

NOTES

Notes From the Tennessee Valley. Spring, in the Valley of the Tennessee, was cold and wet until early April. A drought began in mid-April and continued until the second week of June, but there have been regular rains since. Bird life seemed without spectacular changes.

An Iranian pheasant's nest containing 11 eggs was found in a Wheeler Refuge field on May 3. On May 7, Game Management Agent Harley Peirson sighted a Common Gallinule along the White Springs dike, the earliest record we have for this bird, always uncommon here. On June 3, Richard Bays, the Refuge Forester, sighted a single Woodcock, though it gave no indication of nesting. Between June 2 and June 8, Richard and other refuge employees found three Chuk-will's widow nests. Each contained two non-flying young, and these varied from the downy state to some fully feathered. On June 10 and 11, Doctor and Mrs. J. L. Dusi visited the refuge and banded young little Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons and Cattle Egrets in the colony on the Swan Creek Public Hunting Area. They reported the colony somewhat smaller than in 1964, due probably to the spring drought. They sighted a Prairie Warbler on June 11, a late spring record for this locality. White Ibises were noted on the refuge on June 6 through June 22 and may still be present. A number of Canada Geese, perhaps as many as fifty, are still seen on the refuge. These may be cripples resulting from the heavy shooting of last hunting season, though some appear normal. There are reports of a white goose, possibly a Snow Goose, using with one of these smaller Canada Goose flocks, though refuge employees have been unable to verify its identify. The number of duck broods, and especially of Mallards, appears higher than usual. Some coots are still around at this writing, i.e., June 25, but there is no indication of nesting. Thomas Z. Atkeson, Refuge Manager, Wheeler Refuge, Decatur.

Banding Notes From Magnolia Springs. On March 13, 1964, we started a banding program on our property in Magnolia Springs, Baldwin County, Alabama, employing a sparrow trap and on occasion mist nets. During the year we banded 219 birds of eight species as follows: White-throated Sparrow - 128, Redwinged Blackbird - 49, Cardinal - 32, Blue Jay - 3, Tufted Titmouse - 1, Purple Finch - 3, Wood Thrush - 1, Rufous-sided towhees - 2.

Of 27 White-throats banded between March 13 and April 12, we had eight returns in October, November, and December. One, October 7, was four days before the previous early Fall date for White-throats on the Alabama Coast. The original banding station of a foreign retrap of a White-throat - band no. 102-106654 - on December 25 has not been reported to us from Patuxent as this writing. The Wood Thrush and a pair of the Cardinals nested on our property and though we see numbers of the banded Cardinals only one has entered our traps after 90 days. Fairly Chandler, Magnolia Springs, Alabama.

ERRATUM. In the report on the Anniston winter bird count, Vol. 13, No. 1, we reported 12 American Woodcocks. It should have been 12 Common Snipe. The Ed.