoral Sandpiper 200, Field 21, Woodstock, BC
 Mar. 24 Greater Yellowlegs 7, Penal Farm, HL
 Lesser Yellowlegs 3, " " HL
 White-eyed Vireo 1, Coffey Grounds, eve BC
 Mar. 25 (Overton Park, Geo. Peyton, Jr., & Harry Landis, Jr):
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird (over at 12') 1, Blue-gray
 Gnatcatcher 8, Yellow-throated Vireo 2, Black & White
 Warbler 1 (HL), Parula 1, Kentucky 2 (at 10'), & Hooded
 Warbler 4, Chipping Sparrow 1. (Also White-eyed 4) Later
 by BC: Black-throated Green 1 and Sycamore Warbler 1.
 Mar. 26 (5 of above species, Overton, GP & HL)
 Mar. 27 (Overton Park, GP & HL): Crested Flycatcher, 1, low, at
 40' (GP), Worm-eating 2 (10'), Blue-winged 1 (10'), and
 Yellow-throat male (30'). The 1st two warblers at
 separate times by each observer (both again next a.m.
 by GP).
 Mar. 28 (Spring Lake S.P., Miss., TOS): Rough-winged Swallow 4.
 9 other of above transients incl. Crested Flycatcher 2
 (LC et al), Worm-eating 1 (GP & HL), Yellow-throat 2
 (1 each GP & R Demett Smith, Jr.) and La. Water-thrush, 8.
 Yellow-throat 1, Huntersville, Tenn., Kilian Roever).
 Apr. 1 Whip-poor-will 1, Overton Park, 4 pm HL (2, dusk, BC)
 (Whip-poor-will 1, Huntersville, Tenn., Kilian Roever)
 Apr. 3 Prothonotary Warbler 1, Overton Park, GP, BC
 Green Heron 1, Penal Farm, HL
 Barn Swallow 1, 2, " " GP, HL, BC
 Vesper Sparrow 1, " " BC, GP, HL
 (Kingbird 1, Huntersville, Tenn., KR)
 Apr. 4 (Whip-poor-will 5, Hickory Flat, Miss., B. B. Cooper)
 (Red-eyed Vireo 1, S of Whiteville, Tenn., BC, LC, AS)
 (Broad-winged Hawk 2, Chickasaw S.P., AS, LC, BC)
 (Kingbird 1, Lake Placid " " , LC, AS, BC)
 (Cliff Swallow 20, Snake Creek near Shiloh, BCs, AS)
 (Broad-winged Hawk 1, W of Scottsboro, Ala., Mr. & Mrs.
 Tom Simpson) (Wood Thrush 1, Shiloh Natl Mil Park, BC)
 Broad-winged Hawk 2, Overton Park, GP

NOCTURNAL MIGRATION OBSERVATIONS: Scheduled for the nights of April 15, 16, & 17. This is important birding and Memphis is a key location. We haven't the nights to phone the roster of local bird students but your help is needed. If you can take a watch, phone 2-7209 now.

ADDITIONAL ARRIVALS

Mar. 21 Solitary Sandpiper 1, "Coro Puddles" Tenn, US 61, LC
 Mar. 22 Chimney Swift 1, over 1521 Vance, GP
 Apr. 6 Red-eyed Vireo 2, Overton Park, GP
 Apr. 7 Cerulean Warbler 1, " " GP
 Wood Thrush 1, " " HL
 Kingbird 1, 22 N. Century, HL
 Orchard Oriole 1, " " HL

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: February temperature averaged 6 degrees above while March was about normal, with minimums at 24 and 25 and maximums at 79 and 81 respectively. After above normal precipitation in January, February had very little, and March had a poor two inches. Penal Farm ponds, notwithstanding, presented few muddy edges, while the "New Hope" slough a mile W of Walls, Miss, was drying up at the period's end. Plowing was about three weeks early and ground dry. This may account for the Golden Plovers apparently by-passing areas of former abundance - Norfolk Landing area, Miss. (Walls-Lake Cormorant) and S. of Crawsfordville, Ark. Latter was checked: Mar. 13, 0, and Mar. 27, 38, these being on a green pasture just E of the town. None seen in the mentioned Miss. area but found nearer Walls, at the slough, Mar. 21 only, - 80, and at Sanders air field thus: Mar. 6, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28 - 0, 11, 72 (HL), 300 (R Taylor), 170, 0, & 1 (RT) respectively. The pastures of our Penal Farm had more than usual (tho much below the 600 to 1500 past maximums in Ark. & Miss.) as follows: Mar. 6, 7, 12, 16, 23, 28 (late), & Apr. 3 - 7 (HL; BCs, RDS), 6 (HL), 84 (HL), 85, 210, 0 (TOS), & 310. Just N of Memphis I found: Mar. 20 - 80 near & 25 on Field 21; Apr. 2, 110; O.K. Robertson Rd., the first seen on a plowed field but day after a light rain. On Apr. 4 we looked eastward to Savannah (via Hwys 70, 59, 64, 100 & 45) but none found outside Shelby County. On its east edge near Arlington were 13 (W) and 80 (E), latter in a plowed field. In Fayette County we saw 4 Upland Plover S of Braden and 7 Pectoral Sandpipers N. of Somerville - Apr. 4 (LC, AS, BC). The Upland has been uncommon to date: 1 on Sanders Field, Mar. 13, and 5 at the Penal Farm, Apr. 3..

For a second season we had a "flock" of Greater Yellowlegs. Records for "New Hope" are: Mar. 13, 3; Mar. 21, 32; Mar. 27, 0, - almost dried up. A ditch, end of Sanders Field, yielded up to 6 on Mar. 28 (RT). In Tenn. were Mar. 27, 1 each, Coro and Florida St.; Penal Farm: Mar. 24, 7 (HL), and Apr. 3, 4. The Lesser has been seen, all locations, from 1 to 10. The Pectoral Sandpiper usually in flocks of about 25 but Field 21, Mar. 20 - 200 & Penal Farm, Apr. 3 - 12 and 80.

Vesper Sparrows recorded: Audubon Park dump, 5, Nov. 14 (Wilsons); Crawsfordville, Ark., 1, Nov. 22 (LC, AS); SW of Moon Lake, Miss., 12, Nov. 29, (HL, GP); E of Hazen, Ark., 1, Dec. 20 (BC); Lonoke, Ark., 3, Dec. 26, & 1, Jan. 31. Dec. 20, on Ark. Hwy. 1, N of Forrest City, 2 adult Gambel's (race of white-crowned) Sparrows were carefully noted (RDS). Lapland Longspurs were in numbers at Lonoke and Memphis Penal Farm but poor elsewhere. The Moon Lake Count listed one; flocks at Walls, Miss. were 70 and 30 on Nov. 29, 8 on Jan. 24; Tupelo, 5 on Dec. 6. At Lonoke a flock of 100, Nov. 26; 1,083 (800 one flock), Dec. 26; and 300, 25, and 60 (all at big flock site) on Jan. 31. At our Penal Farm: Nov. 8, 1; Nov. 22, 3; Nov. 28, 200, 175; Dec. 27, 250, and Jan. 30, 200. On February 14, a West Tenn. check (US 45 W, 45E) found only a few at Jackson's McKellar Field and 3 at Martin.

SPRING FIELD DAY - Memphis Chapter T.O.S., Sunday, May 2,
 Ben B. Coffey, Jr. 672 W. Belvedere, Memphis 7, Tennessee

SPRING ARRIVALS

- Apr. 9 Orange-crowned Warbler 1, Overton Pk, GP & HL
 Apr. 11 Redstart male, Overton Park, HL
 Chuck-will's-widow 1, Overton Park, BC, dusk.
 Apr. 13 Baltimore Oriole 1, Coffey Grounds, BC
 Summer Tanager 2, Overton Pk, GP
 Scarlet Tanager 2, " " , HL
 Apr. 14 Overton Park: Oven-bird 1, Nashville Warbler 2, GP & HL;
 Blackburnian Warbler male, GP;
 Tennessee Warbler 2, Prairie Warbler 1,
 Olive-backed Thrush 1, HL
 Apr. 15 Warbling Vireo 1, Overton Park, GP
 Apr. 17 Swainson's Warbler 1, Shelby Forest, BC (TOS)
 Yellow Warbler 1, Lakeview, BC, et al
 Apr. 19 Catbird 1, Coffey Grounds, BC (& at R. Pk, GP)
 Indigo Bunting 3, Riverside Park, GP
 Yellow-breasted Chat 1, " " GP & HL
 Apr. 20 Mississippi Kite 1, Overton Park, GP, 100' (early).
 Apr. 23 Nighthawk 1, 3d & Calhoun, BC
 Apr. 24 (Yellow-breasted Chat 1, Overton Park, BC, GP)
 Painted Bunting 1, Leawood area, BC, GP
 Spotted Sandpiper 1, Blackpoll Warbler 2,
 Bobolink 33, Grasshopper Sparrow 12,
 Dickcissel 12, Penal Farm, BC, GP
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo 2, Wood Pewee 2, Palm
 Warbler 1, Camp Currier, Eudora, Miss., HL
 Apr. 25 (Black-poll Warbler 4, Indigo Bunting 8) &
 Gray-cheeked Thrush 1, Veery 1,
 Canada Warbler 1, Overton Park, GP
 Apr. 27 (Wood Pewee 1, Catbird 2, HL) &
 Chestnut-sided Warbler 1, BC, Overton Park
 Apr. 28 Golden-winged Warbler 1, Overton Park, GP
 Apr. 29 Rosebreasted Grosbeak 1, Overton Park, GP
 Magnolia Warbler 1, Overton Park. GP
 Apr. 30 Acadian Flycatcher 1, Overton Park, HL
 Bay-breasted Warbler 2, " " "
 May 1 Short-billed Marsh Wren 1, Penal Farm, GP
 Long-billed Marsh Wren 1, Lakeview, Miss., GP
 N. Water-thrush 1, Lakeview, Miss., GP
 May 2 Philadelphia Vireo 1, Lakeview, Miss., BC
 May 9 (Philadelphia Vireo 1, Overton Park, GP)

In addition to first dates for the area, the first dates for Overton Park are given for species usually found there as it is the locality most frequently visited for transients. George Peyton, Jr. compiled much of above data. He and Harry Landis, Jr., separately or together, worked intensively during the migration period. They visited Overton Park every day in April except April 5, 18, 19, 21 or 23.

Additional first dates, not considered significant because the species are uncommon, follow: Pine Warbler 1, Apr. 10, GP, HL, BC, - an accidental in the immediate Memphis area; Mourning Warbler male, Apr. 16, GP & HL at 40' - early; Black-bellied Plover 1, good plumage, Apr. 24, Lakeview, Miss., BC & GP; Golden-winged Warbler 1, Apr. 28, GP; Connecticut Warbler 1, May 7, GP. All were at Overton Park except the Plover.

A flock of one Snow and 44 Blue geese came in to a Penal Farm pond, late, April 10 (BC) and 12 Blues were seen April 11 at Lakeview. On April 3 a King Rail was seen in the yard of 2374 Union and that day Kilian Roever near Jackson saw a Sora on a golf course. A Sora and two Am. Bitterns were recorded at Lakeview and an Anhinga north of town, April 17 (TOS, including the L.R. Herndons of Elizabethton, BC). Also on the 17th: a Short-eared Owl (late), a first for the Penal Farm, and the last Sprague's Pipit there; on Mud Lake, Tenn.-Miss. (4 to 6 inches deep) were: Blue-winged Teal 60, Shoveller 2, Coot 30, Lsr. Yellowlegs 240. On this lake, April 24 (GP, BC) - Green-winged 1, and Blue-winged Teal 5, Black-bellied Plover 1, Greater Yellowlegs 10, Lesser Yellowlegs 60, and Pectoral Sandpiper 45. An adult Bald Eagle was seen there then and an Osprey on May 1 (GP, et al) and May 2 (TOS).

Upland Plover seen were: April 17 - 1, Field 21, and 6, Penal Farm; April 24 - 6, and May 1 (GP)-1, at Sanders Field, Miss. In Overton Park, April 3, Harry Landis flushed a Long-eared Owl three times, observing it at 15 feet once; this is our second Shelby County record, - the first over 20 years ago in the Ensley bottoms (BC), and the third West Tenn. record.

Despite threatening weather, attendance at the Memphis chapter TOS annual Spring Field Day was good, but only the early ones were able to do any field work of consequence. There were frequent heavy downpours. The list totaled about 90 species including (BC) Snowy Egret 1, Long-billed Marsh Wren only 1, Philadelphia Vireo 1, Golden-winged Warbler 1, and White-crowned Sparrow 15. On May 1 two parties (GP, HL, Jack Hays, Reed Knight, and Donald Wilson) covered the Penal Farm, Overton and Riverside Parks, and Lakeview, including Sanders' Field, listing 117 species (See The Migrant 1954; 26-33). Rain that evening blanked out goatsuckers and owls. A Short-billed Marsh Wren (GP, JH) and an estimated 1,000 Bobolinks were at the Farm, a Golden-winged Warbler at Overton Park. Mississippi records included a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blue-headed Vireo, N. Water-thrush (GP), and Song Sparrow (GP, at 15'). One or two weeks earlier the shorebird "sloughs" were plowed cotton rows and Mud Lake about 4 inches deep, as usual in August. On May 1 & 2 the lake was too high for shorebirds and the recreated sloughs had none. -Subsequent Blue-headed Vireo singles were at homes, May 7, Richmong Gill, Jr., May 10 & 11, GP.

NEWS OF MID-SOUTH BIRD STUDENTS AFAR: In May Allan Ziegler returned from Japan to California and on leaving the Air Force, took a position (radio) with Pan American Air Ways at San Francisco. His address is 400 Kensington Avenue, San Bruno, Calif. About the end of the year he hopes to return to Japan for a short visit. Later he may enroll at Southern Cal. While in Japan he extended his studies of marine biology.

After three years at St. Mary's College we had hoped Brother I. Vincent would be returned to Memphis. But his address is now St. George High School, 350 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, Ill. Brother Leo Thomas is now at De LaSalle Military Academy, 1512 Paseo, Kansas City, Mo. We really miss these two fine co-workers in the Memphis Chapter, T.O.S.

Ben B. Coffey, Jr.

672 N. Belvedere

Memphis 7, Tenn.

THE SUMMER SEASON: Reports are few for this season, local visits being chiefly to the Penal Farm while Mud Lake was dry after June 12 (8' weeds Aug. 15). May had normal precipitation and below normal temperature. Then followed our hottest summer on record (averaging about 5 degrees above normal) with precipitation less than half normal, - not so bad except for the cumulative effect of drouth last summer and the one before and the past winter below normal. Dried-up sloughs were invaded by bulldozers and will never be the same, especially with timber and cover being removed. Fish died in shallow lakes.

Following the Spring Field Day your compiler was in or enroute to Mexico the remaining four week-ends of May. On June 12 a visit was made to Lakeview (GP,BC). Three male Painted Buntings were at two usual sites. Mud Lake was about half covered with water and only 1 to 3 inches deep. Present were Great Blue 3, Am. Egret 35, Snowy Egret 50; Little Blue 40 adult & 5 pied, Semipalmated Sandpiper 15, and Least Tern 10. The heronry upriver was reportedly about the same but I saw no herons when in the vicinity. Most of the large bar at the head of the towhead having washed away last year, on June 19 I had a nearby fisherman carry me to the large bar about a mile upstream and opposite (W/S). I walked most of it in 2½ hours, - finally saw a few Least Terns over the river only and found about three areas with slight depressions and many tracks but no indicative signs of nesting on this suitable sandbar.

Enroute home May 31 Mrs. Coffey and I stopped at Lonoke; stragglers there were: a male L. Scaup and a female Mallard, Black Tern 12, Least Tern 2, Least Sandpiper 1, Snowy Egret 1, Little Blue 2 adults. On the hatchery we saw a Least Bittern, Purple Gallinule, and a Pied-billed Grebe nest with 6 eggs. To its west were a few Coots and a Barn Swallow. Back on July 11 we noted Least Bittern 11, Purple Gallinule 2, Yellow-crowned Night Heron 2 Imm., Wood Duck 4, and others. About 1000 herons were moving to a roost there, most were Little Blue immatures and Am. Egrets. A pair of Blue Grosbeaks were at I.F. Anderson's. Meanley reports a Blue Grosbeak at Lonoke July 26 but ENE of ours; at that time he had a pair of Fla. Gallinules with 7 young and a Grebe incubating. Our trip (BC,LC,AS,RDS) July 11 was to visit Brooke and Anna Meanley at Stuttgart. Just before Stuttgart (NE) we saw 6 Black Terns. We were shown Traill's Flycatchers and nests by Brooke and a Bell's Vireo and nest. An Ark. Hwy 11 bridge S of Slovac had 5 Barn Swallows and a nest just vacated. That morning on Ark. Hwy 1 we found 2 at a bridge in St. Francis County, just S. of Cross County; then in the latter, N of Wynne, there were 8 Barns. Their bridge had a nest with 3 eggs and a nest with two large young. In the evening we saw 2 Barn Swallows on U S 70 just E. of Carlisle. The week-end previous I found the species nesting between Strawberry and Powhatan, less so at former sites to Imboden (old bridges replaced), few near Hardy and Mammoth Spring, and none near Mountain Home or NW of Jonesboro. Nesting at our Penal Farm and in area NE of Naval Air Station appeared moderate only (established sites). A pair were seen June 5 at 4910 Raleigh-LaGrange Rd.

On June 6 (Alice Smith, BCs) we found the 4th Tenn. Bank Swallow colony at Heloise (tip by Kilian Roever who saw a Bank there last summer). There were about 500 nests (not all complete?) in 300 yards, about 200 plus in use, most in the first 100 yards. Most were in one stratum. The bank of clay and very soft sand was 22 feet high (low stage). A young man living there, always remembered nesters there; possibly, as estimated for the Barr group, this colony goes back to the last big flood - 1937. Ferry landings near Caruthersville (Powell) and Tiptonville appeared to have no suitable banks.

At the Penal Farm on June 5 I saw an adult Red-tailed Hawk, a Spotted Sandpiper and my first Painted Bunting there. From a good list there on June 19 we might mention the Swainson's Warbler heard from Germantown road bridge (regular site). The first Upland Plover seen, 11 scattered, were on July 10, the next trip, with 10 on Aug. 8. Also on the latter date: Spotted 2, Solitary 1, and Pectoral Sandpiper 1; Least Tern 1, and Black Tern, an immature. Harry Landis found 2 Upland Plover and a few "peeps" there, Aug. 25. A Grasshopper Sparrow was singing, June 5, and an immature seen there, July 10. At Spring Lake SP, Miss., Floy Burford saw a Black and White Warbler, June 16. From there on June 20 we made a run to Scout Camp Yocona, 5 mi. E of Toccopola, and at dusk (FB et al) found a singing Lark Sparrow where I found two immature, June 21, 1952. On June 13, 1954, I found another singer just SW of Paris, Tenn., on the old highway, 1.7 mi S of joining U S 79. Earlier on that same day I heard a Swainson's Warbler and the only Hooded Warbler on Tenn. 69 at a road-side table near Springville and a Cerulean Warbler near the east end of U S 79 bridge over the Tenn. River. Of interest in that area were a few Barn Swallows and Grasshopper Sparrows, a few only of our summer warblers except Prairie and then fairly common only ESE of Paris. Bewick's Wrens and Towhees common and, Camden to Big Sandy, Catbirds. No Yellow Warblers, Baltimore Orioles, or Scarlet Tanagers.

Like the Paris trip the two following week-ends were primarily for Whip-poor-wills, - auto mileage on one was 664 miles, on the other 667 miles. Driving all of two nights and much daytime movement on the first, while night listening on the second trip was for the first 40 to 60 minutes of darkness, after which the birds were mostly silent. Some extra mileage then came when heavy storms stopped birding and I ran for Mountain Home, Ark. to evaluate the topography enroute. On the night of June 12-13 I found Whip-poor-wills south of Paris, from there to the Kentucky line, and Puryear to Buchanan, near Huntingdon and (previous site) west of Camden, where daylight ended that phase. June 25-26 I found unsuitable terrain south and east of Byhalia, no luck on high ground, Holly Springs to Oxford. But 5 miles E of Oxford, from Hwy 334 towards Hwy 6, I was surprised to get one at each of 3 separate places. High points are at an altitude of 500 to 540 feet. To the east on June 20 at Camp Yocona we awaited the calling and then moved on. Shortly, at the fire tower on Hwy 334 we heard a "Whip" and towards Hwy 6 two other separate birds; the altitude and terrain similar to above. Following backroads which veered away from original directions, we found chiefly bottoms, ended east instead of north, and quit to carry the group home. Alone on the 26th I continued thru the day to Aberdeen, awaited dusk on high

ground NE. Listening stops to and near Greenwood Springs, a run to Fulton; "chuck" calling picked up while I dug out of sand, then to and thru Tishomingo S.P. and north. Here in the higher ground and more NE, considered more favorable, I couldn't duplicate those other unexpected pockets of Whips. I dozed for a short unfavorable period besides the tower on Woodall Mtn; the highest point in the state (796') and as the morning came, a good time for hearing, none reported present.

A night run to Newport, Ark., on July 2, put me beyond the Black River, and I worked the ridge towards Strawberry for a short while, then slept. As mentioned, calling was now restricted. The eve of July 3 I worked high ground SW of Sitka (750'?) and July 4, from Saddle to Mammoth Spring; one Whip on July 4. Enroute home July 5 I tried Crowley's Ridge, NW edge of Jonesboro, - Chucks only as expected - and ended this season. Earlier, on June 19, I tried Slayden to Holly Springs, then back to listen to the LaGrange (SE) Whips. Noting a road N from that town I tried it and found several pockets of Whips before it joined Hwy 76 into Somerville. - For some time I have tried to get data on elevations, finally received lists of maps, many recently published. Have bought about 100 more topographical quadrangles for study this winter. A glance shows many other areas we should visit. With about three suitable week-ends each year, I can see that we might know something about the summer range boundary and pockets of the Whip-poor-will in the Mid-South after 20 or 30 years more.

Daytime observations in above areas yielded some of interest; afternoon results generally monotonous. For this reason I tried to reach a swimming place then. Usualing one swim a year previously, so it must have been the heat. A list of swims, in order, shows where my birding was done: Tampico, Tecolutla, Veracruz, Salinas Cruz, Paris Landing S.P., Miss. R. sandbar, Spring Lake S.P., Natchez Trace Recreational Area (failed to find this two other years), Pickwick Park, South Fork, and Spring River; then passed up Norfolk Lake to return to Spring River at Hardy's Rio Vista - none better! For the first summer recently we failed to make either Chickasaw or Natchez Trace S.P.s. A Miss. route being closed so I couldn't check last summer's Blue Grosbeak sites, I did detour N for an evening pass thru Shiloh N.M.P. - At Woodall Mtn, June 27, I heard 2 Oven-birds (3d season); shortly afterwards was surprised to hear one at Tishomingo S.P. picnic area, my first for the park. Newton Hanson wrote me that an Oven-bird tried to decoy him from a nest with 4 eggs. The location was apparently 3 miles E of Pittsboro, Miss (map shows 360-460 foot elevations), the date June 21-24, as close as he could place it a month later. As yet I know of no Oven-bird record in summer in W. Tenn. I failed to hear one at Hardy this season but I may have missed on "time and place." On June 27 in Miss, only one Prairie - and that at Woodall Mtn - and one Black and White and one Sycamore - both at Tishomingo S.P.; all three normally fairly common. Across the line in Tenn., Sycamores were more frequent, Hamburg and Shiloh. The only Black and White, Parula, and Swainson's (2d season) were at Lick Creek just S of Shiloh; the Cerulean was not heard there or at Dill Branch in Shiloh. - The best find was the first nesting record of the Cliff Swallow in Miss., evidently an extension of the Tenn. R. colonies at Savannah and elsewhere. A new, low, concrete bridge on Hwy 25

(entire 13 mile project including the bridge, accepted Sept. 1952 by Hwy Dept) crosses Yellow Creek Embayment, not far from the Tenn. line. I counted 17 nests, usually one to a narrow bay in the overhang of each side; about 20 Cliffs were present. There were some steel beams as supports and I could see, from shore, 6 nests of Barn Swallows with 15 of these in the air. This species is an uncommon nester in Miss. and this is our 5th locality and 2d group of nests. We have stopped at the embayment about once each previous summer.

On the Hardy trip a Common Loon on Mammoth Spring. July 4, was a surprise. It kept its distance without an indication whether it could fly or dive freely. Some young men, urging a greenhorn to take his first dive into the spring (there never is a second dive!) stated the bird had been there only a week; they had heard no account of it being found helpless and later released at the spring. We did not see it Aug. 21. The only Yellow Warbler of the summer was on July 4 and Aug. 21 near the Y M C A Camp (S of Mammoth Spring), where we usually have several. Few warblers were singing; only the Chat was common, July 3, and Strawberry to Powhatan. The widening of U S 63 eliminated roadside cover, including a former Bell's Vireo site (one season ?) S. of Imboden. - For two hours before Chucks began calling July 5, I worked Crowley's Ridge terrain W of Jonesboro on Ark. 18, then Herman School S. to Oak Grove Church and to town via Straw Floor M B Church! East of the Cotton Belt bridge I found Blue Grosbeaks at two spots (fairly common beyond the Black R.). The Towhee was common. We had never worked here for the Towhee, assuming that the periphery of its Mid-South hiatus would be beyond or to the west of the Hardy area where we have never found it all these many camp seasons. If we consider the area in its larger sense, i.e. - NW of the Black River, we have an exception along our U S 63 route, - thicket-covered ridges this side of Imboden where we hear the species most trips. The late Carrington C. Bacon, an A.O.U. Associate, who resided at Imboden many years before moving to Memphis, stated he found Towhees in summer near the Strawberry River. On July 3, early, from Cord to Strawberry to Black Rock, we recorded none. On July 11 our party tried Crowley's Ridge again, N. of Wynne, with the first Towhee near the airfield and away from the ridge. Then crossing the ridge on a back road, returning on U S 64, we heard only 3 more. Apparently an extension of summering Towhees (possibly for many years) follows Crowley's Ridge in the manner that we find pockets coming from the E & ESE into the E'n edge of Memphis where it is now common. Collection will have to establish whether they are members of the Eastern race from the N & NE or of the Alabama race, perhaps from N. Louisiana which also was a range extension.

NEWS OF MID-SOUTH BIRD STUDENTS AFAR: Thompson Bonner has entered L.S.U. and will major in forestry. His address is Box 5600B, University Sta., Baton Route 2, La. He recently attended a meeting of the La. Orni. Soc. - Richmond Gill, Jr. can be addressed at St. Ambrose College, Davenport, Iowa, where he is studying for the priesthood. He writes of migrating warblers and vireos entering classrooms, Oct. 1. On Nov. 27 he had a pair of White-winged Crossbills under close and lengthy observation. - Kilian Roever of Huntersville has entered U. T. and is taking a pre-med course. His address - Box 377, Melrose Hall, 1701 Rose Av, Knoxville. ***XMAS GREETINGS - Ben Coffey, Memphis, Tennessee.....

SOME FALL ARRIVALS

- Sept. 4 Marsh Hawk 1 (female ?), Pres Island (GP,BC)
 Sept. 11 Ring-billed Gull, 1 Ad, 2 Im (2d yr), Pres Is (HL,GP,BC)
 Sept. 25 Cedar Waxwing 15, Overton Park (GP)
 Oct. 2 Wilson's Snipe 1, Penal Farm (BC)
 Oct. 7 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1,
 White-throated Sparrow 1, Overton Park (GP). White-
 throated Sparrow, 3, home (BC); first usually appear
 to be yard birds but these were probably transients.
 Heard only on 3d time outside, then one briefly Oct.
 9, and none again until Oct. 15. Mrs. Torti reports
 her first, - 2 on Oct. 9
 Oct. 8 Winter Wren 1, Overton Park (HL)
 Oct. 10 Savannah Sparrow, 90, Sanders Field, Miss. (BC)
 Oct. 11 Swamp and Song Sparrows, 2 each, Pres Island (GP).
 Oct. 15 Golden-crowned Kinglet 7, Shelby Forest (HL)
 Oct. 16 Myrtle Warbler 1, (Golden-crowned 2), Overton Park (GP)
 Oct. 17 White-crowned Sparrow 2, near Nesbitt, Miss (BC, OI)
 Am. Pipit 30, Penal Farm (BC,LC, A. Smith)
 Oct. 19 Brown Creeper 1, Overton Park (GP)
 Oct. 20 Slate-colored Junco 1, 1521 Vance (GP)
 Oct. 23 Western Meadowlark 1, opp. 4910 Raleigh-LaGrange
 Rd. (BC,GP); Sprague's Pipit 1, Penal Farm (BC).
 Nov. 20 Lapland Longspur 4, Smith's Longspur 3, Penal Farm
 (GP,BC)

Some first omitted as not significant; most winter birds should show Oct. 7-20. Many transients, of course, begin straggling in much earlier and it's hard to assign definite dates or periods. The T.O.S. field day group on Sept. 25 found many migrants in Riverside Park and at the closure dam, including 2 Philadelphia Vireos (Rev. Wm. Hearn, et al). At the NE corner of Pres. Island (near above dam) I found many warblers and sparrows too late Oct. 9 to follow up identities. Just earlier I did list Sora 1, Short-billed Marsh Wren 2, Yellow-throat 3, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow 2 (our 2d record). One of the latter was seen there again, Oct. 11 (HL & GP). A heavy migration from the plains to the eastern coast was evident the night of Oct. 6-7 when heavy casualties to migrants were widespread at TV towers and ceilometer beams. Interesting groups feeding in low (1-2') weeds (chiefly daisy fleabane (*Erigeron*, sp., tentative) in flower and seed) noted Oct. 23 (GP,BC) at a Raleigh-LaGrange gravel pit totaled: Golden-crowned Kinglet 29, Ruby-crowned 15, Tenn. Warbler 5, Orange-crowned 4, Black-throated Green 14, Magnolia 3, and Field, White-throated, and Song Sparrows. A very late Tennessee was there Nov. 20 (GP) and two S. of town (I.C.R.R. & Mitchell Rd) Nov. 13 (BC & GP); reliance placed on Peterson's differentiation (undertail coverts) from the Orange-crowned, most likely at these late dates. Mrs. Leah Torti saw 2 Tennessees in her yard, Oct. 29, and reports a Blue-winged Oct. 7 and a Prairie Oct. 10. On the 10th 8 Magnolias were in and around Coffey Grounds; this fall I bathed a Black-throated Green at 10 feet, in hose spray as I did a Magnolia last fall. A Blue-headed Vireo was seen in Shelby Forest, Oct. 24 (LC). - Aug. transients included: Overton Park - Aug. 10 (GP), a Parula and La. Water-thrush, the only warblers; Aug. 21, a Black and White;

Black-throated Green, Aug. 23 (HL) and 25 (GP). In Harry Landis's yard, a Yellow on Aug. 22 and a female Wilson's Aug. 23; at Riverside Park, a Cerulean on Aug. 28 (GP, HL). Several Empidonaces were seen (GP) Aug. 8 & 9, home, and Aug. 10, Overton. On Aug. 21 (BCs) 125 Kingbirds were counted (within limits of 7 x 50s) in willows along Spring R. at Y Camp, Mammoth Spring, Ark. The last flocks of Tree Swallows noted were 170 and 240 at the Penal Farm, Oct. 23, 20 in 3 areas near Walls, Miss., Oct. 30, and 6 & 1 at the Penal Farm, Nov. 6. A Nighthawk noted Oct. 12, Poplar & Stonewall (BCs), Ruby-throated Hummingbird on Oct. 22 reported to us, and a late female (or immature) Dickcissel at the Chas. Seahorn's feeder, Nov. 10. Since Mrs. Laskey at Nashville had a Dickcissel winter and Brooke Meanley finds singles with barnyard English Sparrows in the Stuttgart area, we should watch for this species wintering. Hot summer passed into a hot fall and evidently still dryer weather to our west brought in more White Pelicans than ever, to the Miss. River and its old river "lakes." Bill Sullivan and Robt. Dupree reported 50 (2 flocks) at Tunica Cut-Off, Miss. on Sept. 13 & 15. Dr. Wendell Whittemore saw over 200, Sept. 23, at Brandywine Island (near Shelby Forest) and 50 at Horseshoe Lake about a week later. On Oct. 17 Joe Montedonico, Jr. saw 500 over the river at Commerce, Miss. while Chas. Jester on Oct. 23 saw 2,000 fishing near "Midway" in Ark. on the lake of Council Bend, opposite Commerce. This is about ten miles N of Tunica Cut-Off. I hoped for pelicans at Open Lake, Sept. 25, but found the lake very low with chiefly Am. Egrets and "peeps" there. On Nov. 7 I saw a late pelican on Porter Lake and Horseshoe Lake residents advised that the species had been common there. Wood Ibis were reported at Tunica Cut-Off - 100 on Sept. 11, Ed King, and 200 on Sept. 13 & 15 (BS, RD); at Reelfoot Lake, Tenn., over 50 near Walnut Log, Sept. 5, Gerry and Mrs. Noreen Smith, and in Lafayette Co., Miss., 4 on Sept. 22, Dr. Whittemore.

Mud Lake being dry from mid-June on, our only prospects for shorebirds were a few receding, pasture ponds and the northeast corner of President's Island. Some slight rises covered the shoreline at a gauge of 5 feet but during lower stages a handful of peeps and the like were present. Nothing special for out-of-town visitors, Pauline James and A. F. Ganier on Aug. 15 and the E. M. Wests on Sept. 18, as usual, but a good record on each of the four week-ends between. On Aug. 21 (GP & HL) a Buff-breasted Sandpiper (3d Tenn) and a Black-bellied Plover were seen, while on Aug. 28 two of the former were studied carefully with binoculars only to later find them unexpectedly within ten feet of us (GP,HL,BC). On Sept. 4 only a gravelled point remained unsubmerged but from it a Piping Plover (4th Tenn) took off, then came back over us, giving its characteristic call (GP,BC). The find on Sept. 11 was a new species for Tenn., a Knot in plumage identical with the juvenal pictured in "Portraits of New England Birds." A 20-power Balscope was used but the bird acted unafraid and a mutual approach had us too close to use 7 x 50 glasses (BC,GP,HL). Other species included the only Semi-palmated Plover, 2 on Aug. 15; Western Sandpipers, 3 on Aug. 21 and 12 on Aug. 28; Killdeers, Pectorals, and Least in the thirties, Aug. 15 & 21, but much less later; scattered Spotteds, and a few Semi-palmated Sandpipers. A late Least was seen Nov. 13. Four Black Terns on Aug. 21 and 14 on Sept. 4, and up to 10 Least Terns thru Sept. 4 were seen as well as a Caspian Tern on Aug. 21 (HL,GP).

On Sept. 19 at a small, Penal Farm pond (BC,LC) we saw 17 Stilt Sandpipers, our first away from the Lakeview area or Lonoke.

Earlier a Western Sandpiper was seen - Sept. 6. Of Least a flock of 17 on Oct. 23 and a late 7 on Nov. 20 when two Golden Plovers were at this same pond. A Wilson's Snipe appeared there on Oct. 2 and subsequently (one on dry Sanders Field, Nov. 13 and later). Killdeers peaked sharply and briefly, 340 well spread out on a very large field, 97 on another, and a total of 22 otherwise, Nov. 20. Mourning Doves at the farm were "common" Aug. 25 (HL) and totaled 150, Sept. 6 (BC); generally uncommon in recent years.

Other November records of Least Sandpipers: 11 on a large pond 2 mi SE of Tupelo, Miss., Nov. 25 (BC); 48 on Porter Lake (Horseshoe) Ark., Nov. 7 (BC); 75, 8, and 225 at the fish hatchery and 26 on ponds west of Lonoke, Ark., Nov. 28 (RDS,GP, BC). There were about 125 Snipe at the hatchery and a few elsewhere. Of special interest were 12 Dowitchers (BC) and an Am. Bittern (GP). Ducks at the hatchery were: Mallard 150, Gadwall 20, Pintail 500, Baldpate 1000, Shoveller 170, Redhead 10, Ring-necked Duck 12, L. Scaup 2. Ponds along U S 70 showed a few, including Ring-necked 45, Canvas-back 5, plus Coot 120. Ducks at Porter Lake, Nov. 7, included 250 Ruddies and small numbers of others, plus on Horseshoe Lake proper, an Am. Golden-eye. The only ducks seen on Reelfoot, Sept. 4 (GP & BC), were 100 Wood Ducks, from Walnut Log to the refuge. Seen there were Snowy Egret 2, a few other herons, Least Bittern 1, Florida Gallinules and immature; 180 Am. Egrets were counted in the lake, NW of the spillway.

We evidently missed Blue-winged Teal flocks and, by not visiting Lonoke in the fall, the usual shorebirds there. I.F. Anderson reports about 25 Fulvous Tree Ducks near Lonoke from mid-Sept. to about late Oct., remaining later than before (1950, 1952). Geese reported: 500 seen N. of Cairo, Ill., Oct. 2, above top of overcast, 6000 feet, by Maj. Bill Craddock, C & S pilot; 125 Canadas, Oct. 17, over home (HL) and a few over Coffey Grounds, 9 PM, Oct. 23; geese (sp?) 300-400, low, Highland Hts, Oct. 25, W.T. Rudd and over 300, Chickasaw Golf, Nov. 1, Margaret Humphreys Warne. The Chas. Broleys saw 18 Snow Geese, Nov. 30, S of Marion, Ark.

A Sora, evidently killed by a cat, was found early Sept. 12, at Hickory Flat, Miss., and one was flushed that afternoon at a pond, SE of Tupelo. At the latter a Duck Hawk (small, evid. a male) scattered Killdeers and Pectorals. A dead Barn Owl was on Highway 78 shoulder just W of Tupelo. A similarly killed Barn Owl was found July 5 on U S 63, S of Portia, Ark. (or 3.6 mi. N of U S 67).

The eagerly awaited second L P record of bird songs by Jerry and Norma Stillwell became available in the spring. Memphis birders will remember the fine program the Stillwells presented early in the year. Vol. 1 presents 135 songs and calls of 49 species. Vol. 2 140 songs and calls of 58 species. These 33 rpm records sell for \$7.95 each and may be ordered from J. E. Stillwell, Rt 2, Fayetteville, Ark. For those familiar with local singers we recommend No. 2, for beginners No. 1, or better still, both. From the standpoint of both pleasure and knowledge we strongly urge learning to know our birds by ear. It increases manifold your awareness of what is present around you and at a distance from you. A song is more appreciated when we know the singer's identity.

Two AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS will be presented (free) by Goodwyn Institute, Memphis, 8 p.m., March 8 and 9. Don't miss them!

NOCTURNAL MIGRATION OBSERVATIONS

SPRING, 1954: We learned of further plans in Audubon Field Notes too late for the March period. To enlist help for the April period we rushed out an issue of these Notes but only succeeded in reproducing page 4 upside down. There were no volunteers; Mrs. Coffey observed the fifth night. In such a case it was impossible to consider any early morning watches and because of the apparent skimpiness of the migration the evening watches were intermittent. I would try a "sampling" watch, then go inside and work on records for a time, then repeat. On Apr. 14, 10:39 to 11:09 I recorded 8 passages, chiefly near 11 p.m. After two days of squally weather I listed nothing, Apr. 16, 7:43 to 7:57, 8:56 to 9:20, and 10:30 to 11 p.m. On Apr. 17: 8:44 to 9 p.m., - 0; 9:23 to 10:12, - 9; 11:15 to 11:55, - 3. Apr. 18: 9 to 10 p.m., - 4, 9:12 - 9:30. On Apr. 19 Mrs. Coffey recorded 17 passages, 10:18 to 11:50 p.m. and on Apr. 21 I saw 6 in the half hour before midnight. - - During the May period we were in Mexico but left all the equipment (including the telescope we wished for several times on the trip) for the Memphis Chapter, T.O.S. Unfortunately it wasn't used. - - A heavy migration, especially of Indigo Buntings, was witnessed at our airport ceilometer, before daylight, May 1. We may describe this later.

FALL, 1954: September results were only moderate to poor. Sept. 10: 8:24 to 8:34, - 7; 10:07 to 11, - 14; 11:52 p.m. to 12:27 a.m., - 5. Sept. 12 (LC): 9:50 to 10:40, - 8. On Sept. 13 Alice Smith worked with Mrs. Coffey: 7:56 to 8:53 (LC, observer), - 10; 8:55 to 10:05 (AS), - 3; 3 were heard. Sept. 14 (LC); 9:20 to 10:20 - 2 singles and a pair. The night of Sept. 11, observations were made at Hickory Flat, Miss.: 6:53 to 7:23, - 5; 7:57 to 8:30 (LC), - 10; 9:05 to 9:35 p.m. (LC), - 4; during these watches 6 were heard.

On Oct. 7, 10 to 11 p.m., I saw 9 and heard 7, including an Indigo, while on the 8th I saw none but heard two, 9:30 to 10. On Oct. 10, 7:15 to 8:15 (LC), - 1 and 9 to 10 p.m., - none. On the two nights previous to above, a heavy and widespread migration evidently occurred as heavy casualties were reported at TV towers and ceilometers thruout the country. The New York Times reported 123 birds hit the Empire State Building during the early hours of Oct. 6 while G.S. Graff in the Inland Bird Banding News 26(6): 39-40 reports 1887 birds (63 species) killed or crippled on the night of Oct. 5 at the 700-foot tower of KOMU TV near Columbia, Mo. News of many such came from A.F. Ganier and of local catastrophes from Mrs. E.M. West and Lee R. Herndon; details will undoubtedly be published. At Memphis there were apparently no casualties. The ceiling was lowest (1500') at 7 and 8 p.m., Oct. 6 with wind 18 to 25 and 22 to 30 mph at the surface. Direction was NNE thruout the night while velocity dropped from 17 mph at 10 p.m. to 9 mph at 5 a.m. The ceiling remained at about 2000 ft. going to 2300 at 3 a.m. and clearing at 5 a.m. John Lee of the Weather Bureau noted slight activity at the ceilometer when he reached the airport at midnight and a few birds near and within the beam at 3 a.m. not enough, he advised, to warrant phoning me. On the weekend I visited this site and our two TV towers but learned nothing that would indicate loss of migrants.

Ben B. Coffey, Jr., 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis 7, Tenn.

OF, FOR, AND BY BIRD STUDENTS

The Memphis Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society will celebrate its TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY at a supper meeting, March 7, 6:30 p.m., the Shrine Club, 1257 Poplar Ave. The price, \$1.75, reservations by March 4, with Lawrence Kent, 1896 Cowden, Memphis 4. You are cordially invited. The annual Spring Field Day of the Chapter will be the first Sunday of May at Lakeview on the Tenn.-Miss. line. Mid-South bird students are again invited. The annual state-wide meeting of the T.O.S. will be held the second Sunday of May near Waverly, Tenn. with a field trip into the national wildlife refuge at the mouth of Duck River. One article of business is finance, because of rising costs for printing The Migrant. Suggestions for offsetting such, besides the last resort of raising dues, are gifts, increase in membership from active (\$2) to sustaining (\$5), and the solicitation of additional memberships. We believe everyone interested in birds should support the publication of The Migrant and hope that you will continue such from year to year. To those outside our state, your membership is still only \$1 - a bargain. About March we hope to issue an extra number of these MSBN as a membership list of the Memphis Chapter plus members in the Mid-South.

Each January after the Christmas Counts have been sent in I get out the checkbook and renew memberships. This kills parts of two nights as I hunt for addresses, etc. I have decided to make a list and reproduce it here, - for general information, and in the expectation there are some which certain readers may be desirous of joining and supporting.

National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Ave., New York 28, N.Y. \$5. The national bird protection society, deserving every citizen's support. Members receive Audubon Magazine, bimonthly. Additional contributions also appreciated for these special funds: Sanctuary, Children's Education, Wild Bird Protection, Mammal Protection, and General Fund.

Audubon Field Notes. This is a bimonthly sponsored by the above and the U S Fish and Wildlife Service. Send subscriptions to above address at \$3 per year or \$7.50 for three years. This is the record of current bird migration and distribution thruout the U.S. and Canada. An issue for each season, one for a breeding bird census, and one for the famous Christmas Counts.

Wilson Ornithological Club. Treas: Leonard C. Brecher, 1900 Spring Drive, Louisville 5, Ky. \$3. A national organization of field ornithologists, with an interesting quarterly, The Wilson Bulletin. Mrs. Coffey also is a member. This society will hold its annual meeting at Okla. A & M College, Stillwater, Apr. 7-10. One highlight will be the Sunday field trip to Great Salt Plains Natl. Wildlife Refuge. Many of us will remember the fine time we had at the Gatlinburg meeting. This will be as close! If interested, write Dr. F. M. Baumgartner at the college for an announcement.

American Ornithologists' Union, Treas: Chas G. Sibley, Fernow Hall, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, N.Y. \$4. The Auk, quarterly, about 540 pages a year. A large membership supports this organization in the advancement of ornithological science.

Inland Bird Banding Association, Treas: Mrs. Amelia Laskey, 1521 Graybar Lane, Nashville 12, Tenn. \$2. I.B.B. News, mimeo, bimonthly. News of inland banders. This and The Migrant were the only two I had Mrs. C forward to me while in the service.

Eastern Bird Banding Association, Treas: Dr. Merrill Wood, 811 N. Allen St., State College, Pa. \$2. E.B.B.A. News, mimeo, bimonthly.

Bird-Banding. A quarterly magazine issued by the Northeastern Bird Banding Association with the cooperation of the Inland and the Eastern. \$4 to their members. The review section is the best of any bird journal and merits its inclusion in any zoological library. Sec. Treas. - Richard M. Hinchman, 75 Fairbanks Rd., Milton 86, Mass.

Oklahoma Ornithological Society, Sec-Treas: Miss Helen Bangs, 211 South 7th, Ponca City, Okla. \$1. The Scissortail, mimeo quarterly.

Louisiana Ornithological Society, Sec-Treas: Mrs. R.B. Moore, 1332 Alfred Street, Baton Rouge, La. \$1. LOS News, mimeo, monthly.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, Rt 2, Kempton, Pa., \$2. This was a belated return to an important organization. If you haven't heard of Hawk Mtn., ask about it. These birds need protection more than our songbirds.

Memphis Zoological Society, Inc. Box 5064, Binghampton Sta., Memphis, Tenn., \$2. Sponsors additions and improvements to the Memphis Zoo. Issues Zoo Logic.

West Tennessee Sportsmen's Association, Memphis. \$2. This is an organization of hunters which sponsors some conservation activities, including the planting of shrub lespedeza for Bobwhites.

Mrs. Coffey holds membership in these:

Alabama Ornithological Society, Treas: Miss Clustie McTyeire, 1804 Arlington Ave, Bessemer, Ala. \$1.50, associate: Alabama Bird-Life plus mimeo News Letter.

The Linnaean Society of New York, Treas: Dr. Theodora Nelson, 315 E. 68th St., New York 21, N.Y. \$1.50, associate. Linnaean News-Letter, monthly; Proceedings, tri-annual.

The Tennessee Academy of Science, Treas: James W. White, Univ. of Tenn., Knoxville, Tenn. \$2. Journal of the Tenn. Acad. of Science, quarterly.

To complete the record we add these other neighbors of the T.O.S.: Kentucky Orni. Soc., Mrs. W. B. Tabler, 2923 Riedling Dr., Louisville; \$2, The Kentucky Warbler. Ga. Orni. Soc., Miss Fern Dorris, Box 405, Milledgeville, The Oriole. Carolina Bird Club (N.C. & S.C.), N.C. State Museum, Raleigh, The Chat. Va. Soc. of Ornithology, Jack Perkins, P O Box 269, Virginia Beach, The Raven. Audubon Soc. of Mo., Cape Girardeau, The Bluebird. Then there's the new Texas Orni. Soc., 4110 rummond St., Houston 25, with the Newsletter and, back home, the Chattanooga Aud. Soc., 808 S. Greenwood Ave., \$2, issues the more literary Flower and Feather.

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CHRISTMAS COUNT COMMENT

	<u>Species</u>	<u>Indiv's</u>	<u>Obsvrs</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Dec. 25, 1954, Rara Avis, Miss.	49	2,284	1	10
Dec. 26, 1954, Memphis	75	26,150	26	98
Jan. 1, 1955, Lonoke, Ark.	91	17,189	8	
Jan. 2, 1955, Moon Lake, Miss.	73	10,589	7	17

The second recent count at Rara Avis (BC) was a better cross-section than last year with 3 species of hawks (none before) but missing the Ruby-crowned Kinglet and the Red-headed Woodpecker. Again no Starlings but 7 English Sparrows against one! Of interest were 7 Pine Siskins (only count) and 11 Rusty Blackbirds. Four Pileateds were listed here with only singles on the other three counts. At Moon Lake 7 species of ducks were listed; 14 Horned Grebes, a Double-crested Cormorant, and 10 Black Vultures here were the only ones on the 4 counts. We noted also Turkey Vulture 1, Great Horned Owl 2, W'n Meadowlark 1 (BC), Rusty Blackbird 8, Towhee 3, and Leconte's Sparrow 1 (BC). The Belted Kingfisher (several usually along the lake) was not found.

For the Lonoke Count six of us were joined by Douglas James and Ed Hastings, stationed at Arsenal, Ark. Just previous to reporting to the Army, Doug had been teaching ornithology at the Univ. of Ark. The two parties had excellent luck, totaling 91 species but unfortunately missing last year's Rough-legged Hawk (also one Nov. 28) and Short-eared Owl (and despite a half-hour's cruising at dusk), the Black Vulture, Vesper Sparrow, and, as before, the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. "Firsts" for this count were: Snow Goose 6 (Alice Smith, LC, BC), Golden Eagle 1 (DJ, RDS, HW, EH), Bald Eagle 1 Ad (Harry Landis, Jr.), Lesser Yellowlegs 1 (R. Demett Smith, Jr.), Dowitcher 6 (RDS et al) (see also 1954: 13), Barn Owl 1, Great Horned Owl (DJ et al), and Common Yellowthroat, Im. male (RDS). Others of interest were Pied-billed Grebe 33, eleven species of ducks including 3 Wood Ducks, Least Sandpiper 298, Horned Lark 21, Long-billed Marsh Wren 6 (hatchery), Short-billed Marsh Wren 10 (LC; BC), Robin 64, Spragues' Pipit 6 (BC et al), Myrtle Warbler 4, Western Meadowlark 5 (scattered), Brewer's Blackbird 76, Rusty Blackbird 143, Leconte's Sparrow, 3 spots, - 25 (BC et al), 9 (BC), & 7 (RDS); Harris's Sparrow 4 (scattered, RDS; DJ), White-crowned Sparrow 136, White-throated Sparrow 572, Lapland Longspur 980, and Smith's Longspur 5 (LC) & 6 (BC). The latter reappeared on the Lonoke count, being at 2 fields, the 2d field being worked for the Spragues' last winter (and this one). Small flocks of blackbirds moved various directions at dusk and no roost of consequence seemed indicated. No Harris's were found north and the site of the 1952-3 flock failed to yield any of the large number of White-crowned associates.

The Memphis count of 75 species was a good count tho below last year's 79. Ducks, only 4 species, but hawks, 6 species, including a Sharp-shinned (BC) and two Am. Rough-leggeds, 1 NE (HL) and 1 So (RDS & HW), while the Black Vulture was not seen. After missing last winter, Fish Crows were noted, -14 (BC, CM, EP), and a Tree Sparrow was reported (EK). Harris's Sparrows were: 2 (at CMcP by LC), 6 (Seahorns), 2 (EK, CWs), & 3 (RDS, HHW); the 3d locality was new. The Raleigh-LaGrange Rd site (ten in Jan. 1953) hasn't yielded a Harris's this season and the large flock of White-crowns failed to appear. The count for the

latter was 99; for White-throats 1737 or back again to the normal "very common." The previous 3 years we totaled 1085, 1307, & 1333 - respectively 1953-52-51. We may have to revise our thoughts of certain species being fairly common. For 98 party-hours there were Brown Creeper 2, Golden-crowned Kinglet 14, Myrtle Warbler 46, and Towhee 44. Of 23 Hermit Thrushes, 17 were by the North party, - possibly the call notes aren't well known. However, the separate party lists always show a distribution variation (number of species averages about 50), and each year I wish it were possible to tabulate the separate lists in order to show this. Overton Park is the only reliable site for the White-breasted Nuthatch but, altho seen there in Nov. and Jan., was missed on the count while the only Kingfisher of the day was found there! Single nuthatches were seen by NE and SE. We expected a Red-breasted Nuthatch but not one made our four counts. (Oct. 7, 1 in Overton, HL, our first in recent years; Oct. 9, 1 at Stuttgart, Brooke Meanley, his first on the Grand Prairie.) Louisiana counts listed several but of 9 Tennessee counts besides the Gt. Smokies, only Lebanon (1) and Elizabethton (2) recorded the species. Altho on our other 3 counts, not a Cedar Waxwing was listed here. The species roosts at Elmwood regularly and on Dec. 31 I found 21, 14, & 18 there, but the count party reached there late.

The Penal Farm yielded its wintering Sprague's Pipits, 3, and Smith's Longspurs, 5, much below last year as at other Mid-South points. Only two W'n Meadowlarks were noted there Nov. 6 and one on Nov. 20 & 27, briefly "chucking." They failed the count (windy) as in previous years except the last. A Vesper Sparrow was seen there on Oct. 23 and Nov. 20, and at the same place, 3 on Jan. 15 (BC). Chance of a "first" for a Memphis count passed because of the lack of time. Three were seen at Lonoke, Jan. 30 (BC) at the place of the 1952 count record and near the 1953 spot, - both worked this year without success.

The Highlight of the Memphis count was, of course, the two male White-winged Crossbills seen in Riverside Park by Nelle Moore, Mrs. Rose Wooldridge, and Lawrence Kent. (See The Migrant, Dec., 1954, 25(4):74, caption omitted.) This was another species recently added to the Tennessee list and even in the North it is of special interest. Richmond Gill and Edwin Poole mentioned it being at Davenport, Iowa, this winter. A flock at Louisville were the first since 1938. Baerg lists one for Little Rock (Marshall) during March, 1947, and Stevenson lists an exceptional stray at Tallahassee, Florida (Deviney), Feb. 6, 1930.

Observers for Memphis: N - Chas Marcus, Jr., Edwin Poole, Ben Coffey; NE (Raleigh) - Luther F. Keeton, Alice Smith, Harry Landis, Jr.; E - Mrs. Ben Coffey, S. Jack Rini, Orval Wood III; SE - Edward King, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Wilmeth; S - R. Demett Smith, Jr., Dr. Harry H. Wilcox; Riverside - Lawrence Kent, Nelle Moore, Mrs. Rose Wooldridge; Overton - Mary Davant; Normal - Mrs. M. L. Torti, Gerald and Mrs. Noreen Smith; Chas, Jr. and Mrs. Seahorn, near home in Germantown; Mrs. J. H. McWhorter and Mr. and Mrs. J. H., Jr. despite out-of-town visitors, kept their participation record intact, out east, late. As will be noted, the main all-day perimeter parties were not fully manned. - thus the few misses. Out again on Lonoke were BC, LC, RDS, Dr. Wilcox, Alice Smith, and Harry Landis. The first four were at Moon Lake with Rini, Wood, and Peyton.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS, Dr. Orians, at Goodwyn Institute, Mar. 8 - "North from the Smokies" and Mar. 9 - "By Erie's Changing Shore."

ARRIVALS

- Feb. 26: Greater Yellowlegs 1, S of Marked Tree, Ark. (BC),
a wanderer at point noted.
- Feb. 27: Golden Plover, Stuttgart, Ark.; many after Mar. 1
- Feb. 28: Chipping Sparrow, Pine Bluff, Ark.
- Mar. 1 period: Blue and Snow Geese, many, Stuttgart
- Mar. 6: Blue Geese 567, Snow Geese 35, Lonoke, Ark. (D & FJ)
- Mar. 2: Purple Martin 3, Memphis, Mrs. John K. Speed, at box.
- Mar. 4: Chipping Sparrow, Stuttgart
Golden Plover 22, Penal Farm, Memphis (GP & HL)
- (Mar. 5: Pectoral Sandpiper 2, Nashville, Tenn. (BCs & TOS))
- Mar. 6: Pectoral Sandpiper common, Lonoke (D & FJ)
- Mar. 12: Purple Martin, Pine Bluff
- Mar. 13: Black & White Warbler, Pine Bluff
- Mar. 17: Little Blue Heron adult, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher,
Pine Bluff
- Mar. 18: Pine-woods Sparrow 1, Covington, Tenn. 1 mi sw,
Alice Smith
- Mar. 19: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1, Overton Park, Memphis (GP)
Upland Plover 1, Pectoral Sandpiper 61, Penal Farm
Memphis (BC & GP)
- Mar. 20: Sora 1, Am. Bittern 1, & Ring-billed Gull 1,
Stuttgart (BM, DJ)
La. Water-thrush 1, Overton Park (GP)
Chimney Swift 1, Memphis east (GP)
Shiloh Nat'l. Mil. Park-Black and White Warbler 1,
(BC), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 2 (GP, HL), La. Water-thrush 1.
E. of Oliver Springs, Tenn. - Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1
McNairy Co., E of Pocahontas, Tenn. - Black and White
Warbler 1 (GP,HL), Chipping Sparrow 4 Ramer, Tenn. -
Lesser Yellowlegs 13 (BC et al)
- Mar. 22: Overton Park - Hooded Warbler 1, & Black-throated
Green Warbler (GP), Black and White Warbler
- Mar. 23: Little Blue Heron, 3 adults, --over home, Memphis (GP)
Yellow-crowned Night Heron 1, - Overton Park, dusk BC
- Mar. 24: La. Water-thrush. Yellow-throated Warbler - and
- Mar. 25: Black-throated Green Warbler - Pine Bluff
- Mar. 26: Lsr. Yellowlegs 1, Barn Swallow 1, Yellow-throated
(Sycamore) Warbler 1 - Penal Farm, Memphis (GP,HL,DB)
- Mar. 27: Solitary Sandpiper 1 (GP & HL), Lsr. Yellowlegs 1
(M. Davant et al), Rough-winged Swallow 6, Olive-
backed Thrush 1: (S. Jack Rini & LC, leisurely, at 20'),
Black and White Warbler 2 (GP,HL), Orange-crowned
Warbler 1 (LC,GP, et al) Spring Lake SP, Miss.

Pine Bluff records are by Douglas and Frances James,
Stuttgart by Brooke Meanley. Overton Park is in Memphis and
is worked regularly by George Peyton, Jr. and Harry Landis,
Jr.; LC is Mrs. Ben Coffey and BC your compiler.

PINE WARBLER records are not necessarily arrivals
since the species winters frequently, we believe, but we have
no resident observers in the pine areas. Our recent records
are: Feb. 26, 1, hwy 1 N of Harrisburg, Ark., Mar. 20, La
Grange and Pocahontas, Tenn. Jan. 16, 1 at Hickory Flat, Miss.

THE SEASON

The third coldest day of the winter was March 26, which shows the kind of winter and the kind of March we had. Average temperatures for the three winter months were almost exactly normal but March may be below normal. The lowest temperature was 11°F on Feb. 11. Rainfall for January, normally our wettest month, continued the pattern of previous months and was 60% short of normal. It was above normal for February (mostly on the 5th and 20th) and at this date the total to date for 1955 is about normal. A string of overcast weekends, affecting birding results, ended with a continuous week of drizzle and clouds (as we watched for the earliest transients) halted only by the 18°F early March 26. The river stage, after a few short rises, started on Feb. 5 at 2 feet, reaching on Feb. 28, 25 feet (approximate stage for backing into Mud Lake and other batture lakes and sloughs) and, about March 31, should crest at 35 feet, a foot above designated flood stage and the highest in three years. A fishing boat dock has been set up at Mud Lake where we found three-month weeds instead of shorebirds last fall.

The weather favored early plowing, as last year, and the Golden Plovers again are largely absent from cultivated fields W of Walls, Miss. and the Marion-Crawfordsville, Ark. area, but with large numbers at our Penal Farm pastures and, for the first apparent time, at points along the verdant slopes of the levee near Walls. On the only "pass" across the river, Mar. 12, I found 2 at Marion, 25 just E of Crawfordsville (not at the usual pasture) and one at Craft's on U S 70. Much plowing was still underway but none was observed feeding in the freshly plowed fields. On Mar. 27, one T.O.S. car made the Walls-T.P. Howard's - Lake Cormorant circuit with only two Golden's seen, - these at the refilled "New Hope slough" (not yet producing other transients) - other than levee groups. Those opposite Mud Lake totaled about 150, flocks at Norfolk Landing, about 125, and inside Tenn. in a bend of the levee, 110. At the second stretch, they were on both sides of the levee, - some with a few Pectoral Sandpipers at the backwater's edge. In the water a total of 35 scattered Pied-billed Grebes were seen within two miles. Landward a flock of 150 Pectorals was seen. At Whitehaven, enroute here, a pasture attracted 75 Golden's, 27 Pectorals, an Upland Plover, and Robins; at Coro ranch on U S 61, 15 Golden's were seen.

Penal Farm flocks totaled 303 (to 100) on Mar. 19 (GP,BC) and 540 (to 300 in single large pasture) on Mar. 26 (GP, HL, and David Brown). On the latter date 57 Pectorals and a Lsr. Yellowlegs were seen. A duckless visit to Fisherville Lake, Mar. 19, resulted in our first Golden Plovers for Fayette County (GP,BC), 42 just inside the line.

An unusual visitor in and near the yard of Harry Landis, Jr., was a male Dickcissel, seen Mar. 13 and again Mar. 20 when verified (LC & Alice Smith). This individual evidently wintered in the Mid-South.

Ben B. Coffey, Jr. 672 N. Belvedere Memphis 7, Tenn.

THE SEASON (CONTINUED)

The most intensive field work of the winter was, of course, on the Christmas Counts, which were commented on previously. As we go to summarize the season we note that the reminder for Audubon Field Notes, Central Southern Region, mentions "The influx of boreal birds will probably be a feature of this report," while Dr. Tanner advises "The Season" will miss its semi-annual appearance in The Migrant in order to adequately cover the influx of northern species in East Tennessee and, I presume, Middle Tenn. We start wondering if we have been out any. True we have personally specialized in airfields and pastures but wooded areas have been visited. We were in pines several times in March but that "notable flight" of Red-breasted Nut-hatches to Florida and Louisiana must have skipped us on the return as on the trip down. An owl and a hawk, listed herewith, can be cited while the Tree Sparrow on the Xmas Count is normal, - that is, one reported every 3 or 4 winters. The other species of special interest in this area we think of as "westerners," perhaps better qualified as Great Plains species.

On March 26, Harry Landis, Jr. investigated Blue Jays' scolding and found a Long-eared Owl perched in a magnolia (grandiflora) in Overton Park. George Peyton, Jr. joined him and, after a phone call, your compiler. We then rounded up what field students we could and all were able to have a leisurely look at the owl, our 4th West Tenn. record of the species. Harry also recorded it Apr. 2, 1954, in deciduous trees in the park. We have four records of the Rough-legged Hawk in Shelby County this winter, two being on the Xmas Count (1955:3). The first record in Memphis was a small, dark individual hovering at the river bank, Tom Lee Park, Dec. 19; I observed it from the car for some time. On Feb. 20, Walter Klabunde, an A.O.U. member from Lewiston, N.Y. (Niagara Falls), and I, tried to bird between showers. Just before we gave up, the fourth of this species was seen on Germantown Rd, south of Germantown. On Nov. 28, one (dark phase) was seen ESE of Lonoke, Ark. (RDS,GP,BC), but none on other trips there. A rejected record, because of distance, was the sole result of a trip, Feb. 13, for this species and for Snowy Owls and Tree and Harris' Sparrows. With widespread blizzards to the north, we (BC, LC, Alice Smith) felt we should be out and accordingly went up U S 51, cutting over to the river at Fulton, and at Ashport. None of the above were found but a few field species were, as mentioned later. Auto traffic was slowed just south of South Fork, Forked Deer River, as many persons paused to watch ducks on ice and open spots in nearby backwater. We saw a Canvas-back, estimated 800 Mallards, 300 Pintails, plus 1,000 (sp.?) in the air beyond. Other duck lists are: Horseshow Lake, Ark., Feb. 26 (GP,HL) - Gadwall 14, Pintail 6, Baldpate 120, Shoveller 5, Ring-necked Duck 75, Canvas-back 250, Lsr. Scaup 15, Buffle-head 9, Ruddy Duck 1500, Red-breasted Merganser 7; also Great Blue Heron 28, Coot 175, Horned Grebe 12, and only 14 D-C Cormorants. Lake Placid, Chickasaw S.P., Mar. 6 (BC) - Mallard 12, Gadwall 1, Redhead 6, Ring-necked Duck 15, Lsr. Scaup 1, Am. Golden-eye, female; on La Joie there, only a Lsr. Scaup.

On Jan. 30 at Lonoke (DJ, FJ, HL, GP, BC) we saw 400 Pintails, 13 Green-wingeds, and 51 Ring-neckeds on Lilly's reservoir. Counts for the fish hatchery and (-) I.F. Anderson's ponds were: Mallard 73-31, Gadwall 7-40, Baldpate 1,000-90, Pintail 78-46, Green-winged Teal 2-0, Shoveller 52-13, Redhead 0-30, Ring-necked Duck 6-56, Canvas-back 50-18, Lsr. Scaup 2-85, Am. Golden-eye 0-3, Bufflehead 0-6, Ruddy Duck 0-4; Pied-billed Grebe 8-40, Coot 9-49, Killdeer 283-19, Wilson's Snipe 97 (total, incl. adjacent fields), Least Sandpiper 31-1, Dowitcher 5 (DJs) (1954: 13 & 1955:3), and Am. Pipit 21-8. The hatchery pools were full Mar. 6 (DJs) and Apr. 3 (BCs). On Apr. 3 the common ducks were in scattered small groups, the Blue-winged Teal having moved in and being fairly common. Least Sandpipers not at hand then but both Yellowlegs plus small flocks of Pectoral Sandpipers and Golden Plovers (Slovak-Lonoke, BC, LC, AS). However, NE of Lonoke, on the Sprague's Pipit field we estimated 700 Golden and 120 Pectorals. An Upland Plover was there and another N. of Carlisle. At dusk, Jan. 30, NW of Lonoke, a King Rail was our first of three winters (since the Hwy Dept cleaned out U S 70's wide, shallow ditches). On Mammoth Spring we saw 20 Pied-billed Grebes and 4 Lesser Scaups, Nov. 21.

A Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen at Pine Bluff, Apr. 2, and Douglas James also verified identification of a Snowy Owl, shot in Mid-Nov., a mile E of Guy, Ark. (Aud.Fld. Notes 9(1):33). Bald Eagles reported (all adults) were: Sid Jolly - Nov. 13, 1 at Shelby Forest, and Jan. 20, 1 opposite same; GP & HL - Jan. 22, 1 at Horn Lake, Lakeview, Miss. On Feb. 26, no eagles but a Duck Hawk at Horseshoe Lake, Ark. (HL,GP). We might stray across "our line" to the east shore of the Tenn. River near Hustburg to report for Dec. 5 (Jack Rini, GP, HL, BC) an adult Duck Hawk, 5 Bald Eagles, a Common Loon, and by some Nashville members - 12 Least Sandpipers. The composite T.O.S. group broke the drouth for that area and by sitting it out, saw a moderate number of ducks while a jeep load got into 40 Canada Geese.

Common Yellow-throats wintered at the Lonoke, Ark. fish hatchery. An immature male was seen Nov. 28 (RDS), Jan. 1 (RDS), and Jan. 30 (DJs). On the latter date, working a different area I found a fully adult male. On Mar. 6 this one only was found (DJs), while on Apr. 3 I couldn't work its brier patch there fully but Alice Smith heard one singing in another area. The Mar. 6 bird was also singing. An early transient is possible on Apr. 3; elsewhere no arrivals reported. Short-billed Marsh Wrens: Nov. 28, Stuttgart AB, 3 (RDS); Lonoke, Jan. 30, hatchery 2 (DJ) & NW 1 (BC), and see Count (1955:3); Halls, Tenn. (former Air Base), 1, Feb. 13 (LC). The only Long-billeds were on the Lonoke Count, at the hatchery itself.

Brewer's Blackbirds at the Penal Farm were: 1,3,28 & 26 on Nov. 6 and 5 on Nov. 20; the 25 and 26 were on the corners of a Grackle flock. We found the species again not uncommon (rare last season) at Lonoke, Nov. 28 (incl. Hwy 11 S from Hazen), Jan. 1 and Jan. 30; on Apr. 3 I saw one pair. Meanley reports a flock of 300 near Stuttgart, Jan. 14. The Rusty Blackbird was common there in November, less so on January trips. At Memphis this species seems as hard to find as the Brewer's; at the Penal Farm - 3 on Mar. 19 and 2 on Apr. 9. At Ramer, Tenn., Mar. 22, we saw a male Rusty and 5 brownish ones.

ARRIVALS

- Feb. 28: Purple Martin 3, El Dorado, C. Wolfe via AH
 Mar. 12: Parula Warbler, Stuttgart
 Mar. 13: Purple Martin 2 males, El Dorado, occasional later
 Mar. 16: Yellow-crowned Night Heron, El Dorado
 Mar. 19: Chimney-Swift 2, El Dorado, none since (3-27)
 Mar. 20: Rough-winged Swallow 1, Yellow-throated Warbler,
 El Dorado
 Sora, Stuttgart
 Mar. 21: Black-throated Green Warbler, Stuttgart
 Mar. 22: Chimney Swift, Stuttgart
 Mar. 24: White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Hooded
 warbler, El Dorado
 Mar. 25: La. Water-thrush, El Dorado
 Mar. 30: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, male, at frozen Jap.
 Quince, outside window, Memphis, 5 mins., Mrs. Frank
 Laughlin.
 Mar. 31: Parula Warbler 1, Camp Currier, Miss., Dr. W.
 Whittemore. White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo,
 and Hooded Warbler, Stuttgart.
 Apr. 3: Black-crowned Night Heron, Rough-winged Swallow, Stuttgt.
 Apr. 3 p.m.: White-eyed Vireo 7, Yellow-throated Vireo 1,
 Orange-crowned Warbler 1, Parula Warbler 1, - Pine Bluff
 (Out all day every day, Mar. 28 - April 1, incl., but
 no new arrivals.)
 Apr. 3: Dowitchers, 42, Ark. 11 near Slovac, & 21, US 70,
 W of Lonoke. Upland Plover 1, NE of Lonoke & 1 NE
 of Carlisle. (BC,LC,AS).
 Apr. 4: Palm Warbler 1, Overton Park (HL)
 Apr. 5: Kingbird 1, Whip-poor-will 2, Hickory Flat, Miss.
 (LC & Mrs. Cleo Yancey).
 Apr. 6: Parula Warbler 1, Green Heron 1, Overton Park (GP)
 Whip-poor-will 1, feeding notes, dusk, Ov Park (BC)
 Apr. 7: Whip-poor-will, 3 calling, 4:45 A.M., Parsons, Tenn.,
 Mrs. Edd Davis
 White-eyed Vireo 1, Yellow-throated Vireo 1,
 Prothonotary Warbler male, Overton Park (GP,HL,DB).
 p.m., Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Ov. Park., D. Brown.
 Apr. 8: Blue-winged Warbler 1, Overton Park (GP,HL, DB)
 Apr. 8: Cerulean Warbler 1, Blue-winged Warbler 1, Ov. Park
 (GP,HL,DB).
 Apr. 9: Worm-eating Warbler 1 (HL), Wood Thrush 1 (HL,BC; O.
 Irwin), Overton Park
 Kingbird 1, Penal Farm (BC)
 Apr. 10: Wood Thrush, El Dorado
 Apr. 11: Broad-winged Hawk, 2 (GP,DB); also a flight of Red-
 breasted Nuthatches, namely 1 (GP), Ov. Pk.
 Apr. 12: Lincoln's Sparrow 1 (BC), Red-eyed Vireo 1 (R.E.
 Harrison, New York, N.Y. & BC), & C. Yellow-throat 2,
 Penal Farm
 Kentucky Warbler 1, Mrs. M.L. Torti, at home.
 Indigo Bunting male, C. Yellow-throat 1, Lakeview,
 Tenn-Miss. (both, GP,DB)
 Heavy showers for the day stopped field work about 7:30
 A.M.

(Reports from El Dorado, Ark. are by Arnold J. Hoiberg. Arnold
 and Doug James were out of town part of recent period).

MEETINGS

- Apr. 16-17: Spring Field Trip, L.O.S., Cameron, La.
 Apr. 23-24: Annual meeting, O.O.S., Wichita Wildlife Refuge, Okla.
 May 1: Spring Field Day, Memphis Chap, T.O.S., at Lakeview on the Miss. line (US 61), lunch by committee. Meet 7:30, foot of Monroe Ave., a stop in Riverside Park.
 May 7-8: Annual meeting T.O.S., near Waverly, Tenn. with trip to heronry in nearby "Duck River" refuge.
 May 7-8: Hardison Hall, Petit Jean S.P., Ark., sponsors, Pulaski County and Fort Smith Audubon Societies. Information from Mrs. Cliff Springer. 4805 Lee Ave., Little Rock, A state organization will probably be formed.
 May 6-8: Annual meeting A.O.S., DeSoto S.P., Ala. (US 11).

SEASONAL NOTES Resumed: Other than the first Western Meadowlark for Tenn. (The Migrant 1943: 77), collected near Germantown (Austin W. Burdick, Jr.) all other records for the state have been at our Penal Farm, beginning Mar. 11, 1950, - Demett Smith (Ibid, 1950:13). Evidently casual records last fall of individual singers were Oct. 23, opposite 4910 Raleigh-LaGrange Rd. and Nov. 6, on White-Cap Rd, W of Germantown Rd. At the Farm, 1 or 2, Nov. 6, 20 & 27, "chucking" only (1955:6); one singer Jan. 15, five on Feb. 12 and 19, three on Mar. 19 and none Apr. 9 & 12. Miss. records still favor DeSoto County with 1 at Sander's Field, Nov. 6, 1 at Cub-Lake, Feb. 27, and 2 W of Walls ('53 site, 1 mi. S of T.P. Howard's). None, Jan. 23, on a Clarksdale-Greenwood-Winona sweep. In Arkansas we heard several on each trip to Lonoke except Apr. 3. On Feb. 26: Poinsett County, 1 SE of Marked Tree and 1 E of Whitehall; Cross County, 1, 2 mi. S of Cherry Valley. In Tenn., none to Union City, or Jackson, or Shiloh, etc. Harry Landis heard the Dickcissel at his home singing Apr. 4 & 5. Pine Siskin records: Overton Park, Mar. 22, 1 (GP), Apr. 2, 9 (BC), Apr. 3, 6- (GP,HL). Vesper Sparrows seen: Feb. 13, - 3, S of Lockett (Lauderdale Co.); Mar. 20, - 2 in Shiloh N.M.P.; Mar. 19, 1 - Penal Farm; Apr. 3, -2, Lonoke NE. We found Lapland Longspurs at a few more places this winter but none could be found for the Moon Lake Count and at our Penal Farm the flocks were present briefly. There the first found were 4 on Nov. 4 (BC,GP), the last, one on Feb. 12 and 19; numbers only on Dec. 26: 195 and Jan. 15: 350 (2 flocks). Records on air fields where we recorded none last winter are: McKellar at Westover, Dec. 4, - 60 (BC,GP,HL); Union City, Feb. 13 - 16 (LC,AS,BC); Fletcher Field, Clarksdale, Jan. 23, - 100 (LC,BC). At Sanders Field: Nov. 27, -5; Dec. 4, - 35; none later. On the Jonesboro airport we had 24 on Nov. 21, none on Feb. 26. Common on the Grand Prairie: Stuttgart airfield, Nov. 28, - 900 but only 12 that day at Lonoke and 3 near Hazen on Jan. 30. Totals at Lonoke, Jan. 1, 980, and Jan. 30, 611 (flocks to 300), with only 1 found Mar. 6 (D & FJ).

SHORT-EARED OWLS THIS WINTER: The first ever on Sander's Fld, Walls, Oct. 30, was our earliest ever, Nov. 21. Jonesboro airport we saw 7 (BCs,AS); 2 there Feb. 26 (incidental), Jan. 23 (BCs), 2 on Fletcher Field, Miss. and Feb. 13, 2 (LC,AS). Union City airfield (5 there last season - Feb. 14). Our only rice field record was one in stubble, 2 mi. E of Hazen, Ark., Jan. 30.

Ben B. Coffey, Jr.

672 N. Belvedere

Memphis 7, Tenn.

ARRIVALS

- Apr. 11: Pine Bluff - Rough-winged Swallow, 6
- Apr. 12: Pine Bluff - Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1, Kingbird 1, Red-eyed Vireo 2, Worm-eating Warbler 2, Hooded Warbler 5, Scarlet Tanager 1, Kentucky Warbler 1
- Apr. 13: Pine Bluff - White Pelican 30, Snowy Egret 4, Green Heron 2, Common Yellow-throat 3.
Overton Park-Olive-backed Thrush 1, Red-eyed Vireo 1, (GP); Catbird 1 (BC & R.E. Harrison of New York)
- Apr. 14: Pine Bluff - Olive-backed Thrush 1, Wood Thrush 1, Orchard Oriole 1, Chuck-will's-widow 1.
Overton Park-Warbbling Vireo 1 (HL)
- Apr. 15: Pine Bluff - Cerulean Warbler 1.
(Red-eyed Vireo in numbers, El Dorado)
Overton Park-Nashville Warbler 1, Crested Flycatcher 1, (BC & Brooke Meanley of Stuttgart); Kentucky Warbler 1, (HL). Orchard Oriole 1, (HL, home), & 1 (Oliver Irwin, Glenview)
- Apr. 16: Pine Bluff - Prairie Warbler 1, Oven-bird 1, Summer Tanager 1.
Penal Farm-Solitary Sandpiper 1, Western Sandpiper 1, Tree Swallow 1; Swainson's Warbler 1, nearby (BC & Al Travis of Batesville, Miss.).
Overton Park-Gray-cheeked Thrush 1, Redstart 1, Tenn. Warbler 1, Summer Tanager 1 (David Brown, HL,GP); Chuck-will's-widow 3 (BCs).
Lakeview, at Tenn. line - Yellow-breasted Chat 1, Tree Swallow 1 (DB,HL,GP)
Scarlet Tanager 1, (Mrs. C.E. Moore, at home)
- Apr. 17: Overton Park - Indigo Bunting (GP)
Baltimore Oriole 1, Benjestown Rd. (Mary Davant & TOS) (Tree Swallow, 350 at Hugh Tucker's & 150 nearby, TOS)
- Apr. 18: Pine Bluff - Crested Flycatcher 1, Blue-winged Warbler 1, Nashville Warbler 1.
- Apr. 19: Pine Bluff - Redstart 1, Baltimore Oriole 2, Lincoln's Sparrow 1.
Overton Park - Blackpoll Warbler (GP)
Riverdale Rd, Germantown-Dickcissel 1, Mrs. C. Seahorn
- Apr. 20: El Dorado - Whip-poor-will
Pine Bluff - Least Flycatcher 1, Catbird 1, Phila. Vireo 1, Chestnut-sided Warbler 1, Blue Grosbeak 1.
Overton Park - Prairie Warbler 1, Nighthawk 1 (DB).
- Apr. 21: Penal Farm - Spotted Sandpiper 1 (HL)
- Apr. 22: El Dorado - Chuck-will's-widow
Overton Park - Canada Warbler 1 (GP,HB), Golden-winged Warbler 1 (HL).
- Apr. 23: El Dorado - Crested Flycatcher; Yellow-breasted Chat (dead).
Pine Bluff - Solitary Sandpiper 1, Wood Pewee 1, Solitary Vireo 1, Warbling Vireo 1, Yellow-breasted Chat 3, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 2, Indigo Bunting 7.
Overton Park - Veery 1 (GP,HB); Solitary Vireo 1 (& BC).
Penal Farm (BC,GP,DB) - Yellow Warbler 3,
Dickcissel 7, Grasshopper Sparrow 6.
Stuttgart - Painted Bunting.
- Apr. 24: " - Blue Grosbeak; St. Charles - Acadian Flycatcher

Apr. 24: Lakeview, Miss. - Painted Bunting, 3 males, Mr. & Mrs. C.E. Wilmeth. West Memphis, Ark., Dacus Rd. - Semi-palmated Plover 5 (Mrs. Coffey & Alice Smith) El Dorado - Acadian Flycatcher, Chat, Am. Redstart. (Reports from Pine Bluff, Ark. are by Douglas James, from El Dorado, Ark. by Arnold Hoiberg).

LECONTE'S SPARROW IN THE MID-SOUTH 1945-1955

We believe the Leconte's Sparrow was more common this winter than usual, but still would class it as "not uncommon", considering the time expended. Besides the habitat of a half erect, partly matted grass (Panicum sp) and occasionally a weedy field, which we have run in the past with a low percentage of records, we have added two habitats recently. One is rice stubble where I understand M.G. Vaiden finds the species in numbers in early spring at Rosedale, Miss. In the Crawfordsville-Lehi fields we found only migrating numbers of Savannah Sparrows. Often the rice stubble is plowed under before then. But, by running over this treacherous footing we have some fall and winter records of a few Leconte's there and at Lonoke (this cover in Ark. unless stated other wise). The other is the airfield or similar pasture which we now work frequently; the sparrows are in the unmowed areas, - weedy, and sometimes only Johnson grass or perhaps "sedge" (Andropogon); however, occasionally in the open with no cover but well concealed from sight.

Arkansas records have been: Crawfordsville, S of, 2 on Nov. 7; Jonesboro airport - Nov. 21, 6, and Feb. 26, 5 (not fully worked); Cross County, Hwy 1, 2 mi. N of Cherry Valley, 3 on Feb. 26; Stuttgart Air Base - Nov. 28, 7 (BC,RDS), Apr. 3, 9 (BC,LC); Hazen, Jan. 30, 9 (GP,HL,BC). At Lonoke, N. on Hwy 31, we had in weeds and the grass, for our third such experience, a group, of which individuals could be walked up and would perch in clear view. Estimates: Nov. 28, 30; Jan. 1, 25; Jan. 30, 35; and Apr. 3, 8 (reduction partly due to only one person coverage). At other Lonoke localities: Nov. 28, -1; Jan. 1, -9 (BC), 7 (RDS); Jan. 30 (BC), - 3, 3, 1 (hatchery); Apr. 3, -3 on unused pasture. The Hazen spot last winter was a weedy field with up to 25 present, some posing so that we could pick out immatures (on Nov. 26, 1953); this year we had rice stubble there. The only other group we didn't have to run up was west of Dundee, Miss. about 1949.

Mississippi records this winter: Jan. 1, Clayton, 1; Jan. 23, Fletcher Field, Clarksdale, 1, and airfield at Yocona River, S. of Oxford, 2; Feb. 27, US 51 S of Hernando, 2 (LC, BC). At Sanders Field, Walls: Nov. 13- 5, Nov. 27 and Dec. 4 - 1, Dec. 18 - 7 (field being plowed up except for a narrow strip). In Tennessee: Penal Farm, Jan. 15, - 2, Feb. 12 and 19, - 1; Field 21, Mar. 13, -4; field, White-Cap Rd., Feb. 20, - 2 (BC,WK). On Feb. 13: Ft. Pillow Rd at Cherry, - 3 (BC,LC); Dyersburg Mun. Air Field, - 3. Hwy 100, just E of Chickasaw S.P., Mar. 6, - 1. We note (The Migrant 1954:79) 2 were even reported on the Reelfoot Lake Count but observer not given. All records are the compiler's except as noted otherwise; the Lonoke flock was walked by several observers, usually.

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SPRING ARRIVALS (CONCLUDED)

- Apr. 23: Overton Park - Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1
 Apr. 24: Overton Park - Black-billed Cuckoo, 1 at 30' (HL).
 Pocahontas, Tenn. - pines E of Co. line, Scarlet Tanager 1
 (Noreen Smith)
 Apr. 25: Pine Bluff - Tenn. Warbler, 1, Nighthawk, 1
 Apr. 27: Pine Bluff - Blackpoll Warbler, 1.
 El Dorado - Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1.
 Apr. 28: Overton Park - Magnolia Warbler, 1 (GP, HL, DB)
 Apr. 29: Overton Park - Blackburnian Warbler, 1, Bay-breasted
 Warbler, 1 (George Peyton, Jr.)
 Apr. 30: Overton Park - Acadian Flycatcher 1, (GP), Chestnut-sided
 Warbler 1, and Scarlet Tanager 2 (GP & DB)
 Penal Farm - Bobolink 8 (GP & DB)
 Pocahontas, Ark., N of - Yellow-billed Cuckoo 2, (H. Landis)
 Brooksville, Miss. - Bobolink 20 (BC)
 El Dorado - Nighthawk 6, airport.
 May 1: Overton Park - Miss. Kite, 1 (David Brown)
 May 4: Pine Bluff - Bay-breasted Warbler, 6.

Some "first" observations are not tabulated as they are considered too late for probable arrival dates, but these and other data follow. Some such are given above for Overton Park because of its relative continuous coverage, but even there much must go unnoted. Despite river front visits on May 15, 16 & 19 Peyton saw the first Least Terns, 20, off the tip of Mud Island, May 21. None, May 13, at Horseshoe Lake, Ark., but about 15 Black Terns noted, Landis. At El Dorado, Arnold Hoiberg adds to those tabulated above: May 1 - Black-throated Green Warbler, 1; May 8 - Chestnut-sided Warbler 1, Solitary Vireo 4; May 16 - Canada Warbler 1, Magnolia Warbler 1. Doug James adds these Pine Bluff records: May 10 - Canada Warbler 1, and (Fran James) - Golden-winged, Wilson's, and Blackburnian Warblers, one each; May 11 - Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 3; May 13 - Yellow Warbler, 1. Near Stuttgart he lists a Least Bittern on May 15 and 3 miles SE of De Vall's Bluff he found six Mourning Warblers, May 22. Additional items of interest at Memphis: Overton Park (GP) - Apr. 26, Red-breasted Nuthatch 1, May 3, Golden-winged Warbler 1; Riverside Park - May 14, Wilson's Warbler 1 (GP, DB). Brooke Meanley reported at Stuttgart, Apr. 16 - King Rail nest with 7 eggs, and 10 Dowitchers; George Peyton saw a Dowitcher, a mile west of there, June 5.

The Memphis Chapter, T.O.S., held its annual Spring Field Day, May 1, at Lakeview, Miss.-Tenn. About 112 species were listed (as published in The Migrant, June, 1955), lower than normal. The afternoon birding on these occasions used to be distinctively different, - wading "bar-pits" etc. but three dry years left such habitats vulnerable and, after being nibbled at for 25 years, they were cleared wholly of their willows and other cover and drained to a large extent, late last winter. In recent years the Levee Board has leased grazing privileges. Transient warblers were scarce but 21 Myrtles were listed; also Horned Lark 2, Veery 2 (R.D. Smith, Jr), Solitary Vireo 2, Swainson's Warbler 3, and Swamp Sparrow 3; Semipalmated Plover 3, 6 & 7, and Golden Plover 9.

The annual (state-wide) meeting of the T.O.S. was held May 7-8 in the Waverly area and field trips included a visit to the heronry in the Duck River dewatering area of the Tenn. Natl. Wildlife Refuge. The 2-day list is tabulated in The Migrant. New state officers include Lawrence Kent and Rev. Bill Hearn of Memphis, president and treasurer, respectively, Eugene Cypert of Paris, vice-pres. for W. Tenn., and L. D. Thompson of Paris, director-at-large for W. Tenn. The finance committee, in considering increased costs of printing The Migrant, recommended rather than raising dues, a drive for more members. Out-of-state memberships still remain at \$1 a year, active \$2. Members, from Memphis to Bristol, voted thanks to the Cyperts for their fine work in making all arrangements for this successful meeting. NOTE: Next year's meeting will be the first weekend in May rather than the second as in recent years. The Memphis Chapter will therefore have to select another Sunday for its Field Day.

The MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY was organized at Meridian at a morning meeting April 30, following the meeting there of the Miss. Acad. of Science. Present were representatives from the educational units of the state and from the Game and Fish Commission as well as the Rev. Andrew A. Allison, an outstanding ornithologist here in the early part of the century. (After many years missionary service in China, Rev. and Mrs. Allison now live in Ellisville, Miss.). Also present were Father J. L. Dorn and Father Thomas J. Hatrel of New Orleans and your editor from Memphis, while Mrs. Blanche Dean of Birmingham and Miss Ruth Castle and Albert F. Ganier of Nashville sent regrets at not being able to be present. A constitution was discussed and adopted and officers elected. We hope to publish a list of officers later. Memberships include Active and (out of state) Corresponding at \$2.00 annual dues, Junior (under 17) at \$1.00. Applications may be sent to Miss Fannye A. Cook, president, at 1119 Pinehurst St., Jackson. Wm. H. Turcotte, Rt. 2, Box 100, Jackson, is editor of "The Mississippi Kite," soon to make its appearance.

The ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY WAS ORGANIZED At Petit Jean State Park, May 7 and 8, at a meeting sponsored by the Pulaski County and Ft. Smith Audubon Societies. In attendance were 61 from 13 Arkansas cities and these four: Mr. Matti Helminer, a visitor in Little Rock from Finland, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Martin of Oklahoma City (Mr. Martin is president of the Okla. Orn. Soc.), and Cpl. Eu Gene Wilhelm of Ft. Hood, Texas (from St. Louis via Camp Chaffee, Ark). Conflicting dates (TOS) prevented our attendance. Directors elected were: Harry E. Meek and Mrs. W. P. Scarlett of Little Rock, Douglas James of Arsenal (Pine Bluff), Mrs. Paul McCoy of Stuttgart, Mrs. Daniel S. Collins of Jonesboro, Mrs. Ruth Thomas of Morrilton, and Rev. Tom Wilson of Huntsville. Officers elected were:

Pres. - Herbert H. Daniel, Rt. 5, Box 329, Little Rock
V.P. - Miss Ruth Armstrong, 1106 N. 14th St., Ft. Smith
Sec.-Treas. - Mrs. P. J. Almaden, 1901 S. Tyler, Little Rock

The directors are to draft a constitution to be voted on at the next annual meeting. Pending this, those who registered (\$1.00) for the meeting were considered members; others may apply, at the same amount. Since an official publication must await this action, we are pleased to make space available herein and to supply copies of MSBN to the more than 80 present members.

The field trips in the park revealed a variety of bird and plant life. The bird list for the two days totaled 116 species and included Road-runners, 7 species of vireos, 26 species of warblers, Dickcissel, Purple Finch, Savannah, and Lincoln's sparrows.

ARKANSAS BIRD NOTES

The Arkansas Audubon Society is grateful to Mid-South Bird Notes for the opportunity to publish records of birds observed in Arkansas. This first report regarding the breeding season and late spring migration is a small beginning. Wider coverage and greater participation are anticipated in the future. All members of the Arkansas Audubon Society and others who watch birds in Arkansas are invited to contribute. Send monthly summaries of your field-notes to Douglas James, P.O. Box 3566, Arsenal, Arkansas.

The Pied-billed Grebe was observed near Grady on May 31 (Douglas James, Robert G. Leonard) and at Lonoke (William Shepherd, Mrs. W. P. Scarlett, Mrs. C. Springer) June 7 and 8. At Grady an 80-acre flooded field contained ten nests: 1 without eggs, 1 with 2 eggs, 2 with 3, 2 with 4, 1 with 8, 2 with 9 and 1 with 10. On June 7 the Water-turkey was found at Lonoke (WS, WPS, CS). Extensive shallow ponds at Lonoke and Anrep attract great numbers of herons: Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Least Bittern at Anrep, Jefferson Co., June 5 (DJ), and all of these in addition to the Green Heron at Lonoke, June 7 (WS, WPS, CS). Other Least Bitterns were 1 near Stuttgart May 15 and 4 near Grady May 31 (DJ). One Least Bittern nest with no eggs was found near Grady, May 31 and 1 with 4 eggs at Anrep, June 5 (DJ), and 4 nests all with eggs at Lonoke, June 7 (WS, WPS, CS). Yellow-crowned Night Herons were residents through June and July near Cave Springs (Tom and Janette Wilson). The easily accessible Swan Lake Heronry is abandoned this year after continual use since 1929. Nesting in this breeding colony in 1952 were: Water-turkey 20, Little Blue Heron 200, Snowy Egret 100, American Egret 70, Green Heron 15. Also, 40 White Ibises roosted in the colony that year. (Brooke Meanley, Wils. Bull., 66: (2):81-88).

Cooper Barefield and the Coffeys reported a newly spotted heronry 12 miles from the Memphis bridge, July 2. On the west side of hwy US 61, 200 yards distant, it was 1.3 miles north of Marion (Jct US 64). The herons were predominantly Little Blue Herons with about 10% Snowy Egrets. Many immatures were in tree-tops (medium height) and on the ground along the edge. It was thought best, because of the advanced age of the young, to forego an estimate of nests until winter.

Ducks were infrequent on the Grand Prairie by mid-May: Blue-winged Teal, 20 and Mallard, 2 at Slovac, May 15 (DJ, Frances James); Mallard, 2 at Wabbaseka, May 29 (DJ); Wood Duck, 2 at Stuttgart, May 29 (DJ); Wood Duck and 4 Hooded Mergansers at Anrep, June 5 (DJ, Harold Chelemers); Pintail and Lesser Scaup on June 7 and Mallard, Gadwall, Baldpate, Pintail, and Lesser Scaup on June 9 at Lonoke (WS, WPS, CS). The Hooded Mergansers comprised a family group, an adult female and three full-grown immatures hatched this season.

Two Mississippi Kites were observed east of the Arkansas River, one at Stuttgart, May 29 (DJ), and the other at Anrep, June 5 (DJ, HC). This species is a regular resident of these areas in summer.

The abundant wet, grassy ditches and flooded rice-fields on the Grand Prairie provide perfect rail habitat. Two King Rails were flushed near Stuttgart, May 15 (DJ, FJ). One of these was incubating 11 eggs. Two others were heard at Wabbaseka on May 29 (DJ), and 1 was seen at Lonoke, June 9 (WS, WPS, CS). The wings of a Sora were found near Slovac on May 15 (DJ, FJ). At night on May 27, near Grady, frog-hunters captured a sleeping Purple Gallinule and saw several others (Nathan Priest, RGL). The bird died later and was found to be a female in breeding condition. This, then, may be a second Arkansas breeding area for the species. One Purple Gallinule was discovered in the same area during a subsequent visit on May 31 (DJ, RGL). Purple Gallinules were also seen on June 7 and 9 at Lonoke where they are known to breed (WS, WPS, CS). The Florida Gallinule and Coot were at Lonoke on June 7 and 9 (WS, WPS, CS). Other late spring Coot records are: Slovac, 4 on May 15 (DJ, FJ); Grady, 2 on May 31 (DJ, RGL); and Anrep, 1 on June 5 (DJ, HC).

An immature example of the Franklin's Gull, an uncommon Arkansas transient, was watched resting on a bank of the goldfish ponds near Lonoke on June 7 (WS, WPS, CS). The same party saw the Least Tern and Black Tern on this date and on June 9. Four other Least Terns were feeding near Grady on May 31 (DJ, RGL).

Mrs. Scarlett reports a spring nest of the Road-runner atop Mt. Petit Jean in Pope County. A Chuck-will's-widow was incubating near Pine Bluff on June 10 (DJ).

Ben and Lula Coffey recorded a Bell's Vireo near Jonesboro, July 2. Two other Bell's Vireos, Wabbeska and Stuttgart, May 29 (DJ). These latter behaved like territory defenders. April Black-and-White Warbler and Oven-bird nests were studied at Little Rock (WPS). An adult male Scarlet Tanager appeared near Little Rock in late July (Herbert H. Daniel), probably a post-breeding wanderer from the nearby highlands. William Shepherd writes about several Painted Buntings nesting in Little Rock. Lark Sparrows fed young out of the nest on June 15 and 16 for the first El Dorado breeding record (Arnold Hoiberg). Hoiberg also states that the breeding bird population he has been following in a bottomland habitat at El Dorado is 30% lower than last year.

The following are late spring final observations for selected winter residents and transients (DJ): May 4, Nashville Warbler 1; May 10, Tennessee Warbler 4, Myrtle Warbler 1 (FJ) at Pine Bluff; May 15, Savannah Sparrow 40 (est.) at Slovac; May 16, Gray-cheeked Thrush 2, Black-throated Green Warbler 5, Bay-breasted Warbler 27 at Pine Bluff; May 22, Olive-backed Thrush 1, Chestnut-sided Warbler 1 near DeValls Bluff; May 29, Black-billed Cuckoo 1 at Wabbaseka. At Pine Bluff peak migration dates were determined by weekly visits to a 153-acre census area (DJ): May 5, Olive-backed Thrush 17, Baltimore Oriole 13, Tennessee Warbler 16; May 11 Gray-cheeked Thrush 13, Magnolia Warbler 9, Chestnut-sided Warbler 12, Bay-breasted Warbler 47, Summer Tanager 11; May 17, Crested Flycatcher 15, Wood Pewee 9, Red-eyed Vireo 28; May 26, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 14, Acadian Flycatcher 4. -- Douglas James, Arsenal, Arkansas, Aug. 7, 1955

THE MEMPHIS SEASON: Damage from the record late freeze (16° - Mar. 26) was indicated in the unexpected death of many arbor-vitae in the city. No fruit was noted on wild black cherries and other wildlife food items may have been hit although late bearers appear o.k. After three dry years, rainfall has been above normal, with 12 inches (7 above) for April alone, with succeeding months each normal and about 50% above, the divergence between our two stations (downtown and airport) indicating a summer pattern of rains. June with temperatures 4° below normal, lowest since 1928, was a reversal of the last three July-type Junes, but other months averaged above normal. The Mississippi, after cresting at 35.3 on Apr. 2 (flood stage 34 feet), the highest in 3 years, dropped rapidly. July stages stayed close to 5 feet. Field work was sparse and the writers had a big gap from late April to mid-June. On Apr. 30 I drove 500 miles, to Meridian for the Miss. Orni. Soc., and back for the Memphis Chap. on May 1. Came T.O.S. at Waverly, May 7-8. Then Mrs. Coffey and I left after work for the 3d straight Friday eve but it was the 13th and the next day at 5 A.M., just S. of Alexandria, La., a hole was knocked in the motor block. Back at home, May 15, while in a borrowed car I passed thru the Penal Farm, but when D. C. Hall Transports took six days for the overnight delivery of a new engine to Alex' and we found ourselves still at home the next week-end, we just remained there to prune and ... prune. On May 27 we finally crossed into Mexico and on the night of June 12 we reached home again. When the next week-end found me out again in this area, it seemed that I had missed the best part of the season. The best warbler list was on June 25 at Shelby Forest (incl. 5 Ceruleans) while the Red-eyed Vireo seemed common only near Hickory Flat, Miss., June 19, and Chickasaw S.P., June 26. This is the 3d season this species seems not as abundant as formerly, but this impression coincides with our absences during early June. July 4th holiday records show the species only fairly common in the Hardy, Ark. area, while the year we spent those same dates in N & NE Miss. we found it common to abundant (1953). The Hooded Warbler is rare at the former but not uncommon at the latter, no change noted this year. The Orchard Oriole continues uncommon (at one time one of our most common birds). We mention these because the unusual heavy influx of six species apparently did not occur this spring in NW Florida (AFN 1955:264). The species listed were: E. Kingbird, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos, Prothonotary and Hooded Warblers, and Orchard Oriole. The Kingbird had a good flight at the Penal Farm, May 15, when I totaled 322. The largest group was 80, with 11 of from 10 to 36 and 10 numbering less than 10. At the same time Dickcissels and Bobolinks were common. The latter totaled about 900 with 200 and 300 the largest flocks. Females numbered 6 in a flock of 36 and 17 in an 80. Shorebirds there included Semipalmated Plover, 11 & 2. Of 12 Savannah-like sparrows only 2 were definitely identified as such on this late date. Three Grasshopper Sparrows were probably transients as none were recorded later (first recent summer absent); two were singing July 7, at Field 21.

A Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen at the Penal Farm July 9 & 16 and 3 near Michigan City, Miss., July 10 (BC, Alan Ziegler). Mud Lake, Tenn.-Miss. favored herons on July 23 (BC,GP) with over 200 Am. Egrets, a few other herons, and 3 imm. Wood Ibises present. Two Solitary Sandpipers noted near Yocona, Miss., July 10 (BC,AZ), and one along Spring River at Y Camp, Mammoth Spring, Ark., July 17.

Two Upland Plover were found at the Penal Farm, July 16, but none July 9 or (HL) July 27. On the latter date Harry Landis had 3 Golden Plover there and one Spotted, 3 Solitary and 12 Pectoral Sandpipers. Records for the NE corner of President's Island (in Memphis) follow: July 22, nothing; July 28 - 2 Spotted, 15 Pectoral, and 12 Western Sandpipers (GP). The 2d Tenn. record of the Knot was logged there Aug. 6 (GP, R. Gill), - an individual of mixed plumage. (The 1st Tenn. record was at the same place last Sept. 11.) Also present Aug. 6 were 6 Spotted, 5 Pectoral, 11 Semipalmated, and 6 Western Sandpipers. On Aug. 12 (BC,LC) these species were noted, plus Semipalmated Plover 9, and Least Sandpiper ten.

Mississippi Kites were again present in Overton and Riverside parks. Broad-winged Hawks were again in Overton and were seen at several places in the area, including E. central Montgomery Co. and SW Webster Co., Miss. on July 10 (AZ,BC). Two checks showed the increase of the Phoebe as a summer resident. On June 25 on Tenn. 14, NE of Memphis I went under the 5 bridges for the Loosahatchie, completed last year. There was a nest under each bridge, with large young at 3, dead young at one, and one too high for inspection. On June 19 I checked Miss. highway 5, S from Ashland. In 7 miles, the one culvert and 5 bridges, each had a nest; in the next 5 miles no birds or nests noted; following this, no further bridges to Jct. U.S. 78. Demett Smith has reported them W and S of Ashland, Miss. -- Barn Swallow locations not checked but these others were noted: June 25, 1 W. of Millington and 3 N. of Raleigh; June 29, 1 US 72, Benton Co. (RDS); July 3, 2 & 1, 9-mile Road, Fulton Co., just NW of Hardy, Ark.; July 9, 2, US 51, E of Horn Lake, Miss.; July 17, 2 W of Lorine, and 6 & 1 SW of Ravenden Springs, Ark. Larger bridges replaced original ones on US 63 in Lawrence Co., Ark. and the sites are no longer used; one pair of these swallows is evidently now using a nearby barn. On July 4 we saw about 50 Cliff Swallows at Cotter and estimated 100 nests under the high concrete bridge over the White River. On Aug. 14 one Cliff Swallow was still present there.

The afternoon of May 8 we looked in Natchez Trace S.P., Tenn. for the Worm-eating Warbler (2 prev. rec.) without success. Noted there were: Cerulean 1, Blackburnian 1, Pine Warbler none. No Scarlet Tanager was in evidence then. On June 26 in Chickasaw S.P. I heard the Swainson's Warbler in the usual spot (alder swamp at highway 100) along with one each, - Parula, Cerulean, and Yellow-throated. Hooded and Kentucky were fairly common there and, with the Pine, in camp areas; the Red-eyed and Yellow-throated vireos very common. One Scarlet Tanager was found back of group camp and another 4 miles E. of Jacks Creek (Lula road). No Scarlets were found in the Hardy, Ark. area, July 2-4, 16-17, even tho we worked roads where we finally found a fair number of Whip-poor-wills calling the previous night. On June 19, SE of Hickory Flat, Miss. and apparently in Union County I saw two male Scarlets, then 3 miles E of Ashland, I couldn't quite see one. R. Demett Smith, Jr. went to this latter spot on June 26 and found the Scarlet, then on July 5 he found two more males on this same high ridge, ten miles E. of Ashland. Lark Sparrows near Ashland: June 19, 1 4 mi. S; June 26 (RDS), 2 & 1, 5 mi. E, and 3, 4½ mi W. A Lark Sparrow July 23 (GP, BC) was the 2d record ever on the Lakeview, Miss. levee.

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SOME ARRIVALS OF WINTER RESIDENTS AT MEMPHIS

- Sept. 11: Marsh Hawk 1, Penal Farm (BC)
 Sept. 24: Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, Germantown (Mrs. Chas. Seahorn).
 Sept. 25: Ring-billed Gull 8, President's Island (TOS, -HL).
 Oct. 8: White-throated Sparrow: 3, Overton Park (GP) (none, BC);
 2, home (Mrs. M. L. Torti), none Oct. 9 & 10; 1, 3 PM,
 home (BC), gone afterwards (none Oct. 9 until 4 PM, -5).
 None, Oct. 9 AM at Penal Farm (BC). 1st good flock "at
 home" at Coffey Grounds, noted Oct. 20.
 White-crowned Sparrow, 1 (wearing band), Germantown
 (Mrs. Chas. Seahorn)
 Overton Park: Golden-crowned Kinglet 5, (Ruby-crowned
 Kinglet 1), Myrtle Warbler 4 (BC).
 Brown Creeper 1, home (Mrs. MLT).
 Oct. 9: Savannah Sparrow 8, Penal Farm (BC)
 Song Sparrow 1, Municipal Airport (Oliver Irwin).
 Oct. 12: Ceilometer, Municipal Airport (BC), about 11 PM, -
 passing over, Wilson's Snipe 3, nearby, Short Eared Owl, 1.
 Oct. 15: Western Meadowlark 3, Penal Farm (BC)
 Oct. 22: Am. Pipit 6, Sprague's Pipit 3, Penal Farm (BC)
 Nov. 5: Brewer's Blackbird 45, Penal Farm (BC)
 Nov. 12: Harris' Sparrow 2, (3d season at) Mitchell Ave. &
 I.C.R.R. (Geo. Peyton, Jr., Harry Landis, Jr., David Brown).

THE MEMPHIS SEASON: As reported in The Migrant's "Season" the highlight, as Mud Lake, Tenn.-Miss. dried up, was 400 Wood Ibis on Sept. 10, our largest number ever. At President's Island, Oliver Irwin's Black-bellied Plover and 5 to 6 Golden Plovers Sept. 11-17, were also Arkansas records, crossing over, like the Caspian Terns, to the opposite shore at the U.S. Engineer's Depot. Later records were 2 Goldens on Sept. 22 and one on Sept. 26, a Black-bellied on Oct. 3 and "peeps" thru the latter date. Two Semi-palmated Plovers on Sept. 12 & 13 were the last. On Sept. 11 Oliver saw 3 Caspian Terns, 6 the next day, 1 on the 14th, 15 on the 22d, 16 on the 24th, and 1 or 2 thru Sept. 29. The TOS party (HL et al) saw 4 of the Caspians on Sept. 25. This was the longest period and largest number for this species here, in our records.

On Oct. 2 Irwin found 5 Pied-billed Grebes and 62 Blue-winged Teals on the small lake or pond in Riverside Park. Each cool front was followed by reports of ducks arriving, especially on the Arkansas prairies, and towards the end of the month, of "geese" passing over. Some of these latter "v"s were undoubtedly of Cormorants. None were heard over home. On Oct. 29 (GP,BC) we counted on a Penal Farm field: Blue Geese - 3 adults & 15 immatures; Snow Geese - 2 adults & 6 immatures; hybrid - one adult. A pair of Redheads were on a pond there, Nov. 5. On Oct. 23, 50 Wood Ducks on Grassy Lake (a cypress slough, however) in Shelby Forest S.P., were a Fall Field Day treat (TOS); a Baldpate was with them.

The grass between the willows and the shore, President's Island, didn't yield any Sparrows of note or Short-billed Marsh Wrens but 49 Yellow-throats were recorded Sept. 25 (TOS, HL) while Peyton kicked up a Sora there on Sept. 14. Tree Swallows continued a good migration, about 600 at the Farm each trip thru Oct. 22; late records, - Nov. 12, 2, town (OI), 20, Mitchell Ave (GP,HL,DB), Nov. 20, 1, President's Island (OI).

A Red-breasted Nuthatch was recorded near home (GP) on Oct. 10, and at home (Leah Torti) on Oct. 15. A Blue-headed Vireo was seen Oct. 23 in Shelby Forest (GP,BC,TOS) while warblers seen then consisted only of 8 Myrtles. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in mid-Sept. and at the Penal Farm, 2 on Oct. 15 (BC).

LOUISIANA BIRDS. By George H. Lowery, Jr. Louisiana State University Press. 556 pp. 40 colored plates, 135 text illustrations, and numerous photographs of birds and habitats. Because it is sponsored by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission it sells for \$5.00, about half its price otherwise. While it is reviewed by Dr. Tanner in The Migrant, Sept. 1955, we mention it here since it is the book that everyone in the area reached by these Notes will and should want. It is not the traditional type of state bird book and H.C. Oberholser's "The Bird Life of Louisiana" (1938) remains a necessary supplement for the listing of records and specimens, to that date, at least. Dr. Lowery's introduction is of special value, following which 377 species are described and illustrated, - brought home to us. Here, in the Memphis area, we are particularly proud of the book because of the splendid work of the artist, our own Robert E. Tucker, who has been a resident of Louisiana in recent years. We know his parents, our fellow members, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Tucker of Memphis, are equally proud. Like the text, the illustrations are chiefly for the purpose of aiding in our identification of the birds as we see them. Bar graphs show seasonal distribution in the state.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER NEAR HOLLY SPRINGS: Late on June 19, 1955, we left Spring Lake State Park and decided to take the long way home from Holly Springs, that is, northeast to LaGrange, Tenn. Speeding up Miss. Hwy. 7 in order to reach LaGrange in time to hear Whip-poor-wills call at dusk, I suddenly realized that one of the birds perched on a roadside wire fence was unusually whitish. On the previous week-end in north Mexico and north-east Texas we were thus able to quickly distinguish Scissor-tailed Flycatchers from the Mockingbird and other roadside perchers. Finally stopping, I drove back to the spot and there was a beautiful adult of the species I had been looking for in this area, intensively since 1947 with much special mileage, August thru October when wanderers might be expected. Altho 14 miles short of being a first Tennessee record, it is of interest as the second record, apparently, of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher for Mississippi. M.G. Vaiden (The Migrant 1952:66) reports seeing one May 11, 1952, along the levee, six miles south of Rosedale. He looked for it each of the ten succeeding days without success. The species appears regularly in southern and northwestern Louisiana and there is a breeding pocket just west of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Mrs. Coffey, Cooper Barefield, and Paul Cockrill were with me and the locality was 3½ miles north of the US 78 junction and within sight of the agricultural experiment station. We failed to find the bird again, - on June 25, June 26, or July 10.

CHRISTMAS COUNT DATES: Lonoke, Dec. 24; Memphis, Dec. 26; Little Rock, Jan. 1 or 2. SPRING FIELD DAYS: Memphis, Apr. 29; T.O.S. (state) May 5 & 6, at or near Nashville.

CORRECTION: The previous two numbers were shown as VOL. 1, - please correct your copy to VOL. 4.

ARKANSAS BIRD NOTES

The influence of weather on bird distribution was evident in Arkansas this autumn. This relates particularly to migration motivated by masses of cold northern air moving southward behind a characteristic storm front. The frontal disturbance and the cool temperatures which follow cause an influx of transient, and departure of resident birds. Eight cold air masses, identified by dates of frontal activity at Pine Bluff, invaded Arkansas from Aug. 28 through Nov. 1. An Ovenbird Aug. 23, a Canada Warbler Aug. 24 and 2 Broad-winged Hawks Aug. 25 arrived at Pine Bluff (Douglas James) before the first front. Overcast Aug. 28-31 brought a temperature drop to the high 80's which resulted in Yellow-billed Cuckoo decrease at Pine Bluff (DJ) and El Dorado (Arnold Hoiberg); migration peak of Nighthawks (21) the 30th and Parula Warblers (9) the 31st, and the last recorded Purple Martin (2), only Chestnut-sided Warbler, and first Nashville Warbler (2) the 31st at Pine Bluff (DJ). Pine Bluff moon-watching revealed no migration prior to the front, 147 birds counted from dusk to midnight Aug. 31, and considerably fewer the next two nights.

Frontal activity overnight Sept. 11-12 coincided with the first Solitary Vireo (2) the 14th at Fayetteville (Bill Beall); first Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Philadelphia Vireo the 13th at Little Rock (Vivian B. Scarlett); first Black-throated Green Warbler and last Worm-eating Warbler the 13th, and last Acadian Flycatcher and Hooded Warbler (3) the 14th at Pine Bluff (DJ).

The front Sept. 22-25 did not cool Arkansas noticeably but did so in the northern states causing an influx here. At Fayetteville the only Tennessee Warbler (3) and the last Blue-gray Gnatcatcher the 22nd; a Pied-billed Grebe (79) invasion, first house Wren (2) and Short-billed Marsh Wren the 25th; and 5 Franklin Gulls the 26th (BB). Visible migration the 24th and 25th along the Arkansas River at Pine Bluff included 403 White Pelicans, 37 Double-crested Cormorants, 25 Broad-winged Hawks, 6 Osprey, a Duck Hawk, a Ring-billed Gull, 6 Caspian Terns and a Black Tern (Frances James, DJ). Also first Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Nighthawk (75) and Catbird (12) migration peak, and last Redstart (4) the 25th; first Sharp-shinned Hawk and Brown Thrasher (10) peak the 26th; and first Myrtle Warbler the 27th (DJ,FJ). Pine Bluff lunar observations showed fair numbers before midnight Sept. 25 and 26, and an avalanche of 600 from dusk to midnight Sept. 27.

The passage of a front Sept. 30 brought the only warbler wave to Pine Bluff involving a Blackburnian and Black-pollled Warbler, first Bay-breasted Warbler (10), last Tennessee and Parula Warbler, and Black and White Warbler (5) peak Oct. 2; the only Orange-crowned Warbler and last Oven-bird the 3rd; also 4 Caspian Terns Oct. 1, the last Catbird (3) and Red-eyed Vireo the 2nd, the only Olive-backed Thrush the 3rd, and the last Wood Pewee (2) the 5th (DJ). At Fayetteville 7 Shovellers, 6 Franklin Gulls and first Lincoln Sparrows the 30th, and last Red-eyed Vireo Oct. 1 (BB). From dusk to midnight on the 1st of Oct. 650 crossed the moon, and 22 in a half-hour the night before.

The Oct. 6-7 front was followed by 4 Franklin Gulls the 7th, a migratory flock of 82 Blue Jays the 8th, last House Wren (2) and first Song Sparrow (3) the 9th at Fayetteville (BB). At Pine Bluff a Chimney Swift (1250) peak, first Winter Wren and White-throated Sparrow and last Summer Tanager the 8th; 400 White Pelicans, last Indigo Bunting (2) and Nighthawk the 9th (DJ).

Frontal activity Oct. 12 resulted in 9 Avocets and 175 American Widgeon the 13th at Fayetteville (BB); first Brown Creeper, last Yellow-throated Vireo and last observation of a summer resident family of six Scissor-tailed Flycatchers Oct. 13th at Little Rock (VBS); first Golden-crowned Kinglet, Field Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow and last Chimney Swift (167) the 13th, and first Hermit Thrush the 14th at Pine Bluff (DJ). Several firsts appeared during the cold weather which followed: White-throated Sparrow (4), White-crowned Sparrow (5) the 18th, and Slate-colored Junco (16) the 22nd at Fayetteville (BB); White-throated Sparrow the 18th (Mrs. R. Jamison fide Mrs. E. Fuqua) at Little Rock; Red-eyed Towhee the 17th and Slate-colored Junco (6), Henslow Sparrow, Leconte Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow (2), and Song Sparrow (10) the 19th at Pine Bluff (DJ)

The first freezing temperatures came to northern Arkansas following the front of Oct. 23-24; last Catbird the 23rd at Fayetteville (BB), 2 Nashville Warblers, a Magnolia Warbler and first Cedar Waxwing (5) the 24th at Little Rock (VBS); last Wood Thrush and Nashville Warbler the 26th at Pine Bluff (DJ); first White-throated Sparrow the 23rd at Texarkana (Charles Gardner fide George Hoffman).

The Oct. 28 front was followed by the first frost at Pine Bluff: a Black-throated Green Warbler and a first Purple Finch (2) the 28th at Little Rock (VBS); 3 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 3 Harris' Sparrows the 29th at DeValls Bluff (Virginia G. Springer); an American Bittern, 3 Barn Swallows and a peak-migration of Tree Swallows the 30th at Anrep in Jefferson Co. (DJ, FJ, Harold Chelemer).

Wood Ibis were frequent in late summer: 14 Aug 14th and 12 Sept. 8th at Lonoke and 7 near Humnoke Aug. 22nd (William Shepherd); 14 at DeValls Bluff Sept. 17 (VGS), and 24 (est.) at Little Rock Sept. 24 (Herbert Daniel). The first Snow Geese (111) and Blue Geese (29) appeared at Pine Bluff Oct. 19 and were followed for a week by several day and night flights. An adult male Ruddy Duck Aug. 14 at Lonoke (WS). Thirty Pintail at DeValls Bluff Oct. 29 (VGS) and at Anrep Oct. 30, 12 Am. Widgeon, 2 Ring-necked Duck, 4 Green-winged Teal, 4 Pintail, 2 Shoveller, 2 Black Duck, 200 (est.) Gadwall, 2 Canvas-back, 300 (est.) Mallard and 15 L. Scaup (DJ, FJ, HC). William Goodwin reports what apparently were nearly 350 Broad-winged Hawks Sept. 18 at El Dorado. Five Least Sandpipers Sept. 7 at Mablevale (WS), 1 at De Valls Bluff Sept. 17 (VGS), and 41 at Anrep Oct. 30 (DJ, FJ, HC). Six Semi-palmated Sandpipers Sept. 8 at Fayetteville (BB). Two Lesser Yellow-legs Sept. 17 at De Valls Bluff (VGS) and another Sept. 19 at Lonoke (VBS). Two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds last seen Oct. 21 at Little Rock (Mrs. EF). Last Kingbird reported Sept. 6th at Fayetteville (BB) and last Crested Flycatcher Sept. 8 at Fayetteville (BB) and Pine Bluff (DJ).

The transient thrush and warbler migration was meager: a lone Olive-backed Thrush (only State report) on Oct. 3 and a single, small warbler wave in early Oct. at Pine Bluff. - Douglas James, Arsenal, Arkansas, Nov. 3, 1955

Issued by Ben B. Coffey, Jr., 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis 7, Tenn.

MEMPHIS BANDED CHIMNEY SWIFT IN PERU

Among our 1954 bandings of the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) was that of a flock of about 1020, on September 25, at Levi School (latitude $35^{\circ}2\frac{1}{2}'$ N, longitude $90^{\circ}4'$ W), on highway US 51 and three miles south of Memphis. Thru the kindness of Mr. George Barnes, Supt. of Shelby County Schools, we had banded two other interesting flocks there. From this group, the swift with band 54-55523 was captured November 7, 1954, 3500 miles to the south, at Trujillo, Peru, located $8^{\circ}6'$ latitude S and $79^{\circ}2'15''$ longitude W. This is on the coast, 300 miles northwest of Lima and, according to the reporting letter, 100 feet above sea level. The bird was among various specimens taken for the Museum of Zoology (Sr. Juan Ormea, Chief) of the Faculty of Sciences, National University of Trujillo and the report was made by Dr. Juvenal Gonzalez Anssuini, Director of the Faculty. In answer to my inquiry, Dr. Gonzalez writes (as I interpret his Spanish) that the specimens obtained were inhabiting an unoccupied room on the second floor and other swifts left southward direction. Further data are promised on subsequent observations of more of these birds.

This is the second report of banded Chimney Swifts in Peru and the first for a definite date and place. As detailed in The Auk (61:604-609) by Frederick C. Lincoln, The Migrant (Sept., 1944) by Coffey, Ganier, and Laskey, and The Migrant (21:17-21) by Hervey Brackbill, thirteen bands from Chimney Swifts, found their way from Indians in the Yanayaco River region of Peru, to the American Embassy at Lima. The thirteen (five from Memphis) had been banded at various times from 1936 thru October 13, 1940, and were apparently picked up by a trader from the Indians in December, 1943. The bands evidently came from a large number of birds, probably from various flocks at different times, and could have been held for some time by the Indians.

The above region is about 540 miles northeast of Trujillo and east of three intervening high mountain ranges, the heavily forested eastern slope, and in the lowlands which drain into the Amazon River.

Dr. Gonzalez is anxious to build up a bibliography on American and European birds. According to a recent handbook, this school is one of three national universities in Peru besides San Marcos (1551) which is the oldest university in the Americas.

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Two chance recoveries here of banded birds are of special interest. Scott Hutcheson, at his home, 2784 Garden Lane, found on January 29, 1955, a dead Bronzed Grackle with band 46-306521. This band was applied Sept. 24, 1947, at Waukegan, Ill. by H.E. McArthur. This was a very old Grackle. Edward F. Smith advised me that Miss Halley Turner at 5336 Mason Road had found a dead bird with band 55-00250. I secured the bird, an adult male Purple Finch, banded as such on May 3, 1954, at Northhampton, Mass., by B. M. Shaub. The finch was found on April 6, 1955.

BIRDS AT THE MEMPHIS AIRPORT CEILOMETER

On three occasions I have watched migrating birds at the ceilometer of the Memphis Municipal Airport; fortunately, weather conditions were relatively mild each time. The first visit, Oct. 5, 1953, was described in The Migrant (1954:11-13). Two others are given herewith.

May 2, 1954: I was telephoned at 3:15 AM, by Messrs. Davis Benton and W. M. Rowe of the Weather Bureau, evidently as a result of the 3 AM trip outside to release a balloon in connection with recording winds aloft. At that time these were generally from the south and with a speed at 1,000 feet of 31 mph, then 48 mph at 2,000 feet, diminishing to 42 mph at 9,000 feet. Surface winds were generally SSE, 13 to 15 mph; the temperature was 72°F, a slight rise from sundown. Sky conditions showed a high overcast, 20,000 feet earlier, then 25,000 feet at 2:10 to 4:25 AM, dropping to 2400 feet at 5:03 and 1200 at 5:27 and back to 25,000 at 5:42. Lower, there were scattered clouds at 12,000 feet, moving to 10,000 at 4:10 and recorded as broken at 1200 feet, 4:25 AM, and at 1300 feet, 5:03. After the overcast itself was measured as 1200 feet at 5:27, only scattered clouds were recorded at that height at 5:42 AM. Since the sky became lighter about 4:35 and no bird calls were heard near the beam at 4:40, and since observations were at 3 AM and from 3:40, when I reached the field, it is probable that the high winds from about 1,000 feet and up, were chiefly responsible for the presence of those birds I saw so low. This, despite approximately coincident directions of movement of the winds and the migration.

The majority of the birds heard migrating or milling were evidently Indigo Buntings, but some shorebirds, Bobolinks, thrushes, and other unidentified small birds were heard. Local birds heard were: Horned Larks at 4 AM; a Mockingbird at 4:30, and a Killdeer. A moderately large number of birds were at the ceilometer beam, behaving as reported on the first occasion. I was interested in how far away the beam attracted birds, so spent most of the limited time remaining, away from the beam. Walking north and northeast, on paved taxi-strips, I could hear many birds over me, some as low as 50 feet; when near the lights of the embarking area, I could see the low ones. All were flying back towards the beam, and thus, in this case, at about 90 to 135° against the wind, and opposite the direction of migration. This was noted at distances up to 400 yards (NE), I didn't venture out on the main runways. To the east 300 yards in front of the Terminal, similar activity was noted; the lights there (normal intensity) may have afforded some counter-attraction. At 1,000 yards ENE no movement towards the beam was noted, nor was local attraction at the bright lights of the open hangar, apparent. Some migrants passing over were heard there, and, after I drove east on Winchester Road, others also at 1½ miles. Call notes ceasing, the sky becoming lighter, I returned to the ceilometer where, at 4:40 AM I heard no further notes. A few were heard near the Terminal and after daylight I heard and saw several Indigo Buntings which had taken cover in arbor-vitae on the lawn there.

A movement of migrants this late during the dark hours is unusual if we are to judge by "moon-watching" results. After observing those Indigo Buntings (and other species) fighting their way back against moderate wind, to reach the ceilometer, I believe that this struggle or the apparent milling near the beam, may exhaust the flyers so that they eventually hit the ground (or in some cases, other migrants). We can only surmise that many there are always the same ones, although individual birds have been seen, in a few observed cases, to remain near the beam. In the present instance the coming of daylight prevented deaths since the early arrivals, if still present, had only been there about two hours. A search of the field and runways chiefly north of the ceilometer, after daylight, failed to reveal any birds on the ground.

Oct. 12-13, 1955: After checking with John S. Hursh at the station, I went to bed early, tired. But a telephone call about 9:30 advised that birds were noticeable at the ceilometer beam. I arrived there at 10:15 PM and was surprised to see them still present, following a heavy downpour. The rain soon stopped but a sudden shower later caught me some distance from shelter (the resultant "walking flu" delayed this account, eliminating all night paper-work for three weeks). Weather conditions, tho, were relatively mild. The ceiling moved down from 2400 to 1700' at 8 PM, 1300 at 8:07, 900 at 8:27 and 9:08, 700 at 9:30, rising to 1600 feet at 10 PM, 2800 to 3000 feet, 10:30 to 11:30, 4000 from 12 to 1 AM, and was 5000 feet when the beam was shut off temporarily, 1:55 to 2:07 AM. At 2 AM I noted a few stars dimly, more at 2:20. Thus, during my stay the ceiling varied from about 2000 to 5000 feet, the temperature 60° to 57° and the wind chiefly NNW, from 10 to 17 knots, with gusts to 23 at 1:10 and 1:27. The wind had changed from W and SW to NNW and N, at 8:27 PM.

At the beam I heard principally Indigo Buntings, and unidentified warblers and sparrows. I heard going over, southward, an occasional Golden Plover, small-plover-like and other shorebird notes, apparently 3 Wilson's Snipe, and a few herons. A graveled road, just SSE of the ceilometer, goes south a fourth-mile to a skeet range; it was checked with a strong light, for bodies. None was seen there or on paved Winchester Road, at the beam.

Because of circling repetition, call notes were heard almost continuously at the beam. Away from there, about a chip a second was heard, continuing at this rate over several points S and SE, within a mile; at 1½ miles E, on higher ground, the rate was slightly less with one wave of calls of about the same frequency, and at 1¾ miles E, almost as frequent but not as loud, indicating the birds were higher. All appeared to be moving southward and there must have been a heavy migration.

Returning to the ceilometer, I again walked the road to the skeet range and noticed a Short-eared Owl flying low. Whether it was attracted by the chorus of notes, or was put in flight by my appearance, or otherwise, was a matter for conjecture. Very few birds passed thru the beam, and at distances of 100 to 400 yards, I couldn't be sure that any were trying to move back to the beam. In addition to an appearance of "milling about", many birds coming up from one direction, would make a small arc

before reaching the center and move back out of sight. The flock appeared to be about 500 at a maximum (1 to 2 AM) in an area of about 80 feet in diameter and from an elevation of 100 to 400 feet; a few were at 50 feet. I heard a thud and found a Bay-breasted Warbler dead on my auto hood, 50 feet E of the ceilometer. I visited the weather office where John R. Hope and Davis Benton were on duty; they readily agreed to shut off the beam temporarily on request. Returning to the beam I checked pavement and gravel and found no bodies. The owl was again seen over the field to the south. The birds seemed to be slightly lower and some were, perhaps tiring. I delayed my request since I wanted to avoid having these or another contingent of migrants return to the beam for the remainder of the night. At 1:55 the beam was turned off for me; at 2:07 I was there when it went back on. No birds were then seen in the beam, only a few were heard nearby. In fact, more were heard near the lights in front of the Terminal. At 2:30 AM I "closed station" and left for home and a few hours sleep.

The fine cooperation of the airport Weather Bureau personnel is appreciated, not only on these occasions but in the past for data correlated with our night migration studies. Thanks are also due the downtown office in making records readily available.

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FALL HAWKS: The target week-end found Sat., Sept. 24, rainy, and Sun. part overcast; Sun. AM neither banders on a roof nor a TOS group in Riverside noted any hawks. Sep. 26, 10-11 AM a flock of 25 to 30, probably Broad-wingeds, seen high over center of town by Madeline Reed. Sep. 27, hour at noon, atop U&P building, none (BC). Sat., Oct. 1, banding at Bellevue Baptist, - a Broad-winged at 8:30, 10 at 9:45, 2 at 10:10, and an Osprey at 9:47, suitable weather. None seen, Penal Farm, 1 to 3:30 PM, (BC). Oct. 2 spent on US 62, N. central Arkansas, BC, LC, Alice Smith; scattered clouds at start; high, light, overcast from 9:30 AM. Two stations, several miles apart, each of 4 stops. Salem, 8:35 - 9 AM, Broad-winged 1 & 1; none (BC); 3 mi W of Viola (LC,AS), 9:20-10:20, Cooper's 1 & 1, Red-tailed 1 & 1, Buteo (sp?) 4 singles; 10 mi. W of Viola, 9:30-10:10, none; 11:35-12:40, just E of Cotter (LC,AS), Buteo 1; 11:50-12:30 just E of Flippin, 1 unident. & together - 4 Cooper's & 1 Red-tailed; 1:30-3 PM, W Yellville (LC,AS), Buteo 1; 1:50-2:40, 13 mi. W of Yellville, none. I still believe the Broad-winged Hawk flight of the Detroit area passes across the Ozarks somewhere but the distances are too great for me to make even a few observations. We drove 610 miles for 6½ party-hours observation, and the weather became unfavorable. Sep. 26, 1954, after a cloudy AM, I set up near Imboden and then Williford, in favorable weather (12-4 PM) watching an occasional Cooper's or Broad-winged circle up on the thermals, then glide SW.

MIGRATING BLUE JAYS: On the above Oct. 2 trip we saw possibly our first obviously migrating Blue Jays. At Salem, several species were moving about early but some of these Jays moving S or SW must have been transients. As recorded at above localities; 7 AM-7:30: 1,2,6,2,11; 8:35-9: 2,4,2,8,3,16,5,5; 9:30-10:10: 5, 1; 1:50-2:40: 15, 3, 14, 23; 1:30-3PM: 9, 7, 39, 26, 76; at the latter also, - 200 Chimney Swifts riding a thermal.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR, AND GOOD LUCK ON THE COUNT!
Ben B. Coffey, Jr. 672 North Belvedere Memphis 7, Tenn.

CHRISTMAS COUNT PARTICIPANTS

MEMPHIS, Dec. 26: N- Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Charles Marcus, Edwin Poole. NE- Luther F. Keeton, David Brown, George Peyton, Jr., Alice Smith. E- Mrs. Ben B. (LC) Coffey, Jr., Harry Landis, Jr., Jackie Rini, S. J. Rini, and a.m., Mr. and Mrs. Frederick T. Carney, Don Roach, Dr. Wendell Whittemore. SE- Mrs. J. H. McWhorter, Mary Davant, Edward King. S- R. Demett Smith, Jr., Richmond Gill, Jr., Dr. Harry H. Wilcox. Riverside, etc. - Lawrence Kent, Nelle Moore, Mrs. Rose Wooldridge, Oliver Irwin. Normal, etc. Mrs. M. L. Torti, Mrs. Turner Morehead, Jerry and Mrs. Noreen (Arlo I.) Smith. Overton Park - John T. Bigham. Riverdale Road - Charles Seahorn, Jr.

ARKANSAS: EL DORADO, Dec. 31: Mrs. Hilery Hanna, Mrs. Archalee Harman, Mr. and Mrs. W. Lynne Goodwin, Arnold J. Hoiberg, John A. Hoiberg, Frances James and Douglas James.

FORT SMITH, Dec. 28: Bill Beall, Tom Miller, Mr. and Mrs. R. Corbin, Donald Corbin, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Springer, James Wear, Mark Cutter, Fred Haskin, Larry Lichty, Jim Mulhollan, John Price, Bill Stewart, Ruth Armstrong, Janne Beckman, Virginia Cornelius, Sandra Funk, Judy McAlister, Mary Nell Shepherd.

JASPER, Dec. 28: Mr. and Mrs. Ralph L. Dunckel.

LITTLE ROCK, Dec. 31: Ross Jamison, Atha Jamison, Cleveland Cabler, Herbert Daniel, Annette Daniel, Eugenia Moore, Nora Mangel, Gladys Northrop, James Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Harry Meek, Mona Meek, William Shepherd, Jr., Mary Sue Shepherd, Joe Norton, A. M. Davison, Jay Davison, H. C. Thompson.

LONOKE, Dec. 24: Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Daniel, Lt. and Mrs. J. R. Johnson, Wm. Shepherd, Jr. (Little Rock) and BC, LC, DB, RG, GP, RDS (Memphis).

ST. CHARLES, Dec. 28: P. J. Van Huizen, L. E. Hovell Jr., D. L. Agee.

TEXARKANA, Dec. 26: Charles Gardner, Dale Gardner, Gale Gardner, W. S. Jennings, Don Kyle.

MISSISSIPPI: HICKORY FLAT, Dec. 25: BC, LC, Mrs. Cleo Yancey.

MOON LAKE, LULA, Jan. 2: RDS, MD, OI, AS, HHW.

NATCHEZ, Jan. 1: BC, LC.

NOXUBEE NATL. WILDLIFE REFUGE, Jan. 1: Dr. Lois Almon, Anna Brown. and, p.m., Carol Webb.

Strong River District, Bienville National Forest, RALEIGH, Dec. 25: Nelson W. Taylor.

COUNT COMMENT - ARKANSAS

	Species	Indiv's	Obsvrs	Parties	Party Hours
Jasper, Dec. 28	41	426	2	1	8
Fort Smith, Dec. 28	68	84,407	20	3	29
Lonoke, Dec. 24	88	19,639	11	3	38
Little Rock, Dec. 31	55	2,704	18	5	--
St. Charles, Dec. 28	61	883,769	3	2	18
Texarkana, Dec. 26	56	1,770	5	1	9
El Dorado, Dec. 31	69	1,861	8	2	22

A record number of seven Christmas Bird Counts were completed in Arkansas in 1955. All the areas sampled in 1954 were revisited. In addition the St. Charles count returned after a two-year absence, and a new area was established at Jasper.

After being inhibited by inclement weather in 1954, the Fort Smith group fielded three parties in 1955 and added 22 to the species total. In spite of this there were one-fifth the number of Horned Larks (81) this season although two were the Northern Horned Lark subspecies. Also, no Cedar Waxwings or Golden-crowned Kinglets were found. The list included Black Vulture 1, Western Meadowlark 1 (Bill Beall), Vesper Sparrow 1 (BB) Leconte Sparrow 4, and Smith Longspur 57. The individual total was augmented by an Oklahoma mixed-species "blackbird" roost of 75,500 birds, mostly Starlings.

Ben Coffey reports that the Tree Sparrow (1, BC) was the only new Lonoke count species, and that it was disappointing not to find any Short-billed Marsh Wrens. Notwithstanding a record number of three parties, several species were decidedly lower than last season's totals: Wilson Snipe 90, Water Pipit 97, Leconte Sparrow 26, Field Sparrow 26, Harris' Sparrow 1, White-crowned Sparrow 94, White-throated Sparrow 241, Swamp Sparrow 75, and Song Sparrow 330. Yet record highs were established for the Goldfinch (820) and Lapland Longspur (6190), and the Pintail (1225) was much more numerous than in 1954. The Lesser Yellow-legs (2, George Peyton) and Dowitcher (2, R. Demett Smith) were recorded for the second straight season, and the Rough-legged Hawk (1, RDS) and Vesper Sparrow (2, BC) returned to the count. Smith Longspurs (5, BC, William Shepherd) were found for the fourth time in the five counts, which establishes it as a regular winter resident in the Lonoke region.

The inclusion of the Leconte Sparrow (12, James R. Johnson) on the Little Rock list designates another wintering location for this species. Also at Little Rock: Red-breasted Nuthatch (Herbert Daniel) and Brown-headed Nuthatch 6 (HD).

Peter Van Huizen writes that a December Mallard influx produced the greatest wintering population in eight years at the White River Refuge. At St. Charles 879,000 were counted. The Ring-necked Duck (2220) was also unusually numerous. However, the Canada Goose (1857, including one Hutchin's Goose subspecies) was one-third below normal. The first Canvasback in at least eight years, a rare species on the Refuge, and nine Bald Eagles were recorded. Perhaps the biggest find of the whole count-season was an immature White-fronted Goose (PVH), the first since Audubon's early work in Arkansas. It was still at the Refuge on January 10.

Because precipitation this winter has not been sufficient to maintain the proper habitat no shore-birds were recorded at Texarkana. Also, Cowbirds (2) and Juncos (5) were less abundant than normal. Four Harris Sparrows were listed.

Lowering of the level of Lake Calion near El Dorado produced habitat for the Wilson Snipe (8), Least Sandpiper (22) and Water Pipit (9) which were not present last season. In addition the Red-headed Woodpecker (24), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (58), Myrtle Warbler (53) and Pine Warbler (32) were more numerous, but no ducks or Cowbirds. A Solitary Vireo (collected, Arnold Hoiberg) and an Orange-crowned Warbler (Douglas James) are the first Arkansas winter records of these species. Other new count species were a Vermilion Flycatcher (G. Goodwin, A. Harman, W. L. Goodwin, DJ) and a Pigeon Hawk (AH, John Hoiberg). This is the third winter in recent years

that a Vermilion Flycatcher has wintered at Lake Calion. On returning to the lake January 1 two Vermilion Flycatchers were discovered.
- Douglas James, Box 3566, Arsenal, Arkansas.

COUNT COMMENT - MEMPHIS AND MISSISSIPPI

	<u>Species</u>	<u>Indiv's</u>	<u>Obsvrs</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Dec. 25, 1955, Hickory Flat	51	1783	3	11
Dec. 25, 1955, near Raleigh	39	879	1	11
Dec. 26, 1955, Memphis	81	1,210,459	30	107
Jan. 1, 1956, Natchez	62	4513	2	13
Jan. 1, 1956, Noxubee N.W.R.	64	1823	3	10
Jan. 2, 1956, Moon Lake	69	18,324	5	13

The Memphis total of 81 species was our second highest (82 in 1951), and a good inland list, considering that we have no dependable waterfowl areas in our prescribed area. Canada Geese (Kent) and 5 species of ducks helped that much, 7 hawks (including a Sharp-shinned (EP) and two Rough-leggeds (HHW; HHW, RDS, RG)), and 3 owls. The Black Vulture and Herring Gull were seen, but the Fish Crow was missing (one, Dec. 18, N. Bellevue dump, BC). Most parties got more Bob-white than usual, for a total of 154! and a flock of 160 M. Doves at the Penal Farm pushed our total to 266. One Kingfisher often saves the day; this year 7 parties each listed the species, totaling 12 birds. Other highs (or highest) were Red-headed Woodpecker 88, more than the common Red-bellied Woodpecker (72), 392 Horned Larks (360 at the Farm), White-crowned Sparrow still increasing (142), and White-throated Sparrow at the highest, 1943, against 1737 last year, and 1085 in 1953 (about 1400 considered average). Golden-crowned Kinglet and Myrtle Warbler back up to moderate; Brown Thrasher, 42, above '51 high, - half recorded NE, none SE. These figures were surprising, considering inroads of bulldozer and axe, an overcast day with the usually good first hour, disappointing to most parties.

Rarities included a Blue-headed Vireo heard singing (HL, LC) and a Catbird seen at 15' (SJR). This was the first Catbird on a Memphis Count, although recorded previously at Tupelo, Moon Lake, and Huntersville, Tenn. Three Western Meadowlarks were heard at the Penal Farm but the Sprague's Pipit and Smith's Longspurs had left their usual haunts there (Count and Dec. 17 & 18). I lucked on a single Smith's at Field 21 (flock gone from there also) and got 4 Leconte's Sparrows there. Harris's Sparrows, returning to only one old area, apparently, were missed there on the Count but SE again found a new spot, with 4, and N found the species for the first time, 2 at a "White-crowned" yard in Woodstock. No Wilson's Snipe were found (4 back at the Farm, Jan. 15), nor Brewer's Blackbirds or rare sparrows. The blackbird roost was back at President's Island and at a maximum for the Count, after some ups and downs. Rough estimates were: Starling 200,000; Red-wing 100,000; Grackle 800,000; Cowbird 100,000.

The Moon Lake count (one car) listed 8 ducks with 5,000 Ruddies (about normal) and 450 Canvasbacks; the high Mallard count of 10,247 was because of an estimate of 10,000 in the Beaverdam area some distance north of Moon Lake itself. There were 14 Horned Grebes but only one Pied-billed and 3 Double-crested Cormorants. No owls and only 4 hawks but a Rough-legged Hawk by Harry Wilcox was a first for a Moon Lake count. The Belted Kingfisher was unexplicably absent for the 2d straight year (of Memphis), though a special search was made;

also missing were Tufted Titmouse, nuthatches, Bewick's Wren, and the two pipits. One each (RDS) of Western Meadowlark and Leconte's Sparrow while 44 White-crowned Sparrows was a high for Moon Lake. On Dec. 31 (BC, LC) 7 miles south of the area, at Fletcher Field, we found 3 Sprague's Pipits, 21 Horned Larks, and a flock of about 6,000 Lapland Longspurs, the largest I have seen. The flock dropped into old fields adjacent and swirled in passes over the air field. I could approach those on the ground very close. Possibly 400 to 500 was my largest previous single flock except on the prairie at Lonoke, Dec. 24, when our party logged flocks as follows: 15, 10, 50, 60, 60, 40, 40, 5, 2500, 8, 20, 1200, 1000, 35, 100, 120, 50, 10, 220, 6, 15, 30, 35, 500, 12, 10, and 2, or all of the record 6190 total but the 44 seen by the other two parties in less favorable areas. Within sight of Fletcher field and a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east was a blackbird roost, of about 1,000,000 birds. Over Fletcher the flocks were mostly Red-wings but as we drove south later we also saw Grackles and Starlings in the area.

At Hickory Flat a Western Meadowlark was a first at any time for the area; of interest also were the 7 Pileated Woodpeckers (well distributed) and a White-crowned Sparrow. The 9 Pine Warblers were singing, in contrast with the 4 we saw later at Natchez. No waterfowl areas were indicated on maps for Natchez, but one chief reason for the Natchez visit was to check the relative abundance of more southern wintering, land species rather than a high count. However, results on this point were poor, - one Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Duncan Park, two scattered House Wrens, and two Chipping Sparrows. Blue-headed Vireo: none, but El Dorado and Memphis (300 miles N) each found one. Orange-crowned Warbler: none, but El Dorado listed one and we have a Dec. 28, 1941, record for Moon Lake. No Yellow-throats there or the next day on a special search from the Louisiana line to Magnolia and Percy Quinn S. P. Of "westerners" I found 2 Sprague's Pipits (apparently the only ones of the 13 counts listed) on the Adams County Airport where we had 9 on Nov. 11. The one Leconte's (BC) was here and 60 Savannahs, the only ones besides 8 on a small pasture. Singles included Mourning Dove, Carolina Chickadee, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Winter Wren, and Golden-crowned Kinglet! My first hour was along St. Catherine's Creek (E from US 61, S) and if I could have continued there, I believe we would have had a White-throated Sparrow record; the day's count was 1451. Relatively common were Red-headed Woodpecker 106, Brown Thrasher 44, Myrtle Warbler 160, and Towhee 82; we had a flock of Am. Pipits, 130, and several of Cedar Waxwings, 446. Not listed but found the next day W of Percy Quinn SP were Cowbird, 50, and Vesper Sparrow, 7.

Canada Geese and 9 ducks were seen in the Noxubee Refuge, the only large number being 765 Mallards; 7 Buffle-head were included. Five each of Great Blue Heron, Am. Egret, and Ring-billed Gull were listed, and Myrtle Warbler 22, Pine Warbler 1, and Towhee 45. Only hawks and owls: singles of Red-shouldered, Sparrow, and the Barred. Among the missing: Golden-crowned Kinglet, Grackle, Cowbird, and White-crowned Sparrow. Dr. Almon writes that on a return visit, Jan. 14, she saw a group of 5 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers there. Nelson W. Taylor of Raleigh, Miss. writes that his count was limited, inasmuch as he was chiefly in the woods all day, having to keep in touch with fire towers by portable radio.

- Ben B. Coffey, Jr.

FROM NOVEMBER'S FIELDS AND HIGHWAYS

Two left-over vacation days permitted a 3-day trip to Baton Rouge and Pascagoula, Nov. 11-13, and a 4-day trip to Ft. Smith, Thanksgiving. At L.S.U.'s Museum of Zoology Mrs. Coffey, Alice Smith, and I had a reunion with Bob and Marcy Newman, Dr. Lowery, and Ambrose Daigre, met a fellow T.O.S. member, Steve Russell, from Abingdon, Va., and attended a joint meeting of the Miss. Orni. Soc. with the Baton Rouge Group of the L.O.S. We really enjoyed the gathering and seeing the fine progress made on the exhibit hall. The next day and a half we drove along the coast, with average birding results. At the Gulfport Yacht Club, Nov. 12, 1300 Black Skimmers were a thrill. The next morning, in the Pascagoula River marshes, we saw 3 imm. Blue Geese, 28 Fish Crows (3 groups), and 17 Boat-tailed Grackles (3 groups). Off Pascagoula's beach we saw 5 White Pelicans as well as the usual Brown Pelicans. Driving down US 61, Nov. 11, we listed Sprague's Pipits at Fletcher Field, Clarksdale - 3 (3d yr.), SW end Yazoo R. bridge - 1, Vicksburg airport - 4, and Natchez airport - 9. Some Aristida on the fields but no Smith's Longspurs flushed. Just N. of the La. line a good habitat yielded only 2 Leconte's Sparrows.

Thanksgiving, at Lonoke, we enjoyed being out with Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Daniel, Mr. and Mrs. Ross L. Jamison, and Mrs. W. P. Scarlett, all of Little Rock, and Doug and Fran James, of Arsenal. The Ft. Smith coverage, scheduled for the return visit of Eugene Wilhelm of St. Louis to his birding haunts at Camp Chaffee, was with Miss Ruth Armstrong, Miss Kathryn Buchanan, Bill Beall, Tommy Miller and Lyndal York, all of Ft. Smith, and Vaud Travis of Muskogee, Okla. A visit, the evening before, with Miss Armstrong and her two out-of-town guests, was also enjoyable.

Nov. 24: an early hour, brief coverage of the Stuttgart (old A.A.B.) field - Horned Lark 16, Short-billed Marsh Wren 1, Leconte's Sparrow 3, Am. Pipit 1, Lapland Longspur 200 (7 groups), Smith's Longspur 3, 1, 1, & 4; no Sprague's Pipits on a rapid pass through last year's site. On US 70, east edge of Carlisle, Brewer's Blackbird, 35. After meeting the group at Lonoke, Herb Daniel pointed out an Am. Bittern in a highway ditch. The usual a.m. NE circuit was made. The grass-weeds site of last winter's flock of Leconte's Sparrows was burnt off, - I found one in grass and rice stubble nearby. Two miles E, the site of a smaller group was also burnt off; one more Leconte's found at a rice corner. The Sprague's Pipit field (largest Mid-South group, 8, last year) had coarse grass and too high; one was heard overhead at the road (LC). The Smith's Longspurs were also missing there but, earlier, at the other site, we flushed 11. With a stiff breeze, listening for Western Meadowlarks was not productive, but at one spot, at least 4 singers were heard. Am. Pipits and Lapland Longspurs in small flocks; 6 small groups of Brewer's plus one flock of over 800. At the hatchery only a crippled Rusty Blackbird, Long-billed Marsh Wren 1 (BC, DJ), Lsr. Yellowlegs 2 (DJ et al), Least Sandpiper 55, and 10 species of ducks; the latter, Killdeer, and W. Snipe not yet in numbers.

On Nov. 25, from N. Little Rock to Ft. Smith we especially tried for field species, listening for Western Meadowlarks and walking many fields for "lapits", with poor results. No Smith's Longspurs in fields with Aristida or Sprague's Pipits there or in

likely brown or green pastures. A Hendrix College pasture, Conway, was an exception, - two Sprague's plus 6 Horned Larks. In Faulkner County, 3 mi. S of Mayflower we had two W'n Meadowlarks and 11 Brewer's. Morrilton fields were almost bare; on the air strip I found 2 Horned Larks and 2 Brewer's. I spent 40 minutes on good pastures E of Russellville, - 6 Horned Larks. Crossing over to south of the Arkansas River we tried Hwy 22 fields, then Hwy 23 fields N. Just S of Ozark we heard one W'n Meadowlark. Other fields on US 64 toward Van Buren yielded 9 Horned Larks on one pasture only.

On the Ft. Smith field trip, Nov. 26, Gene led us to the Leconte's Sparrow haunts in old, weed-grown areas of Camp Chaffee where we listed 8, 3, and 55, plus a Tree Sparrow (BC, VT) while 6 Pine Siskins (EW, BC) flew over. At a pond Gene saw a Lincoln's Sparrow. The Ft. Smith airport had small flocks of Horned Larks, and a W'n Meadowlark (BC), and a Leconte's. Continuing on pastures beyond, a mile, I found myself in a thicket and surrounded by singing and calling Harris's Sparrows (never heard at Memphis to date). About 30 here, 25 in woods previously (LY), and 9 near the airfield; later 15 in a town woods at KFBR and at dusk, 8, Jct. US 71 & 22T. This was real birding pleasure to me, and a reminder of Ft. Sill's Cache Creek. Lula and Gene had found the Smith's Longspurs on the airfield and we returned to watch them over and over. My counts: Smith's 155, Lapland Longspur 30, Am. Pipit 2, Horned Larks 48. We then had lunch on the Arkansas River bank at Moffett, Okla., across from Ft. Smith, where Gene found a Lesser Yellowlegs and 2 Least Sandpipers. A Golden Plover flew over from the Arkansas side, landing near our party. Am. Pipits and Laplands were on the fields and we walked two fields for Sprague's without success. -- After we left our hosts, we lost much of the afternoon in a waiting room of a veterinarian. He found a long needle-like Aristida seed way down in the ear of Bueno, our cocker who assists in flushing Smith's. I still can't understand how these Longspurs are able to eat or get sustenance from such seeds! -- The list for one more field included 20 Brewer's Blackbirds.

After a night at Waldron, I birded early N of town for a fairly good woods list, including 32 Myrtle and 8 Pine Warblers. Driving back, at one of 3 stops I heard 6 W'n Meadowlarks; west of town we heard 5 more at one of 3 stops and found 6 Harris's. En-route to Mena and cutting back to Hot Springs we found few suitable fields; on the side road to Blakely Mtn. dam, I found 2 Horned Larks on a quartz-strewn pasture. At Denby Creek landing, Lake Ouachita, we saw 2 male Am. Golden-eyes. The last stop of the trip was the Hot Springs airport. A sales talk and phone call to the absent manager, stressing that I had driven that far from Memphis, finally secured me permission to walk the field, although I had to get off, half way through, and wait out the landing and take-off of an airliner. The wind shifted to NW, at 15-20 mph. Just as I was giving up, a lone Sprague's Pipit rose without a sound, so I had to run it up twice again, then found 4 others (which called) as I came off the field. Others seen in the hour's coverage, included: Smith's Longspur 110, Lapland Longspur 3, W'n Meadowlark 6, Canada Geese (over) 85, Killdeer 90, Crow 200, and Savannah Sparrow 36 (all singles). Except at Lonoke, the latter species had been relatively uncommon on our trip. -- BBC

THE SEASON IN ARKANSAS: The Arkansas Periodic Waterfowl Inventory (Carl Hunter, David M. Donaldson) revealed a sample population of 480,000 ducks during the first important influx in early November. A second influx in late November raised the total to 834,000, and another increase in mid-December to 1,443,000. Increases were noticed on December 10, 14, 22, and 28 at the White River Refuge (PVH), and the population at the end of December in 1955 was 300% greater than in 1954 (mostly Mallards). Evidently unseasonably cold weather this autumn and early winter has produced a pronounced southward movement. The Mallard and Pintail were the most abundant and increased on the dates given above. At mid-December the population sample yielded 1,360,000 Mallards and 60,000 Pintails. The Blue-winged Teal passed through in greatest numbers (12,000) in mid-September, the Green-winged Teal in early November (12,000). The American Widgeon was present in maximum numbers in early November (8,000) and early January (9,000); Gadwall in early November (6,000) and mid-December (5,000); Lesser Scaup in early November (5,000); Ring-necked Duck early (6,000) and late (5,000) November. An unusually large flock of 56 Hooded Mergansers (PVH) were at the White River Refuge on December 12.

Blue Geese (1,700) and Snow Geese (500) moved through mostly in early November (Waterfowl Inventory). Canada Geese also invaded then (2,100), but increased again in mid-December (3,700) and early January (4,900). Coots were at a maximum in early November (22,000).

At Lonoke, November 24, the Daniels, Jamisons, Coffeys, Jameses and Mrs. Scarlett found: American Bittern 1, Lesser Yellow-legs 2, Western Meadowlark 4, Lapland Longspur 403 (est.), Smith Longspur 11, and an astonishing number of Brewer Blackbirds (est. 1050). Smith Longspurs occurred elsewhere: 155 at Fort Smith, November 26 (LC, Eugene Wilhelm, BB, et al), 110 at Hot Springs November 27 (BC), and repeatedly during December at Conway (WS). William Shepherd also writes of a Western Meadowlark on November 5 and 6 at Conway, and a Lincoln Sparrow November 25 at Mabelvale.

Golden Eagle 2 and Wild Turkey 27 were found on December 23 at the White River Refuge (PVH). It has been noted at El Dorado (AH) and Pine Bluff (DJ) that the usual large flocks of Pine Warblers are absent this winter, although the solitary individuals seem as numerous as ever. -- Douglas James, January 16, 1956.

REELFOOT LAKE observations, Sept. 3 through 6, 1955, by Jerry and Mrs. Noreen Smith, included those of the Double-crested Cormorant fairly common, Gt. Blue Heron and Am. Egret common, Least Bittern 1, Wood Ibis 27 on the 4th, Virginia Rail 1 on the 6th, Sora 7, Florida Gallinule 3, Barred Owl 2, Tree Swallow abundant, and Rough-winged Swallow common.

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, issue of Jan. 16, 1956, has an article on the recently completed Christmas Count, describing one made at Cocoa, Fla. (184 species), another at Cape May, N.J., and notes on 4 more counts. Four pages of colored reproductions of ten species, painted by Peterson for this article, add greatly to it. One species shown is the Smith's Longspur, a latecomer to the Mid-South. Yet the only ones recorded anywhere on the 1951 Count were at Lonoke and the only ones on the 1953 Count were two small flocks near Memphis.

The Relative Abundance of White-throated Sparrows and
Slate-colored Juncos at Jasper, Arkansas.

Determining transient and winter resident populations are often matters of conjecture and wild estimating. However, the number trapped at banding stations furnishes an index of relative abundance.

My most productive winter trap is the all-purpose trap described in *Bird-Banding* (vol. 6, no. 1) which is within six feet of my living room window near a series of feeding stations. The trap, its location, bait, neighboring terrain and element of human interference have remained unchanged over a three-year period. The following trapping record of two common transient and winter resident species might be indicative of year to year change in abundance.

Number banded in November of	1953	1954	1955
Slate-colored Junco	6	13	37
White-throated Sparrow	10	35	34

This is definitely a big junco year.

Of course the data covering the whole migration and period of winter residence are preferred because the effects of day-to-day weather fluctuations are minimized. On warm sunny days practically all the birds trapped were already banded. The "strangers" arrived on the eve of or during stormy days, suggesting that inclement weather causes southward movement.

Many have asked about the efficiency of the all-purpose trap. The following data combining all the species trapped are my results for November, 1955:

Number of unbanded birds trapped	108
Number of banded birds trapped (repeats)	<u>184</u>
Total of unbanded birds plus all repeats trapped	292

The above does not include those individual chickadees, titmice, cardinals and others which were able to escape by finding their way out through the trap entrance. - Ralph L. Dunckel, Jasper, Ark.

The SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS, organized in May, 1953, reports in their news-sheet SWANEWS, that the first issue of their printed journal, THE SOUTHWESTERN NATURALIST, will probably be in the mails this March. "The object... shall be to promote the field study of plants and animals ... in the Southwestern United States and Mexico..." Since the majority of members are from Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, we see that "Southwestern" includes part of the "Mid-South" and close neighbors to the remainder. The third annual meeting will be Mar. 30 through Apr. 1 at the Univ. of Texas, Austin. If you are interested in receiving the journal, the cost per year is \$4.00 and the sec.-treas. is H.G. Dowling, Zoology, Univ. of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

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Dues for the T.O.S., 1956, should be sent in now, to lighten the task of our treasurers, - Ed King for the Memphis Chapter, and Rev. Wm. Hearn, 2752 Barron Ave., Memphis 14, state treasurer. For active members \$2, for corresponding (out-of-state) members still only \$1. Frankly, at these rates and the cost of printing, we need all the members possible. The MEMPHIS SEASON was carried over.

Ben B. Coffey, Jr., 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis 7, Tenn.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRDS IN THE MID-SOUTH

Apparently the first record of the Brewer's Blackbird in Tennessee was one seen Apr. 20, 1935, near Johnson City, at the edge of a "rainy weather" lake, by Bruce P. Tyler, observing at ten feet (The Migrant 1935:73-74). With Robt. B. Lyle, he observed a second, there, on Feb. 1, 1936 (Ibid 1936:26). On March 8, 1936, at Lakeview (Walls), Miss., I saw 3 males and a female at the grassy edge of a small pool, and studied them through 8x glasses for several minutes. The next night in a nearby roost I recorded a female, at 5 feet in a spotlight beam. (Ibid 1936:38). Subsequently, after handling and banding (especially in 1937) many female grackles, of all sizes and shades, - a number with dark eyes, I am now inclined to consider my roost record as doubtful. Brooke Meanley who worked extensively with the roosts of the Stuttgart, Arkansas area advises me that in his experience the Brewer's roosts as a lone species, and was not found in the roosts shared by the other four blackbirds and the Starling.

Austin W. Burdick, Jr. (Ibid 1944:67-68) gives some good pointers on field identification, noting that the Rusty Blackbird likes the water's edge, in some swampy thicket or wet woods, while the Brewer's, when in our area, prefer pastures, open fields, and barn lots. This has been our experience, with few exceptions. The details given for the first records by Tyler and by this writer, indicate a "Rusty" habitat, but I feel certain that both records are authentic. In our case the birds were on the move, in the evening, and it would be an unusual species of blackbird that didn't go to water to drink and bathe. Burdick mentions that Thomas D. Burleigh (Wilson Bulletin 1933:111) had found the Brewer's frequently near Asheville, N.C. Earlier, Austin had published (The Migrant 1943:77) his record of several seen Dec. 11, 1943, evidently near Germantown (a few miles south of the Penal Farm); he tried, without success, to collect one. Our second Shelby County record was of 25 on the Christmas Count, Dec. 30, 1945, by Robert Tucker, evidently south of the city.

The gap in or lack of records might be partially explained by the nature of the predominant field work. The Lakeview levee and bar-pits were always attractive in the late winter and spring and the species favoring them were of special interest. (Last winter much of this habitat was eliminated and pastures established; thus, unfortunately, we may now get Brewer's where we, at least, hoped for an occasional Sora or Pied-billed Grebe, in the past.) Winter trips were occasional; we did check an airfield or pasture for Am. Pipits and, later, Upland Plover. Trips to the Penal Farm were chiefly in summer, for Barn Swallows, Horned Larks, Grasshopper Sparrows, etc. This farm grew to 5047 acres and in the last decade we have covered it more than any other single area (except Overton Park in spring) and at all seasons. Most of our Brewer's records have been there.

Penal Farm records are: Nov. 5, 1950, 8 -BCs); Dec. 3, -3 (R. Demett Smith, Jr. and Floy Barefield); Mar. 31, 1951, -3 (Chas. Marcus, et al). The next season was apparently the best. None Nov. 4, 1951,

a female Nov. 10 (Luther Keeton and Lawrence Kent), 26 on Dec. 1 (BCs), 105 on Dec. 9 and 40 on Dec. 15 (RDS). Charles McPherson, Jr. and/or BC found about 130 on Dec. 16, 23, & 30 and 40 to 80 on Jan. 6, 12, 20, and Feb. 3, ending with 8 (McP) on Mar. 22, 1952. Subsequently (BC): Dec. 21, 1952, 4; Mar. 28, 1953, 5; Nov. 1, 1953, 10; Nov. 22, 2; Dec. 5, 11; Nov. 6, 1954, 59; Nov. 20 (BC & George Peyton, Jr.), 35. Currently: Nov. 5, 1955, 45 (BC); Nov. 20, 16 (TOS); Dec. 17, 6 (BC, GP, DB). It will be noted that the species is more frequently seen in November and December although our coverage continues without let-up.

Away from the Farm I had 4 on O.K. Robertson Rd., near US 51, to add to 130 at the Farm for the Xmas Count, Dec. 23, 1951. Outside Shelby County, we (BC, LC, Alice Smith) found 70, Mar. 18, 1956, on the Ft. Pillow road, just W. of Cherry, Tenn. Kilian Roever found a large flock at Huntersville, Dec. 29, 1952, collecting 3 males (The Migrant 1952:70 & 72).

The only published East Tennessee records besides the first two, already noted, are for singles in March, 1944 and March, 1951 (Ibid 1950:66-67 & 1951:18) at Elizabethton. The Lee R. Herndons had one in their back yard Mar. 21, 22 and 23, 1944, and Fred Behrend reported one 3 blocks distant, one of the same evenings. Mrs. Herndon recorded another there on March 13 and 14, 1951. Mr. Harry C. Monk of Nashville kindly advises me that he knows of no Middle Tennessee record nor of any unpublished Tennessee record.

Thomas D. Burleigh in his "The Bird Life of the Gulf Coast Region of Mississippi" (1944) found it a "fairly common winter resident" during his stay on the Mississippi coast (Sept., 1935 to Sept., 1943). His extreme dates were Nov. 9 (1939) to Apr. 5 (1938) and flocks ranged from 20 to 100 or more. Merritt G. Vaiden (The Migrant 1952:4) mentions "three sight records for Bolivar County" and the collection of a female, Nov. 18, 1951, at Grace, Miss., by Albert F. Ganier. Henry M. Stevenson (Ibid 1943:80; 1944:16) recorded at Oxford, 5 (at 10 yards) on Dec. 11, 1943, and 12 on Mar. 10, 1944. Besides my Mar. 8, 1936, record at Lakeview (Walls) others there were: 16 on Mar. 19 and 17 on Mar. 25, 1950 (RDS); 6 on Apr. 5, 1953 (BCs, RDS). On Dec. 31, 1955, Mrs. Coffey and I saw 18 at Glen Allan and on Jan. 2, 1956, another 18 at Bruce Campbell Field, Madison. The Moon Lake (Lula) Count, Dec. 30, 1950, lists 5 (RDS) and the Starkville Count, Jan. 1, 1954, lists 42 (Dr. Lois Almon).

Dr. Wm. H. Deaderick (1941) credits Hollister (1902) with adding the Brewer's Blackbird to the Arkansas list. According to Arthur H. Howell (1911) this was: "a few seen in winter on the prairie at Stuttgart." Baerg (1951) merely states, "Since this species and the Rusty Blackbird resemble each other very closely and the two are very commonly mixed in flocks, the relative numbers of Brewer's and dates of winter residence are not available." The species would be expected to be more common and regular in Arkansas than east of the Mississippi, and it is, on the Stuttgart-Lonoke prairie. Records elsewhere are few. My only record elsewhere for East Arkansas, is of 30, Jan. 1, 1952, at Ebony (W. of Marion) but I feel that more field work, especially in November, might produce others. The mountainous areas would be

poor, percentage-wise, but some valleys of western Arkansas should have the species in winter or in migration. George Reed (former T. O. S. member and Troop One Scout) and Sam Scott reported 3 on Dec. 23, 1935, at Ft. Smith ("Massard Prairie and Wildcat Mtn"). Singles were reported on 1953 Christmas Counts at Ft. Smith and nearby Camp Chaffee. Except at Lonoke, it is missing from other Counts. Last fall, Mrs. Coffey and I, on a special watch, saw only: Nov. 25, 11 on a pasture near Mayflower and 2 at the Morrilton airstrip, and on Nov. 26, south of the Ft. Smith airport, 20. The few local lists omit the species, including Dr. Deaderick's very competent Hot Springs list (1938).

Brooke Meanley who did considerable field work in the Stuttgart area, found the species fairly common. As late as Apr. 21 (1952) he noted 10 and on Mar. 22, 1955, wrote that many were still present; a flock of 300 had been seen Jan. 14, 1955. Our Lonoke Christmas Counts show: Dec. 24, 1951: 10; Dec. 20, 1952: 176; Dec. 26, 1953: none; Jan. 1, 1955: 76; Dec. 24, 1955: 92. Following October trips (too early and chiefly to the hatchery and private ponds) we returned usually at Thanksgiving and Christmas each year and about Feb. 1, and found the species regularly on the rice prairie about 5 miles NE of town, and on occasion along US 70 E of Carlisle, and on Ark. 11, S towards Stuttgart. At Lonoke, Nov. 24, 1955, a flock of over 800 pushed our day's total to about 1050 (Ark. Aud. Soc., - Douglas James, BC, et al.). In this same area, - NE of Lonoke, we had about 300, Nov. 16, 1952. Apparently the poorest season: Nov. 26, 1953: a few, Hazen to Lonoke, and 32 (3 flocks) NE; Dec. 26: none on Lonoke Count; Jan. 31, 1954: 4 E. of Lonoke and 10 NE.

Generally the Brewer's Blackbirds move alone; a few times at the Penal Farm I have found them at the edge or corner of a larger flock of Grackles or Cowbirds. In feeding near cattle they may often be with the latter. The harsh, abrupt "check", like striking two rocks together is all I have heard, and it is distinctive. Here their reaction to man is like the other blackbirds, but on the ocean front, San Francisco, I found them in the streets, almost as tame as park pigeons. -- Ben B. Coffey, Jr.

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ARKANSAS BIRD NOTES

This constitutes the final report of Arkansas birds in Mid-South Bird Notes. In the future the Arkansas Audubon Society expects to produce its own newsletter. Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coffey are deserving recipients of the deep-felt appreciation awarded them by the Arkansas Audubon Society for making Mid-South Bird Notes available to Arkansas bird records, and for the time and services rendered therewith.

This report covers the late winter and beginning of migration, January, February and March. Two events occurred during this period which received widespread notice: an unusual abundance of Purple Finches and on Mar. 18 a big migration of Snow and Blue geese. At Morrilton (Ruth Thomas) and Fort Smith (Johnny Price) Purple Finches were unusually numerous throughout the winter, but at other locations, St. Charles (Peter J. Van Huizen), North Little Rock (A.M. Davison), Clarksville (Janette Wilson) and Pine Bluff (Doug-

las James), the extraordinary abundance occurred in February. Only at Jasper (Ralph L. Dunckel) were the numbers average. It will be interesting to learn about Purple Finch abundance in the Gulf states this winter for it is plausible that the Arkansas invasion in February was a population of transients from the south. Last autumn was unseasonably mild until it became cold suddenly in mid-October and temperatures remained below normal until mid-December. Under these circumstances the Purple Finch could not have become gradually accustomed to the cold season and might have been induced to migrate to the Gulf coast in greater than usual numbers.

Snow and Blue Geese were heard throughout the night of Mar. 17-18 at several locations in the lower Arkansas River valley: Pine Bluff area, North Little Rock (AMD) and Conway (William Shepherd). On the 18th est. 350 Snow and est. 350 Blue Geese (DJ) were on the Arkansas River near Pine Bluff, 7 Snow and 80 Blue (PJV) went over the St. Charles, and est. 300 Snow and Blue (Bill Beall) were in flight at Fayetteville. Other flights occurred in March and late February but none as large as on Mar. 18. Six Snow and 15 Blue (Frances James, DJ) south of Gould Feb. 22 constituted the first record.

Arnold Hoiberg found marked population increases compared to last year in his winter bird census areas: 168 birds per 100 acres (a 130% increase) in upland pine and pine-oak woodland, and 546 birds per 100 acres (65% increase) in oak-pine bottomland. At Pine Bluff there were 74 per 100 acres in immature oak-pine forest and 450 per 100 acres in mixed flood plain forest (DJ). Both the population estimates above 400 are very high by national standards. Perhaps central and southern Arkansas had a higher than normal wintering bird population due to the autumn climatic conditions mentioned previously.

Double-crested Cormorants, 100 Jan. 10 and 65 the 20th (PJV), were seen at the White River Refuge. At the same place the first American Egret (2, PJV) was recorded Mar. 27, and first Little Blue Heron (1, PJV) Mar. 29. The Ben Coffeys report that high water forced blackbirds from the Memphis (Pres. Id.) roost, chiefly to the Marion heronry woods. On Mar. 27 an estimated 600,000 blackbirds were there and at least 30, apparently perturbed, Little Blue Herons. On the next visit, only about 100,000 blackbirds remained and about 1600 Little Blue Herons and at least ten Snowy Egrets were on hand (April 4).

The Canada Goose population at the White River Refuge (PJV) varied from 1200 to 2087 individuals through January and the first half of February, being lowest in mid-January, and twice as large the first half of February than during the same period last year. In Mid-February the numbers decreased to 500 and diminished gradually through the end of March. The immature White-fronted Goose (PJV) reported previously at the White River Refuge was observed again on Jan. 13 and 27. The unprecedented high December waterfowl population at the White River Refuge ... about 900,000 ducks ... declined sharply to one-third that number in early January (PJV). A count Jan. 11 yielded: Mallard, 273,765; Black Duck, 62; Gadwall, 6; Pintail, 2098; Green-winged Teal, 154; Shoveller, 2; Wood Duck, 15; Ring-necked Duck, 477; Buffle-head, 1;

Ruddy Duck, 13; Hooded Merganser, 21. However, the decrease was reflected by only two species, Mallard and Hooded Merganser. All the others had increased in January compared to the count of Dec. 28. The population continued in an overall decrease to about 100 ducks at the end of February, and was 88% below 1955 in the last half of the month, suggesting to Van Huizen a two weeks earlier migration this year. Single American Golden-eyes were observed Mar. 20 and 28 at the refuge (PJV). The first Blue-winged Teal was Mar. 19 (7, PJV). At Fayetteville est. 300 American Widgeon, 30 Shoveller and 24 Blue-winged Teal (BB) on Mar. 24 were first records for that area this spring.

Bald Eagles occurred at the White River Refuge throughout the period. The highest count was 21 (PJV) Jan. 16, 10 at one lake alone. Two Golden Eagles were seen on the same date (PJV). Jan. 21 two Bald Eagles were near the Arkansas River near Pine Bluff (DJ). Feb. 14 a Duck Hawk flew northward along the river at the same place.

On the first check of the Golden Plovers, Mar. 11, the Coffeys and Alice Smith found over 600 just south of Crawfordsville, a favored spot of past seasons, 16 west of Marion, and 5 between; none seen enroute to Jonesboro or the Lake City - Lepanto return route. On Mar. 31, small flocks were noted north of Crawfordsville and a few west of Marion (BC). Woodcocks occurred at Van (2, PJV) Jan. 19, White River Refuge (1, Darrow Agee) Feb. 21, and near Junet (1 in courtship flight at dusk, Robert G. Leonard) between Feb. 15-20. Seventy-nine Wilson Snipe (WS) at Conway Mar. 22 were an exceptionally large concentration and represented a migratory influx. Pectoral Sandpipers (6, DJ) were first seen east of Wabbaseka on Feb. 20 which is apparently a new "earliest" date for the state by two days. Baerg mentions one Arkansas Dowitcher record. Although still rare it has been seen more frequently in recent years. The most recent records are at Conway, one Mar. 22 and two Mar. 26 (WS).

The first cooing Mourning Dove was heard Jan. 7 (DA) at the White River Refuge, and on the 19th 325 were counted along the road between Dewitt and Stuttgart (PJV). Van Huizen attributed this unusual abundance to the ice and snow which covered the fields driving the doves to the more exposed road-shoulders. A Short-eared Owl at Conway on Feb. 20 and 21 (WS), and one at Pine Bluff Feb. 8 (DJ) are records at the periphery of the Grand Prairie wintering population. A Whip-poor-will was flushed at Pine Bluff Mar. 28 (DJ). The first Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at Little Rock Mar. 31 (Mr. and Mrs. Herman Thompson fide Herbert H. Daniel).

Although the Phoebe is a permanent resident throughout the state it is uncommon in the northern half in winter. The first migratory influx into these areas is noticeable and usually produces the first records of the year. This year they appeared for the "first" time at Savoy on Feb. 24 (BB); Clarksville Feb. 24 (JW); Mt. Petit Jean Feb. 25 (DJ); Jasper Feb. 27 (RLD); North Little Rock Mar. 3 (AMD). Rough-winged Swallows (2 PJV) arrived at the White River Refuge Mar. 14, ten days earlier than the previous earliest record there. They arrived at Pine Bluff Mar. 18 (DJ). C. J. Shaw saw a male Purple Martin on Feb. 12

at North Little Rock, six days earlier than his previous earliest record during the past 17 years. The Red-breasted Nuthatch was still at H. H. Daniel's place in Little Rock Mar. 31. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (2, FJ, DJ) were first observed in the Pine Bluff area Mar. 25, at North Little Rock on the 26th (Mrs. Terrell Marshall fide Mrs. Glen Hoke), at Jasper the 28th (RLD), and at the White River Refuge the 29th (DA). The range of the Sprague Pipit was extended southward in Arkansas by its occurrence at the Pine Bluff airport (3, Feb. 8; 1, Feb. 11, DJ). The Black and White Warbler was first recorded on Mar. 24 at Woodson (Mrs. GH) and Fort Smith (JP), the 25th at Pine Bluff (1, DJ), the 26th at Little Rock (Vivian B. Scarlett), and the 28th at Jasper (RLD), considerably later than the first record on Mar. 13 last year. The Yellow-throated Warbler (Mrs. GH) was first seen Mar. 24 at Woodson and Louisiana Water Thrush (1, DJ) Mar. 25 at Pine Bluff, both about the same time as last year. Wintering Dickcissels on the Grand Prairie seemed more abundant this year, two near Stuttgart and two near St. Charles on Feb. 20 (DJ). Four Pine Siskins (DJ) at North Little Rock Jan. 8 constituted the only record this winter. The Eastern Towhee, which does not occur in northern Arkansas in winter, arrived at Jasper Mar. 7 (RLD). The western forms of this species, known as the Spotted Towhee, returned again this year ... at William E. Jackson's place in Mablevale Jan. 28 (1, WS), and one at Ruth Thomas' in Morrilton Jan. 28 - Feb. 18. The first Vesper Sparrows (6, DJ) occurred at Pine Bluff Mar. 18, and Mar. 24 at Fayetteville (3, BB) and Fort Smith (JP). Tree Sparrows from an unusually large flock (est. 75, BB) which wintered at Fayetteville were recorded throughout January and February (last date Feb. 25). The Chipping Sparrow was first noted at Little Rock Feb. 26 (AMD), which is the earliest 1956 report north of its wintering range in southern Arkansas. The ranges of the Lapland Longspur (est. 200 Feb. 8; 84 Feb. 11, DJ, FJ) and Smith Longspur (12 Feb. 8; 35 Feb. 11, DJ, FJ) were extended southward in Arkansas at the Pine Bluff airport. Lula Coffey and Alice Smith found Smiths (6) at the Jonesboro airport Mar. 11; William Shepherd continued to record them through January and February at Conway (last date: Feb. 20; highest number: 30), and they were discovered at the Little Rock airport on Feb. 26 (4, DJ)

- Douglas James, Arsenal, Arkansas, April 8, 1956.

* * * * *

ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY MEETS APR. 28 & 29, PETIT JEAN S.P.
Hqs - Hardison Hall. Sat.: 9 am - 12, registration and get acquainted; 1:30 - 3 pm, business mtg., speakers - Mr. Harold Alexander of the Game & Fish Commsn and Mr. Douglas James, Curator of A.A.S. Evening session - showing of color photographs of Arkansas birds by Mrs. Thase (John T., Jr.) Daniel of El Dorado, and a demonstration of lunar migration observation by Mrs. John F. Rea of Little Rock, and Mr. James. Sun.: pre-breakfast of coffee and rolls for early trippers; following the official closing after lunch, a conducted tour will be made of Winrock, the fabulous ranch of Mr. Winthrop Rockefeller. Costs are most moderate: reg. fee, \$1.00; dormitory plus 4 meals, only \$6.50. The meals furnished are lunch and dinner on Sat. and breakfast and lunch on Sun. It will be necessary to bring your own pillows, bed linen, blankets, towels and soap. Reservations should be made promptly; if no printed form, please advise H. H. Daniel, president, A.A.S., Rt. 5, Box 329, Little Rock, Ark.

ARRIVALS AT MEMPHIS

- Feb. 16: Purple Martin, 2 pairs at box, James Lancaster. Remained.
 Feb. 17: Purple Martin, 1 at box, Mrs. J. K. Speed
 Mar. 3: Golden Plover 3 & 2, Lsr. Yellowlegs 1, Lakeview,
 Miss., George Peyton, Jr., BC
 Mar. 18: Pectoral Sandpiper 11, Lakeview, Miss., GP, David Brown.
 Mar. 19: Florida Gallinule 1, in city hedge, to Zoo, R.F. Gray.
 Mar. 24: Upland Plover 1, Penal Farm, OI, DB, GP, BC.
 Mar. 25: Chimney Swift 2 & 2, town SE, Oliver Irwin.
 Mar. 26: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1, Chipping Sparrow 1, GP, Overton Pk.
 Black-throated Green Warbler 1, Dr. W.L. Whittemore, home.
 Mar. 27: Parula Warbler 1, GP, Black-throated Green Warbler 5,
 White-eyed Vireo 2, OI, Overton Park
 Mar. 28: Whip-poor-will 3, dusk, Overton Park, LC, BC.
 Mar. 29: Black and White Warbler 1, GP, Overton Park.
 Mar. 30: Sycamore Warbler 1, Lakeview (Tenn.), GP, HL, DB.
 Mar. 31: Sycamore Warbler 1, Overton Park, GP, DB.
 Apr. 1: Yellow-throated Vireo 1, GP, Overton Park.
 Apr. 2: Broad-winged Hawk 1, GP, Overton Park
 Apr. 3: Wood Thrush 1, BC, Coffey Grounds.
 Overton Park: Blackburnian Warbler 1, Cerulean Warbler
 1, Oven-bird 1, C. Yellow-throat 1, GP, Hooded Warbler
 2, DB & GP, also OI, plus Prothonotary 1, Worm-eating
 5, and Kentucky Warbler 5, Chuck-will's-widow, day, OI, GP,
 3 calling, dusk DB.
 Apr. 4: Wood Thrush 1, Nashville Warbler 1, HL, Ruby-throated
 Hummingbird 1, HL, OI (sep.), Overton Park.
 (C. Yellow-throat 1, Ark. end Harahan Viaduct; Snowy
 Egret 10, Gtr. Yellowlegs 1, Marion, Ark. LC, BC)
 Apr. 8: Red-eyed Vireo 1, GP, Overton Park, & 1, TOS, Cottondale.
 Apr. 10: Blue-winged Warbler 1, OI, Overton Park.

Yellow-crowned Night Herons: 1 over, dusk, Mar. 26, Overton
 Park (BC); 1, Mar. 29, Pres. Island (OI); 1, Mar. 30, Lakeview
 (Tenn) (GP); 3, over river, Apr. 1, Shiloh N.M.P. (BC). Three
 Am. Egrets over Overton, Mar. 24 (OI, BC) and on Mar. 18: 4 at
 Lakeview, Miss-Tenn (GP, DB); US 51 (BC, LC, AS), Lauderdale -
 Tipton Co. line, 1, So. Dyer Co., 1, and 4 at Reelfoot L, from
 Markham. On the latter trip, Keller's near Halls - 15 Snow Geese
 and 180 Blue Geese, NE of Dyersburg - 2 Snows and 38 Blues over,
 and at dusk, Ridgely - about 200 over, probably Blues mostly.
 La. Water-thrush: Mar. 18, Lakeview (Tenn) 1 (GP, DB), Mar. 21,
 Overton 1 (DB), Mar. 22, Pickwick, Tenn. 1 (Dr. Whittemore). Tree
 Swallow: Apr. 7, Locke, 40 (Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Tucker), Penal Farm
 9 (BC, GP); Apr. 8, Chickasaw S. P. 4 (Lake Placid, BC, LC, AS,
 Mary Davant). Barn Swallow: Apr. 7, Tuckers 2, Penal Farm 3,
 Shone's Pond (Ashland, Miss.) 4 (RDS); Apr. 8, Lake Placid 12,
 NE of Ashland 2 (RDS). Cliff Swallow, Apr. 8 (DB): Pickwick
 Dam 10, Snake Creek 50, Savannah 40 plus; a Bank Swallow at the
 Dam; Snake Creek & a Miss. site checked Apr. 1 (BC), none.

* * * * *

ANNUAL MEETINGS: Apr. 27-28, MISS. ORNI. SOC., Jackson, Miss.,
 in connection with Miss. Acad. Sci. meeting. Apr. 28-29, ARK. AUD.
 SOC., see previous note. (Okla. Orni. Soc., same dates) Apr.
 29, Memphis Chap. TOS, Field Day, Lakeview, Miss.-Tenn., no details,
 inquire. May 5-6, TENN. ORNI. SOC., Nashville, incl. field trip.

SOME N. MISS. ARRIVALS: Mar. 4, Tupelo Fish Hatchery (BC, LC, AS)- Lsr. Yellow-legs 9, Pectoral Sandpiper 2; Mar. 25, Spring Lake S. P. (TOS)- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 2, Black and White 3, Sycamore 1, La. Water-thrush 2; Sardis Dam, Bonaparte's Gull 4 (LC, et al), Rough-winged Swallow 2 (Dick Hughes, LC, et al). Mar. 27, daybreak, Whip-poor-will calling, 5 mi. SW of Ashland, Mrs. Willie Autry. Mar. 31, E. of Ashland (BC, LC)- Pine-woods Sparrow 1, Whip-poor-will 5. Apr. 1: Hickory Flat (BC) - Yellow-throated Vireo fc, Black and White vc, Sycamore 1, La. Water-thrush 2, (Blue-gray c); Shone's Pond, W. of Ashland (RDS) - Osprey 1; US72, Wolf R. (BC) - Prothonotary Warbler 1; Ebenezer Church, Union Co., 2 a.m., Whip-poor-will 3 (B. B. Cooper). Ashland (RDS): Apr. 6- Green Heron 1; Apr. 7, Shone's Pond - White-eyed Vireo 1, C. Yellow-throat 1; Apr. 8, NE on old 72 - Am. Bittern 1, Lsr. Yellow-legs 8, Red-eyed Vireo 1, Hooded Warbler 1.

BANK SWALLOW COLONY IN OKLAHOMA, OPPOSITE FORT SMITH. - On July 18, 1954, I discovered and examined a Bank Swallow nesting colony site in the west bank of the Arkansas River, two blocks south of the Garrison Avenue bridge at Ft. Smith. Because of the lateness of the season, the bulk of the birds had gone, but six were seen up until July 29. I counted a total of 143 nest cavities (most of these had probably been used). Compared with the approximate roundness of the nesting hole of Rough-winged Swallows (never in colonies, but as singles or small groups), the entrances were roughly elliptical, being about 2 inches across by one inch high. The cavity is about 3 feet deep while the nest is composed of feathers and grass stems. I examined a set of three, white eggs.

The river bank here was about 15 feet high with the cavities located in a horizontal layer about a foot and half in height and about 4 feet from the top. The nests were distributed throughout this stratum for about 125 feet. These sand banks often slip off into the river, so this may have been a temporary location, altho swallows could start afresh each year. The spot is very out-of-the-way and I didn't get back there in the spring of 1955, but we hope to learn arrival dates and note the progress of the colony this year. Since this colony was in Oklahoma, perhaps further search up or downstream may reveal another colony in Arkansas. - Lyndal York, Harding College.

Editor's Note: Observers should be on the lookout for such colonies elsewhere, especially along the Arkansas River. (And for Cliff Swallows nesting on cliffs and under concrete bridges such as at Cotter.) W. J. Baerg in his "Birds of Arkansas" (1951) cites two localities which I feel should have supporting details and, to some extent passes over what I believe to be the only authentic Arkansas breeding record. Mrs. L. M. Stephenson reported a colony of 300 nests at Helena about the turn of the century. Arthur H. Howell (1911) mentions her observations, in general, from 1886 to 1911. Since Audubon reported thousands of nests in 1820 in the second Chickasaw Bluff (above Richardson Landing, Tip-top County, Tenn.) this species may have nested along the Mississippi, during various cycles. Samuel N. Rhoads (1895) writes that "it breeds abundantly along the Mississippi bluffs"; this apparently was not authentic information.

Issued by - Ben B. Coffey, Jr., 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis, Tenn.

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS; Normalcy describes the 1956 spring migration at Memphis in a single word. With the exception of the Purple Martin, previously reported, arrivals were about average and migrants just trickled in; the few "waves" noted, followed the violent storms that brought tornadoes to many parts of the country. Temperatures were slightly below normal in April, above in May, and below in June; rainfall from 7 inches (2 above normal) in April, tapered off and chiefly depended later on thundershowers. shorebirds. A flock of Greater Yellow-legs near Lakeview, Miss. numbered 37 on Apr. 28 (GP, HL, DB) and 20 there on Apr. 29 (R. Demett Smith, Jr.) plus 7 nearby (TOS); Lesser Yellow-legs on the latter "Field Day" were 15 and 3. Two Dowitchers were seen there on Apr. 14 (DB, GP), and Semi-palmated Plover only 3 on April 29 (TOS) and 8 on May 10 (Ben Coffey).

Overton Park was covered daily during the migration season by David Brown, Oliver Irwin, Harry Landis, and the writer, - singly and jointly on occasion. After a terrific downpour on Apr. 3, a Blackburnian Warbler (GP) and a Chuck-will's-widow (OI, GP) were seen there and following more storms during the night a vagrant Turkey Vulture was noted Apr. 4 (DB). Oliver Irwin reported migrants common Apr. 20 at Riverside Park, and his first Mississippi Kite of the season there on Apr. 21. Migration seemed average on Apr. 28 during a full day afield (GP, HL, DB) from the Penal Farm thru the parks to Lakeview, Miss.-Tenn. and apparently so the next day at Lakeview on the annual Memphis Field Day. Field work on the latter was practically drowned out from the start. Thru the courtesy of Mrs. C. E. James we moved to Whitehaven and her summer pavilion for lunch. Since it quit raining during the latter, a few ventured back later to list a few levee and pit species and get soaking wet. Despite this, 86 species were listed, including many singles of warblers. Our levee area is now chiefly pasture but a good movement of Barn Swallows was noted there, -150, plus 30 Trees, 15 Banks, and 25 Rough-winged Swallows.

A late migration wave on May 15 saw a Mourning Warbler and many "Empidonax" flycatchers in Overton (GP) with identification of a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher reasonably sure on this date and on May 25. The first, studied 15 minutes, was in good light, at 10 feet; the call-note, given repeatedly by both individuals was not the usually described one. A feeding Olive-sided Flycatcher was studied at length by Mrs. M. L. Torti, Apr. 26, at Raleigh. House Wrens reported, were singles: Mar. 31, Coffey Grounds (Mrs. BC); Apr. 18 (HL, DB) and May 1 (BC) Overton Park; and May 3 and 4, Coffey Grounds (BC). A casual Dickcissel was seen by the Chas. Seahorns, Germantown, Feb. 16, Mar. 28, and banded Apr. 6 (male). - George Peyton, Jr.

SEASON ADDENDA: On trips in this area, we listed these migrants: Red-breasted Nuthatch 1, Apr. 15, Chickasaw S. P.; Philadelphia Vireo 1, May 5, Chickasaw S. P. (RDS), and 1 May 13, Kamp Kia Kima, Hardy, Ark. With the latter were a Blackburnian, Canada, and two Wilson's warblers. Late were a Canada, May 20, Camp Tallaha, Charleston, Miss. and a Blackburnian, May 27, southeast of Dresden, Tenn.

and a few Bobolinks, May 22, at Charleston, Oakland and Water Valley, Miss. Our summer reports include: a Woodcock, June 16, a first at Camp Currier, Miss., formerly checked occasionally, and the first summer Phoebe there, but no nest could be located. The latter is now a regular nester in Shelby County and the northern tier of counties in Mississippi with "leap frog" records of a nest, Mar. 25, Tallahatchie R. bridge, highway 7, and a nest with young ready to leave, June 24, Houlka Creek bridge, three miles north of Houston. Similarly the Barn Swallow, of DeSoto and Tate County, with a group of 7 nests in Tunica County, US61 bridge June 16, is represented by a nest with one egg May 20, 3 miles south of Water Valley. (At the other end of the state, three Barn Swallow nests (one, at least, a second year) June 1, at the Gulfport municipal terminal warehouse (BCs) is the first report on the mainland of the state for the population first found in 1933 by McIlhenny on Ship Island and recently reported in adjacent states). Still at Shoe's Pond, Ashland, Miss., May 13 (RDS) were Least Bittern 1, Florida Gallinule 1, and Osprey 1. The Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were seen June 17 (BCs) at the Pochontas site, McNairy County, -6 and possibly 2 others; first record in recent visits. A Black and White Warbler, June 16, at Camp Currier was the first June record there. An Oven-bird, May 27, Natchez Trace S. P., is the first West Tennessee summer record, altho one, May 20, the first Hickory Flat record was the fourth (BC) Mississippi record. At Tishomingo S. P., Miss., June 23, one sang from a previous site and a second, 200 yards south. A Swainson's Warbler heard May 26 (BCs) was at a 1940 site, - US70, Fayette County just west of Mason; another, June 24, was east of Houston, Miss. (Sakatonchee R., hwy 8).

Scarlet Tanagers, May 27 (BCs), one over hwy 22, 5 miles south of Huntingdon, and one west of headquarters, Natchez Trace, S.P., but none at the lodge and picnic and cabin areas (former sites). Lark Sparrows (BCs) June 17, adult and one immature, west of Essary Springs Cemetery, Hardeman County, and Apr. 15, 2, southwest Benton County, Tenn. Back at our Penal Farm (BC) a pair of Western Meadowlarks gave every indication of nesting, thru last visit, May 26, with possibly another male (singing) thru May 8. - Ben B. Coffey, Jr.

Dr. Chas. Kemper of Chippewa Falls, a visiting bander last winter, kindly gave us a 1956 membership in the Wisconsin Society. The spring issue of The Passenger Pigeon was my first in many years and is a top-notch journal. Of 48 pages including cover, 10 were on Xmas Counts and 14 on the autumn season, both being edited by Bill Foster, who was known in these parts two decades ago as George Foster, of St. Louis and Norris. George William teamed with Franklin McCamey for some birding here and in the Smokies, and joined our June, 1936, bird study trip thru Mississippi. The full seasonal coverage indicates a large number of experienced observers and such coverage, besides placing on record much valuable distribution data, should encourage the development of still more observers, - and members. Random notes on special topics have their place against a background of adequate, well-edited seasonal notes, but random notes alone, from single observers, often give a misleading picture. The Mid-South still needs such data, hence our efforts.

Issued by - Ben B. Coffey, Jr., 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis, Tenn.

INDICES

The following pages include a species index for each mid-south state from which bird records were compiled in Mid-South Bird Notes. Species are listed in the indices under the English names used in the 1957 Check List of North American Birds (American Ornithologists' Union, Baltimore, 1957) and subsequent supplements. Where these names differ from those used in Mid-South Bird Notes, the variant names are given in parentheses following the AOU names. For convenience in using the indices to Mid-South Bird Notes, I have numbered the entire series with consecutive numbers placed at the bottom center of each page. These are the numbers to which entries in the index refer. The original pagination is also present at the top of each page.

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