

ASHE COUNTY BREEDING BIRD FORAY—1979

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North Carolina's first Breeding Bird Foray was held 7 through 11 June 1979 in two mountain counties. A 1-day survey of Roan Mountain, Mitchell County, N.C., to be reported in a separate paper, was followed by 4 days in Ashe County. Here four participants—Tom Haggerty of Boone, N.C., John O. Fussell III of Morehead City, N.C. (10 June only), and the authors—recorded 98 species of birds including the first breeding Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) known for the state. The Foray was so successful that plans were begun immediately for a 1980 Foray to a different ornithologically under-studied section of the state. Intensive field work by well-organized teams of bird students can greatly increase our understanding of the state's breeding bird populations.

Ashe County (Fig. 1) was selected for the state's first Foray because it is strategically located in the northwestern corner of the state (bounded on the north by Virginia and on the west by Tennessee) and because a number of species scarce in the state in summer are known to have moderate breeding populations in the county. Also, a Breeding Bird Foray conducted at Mount Rogers, Va., and surrounding areas of that state in June 1974 (Raven 46:75-87) turned up a number of species not known to breed in North Carolina (Long-eared Owl, Tree Swallow, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Magnolia Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Purple Finch, Savannah Sparrow). It was hoped that one or more of these species could be found in Ashe County, only 5 or 6 miles S of Mount Rogers.

Ashe County is somewhat different in aspect from most other mountain counties in the state because it is a heavily agricultural county, with an abundance of open-country habitats such as pastures, grassy fields, and farmyards. Extensive forests are limited primarily to the higher mountainsides and the southeastern edge near the Blue Ridge Parkway. The majority of Ashe County lies within 2500 to 4000 feet in elevation, but approximately 10 mountains reach above 4500 feet, with the maximum elevation being 5130 feet at The Peak, 8.5 miles W of West Jefferson. Generally speaking, the major mountains lie in central Ashe County and in a belt running southwestward into northern Watauga County. The major topographic feature of ornithological interest is the New River, with the North and South Forks of the river running northeasterly through the county and converging in the northeastern corner along the Alleghany County line. The elevation of the New River ranges from 2475 feet at the Alleghany County line to 2950 feet (South Fork) and 3300 feet (North Fork) where the two forks enter Ashe from Watauga County.

Even though only three observers participated every day, we believe that the coverage of the North and South Forks of the New River, the hill and valley topography that characterizes 75% of the county, and the Blue Ridge Parkway was quite satisfactory for making a judgment on bird populations for most species. Of the major mountains, only Pond Mountain (4980 feet and containing extensive pastures on its summit), Mount Jefferson (4683 feet and essentially entirely a hardwood forest), and Long Hope Mountain and Creek (4690 feet at the summit in northern Watauga County and 4200 to 4360 feet along the creek, which flows northward into Ashe County) were censused. Long Hope Creek lies in a valley that contains a few bogs, including one that straddles the Watauga-Ashe line, and considerable Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*) and Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) among hardwoods. Bluff Mountain (5100 feet), containing a high-elevation bog and a mature stand of Carolina Hemlock (*T. caroliniana*), was not censused because a permit necessary to visit this mountain, recently purchased by the Nature Conservancy, was not obtained. (For further information on Bluff Mountain, write North Carolina Nature Conservancy, 108 Henderson Street, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.) Geographically, the only areas receiving poor coverage were the hill and valley country within 2 miles of the Tennessee border, the area along US 221 between West Jefferson and the Watauga County line, the residential section of a few towns, and five or six of the higher peaks.

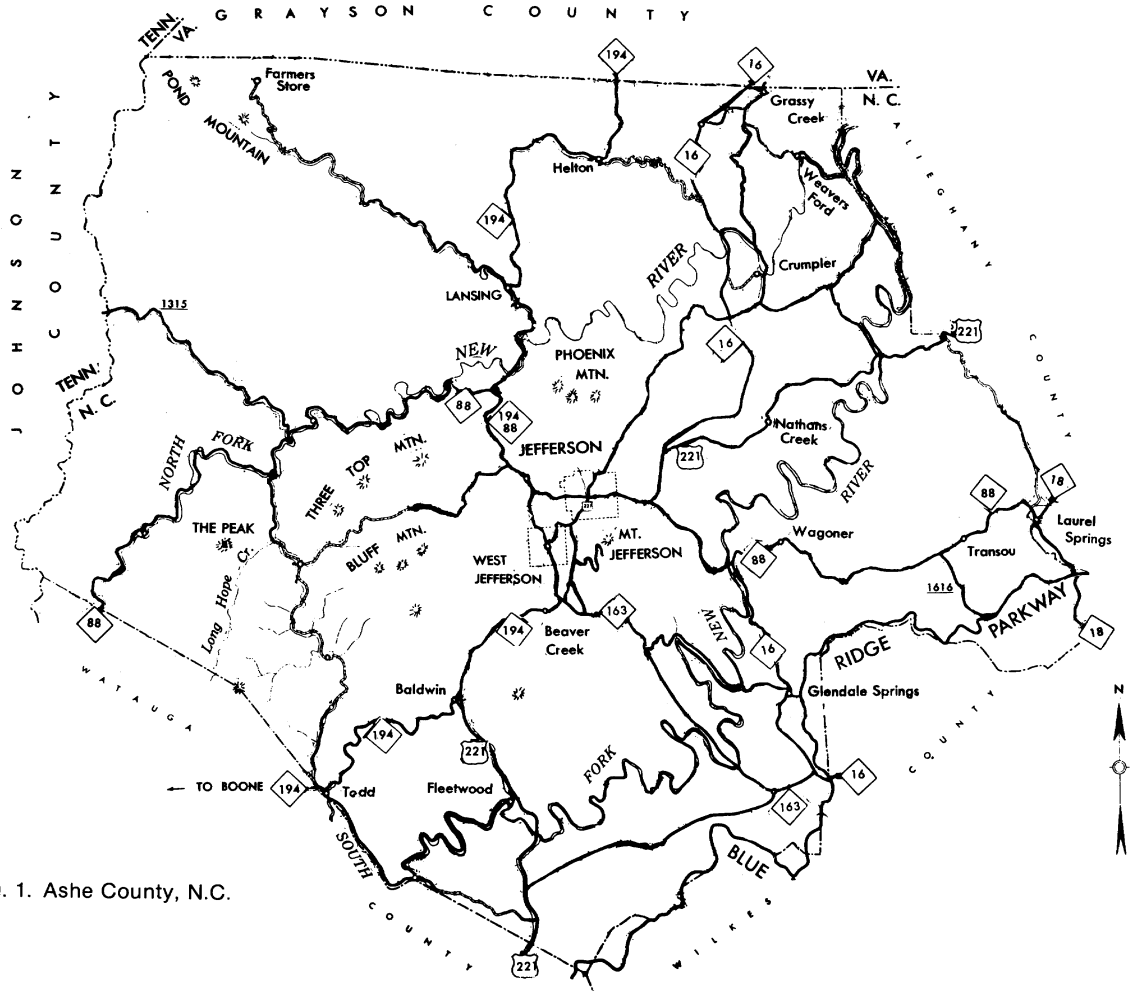


Fig. 1. Ashe County, N.C.

The following is an annotated list of all species recorded on the Ashe County Foray, with comments on relative abundance, elevation of occurrence, habitat preference, and nesting evidence found. Several additional species known to occur in summer are included in brackets along with a few that are merely presumed to be present. Some of the bracketed species are attributed to Mrs. A. B. Hurt, who did a great deal of field work in the Nathans Creek area. During the 1950s and 1960s Mrs. Hurt published a number of observations, including breeding bird censuses, in *Chat* and *Audubon Field Notes*.

Unlisted species that *may* occur in Ashe County in summer, and which *do* occur in rather small numbers in other North Carolina mountain counties at elevations below 2500 feet, include Red-shouldered Hawk, Barn Owl, Purple Martin, Loggerhead Shrike, Swainson's Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, and Blue Grosbeak. Generally speaking, Ashe County is too high in elevation for these species. Some of these have perhaps been seen previously in the county in summer, but if so, accurately dated published records were not found. On the other hand, several species that nest elsewhere in the state at high elevations, mostly over 4000 feet, may also occur sparingly in Ashe County. The most likely are the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Alder Flycatcher, and Brown Creeper.

In the species accounts, "low elevations" are below 3000 feet, "middle elevations" are from 3000 to 4000 feet, and "high elevations" are above 4000 feet. "North Fork" and "South Fork" refer to the North and South Forks of the New River.

GREEN HERON. Only one seen, along the South Fork near Glendale Springs; presumably rare or uncommon. Woods or thickets adjacent to ponds, rivers, or streams.

WOOD DUCK. Apparently uncommon, at low elevations. There were three reports, including an adult with five young on the North Fork near Weavers Ford. Rivers and ponds.

TURKEY VULTURE. Fairly common to common at all elevations. In flight over all habitats.

BLACK VULTURE. Only one seen, near Grassy Creek. Breeding status uncertain; possibly just a visitor.

[**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.** Not seen during the Foray, but a few probably occur.]

COOPER'S HAWK. Only one seen, an immature at Pond Mountain. A few probably breed; mixture of forests and open country.

RED-TAILED HAWK. Apparently uncommon, at all elevations, with only three reports totaling four birds. Mixture of forests and open country.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK. Uncommon to fairly common at all elevations. Deciduous or mixed forests, but seen also over open country.

AMERICAN KESTREL. Uncommon; extensive open country at all elevations.

[**RUFFED GROUSE.** Probably uncommon at all elevations in deciduous or mixed forests. Not noted on the Foray, but Haggerty heard one on 8 April 1979 on Bluff Mountain. Presumably most numerous on the higher mountains.]

BOBWHITE. Fairly common to common in the eastern half of the county, but not at all numerous in the western half. Probably at all elevations, but mainly at low ones. Hedge-grows, wood margins, overgrown fields.

[**TURKEY.** Not noted on the Foray, but a few may occur in extensive forests.]

KILLDEER. Fairly common in large pastures and plowed fields at low elevations. Presumably scarce above 3000 feet.

[**AMERICAN WOODCOCK.** This nocturnal species probably breeds sparingly, as it nests at both higher and lower elevations in the state than are present in Ashe County. It was not found on the Foray.]

[**SPOTTED SANDPIPER.** The N.C. State Museum has an undated record of a "summer pair" along the New River. Whether the birds were breeding is not known.]

ROCK DOVE. Fairly common in towns and at large farms.

- MOURNING DOVE.** Fairly common to common, mainly at low and middle elevations. Open country, wood margins, farm lands.
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.** Apparently uncommon, and noted only at low elevations, though a few probably occur above 3000 feet. Deciduous woods and thickets, generally along creeks and rivers.
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO.** Apparently uncommon, though perhaps as numerous in Ashe County as in any other in the state. Surprisingly, all birds were below 3000 feet, but it should occur regularly in middle and high elevations. An adult was seen carrying food near Helton. Deciduous woods, thickets, and groves, mostly along streams and rivers. Neither cuckoo species was singing well, and thus both might have been more common than noted (two reports totaling seven Yellow-billed, and five reports totaling eight Black-billed).
- SCREECH OWL.** One heard at daybreak near Jefferson, despite very limited nocturnal coverage. Probably in moderate numbers throughout the county in open to medium-growth woods.
- [**GREAT HORNED OWL.** Presumed to occur, but not noted on the Foray.]
- [**BARRED OWL.** A few probably occur, but not noted on the Foray.]
- [**WHIP-POOR-WILL.** Not heard on the Foray, though two parties made numerous stops on 10 June before and at daybreak in seemingly suitable habitat.]
- CHIMNEY SWIFT.** Common at all elevations, though most numerous in the towns and open country at low and middle elevations.
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.** Apparently uncommon to fairly common, at low and middle elevations. A few probably occur above 4000 feet. Deciduous woods, thickets, and margins, especially in moist places and near tubular flowers.
- BELTED KINGFISHER.** Uncommon to fairly common. Noted at all elevations, but mainly below 3000 feet. Along rivers and creeks.
- COMMON FLICKER.** Fairly common at all elevations. Open woods, groves.
- PILEATED WOODPECKER.** Uncommon, all elevations. Mature and extensive deciduous or mixed forests.
- [**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.** Although there is a Spring Bird Count report of one on 6 May 1962 (Chat 26:66) and Mrs. Hurt reported the species as a visitor to her breeding bird census plot, none were noted on the Foray.]
- [**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.** Mrs. Hurt lists one territorial male in her breeding bird census plot for 1962 (Audubon Field Notes 17:510) and 1963 (AFN 18:573).]
- HAIRY WOODPECKER.** Uncommon at all elevations. Deciduous or mixed forests.
- DOWNY WOODPECKER.** Fairly common, all elevations. Deciduous or mixed woods, groves, and forests. Adults seen feeding young out of the nest.
- EASTERN KINGBIRD.** Fairly common below 3500 feet. None seen at higher elevations. Open country with scattered trees, fences, and telephone wires.
- GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER.** Uncommon to fairly common. Noted at all elevations, but mainly at low elevations. Open to medium-growth woods and forests.
- EASTERN PHOEBE.** Common at low and middle elevations, less so at high elevations. Mainly around farmyards and homes, less numerous at small bridges.
- ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.** Common below 3500 feet, a few above this elevation. Rich deciduous forests, generally along small streams.
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER.** Locally fairly common to common, at low elevations. Noted throughout the county, in shrubs and saplings along streams and rivers in open country, less numerous in shrub thickets. The peak count was 13, with four other counts of four to six, clearly indicating an increase in numbers since 1972 (see Chat 38:1-3).
- LEAST FLYCATCHER.** Locally fairly common to common, at low and middle elevations; probably occurs above 4000 feet. This species was very local, as occasionally three or four

- birds could be heard within several hundred yards, only to travel 10 miles or more without hearing another. The peak count was 15. Open deciduous woods and groves, rarely in pines; most frequent near streams and rivers, but many in upland groves as well. An adult was seen on a nest near Helton.
- EASTERN WOOD PEWEE.** Common at middle and low elevations, less so at high elevations. Open to medium-growth woods and groves. An adult was seen on a nest near Weavers Ford.
- [**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER.** One seen on 29 May 1972 near Weavers Ford (Chat 38:1-3) was almost certainly a late migrant. Ashe County seems devoid of suitable habitat for this rare species.]
- HORNED LARK.** Uncommon, at all elevations. Two singing individuals were noted in pastures in the Pond Mountain area, one was heard at a plowed field at Transou, and a pair of adults with juveniles was seen in a plowed field near Glendale Springs.
- TREE SWALLOW.** The first North Carolina nesting record was that of a nest discovered by Potter along the North Fork, just east of Weavers Ford, on 9 June. She observed the adult pair flying to the nest and entering it frequently, the nest being a vacated Downy Woodpecker hole near the tip of a dead stub on the riverbank. Potter and LeGrand observed one to several young birds being fed at the entrance of the nest hole on 11 June.
- ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.** Fairly common at low and middle elevations; a few probably occur above 4000 feet. Two nest burrows noted. Seen in open country and along streams and rivers; nests in banks along streams and road cuts.
- BARN SWALLOW.** Common to very common, somewhat less numerous at high elevations. Very widespread around farmyards, pastures, fields, and other open country habitats.
- BLUE JAY.** Fairly common at all elevations, with only two of the 11 trip lists tallying over seven individuals. Open to medium-growth woods, mainly away from streams and rivers.
- [**COMMON RAVEN.** Previously reported from Bluff Mountain, where habitat in the form of cliffs seems suitable for nesting. Might occur on other mountains, but no ravens were noted during the Foray.]
- COMMON CROW.** Common at all elevations. Widespread in open country and in woodlands.
- CAROLINA CHICKADEE.** Fairly common to common, mostly at low and middle elevations. Young seen out of the nest. Forests and woodlands.
- TUFTED TITMOUSE.** Fairly common to common, mostly at low and middle elevations. Deciduous forests and woods. Both the titmouse and chickadee seemed less numerous than in most other counties in the state, and each species was reported in double figures only twice out of 11 lists.
- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.** Uncommon, at all elevations. Open to medium-growth, mature hardwood forests.
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.** Found only along Long Hope Creek, where five were seen and heard in hemlocks and spruce. Haggerty noted two birds in Carolina Hemlocks on Bluff Mountain, 8 April 1979, where the species might breed. Restricted to evergreen or mixed forests at high elevations.
- HOUSE WREN.** Common at all elevations, though more numerous in the western half of the county than in the eastern half. The peak count was an excellent 35 birds. Mainly in farmyards, less commonly in residential sections of the towns.
- WINTER WREN.** Two were heard singing along Long Hope Creek. Apparently restricted to mixed forests where spruce and/or hemlock occur.
- [**BEWICK'S WREN.** Formerly occurred in the county, but now rare or absent, as none were found. Ashe County contains an abundance of suitable habitat (high elevation farmyards, hedgerows, and brushlands), yet thorough coverage of such areas produced no birds. The possibility exists that this species no longer breeds in the state.]

- CAROLINA WREN.** Uncommon to fairly common, only at low and middle elevations. Undoubtedly reduced in numbers by the severe winters of 1976-77, 1977-78, and 1978-79; probably common prior to these winters. Woodlands and forests, less numerous in farmyards and residential areas.
- MOCKINGBIRD.** Surprisingly scarce; uncommon in towns, and not seen at all in seemingly suitable habitat in farmyards and rural roadsides.
- GRAY CATBIRD.** Very common at all elevations. Widespread in woodland margins, thickets, residential shrubbery, and farmyards, especially in moist places.
- BROWN THRASHER.** Common at all elevations, though somewhat less numerous than in most piedmont and coastal plain counties. Overgrown fields, hedgerows, wood margins, and residential areas.
- AMERICAN ROBIN.** Very common at all elevations. Most numerous around towns and farmyards.
- WOOD THRUSH.** Fairly common to common, except quite uncommon above 4000 feet. Common along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Deciduous forests, especially where moist.
- VEERY.** Common above 4000 feet, and two birds were heard between 3500 and 4000 feet. Deciduous or mixed forests.
- EASTERN BLUEBIRD.** Fairly common at low and middle elevations, with only one record at high elevations. Fledged juveniles seen. Farmyards and other roadside habitats.
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.** Fairly common at low elevations. Deciduous woods along streams and rivers.
- GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.** Six were seen and heard in mixed woods (in spruce and hemlock) along Long Hope Creek. This might be the only place in the county where kinglets breed.
- CEDAR WAXWING.** Fairly common to common, most numerous at low elevations along streams and rivers. The large number of birds in open deciduous woods along the rivers was puzzling. It seems likely that most were simply feeding in this habitat, prior to nesting, and many were still in small flocks. In the mountains of the state, the species nests mainly in scattered conifers in residential areas, around the margins of bogs, and in open woods; and nesting is mainly in July and August. Thus, the waxwings seen on the Foray, for the most part, probably did not represent breeding populations.
- STARLING.** Very common, mainly at low and middle elevations, with juveniles seen. Towns, farmyards, and roadsides.
- WHITE-EYED VIREO.** Uncommon to fairly common, mainly at low elevations, and none over 4000 feet. Dense thickets in damp places.
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.** Fairly common to common at low elevations, especially along the rivers. Open deciduous woods and groves.
- SOLITARY VIREO.** Common at high elevations, down to 3500 feet; mostly uncommon in low elevations. Above 3500 feet occurs in most types of forests, both deciduous and mixed; below 3500 feet mainly in pine or mixed forests.
- RED-EYED VIREO.** Common to very common at low and middle elevations; fairly common to common above 4000 feet. Deciduous woods and forests.
- WARBLING VIREO.** Uncommon along streams and rivers at low elevations; most numerous in the Weavers Ford area where the North and South Forks join. An adult was seen on a nest near Helton. Birds were noted scattered nearly throughout the county, occurring south to Todd along the Watauga County line. Tall deciduous trees, especially Balm of Gilead (*Populus candicans*), lining rivers and streams in open country.
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER.** Fairly common at all elevations; most numerous along the Blue Ridge Parkway and on the slopes of the higher mountains. Mature deciduous forests.
- WORM-EATING WARBLER.** One seen and heard at 2800 feet, just east of Glendale Springs, on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge. Because Ashe County is too high to con-

tain much suitable habitat (ravines and mountainsides below 3000 feet), the species is obviously rare in the county.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER. Uncommon at all elevations. Overgrown fields and wood margins, especially in Black Locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*) saplings.

NORTHERN PARULA. Fairly common at low and middle elevations, but uncommon at high elevations. All forest types, but a decided preference for mixed forests, particularly in hemlocks.

YELLOW WARBLER. Common to very common at low and middle elevations, but uncommon over 4000 feet. Favors small deciduous trees in farmyards, streamsides, and thickets.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER. Fairly common to common at high elevations, less common to 3500 feet. Deciduous or mixed forests.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. Surprisingly scarce, with only single birds recorded in mixed woods on Pond Mountain and Mount Jefferson. Apparently uncommon at high elevations; a few may occur at middle and low elevations.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. Six were seen and heard in mixed forests at Long Hope Creek. Species was not found on the higher mountains, but a few may occur in deciduous or mixed forests on some of these peaks.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. Common at high elevations, but uncommon below 3500 feet, with a few noted below 3000 (including one at 2500 feet near Weavers Ford). Overgrown fields, wood margins, deciduous groves, and open deciduous woods.

PRAIRIE WARBLER. Uncommon, only at low elevations. Saplings in overgrown fields and clearings.

OVENBIRD. Quite common along the Blue Ridge Parkway, but only fairly common to common elsewhere, at all elevations. Medium-growth deciduous forests, especially on mountainsides.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH. Apparently uncommon; because this species generally has finished its song period by early June, individuals were probably overlooked. At low and middle elevations, along streams in deciduous or mixed forests.

KENTUCKY WARBLER. Uncommon at low elevations, with one or two at middle elevations. Adult seen carrying food. Rich deciduous forests with abundant understory.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT. Common at low and middle elevations; uncommon to fairly common above 4000 feet. Thickets and overgrown fields.

YELLOW-BREADED CHAT. Uncommon, mainly at low elevations; less numerous at middle elevations. Thickets and overgrown fields.

HOODED WARBLER. Surprisingly only uncommon to fairly common over most of the county, but common along the Parkway. Uncommon over 4000 feet. Rich deciduous forests.

CANADA WARBLER. Fairly common to common at high elevations; not noted below 4000 feet, but some undoubtedly breed down to perhaps 3500 feet. Forests with a dense understory, especially of rhododendron.

AMERICAN REDSTART. Locally fairly common. Most numerous at low elevations, less so at middle elevations. Two discrete habitats: open deciduous woods and groves along streams and rivers, and rather dense second-growth deciduous forests.

BOBOLINK. Four singing males were seen in a large grassy field and pasture complex near Glendale Springs on 10 June by LeGrand. The birds appeared to be on territory as they sang from telephone wires, fences, and treetops. No females were seen. There are previous nesting records from Wilkes County, N.C., and Johnson County, Tenn., both adjacent to Ashe County. Wendell P. Smith (Chat 23:67-68, 24:105) found Bobolinks nesting successfully near North Wilkesboro in 1959 and 1960. Kenneth H. Dubke (Migrant 34:17-19) located a nest with three young Bobolinks and one unhatched egg on 10 June 1962 at 2800 feet in Shady Valley, Tenn., which is about 15 miles from the North

- Carolina line. Three nestlings were banded on 16 June, and they were seen being fed out of the nest on 17 June. A territorial male was present at the same site in 1963, but no evidence of breeding was noted. There are numerous other summer records of Bobolinks from the southern Appalachians and adjacent piedmont, including a male seen by Smith (Chat 23:68) at Deep Gap in Watauga County, N.C., only a few miles south of Ashe County. Apparently there is a small and erratic population of breeding Bobolinks in northeastern Tennessee and northwestern North Carolina.
- EASTERN MEADOWLARK.** Common at low and middle elevations, less so at high ones. Fields and pastures.
- RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.** Very common at low and middle elevations, with a few above 4000 feet. Fields, marshes, thickets.
- ORCHARD ORIOLE.** Uncommon, only at low elevations, and mostly along the New River. Deciduous groves and scattered trees.
- NORTHERN ORIOLE.** Fairly common at low elevations, most numerous along the New River. Common in the Weavers Ford area. Deciduous groves and shade trees, mainly along streams and rivers, but some in yards. Three active nests found.
- COMMON GRACKLE.** Very common at low and middle elevations, and fairly common above 4000 feet. Towns, farmyards, groves, open country.
- BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD.** Fairly common to common at all elevations. Pastures, farmyards, towns, and other open-country habitats.
- SCARLET TANAGER.** Fairly common to common at all elevations; common along the Parkway. Deciduous forests.
- SUMMER TANAGER.** Apparently rare at low elevations, with a male seen and another heard calling near the South Fork in the southern part of the county. Open to medium-growth deciduous forests.
- CARDINAL.** Common at low and middle elevations, but quite uncommon over 4000 feet. Less common than in downstate counties. Open woods, wood margins, thickets, residential areas.
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK.** Common at high elevations, with a few down to approximately 3500 feet. Deciduous forests.
- INDIGO BUNTING.** Very common at low and middle elevations; fairly common to common at high elevations. Rivals the Song Sparrow as the most numerous and widespread bird in the county. Open deciduous woods, wood margins, groves, hedgerows, farmyards.
- AMERICAN GOLDFINCH.** Common, but mainly at low and middle elevations. Overgrown fields, thickets, wood margins, and farmyards, especially where moist.
- RED CROSSBILL.** One heard calling over Long Hope Creek; probably a nonbreeding individual, though spruce and hemlock are present along the creek.
- RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE.** Common to very common at all elevations. Widespread in woodlands, wood margins, overgrown fields, and residential areas.
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.** Uncommon up to approximately 3500 feet, where noted along the Parkway. Two counts of five birds each were made, mostly at low elevations, and all were in the eastern half of the county. Grassy fields.
- [**HENSLOW'S SPARROW.** Reported by Mrs. Hurt as nesting near Nathans Creek in a weedy field in 1959 and 1960, but no details were supplied (Audubon Field Notes 13:473, 14:502). Although the species was searched for during the Foray, none were located. Suitable habitat (damp meadows and weedy fields) is moderately common in the eastern part of the county.]
- VESPER SPARROW.** Common at high elevations, with a peak count of 25 on Pond Mountain. Uncommon at middle elevations, with one or two noted down to 2900 feet. Overgrazed pastures or short-grass fields with convenient song perches such as fences, rocks, and scattered saplings.

DARK-EYED JUNCO. Common at high elevations, and a few down to approximately 3500 feet. Forests of all types (deciduous or coniferous, open or medium-growth); often feeds in adjacent fields and grassy places.

CHIPPING SPARROW. Common at low and middle elevations, but uncommon at high elevations. Residential areas, farmyards, scattered trees.

FIELD SPARROW. Common at all elevations. Overgrown fields, hedgerows, wood margins, and other brushy places.

SONG SPARROW. Very common at low and middle elevations; common at high elevations. Nesting in residential areas, farmyards, thickets, and wherever shrubs grow, the Song Sparrow is the most numerous and widespread bird breeding in the county.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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