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Birds

Division of Birds

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# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER



Bottle in effigy of the Owl. Filmed overall with red pigment. Found at the Angel Site, Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Photo by Indiana Historical Society.

Vol. 29 No. 1



February, 1953



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## THE USE OF BIRDS AMONG THE PREHISTORIC INDIANS OF THE OHIO VALLEY

GLENN A. BLACK, Angel Mound, Indiana

In almost any prehistoric site which is properly excavated, and where all materials found therein are saved, the most numerous single class of objects will be the bone debris resulting from the food habits of the aboriginal occupants. Mammal bones constitute the largest class by reason, perhaps, of the fact that such game was larger and provided more meat, was easier to kill or trap, skins for clothing had economic importance, and the bones ideally suited for the fabrication of tools. Mammals were, relatively speaking, also more numerous. But the use of birds among these early dwellers of our area should not be overlooked.

The Wild Turkey is by far the most numerous species represented in the sites of this area. This is probably due to the size of the bird, which made it worth while to hunt or snare for food. The feathers would also have had economic and esthetic value, and the bones of the legs made perfect bone awls. At the Angel Mounds Site, near Evansville, Indiana, bones of the Turkey rank second to those of the Virginia Deer in frequency of occurrence in the debris deposits.

The water birds were also important if we may judge from the number and variety of bones found. The feathers of these varieties would have been important, and the colorful plumage of the Wood Duck, as an example, must have added to the natural charms of many an Indian—both male and female.

Birds now extinct in this area are also found. The Carolina Paroquet once was plentiful here, since the bones of this bird are common here and at many other early sites. Its importance among the aborigines was probably completely esthetic, for the size of this bird would almost preclude inclusion in the food category. The feathers of the Paroquet would no doubt have been incorporated in feather mantles and feather textiles, which we may safely assume the Indians of this area made. The combination of its natural hues of green, greenish-yellow-blue, and rich orange chrome would have provided a fabric of great beauty.

The Passenger Pigeon is also represented in the bone debris, and this bird, unlike the Paroquet, was large enough that it would have paid to trap, snare, or shoot it for food.

The Ivory-billed and Pileated Woodpeckers, the former completely extinct in this area, were also common in prehistoric times. Not only are the bones of these two largest of all the Woodpeckers found in the debris, but they are often depicted in the art of the aborigines, as will be mentioned again subsequently.

The archaeologist attempts to reconstruct the past—to write a history which was never before written—, and to do so he extracts from each prehistoric site every bit of data which may contribute to the overall story. In so doing he often adds knowledge to other and unrelated fields. Many species of animal life are known to have once flourished in this area only by reason of the fact that some archaeologist has excavated a site which was lived upon prior to the time of written history, carefully saved every scrap of evidence which came to his attention, and exhausted the potential of these scraps through the medium of study and identification. Thus he may add to the store of knowledge of the ornithologist by indicating distributions, habitats, and abundance of species of birds which would not otherwise have been known for the area. Unfortunately there are few specialists able to identify birds through the medium of bones alone, and as a result there is a great backlog of unidentified material to be worked on and described. When the task is done, the bird will be seen to have occupied a most important part in aboriginal life.

As an example of just how important, and also of the magnitude of the task, allow me to cite some figures compiled for a limited sample of bones from Angel Site. These studies were made by a young man studying to be a comparative osteologist. The total sample was composed of 8,546 bones, and I would like to stress the fact that this is a *sample* and not the total number of bones from the excavation. Of this total sample 837 are bones of birds, 222 are of fish, 388 of reptiles (mainly terrapin and turtle, with very few of snakes), 4,640 are of mammals, and 2,459 are unidentifiable. Thus birds account for about ten percent of the whole, and this would be higher if the number of "unidentifiable" bones could be reduced, for many of these are tiny fragments of the bones of small birds.

Unfortunately, a great deal of the material culture of the American Indian of prehistory was made up of items which were not imperishable and are, therefore, never found in the excavation of dwelling and burial sites in this area. Such things as feather cloth, feather mantles, feather fans and headdresses are left to conjecture, but that they had

them there can be no doubt. Upon occasion burials are found in the rock shelters of Southern Indiana and Kentucky where, because of extreme dryness and the nitrates in the soils of the floors, perishable materials such as cloth, wood, and even skins are preserved. Too often such discoveries were made years ago, before the time of proper appreciation for such things, and little care was exercised in the removal of the material from its soil matrix; and only rarely were such discoveries reported. There are some known, however, where feathers were involved. One especially interesting example was found in Ohio a few years ago, where a woman had been buried with a feather boa-like neck ornament, and the feathers were those of an owl.

The owl must have been looked upon with some awe by the Indians of this area. He was known as the "Warrior of the Night" by at least one group who lived hereabouts. That he was held in esteem is suggested by the fact that in the major late occupational period of the Lower Ohio Valley the people often made pottery bottles and beads in the likeness of this bird. His head, modelled in clay, served as one of the handles on many wide-mouth bowls of the same period. Two owl effigy rattles of pottery have been found at Angel Site; and several pendants, carved of fluorite, faithfully depict head, wings, tail, and feet and have a hole drilled through the neck that they might be strung like beads.

Much earlier in time—in fact, among the earliest of the so-called "Mound Builders" of the Ohio Valley—there are many representations of birds of several species preserved in the art objects of these folk. Perhaps the most spectacular would be the large breastplates made from native copper, cut out in the form of raptorial birds on the wing, and with feather detail in the wings carried out through the technique of repousse. These probably represent one of the hawks, although they are generally referred to as "eagle effigies." The same bird, especially the head-beak and the foot-talon parts, is carved upon human bone, generally skull parts or sections of long-bone shafts. One of the most unusual objects combining the bird as the motif and bone as the medium is the likeness of a swan with the head thrown back over the body in characteristic fashion and carved of tortoise shell.

By far the greatest variety, and perhaps the finest, of bird effigies are found in the pipes of the same mound culture. These are the platform pipes, so-called because the bowl rests upon a platform, either straight or curved, which also serves as the stem of the pipe. The bowls are very often carved in the effigies of animals and so realistically that there is usually no question as to the species of animal represented. Among the birds there are the Paroquet, Quail, Crow, Raven, Whooping Crane, Shoveler Duck, and Roseate Spoonbill. In the case of the Crane the artisan took pains to use a piece of Ohio Pipestone which had a touch of red in the proper spot to use for the head of the bird, and the Spoonbill suggests a knowledge on the part of the pipemaker of birds not common to the Ohio Valley. A very strange combination of bird and fish is to be seen on one Ohio pipe. This may reflect a bit of aboriginal folklore or a sense of humor, but the effigy of a duck riding on the back of a fish is a most unnatural situation. The duck forms the bowl and the fish the stem of the pipe.

In the Southeast very large and heavy pipes are found. These usually incorporate animals as a part of the pipe design, and very often the animal is a bird. The owl is again common in this type, and one very outstanding piece represents a Whip-poor-will on the wing.

Also in the Southeast culture area—which includes Kentucky, of course—there are hundreds of bird heads of clay which once served as a handle on wide-mouth pottery bowls. These, as a rule, are the heads of ducks, and judging from the crest-like appendage usually present, the Wood Duck was probably in the mind of the woman potter. The owl and Pileated Woodpecker are also so depicted.

Among a certain group who once lived in Indiana and Kentucky, the custom of making gorgets to be worn suspended from the neck was the fashion. These were made from the outer whirl of large Gulf Coast conch shells as well as thin sheets of native copper. Upon these they engraved likenesses of birds and mammals, and in the bird class the most common motif is a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers standing upon a cross, bill to bill. More rarely there are figures of men in dancing postures who have a bird-like mask as a part of the facial features and feathered, wing-like appendages to their arms. These men were probably engaged in a ritualistic dance, or in the act of performing a ceremony in which the bird assumed an important part.

If one went into detail, and covered the entire period of man's dominance of the Southeastern part of these United States, these comments would become well-nigh endless. Perhaps this bit of data, derived through the medium of archaeological research, will suffice to indicate that the bird in the time of the American Indian was as much the object of interest, both economically and esthetically, as it is today.

## MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1952

Edited by GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green

The Mid-winter Bird Count conducted by some of our members in late December, 1952, is in many ways one of our very best since a few scattering censuses were recorded in THE KENTUCKY WARBLER in the January, 1926, issue. The long-continued dry weather forced all waterfowl to be feeding or resting on our larger rivers and our few permanent ponds and lakes. Inland ponds and marshes were largely dry. Kentucky Woodlands, Henderson, Owensboro, and Louisville have reported large numbers of water birds, of 36 species. Land birds, especially those that suffered such great inroads on their numbers because of the severe winter of 1950-51, show, in general, a noticeable uptrend in numbers. Again we have some unusual species for our mid-winter count: Louisville has the first authentic report of an Eared Grebe for the state; the Bald Eagle appears on the Kentucky Woodlands, Henderson, and Louisville; the Woodcock was seen at Henderson and Louisville; Bonaparte's Gull, somewhat of a rarity in winter, appeared in good numbers at Louisville; Henderson reports the Barn Owl and the Short-eared Owl; the Phoebe, usually reported from two or more places, is on only the Bowling Green list; the Brown Thrasher appeared at Madisonville, Henderson and Owensboro for one of the few times in the history of our census in Kentucky; Louisville has a great oddity in its Baltimore Oriole; again the Pine Siskin appears on our list, with 109 reported from Louisville; Kentucky Woodlands has a LeConte's Sparrow; and Henderson reports both the Chipping and the Harris's Sparrows. In the "Field Notes" section of this issue will be found some comments on many of these rare finds. The editor of this department wishes to thank again all participants in this annual count and to solicit their continued help in making this distinctive study more and more valuable.

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (7½-mile radius centering at Laura Lease, extending northward to Kentucky Dam, southward to the Rock Castle road, eastward to the Cumberland River, and westward to Kentucky Lake; open water 25%, woodland 14%, shoreline 4%, open fields 18%, roadsides 25%).—Dec. 27; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 24 to 35; wind NE, 0-12 m.p.h.; ground frozen in early morning; water frozen in the more sheltered bays. Nine observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 34 (25 on foot, 9 by car); total party-miles, 144 (18 on foot, 126 by car). The numbers for some of the water species are partly estimated. Total, 67 species about 9,414 individuals.—FRED CUNNINGHAM, JUDITH CUNNINGHAM, EUGENE CYPERT (Compiler), MARY LOUISE CYPERT, KATHLEEN KEY, O. V. McNEELY, LAUREN PUTNAM, NELLIE STRICKLAND, and GRACE WYATT.

**MARION** (City of Marion and Ohio River and its bottoms: woods, fields, and thickets).—Dec. 28; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p. m. Clear; no wind; temp. 30. Total, 53 species, 1801 individuals.—CHASTAIN FRAZER and DR. T. ATCHISON FRAZER.

**PENNYRILE STATE PARK** (Deciduous and pine woods and fields within the park area, Pennyrile Lake, and adjoining farmlands; wooded area 50%, open fields in the park 15%, farmlands 15%, lake shore 20%).—Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Partly cloudy; wind SW, 13-18 m.p.h.; temp. 26 to 40. Total hours, 10; total miles, 14 (7 on foot, 7 by car). Total, 35 species, 390 individuals. Strangely enough, several rarities were recorded, whereas others, more or less to be expected, such as Winter Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, and Bluebird, were not seen. This is the first winter record of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet for Pennyrile.—KENNETH BROWN and JAMES W. HANCOCK.

**MADISONVILLE** (W. W. Hancock farm, Brown and Frostburg Roads, and five lakes at Madisonville; open fields 20%, deciduous woodlands and thickets 60%, lake shore 20%).—Dec. 22; 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Heavy overcast and occasional light showers; wind SE, 8-12 m.p.h.; temp. 38 to 44. Total hours, 10; total miles, 25 (7 on foot, 18 by car). Total, 44 species, 747 individuals. At times a cold rain hindered observation. Other species recorded during Christmas week: Dec. 23: Loggerhead Shrike, 2; Bewick's Wren, 1; Dec. 26: Ring-necked Duck, 42; Lesser Scaup, 28; Ruddy Duck, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 10 (all for this latter date at Brown Meadow Lake). Among other birds known to be wintering are Red-shouldered Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, and Cowbird.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

**HENDERSON** (7½-mile radius from Audubon State Park Museum; deciduous woods 28%, sloughs and bottom lands 12%, hill fields and fence rows 25%, river and edges 18%, small thickets 9%, abandoned fields 3%, town and suburbs 5%).—Dec. 20; 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cloudy; wind S to NW, 8-11 m.p.h.; temp. 53 to 40. Passage of a cold front with a threat of snow made birds very active; some drizzle. Twenty observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 34 (16 on foot, 12 by car, 6 by boat); total party-miles, 32 (15½ on foot, 10 by car, 6½ by boat). Three of the Canada Geese were of a lesser race, the Lesser or Hutchins. Some of the larger figures are estimates. Total, 87 species (and 1 additional subspecies), about 42,706 individuals. The Harris's Sparrow was seen by Virginia Smith and King Benson as they were working a small wood lot with scanty undergrowth, on the Lyle place. Benson says that he had an opportunity to study this same bird at close range last fall; several of this species were feeding just outside his window, where he watched them, bird book in hand, for a long time. W. P. Rhoads and Franklin Berry recorded one of the Chipping Sparrows on a ridge between two arms of the lake in Audubon State Park, in low shrubs and sparse broomsedge. Both observers had close observation for several minutes. The double eye-stripe was plainly visible, even without glasses. Another Chipping Sparrow was observed by Mrs. Nat Stanley, Sr., Mrs. Nat Stanley, Jr., and Mrs. George Stanley, Jr., in the edge of Green River bottom. The rest of the Chippings were recorded by Walter Alves on his farm just west of Henderson, in

some small thickets in a pasture. Seen in the area Dec. 23: Snowy Owl, 1 (by Mrs. Manion); Dec. 11: Herring Gull (by W. P. Rhoads).—WALTER ALVES, KING BENSON, FRANK BERRY, LESLIE CLARK, MRS. LORA CLARK, JIMMY FIELDS, AMELIA KLUTEY, MRS. LEO MANION, W. P. RHOADS (compiler), MRS. ARCH SHELTON, VIRGINIA SMITH, R. C. SOAPER, MRS. GEORGE STANLEY, JR., MRS. NAT STANLEY, SR., MR. AND MRS. NAT STANLEY, JR., MRS. RICHARD STITES, EDNA VOGEL, and MRS. ZENAIDA WATSON.

OWENSBORO (Ohio River bottoms, Carpenter's Lake, Panther Creek, fields, roadsides, and suburban areas).—Dec. 26 and 27. We studied four types of habitats in four scattered areas and made a total of five trips. Total hours afield, 15; total miles, 82 by car and 10 to 12 on foot. Weather fairly cold, and windy at times on both days. Total, 50 species, approximately 2,311 individuals. During the week of December 13 and 14, Mr. and Mrs. Powell found 2 male and 4 female Am. Widgeon, and at the weekend of December 21 Mr. Powell found them again. They usually appear every winter at Carpenter's Lake. The Canada Geese were seen at Little Hurricane Island, below the Owensboro Locks, by Powell and Charles Seaborn, of Memphis, Tennessee. They were flying in huge flocks and rather high; 1000 is a very conservative estimate. On January 1 the following additions were made to our censuses: Mallard, 3000; Black Duck, 25-50; Pintail, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk, 1; Bewick's Wren, 1 (at Miss Virginia Smith's home near Henderson); Brown Thrasher, 1; Swamp Sparrow, several.—JOE FORD, CHARLES SEABORN, A. L. POWELL, JR. (Compiler), and MRS. A. L. POWELL, JR.

BOWLING GREEN (Schneider, Taylor, Chaney, and Albert Covington farms; Three Springs; Lost River; Mouth of Gasper).—Dec. 22; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy; occasional showers from mid-morning on; temp. 38 to 43; wind SW, 1-7 m.p.h. Four observers in three parties. Total, 52 species, 3493 individuals. Other species recorded in late December or on January 1: Black Duck, Black Vulture, Marsh Hawk, and Bob-white. Several species showed a decided increase over their numbers of a year ago, when the birds had not recovered from the severe winter of 1950-51.—L. Y. LANCASTER, CHARLES L. TAYLOR, J. R. WHITMER, and GORDON WILSON (Compiler).

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (Central area, Beaver Pond, Katy Pace Valley, Hickory Cabin, North Bank of Green River, Joppa Ridge).—Dec. 29; 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear; wind SW, 1-3 m.p.h.; temp. 19 to 47. Four observers in two parties. Total, 34 species, 750 individuals. In spite of the small number of individuals on this list, the following species were more numerous than on any previous census in the park: Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Myrtle Warbler. Nearly all species showed an increase over the 1951 census.—FRANK EWING, MYRON HAYS, Park Naturalist C. T. REID, and GORDON WILSON (Compiler).

MID-WINTER BIRD  
COUNT 1952

	Ky. Woodlands	Marion	Penn. St. Park	Madisonville	Henderson	Owensboro	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave Pk.	Louisville	Otter Creek	Willard	Maysville
Common Loon .....				1	16				2			
Horned Grebe .....									2			
Eared Grebe .....									1			
Pied-billed Grebe .....					2				10			
D-cr. Cormorant .....					1							
Gr. Blue Heron .....	4	2			12		1					
Bl.-cr. Night Heron .....					1				21			
Canada Goose .....	3260	18			1126	1000			63			
Snow Goose .....	1											
Mallard .....	2225	335			25M	119	264	3	228	70		
Black Duck .....	404	132			1900	3		25	215	50		2
Gadwall .....	4											
Am. Widgeon .....	38		10			*			6			
Pintail .....	1		40		210	*			2			
Green-winged Teal .....					70				1			3
Wood Duck .....					1		2					
Redhead .....					2	2			*			
Ring-necked Duck .....	20	1	75	11	60	25	2		20			4
Canvas-back .....					220	8			75			
Gr. Scaup Duck .....									1			
Les. Scaup Duck .....	35	6		*	1100	5			301	10		
Am. Golden-eye .....	12				80	1			3			
Buffle-head .....	4				12	1			27			
Old-squaw .....					6							
Ruddy Duck .....	1			*	7	1			26			
Hooded Merganser .....	4								10			
Am. Merganser .....	2				37				3			
R.-br. Merganser .....					135							
Turkey Vulture .....		4			3				6			
Black Vulture .....			1					9	7			12
Sharp-sh. Hawk .....					1				2			
Cooper's Hawk .....	1	1			5	1			4	1		1
Red-tailed Hawk .....	6		1	1	13	*			6	2		3
Red-sh. Hawk .....	2	1		*	22	1			7	1		1
Rough-legged Hawk .....							2					
Bald Eagle .....	3				4				1	1		
Marsh Hawk .....		2		2	14	2	*		1			
Osprey .....					1							
Peregrine Falcon .....					4							
Sparrow Hawk .....		2		3	33	22	4		53	1		3
Ruffed Grouse .....	2										1	
Bob-white .....	9	13	10	13	15	4	*	12	5	12		
Eastern Turkey .....	11											
Am. Coot .....	28	2			1	2			2			
Killdeer .....	5		1	3	51	2	16		5			
Am. Woodcock .....					1				1			
Wilson's Snipe .....				2	1		5					
Herring Gull .....	3	13							142			
Ring-billed Gull .....	2018					50			900			
Bonaparte's Gull .....									20			
Mourning Dove .....	19	20		43	261	4	140		79			
Barn Owl .....					1							
Screech Owl .....	1	1			2	1			1			
Horned Owl .....	1				3				2			
Barred Owl .....	3	4		1		1			3			
Short-eared Owl .....					1							



MID-WINTER BIRD  
COUNT 1952

	Ky. Woodlands	Marion	Penn. St. Park	Madisonville	Henderson	Owensboro	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave Pk.	Louisville	Otter Creek	Willard	Maysville
Belted Kingfisher .....	5	2		1	5	2	3	1	3	2		
Y.-sh. Flicker .....	20	6	2	18	23	13	24	21	73	19		19
Pil. Woodpecker .....	2	2	1	1	9	1	7	12	5	2	3	
Red-bel. Woodpecker .....	6	16	1	9	20	7	18	14	43	4		5
Red-h. Woodpecker .....		2		2	4	1			7			
Y.-b. Sapsucker .....	3	1		*	4	2	1	6	4	5		
Hairy Woodpecker .....		5		4	10	1	4		10	2	5	1
Downy Woodpecker .....	22	23	4	9	34	11	32	10	76	9	6	19
Eastern Phoebe .....							1		*			
Horned Lark .....		12		17	35	30	115		2			
Blue Jay .....	20	15	2	20	67	46	65	9	101	53		3
Am. Crow .....	61	32	12	6	10M	109	401	16	2454	172	1	216
Carolina Chickadee .....	85	65	30	22	75	46	92	39	128	45	20	27
Tufted Titmouse .....	26	80	2	28	62	43	43	20	149	22	10	14
White-br. Nuthatch .....	23	3		1	17	1	1	13	26	4		1
Red-br. Nuthatch .....			1		7				2			
Brown Creeper .....		1		*	5	1	1		14	8		1
Winter Wren .....				*	4		3	4	7	2		1
Bewick's Wren .....		3	1	*	4		1					
Carolina Wren .....	12	6		12	8	7	28	8	41	11	4	13
Short-b. Marsh Wren .....										1		
Long-b. Marsh Wren .....					1							
Mockingbird .....	1	5		8	22	5	16		40	1		
Brown Thrasher .....				*	1	*						
Am. Robin .....	3	4	4	*	2		77	97	169	41		
Hermit Thrush .....		3	3	2	8	2	6	9	1	2		
E. Bluebird .....	23	16		17	36	7	22	15	134	11	18	9
Golden-cr. Kinglet .....	2		21				8	7	8	10	15	
Ruby-cr. Kinglet .....		6	1		2				1			
Cedar Waxwing .....	2	18		*	14		28	60	71	28		
Loggerhead Shrike .....				*	3		2		3			
Com. Starling .....	129	350	1	53	520	25	1020		11M	75		89
Myrtle Warbler .....	2		8	3	1		14	48	2	18		
English Sparrow .....	45	150	12	80	352	300	287	15	159	3	6	60
East. Meadowlark .....	4	35		52	276	50	2		8	1		10
Red-wing .....	6	6		*					3			
Rusty Blackbird .....				1			85	3	2			
Purple Grackle .....	2	6			23				500			1
Brown-h. Cowbird .....		150		*	151							
Cardinal .....	70	29	22	41	229	104	167	39	622	77	7	37
Purple Finch .....	104		11	1			9	50	11	50		
Pine Siskin .....									109			
Am. Goldfinch .....	198	7	4	32	8	7	82	19	62	2	32	10
Eastern Towhee .....	32	5	1	25	15	20	42	41	263	11		1
Savannah Sparrow .....	2											
LeConte's Sparrow .....	1											
Slate-col. Junco .....	310	65	68	107	74	56	132	94	411	152	55	56
Am. Tree Sparrow .....	15	65	21	10	6	2	10		95	13		13
Chipping Sparrow .....					2							1
Field Sparrow .....	7		5	21	51	125	1	2	10	10		7
Harris's Sparrow .....					4							
White-cr. Sparrow .....	2	20		6	31	6	62		12	2		1
White-th. Sparrow .....	23	8	6	17	4	2	101	17	136	3		2
Fox Sparrow .....	5		2	2	6		4		2	1		
Swamp Sparrow .....	10		2	12		*	1	1	3	11		
Song Sparrow .....	4	22	4	27	10	27	37	11	86	21	5	14

LOUISVILLE (Louisville, Anchorage, and Worthington to Prospect, Goshen, and the Ohio River in Jefferson and Oldham Counties).—Dec. 21; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Overcast; temp. 31 to 46; wind very slight, 2-5 m.p.h.; rain the previous two days; all water open. Thirty-five observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours, 75 (69 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 91 (39 on foot, 52 by car). The Eared Grebe, the first state record, was observed as close as 20 yards in good light in morning by Monroes; all field marks noted: dark neck, conspicuous white ear patch, and slender upturned bill; observed again in afternoon by Brecher. The Greater Scaup was shot by a hunter. The Baltimore Oriole was wintering at the home of Dr. Arch Cole and fed on sugar-coated grape-fruit candy. Additional species observed during the week were: White-winged Scoter, Phoebe. Total, 86 species, about 19,735 individuals.—KIM BABCOCK, LEONARD BRECHER, HELEN BROWNING, FLOYD CARPENTER, WILLIAM CLAY, JACOB P. DOUGHTY, MRS. J. J. ELLINGTON, TOM FULLER, PAXTON GIBBS, BOB KELLOGG, MR. AND MRS. F. X. KRULL, HOWARD C. MITCHELL, BURT L. MONROE, JR., BURT L. MONROE, SR., (Compiler), MRS. H. V. NOLAND, KENT PREVIERTE, MR. AND MRS. HARVEY B. LOVELL, EVELYN J. SCHNEIDER, WALTER SHAKLETON, MR. AND MRS. FRANCIS SHANNON, JERRY SMITH, MR. AND MRS. F. W. STAMM, BOB STEILBERG, CHARLES STRULL, MRS. FAN TABLER, MR. AND MRS. S. CHARLES THACHER, AUDREY WRIGHT, MABEL SLACK, VIRGINIA WINSTANDLEY, LOUIS PIEPER, and MARIE PIEPER.

WILLARD—Dec. 26; 9:40 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cloudy most of the time, with a little sunshine in the afternoon. Temp. about 38 all day. Ten miles of fields and woods. Total, 15 species, 188 individuals.—ERCEL KOZEE.

MAYSVILLE, Mason County, Kentucky (Jersey Ridge, German-town Road, Charlestown River Bottom Road, banks of the Ohio River, creeks and river 5%, open farmlands 50%, deciduous woodlands 10%, roadsides 25%, thickets 5%, residential 5%).—Dec. 26; 9:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Cold, dull, cloudy; wind 10-12 m.p.h.; temp. 25-32 degrees; ground bare, ponds and creeks frozen over, river open. Two observers together. Total hours 5¼; total miles, 27 (5 on foot, 22 by car). Total species, 35; individuals, 647.—FRED W. STAMM, ANNE L. STAMM.

OTTER CREEK PARK (Ohio River, Otter Creek, the park area and adjacent farmlands; river 10%, mature woods 10%, brushy fields 35%, open meadows 15%, farmlands 30%).—Dec. 28; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Weather mild, partly cloudy; no ice or snow; wind 3-5 m.p.h. Total hours 19 (15 on foot, 4 by car); total miles, 25. Six persons in 3 parties. Total species, 47; total individuals, 1052.—ANNE STAMM, FRED STAMM, FLOYD CARPENTER, DR. PERRY FRAZER, FRANK X. KRULL, H. B. LOVELL (Compiler).

## FIELD NOTES

### SIGHT RECORDS FOR TWO NORTHERN GULLS IN KENTUCKY

On the morning of December 25, 1949, while we were watching a small group of Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) feeding on the Falls of the Ohio, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, a Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) in first winter plumage appeared in their midst. Excellent comparisons were possible, as the Herring Gulls were in various plumage stages. The bird in question was as big as or very slightly larger than the Herring Gulls. Also observing the bird were Dr. Harvey B. Lovell and Mr. Donald Summerfield, in addition to the writers. The only other record for the state is another sight record by Floyd Carpenter, made at Louisville on February 21 and 24, 1942 (Ky. Warbler 18:37).

The writers had the good fortune to observe an Iceland Gull (*Larus leucopterus*) in first winter plumage on February 9, 1952, near Harrod's Creek, Jefferson County, Kentucky. The bird was first seen feeding in a flooded field adjacent to the Ohio River with a flock of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls. Again comparisons were made possible. The bird was slightly larger than the Ring-billed and noticeably smaller than the Herring Gulls. After several minutes the flock left the field and flew overhead, heading up the Ohio River.

Although these are sight records, they were both made under very good conditions and are here entered for what they are worth.—BURT L. MONROE, SR., AND BURT L. MONROE, JR., Anchorage.

\* \* \* \* \*

### ENGLISH SPARROWS FEEDING ON INSECTS

On September 20, 1952, in late afternoon I observed a flock of about 40 English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) feeding on small grasshoppers along a country road near Murray, Kentucky. The birds, in flycatcher fashion, flew out from the fences, hovered, and snapped up the insects, which were flying through the weeds. Maurice Brooks, (*Wil. Bull.*, 63: 116) noted English Sparrows eating locust leaf-miners. Whether these are incidental observations or whether this behavior has been largely unreported for this species might be of some interest.—L. S. PUTNAM, Dept. of Zoology and Entomology, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio .

\* \* \* \* \*

### SIGHT RECORDS OF THE HARRIS SPARROW IN KENTUCKY AND SOUTHERN INDIANA

On December 15, 1952, I was sitting at my window when to my surprise strange Sparrows appeared upon the scene. I was watching about a dozen White-crowned Sparrows enjoying their tidbits at a favorite feeding spot not over fifteen feet from me when I noticed the two strange birds. I knew at once I had added a new species to my life list, the Harris's Sparrow. They were the most beautiful sparrows I had ever seen, about the size of the Fox Sparrow, and exhibited a more alert and wilder appearance than my rather tame White Crowns. Their black crowns were veiled in gray, for they

were in their first winter plumage, because instead of a black bib which is so characteristic of the adults the second winter, these birds had blotched and streaked breasts which were more or less fused into a beautiful buff color on the sides. The stripes on the back were very distinct and gave the bird a mighty handsome appearance. When something frightened the flock, the two Harris's Sparrows flew up in the top of an apple tree nearby, while the White Crowns alighted in some sumac bushes that stood near their feeding place—another distinct characteristic of Harris's Sparrows.

I sat with eager anticipation hoping that they would reward me with their song, and, sure enough, this they did. I then went outside in order to see whether I could get closer to them. On seeing me they flew to a plum tree not far away and gave utterance to their best sparrow song. It is similar to that of the White Throat but is even more delicate and rarer in tone and quality than even that gifted singer. Two days later the pair returned to the same spot.

On December 21, Virginia Smith and I were taking the Christmas Bird Census on a hill farm where there was a wood lot. A flock of winter birds were flushed, but four remained and flew into very low trees. They were so close to us and sat there so long that we had no trouble in identifying them as Harris's Sparrows.

Mrs. James C. Bower had found a pair in Evansville, Indiana, on November 18, 1952, and also another pair on December 26. Both pairs were immatures.

According to Russell Mumford, a Harris's Sparrow was observed in Porter County, Indiana, by Merrill Sweet on October 16, 1952. Mumford saw one in Jackson County in the same state on December 7 and remarks that there seems to have been a heavier fall flight of this species than usual east of the Mississippi River.—KING BENSON, Route 1, Henderson.

\* \* \* \* \*

### BLUEBIRD HOUSES

Twenty years ago we were living on a Kentucky farm, not many miles from Louisville, and at the back of our house there stood a large square cedar post, which was used for holding up one end of a clothes line. Woodpeckers had excavated a hole in one side near the top of this post, and in this cavity a pair of Bluebirds built their nest each summer.

The Bluebirds reared two or three families each season in the cedar post, and all the Bluebird children remained in the yard all summer. Every time we stepped out the back door, we were greeted by a large company of Bluebirds. To us these birds became such a delight that we have been putting up Bluebird houses ever since and now have some 300 houses in operation over a wide section of the United States. Our problem is to locate these houses in suitable places where they will be appreciated and protected. In general a box should face an open area, as Bluebirds rarely nest in heavily-wooded areas.

Bluebirds, as you know, would normally build in hollow tree limbs, but dead trees are no longer permitted to stand, particularly in our cities. Bird houses are acceptable substitutes but bird houses must be properly designed and located in order to attract Bluebirds. Houses should be placed not over 5 feet above the ground; otherwise they will be occupied by English Sparrows. While many ornithologists recommend placing the boxes on a pole in the open, we have found that they are accepted by the Bluebirds nearly as well if placed low in trees.

We make no charge for our houses and would prefer, where convenient, to have the pleasure of putting them up ourselves, in case any one should be interested. These houses are constructed according to Audubon Society specifications and will last 8 years in the weather. These boxes have a removable bottom through which the old nests can be removed or English Sparrow nests destroyed.—W. G. DUNCAN, 315 Jarvis Lane, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 1952 CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS AT THREE RIVERS ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, MICHIGAN

In the Christmas Bird Census period for the year, 1952, I took four trips, and the one I took on Dec. 25, 1952 turned to be my biggest for this Christmas. This is as follows:

Three Rivers, St. Joseph County, Michigan.—Dec. 25; 7:08 to 10:20 a.m. CST. Weather, snow fell most of the day, and the ground began to get white at my return; moderate westerly wind; temp. 30 to 32. Observer, alone, covering some of city and country; also some marshes and some of Portage, Rocky, and St. Joseph Rivers. Common Canada Goose, 1; Common Mallard, 58; American Golden-eye, 12; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Domestic Pigeon, 44; Eastern Belted Kingfisher, 1; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 2; Northern Blue Jay, 10; Eastern Crow, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 10; Tufted Titmouse, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 1; European Starling, 33; English Sparrow, 165; Eastern Cardinal, 6; Eastern Purple Finch, 2; Eastern Goldfinch, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 1; Eastern Tree Sparrow, 23; Song Sparrow, 3. Total species, 22; individuals 383.

Other species observed recently, but not on the date of census, are: Dec. 28, 1 Prairie Horned Lark, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, and 1 Cooper's Hawk; Dec. 30, 1 Lapland Longspur; Jan. 4, 1953: 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker; Jan. 8: 2 Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglets.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS, 231 South Main Street, Three Rivers, St. Joseph County, Michigan.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

**BECKHAM BIRD CLUB DINNER.** The annual dinner was held on February 9 in the Jefferson Room at the U. of L., with President Anne Stamm presiding. The Award of Merit was presented to Burt L. Monroe for his many years of service to both the club and to ornithology in Kentucky.

Among the activities and honors listed for Burt were: Treasurer and now first vice-president of the Wilson Ornithological Club; member and representative on the council of the A. O. U.; state ornithologist, past president of the League of Kentucky Sportsmen, and editorial writer for **Happy Hunting Ground**; chief founder and first president of the Beckham Bird Club; past president of the K. O. S. and for two years editor of the **Kentucky Warbler**; author of numerous articles in the **Auk**, **Wilson Bulletin**, **Migrant**, a chapter in **A Guide to Bird Finding**, and for several years the author of weekly column in the **Sunday Courier-Journal**, entitled the "Courier Sportsman."

Dr. Ralph Edeburn was the chief speaker of the evening. He is professor at Marshall College, Huntington, West Virginia. The first part of his interesting talk was devoted to an analysis of the birds within a 50-mile circle of Huntington. There have been 230 species recorded within the area plus 2 extinct species: the Passenger Pigeon and Carolina Paroquet. Among the unusual birds cited were Saw-whet Owl, Swainson's Warbler, and Pine Siskin. During 13 years of Christmas bird counts about 100 winter birds have been recorded, of which 35 are permanent residents. The best count was 87 species in 1952. Their largest spring count in May is 152 species. The second part of his talk was illustrated by a film entitled "Nature Recreation," which included many interesting shots of bird activities.

**ANOTHER HOWARD ROLLIN PAINTING.** The K. O. S. has received a Christmas present of a beautiful painting of the Arizona Pyrrhuloxia. This brightly-colored bird is a native of southern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and western Texas. With fine skill Mr. Rollin has portrayed both the male, with his red and gray plumage, and the female, with her less colorful dress. This is the ninth year that Mr. Rollin has sent us one of his paintings with his compliments. These pictures are available for loan to members for one year. Applications should be sent to the custodian, Miss Evelyn J. Schneider. Members desiring to purchase one of Mr. Rollin's original paintings may do so at a cost of from 5 to 12 dollars, depending upon the size. The editor will be glad to help arrange such a purchase.

**HENDERSON AUDUBON SOCIETY** presented Karl Maslowski on January 23 at a dinner in the Soaper Trellis Room in Henderson. Maslowski showed his famous film entitled "Earthquake Lake," which was taken at Reelfoot Lake in Western Tennessee, chiefly in "Cranetown," as the great rookery of egrets and herons is called. Visitors attended from all over Western Kentucky and adjacent Indiana, many of whom are members of both the Audubon Society and the K. O. S. The growth of the Henderson club has been phenomenal. Starting from a nucleus of about a dozen bird enthusiasts about 5 years ago, the club now numbers some 300 members, an amazing achievement for a city the size of Henderson. The presence of the

Audubon State Park and Museum has been important stimulus, but much of the credit is due to Virginia Smith, who has organized the society.

\* \* \* \* \*

**BULLETIN OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF KENTUCKY.** The first issue for 1953 has just been received. It is edited by Mrs. J. Kidwell Grannis, Flemingsburg. It contains 32 large double-column pages about the activities of the gardeners in the state. Miss Virginia Smith of Henderson, as chairman of the bird committee, has a report in which she urges each club to devote one program to birds and suggests that each member identify the spring and summer birds as they arrive.

**Dr. J. W. Clotfelter** writes from Paris, Kentucky, that he is still actively interested in birds and has given 3 talks on ornithology during the last year: Paris Junior High School, a church group, and the Bourbon County Garden Club. There is considerable interest in birds among the garden club members.

**Kent Previette** wrote a fine article on Christmas bird counts in Kentucky which appeared in the Sunday Magazine section of the *Courier-Journal* with a circulation of nearly 300,000. As a result several new members were obtained, including 3 from Ashland, a section of the state from which we had no members.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Inc., owes its success to leaders of the past who have worked untiringly for the betterment of bird protection and conservation. Now our present members are trying to expand this program and create a greater feeling of responsibility to the state society.

We know that there are many people in Kentucky who are actively interested in birds but are not affiliated with the K. O. S. We must work constantly to increase our membership. If each member would try to add one new one, our goal of 400 for this year would be reached easily.

There are many things to be done for a stronger K. O. S., such as more local societies, more lecture programs, more bird-banding stations, and more articles for the WARBLER.

K. O. S. will celebrate thirty years as an organization next October 9, 10, 11 at Cumberland Falls State Park. We have invited the Tennessee Ornithological Society to meet with us. A committee is at work now on the program, which will include interesting field trips.

Plan now to come and make our dream of 100 in attendance a reality. With the help of each of you, I feel sure that these things can be accomplished.—VIRGINIA SMITH, Henderson.

\* \* \* \* \*

**NATURE CONSERVANCY.** This relatively new organization has been formed by a group of prominent ecologists, field naturalists, and others to protect our vanishing wildlife and other resources. They are urging all those with a serious interest in wildlife to join

and lend their support to this national group. Dues of \$2.00 may be sent to the editor, who is acting as chairman of the Conservancy in Kentucky, or directly to Nature Conservancy, 1840 Mintwood Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.

\* \* \* \* \*

### SPRING PROGRAM

The regular spring meeting will be held on Friday, April 17, 1953, in the Mirror Room of the Kentucky Hotel. The luncheon will be at noon, for which members are requested to make reservations with Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, 2918 Brownsboro Road, Louisville (\$2.00 per plate). A business session will begin at 1:00 followed by a talk by Professor A. S. Bradshaw, Transylvania College, "Viewpoints on Ornithology."

The afternoon program will begin at 2:00 p. m. Demonstration Lesson on Bird Study by Grade 6, Cochran School, Louisville, Miss Mary McAlister, teacher.

"American Bird Artists and their Works," Dr. H. H. Michaud, Purdue University. Exhibit of Bird Paintings.

**FIELD TRIP.** Saturday, April 18, 7:30 a. m. Leaders: Leonard Brecher, Harvey Lovell. Meet at Castleman's Monument, Cherokee Road and Cherokee Parkway, or come directly to Indian Hills swamps.

**THE FALL MEETING** will be held at Cumberland Falls State Park. Plan now to attend. We hope to devote part of either the May or August issue to the natural history of the area with special references to birds and bird habitats. Please send photographs and notes on the park and its birds to the editor. There are several breeding birds in the park and adjacent Cumberland National Forest which are absent or rare in central and western Kentucky. These include the Ruffed Grouse, Pine Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler.

**COMMON NAMES OF BIRDS.** We call your attention to some of the changes in the names that occur in the table of Christmas bird counts in this issue. We are following the new common names recommended by the National Audubon Society in the printed lists which they send out to contributors. For example, it is now decided that the Purple and Bronze Grackle are merely minor variations (sub-species) of the same species and both are now called Purple Grackle. The Bald Pate is now called American Widgeon. Other unfamiliar names may be the: Yellow-shafted Flicker, Brown-headed Cowbird, Peregrine Falcon (for Duck Hawk) and Loggerhead Shrike (for Migrant Shrike, the latter name referring to an unrecognizable subspecies in the field; if recognized it should be called the Migrant Loggerhead Shrike). It is hoped that these few changes will make bird names more logical and in the end more satisfactory. It is designed to discourage the use of subspecific names by field observers.



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BIRDS

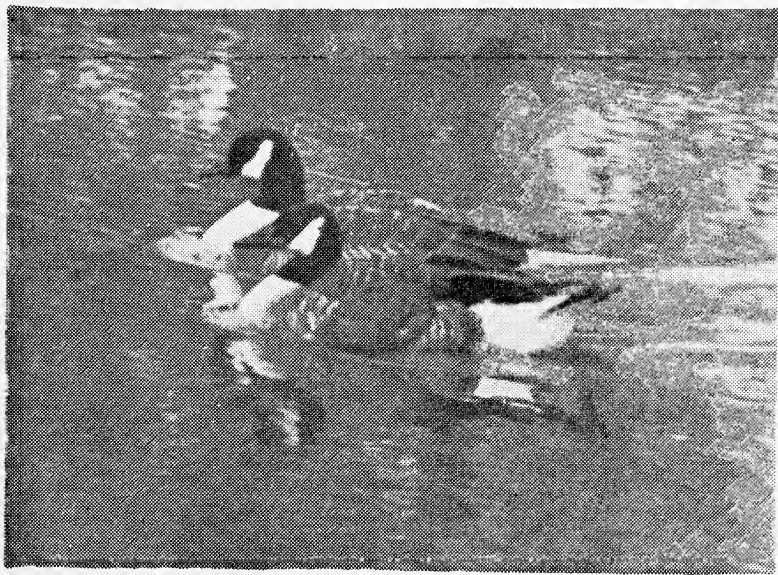
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Division of Birds

# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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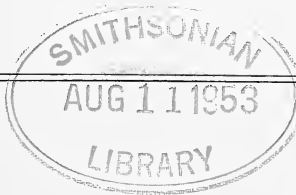
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CANADA GEESE

Recovering on a Farm Pond at Henderson

Vol. 29 No. 2



May, 1953

## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1923 by

B. C. BACON, L. O. PINDAR, and GORDON WILSON

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Vice-President..... Roger Barbour, University of Kentucky

Secretary-Treasurer.....

Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, 2918 Brownsboro Rd., Louisville

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Curator..... Burt L. Monroe, Ridge Road, Anchorage

Editor..... Harvey B. Lovell, 3011 Meade Ave., Louisville

Census Editor.....

Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green

Assistant Editors..... Leonard Brecher, Grace Wyatt

All members are urged to send notes, articles, news items, or other material for publication to one of the editors.

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP \$2.00, STUDENT MEMBERSHIP \$1.00  
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP \$5.00, LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$50.00

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## A STUDY OF NESTING BIRDS AT SLEEPY HOLLOW, KY.

BY

ANNE L. STAMM, WALTER SHACKLETON, and MABEL SLACK

This paper represents a study of the breeding birds at Sleepy Hollow made April 12 through June 7, 1952, with emphasis on the number of breeding species, approximate nesting dates, and nesting habits.

Sleepy Hollow is located on the old Brownsboro Road, sixteen miles northeast of Louisville, Kentucky, in Oldham County. This somewhat rugged tract of 176 acres, which includes a seventeen-acre lake, formed by the damming of the South Fork of Harrods Creek is a real estate development section. However, there are only nineteen cottage-type dwellings, of which nine are inhabited the year round, the others occupied only during the summer months. There has been very little clearing of land around the cottages; and shrubs, vines and tall trees surround them. Thus, the development of the area has had little effect on habitat.

Only a portion of this tract was censused in order to cover it thoroughly. The area studied comprises 38 acres and consists of steep, densely wooded hillsides terminating at the lake, which borders the censused area for three quarters of a mile on the north. The South Fork of Harrods Creek borders the study area on the eastern side. This territory is divided by a private road which runs from the entrance in the valley to a point halfway up the hillside at the spring house, where it turns east and continues on that level for the entire length of the property. This road after it makes the turn is at an elevation of about 600 feet above sea level and is about halfway between the lake and the top of the hill. All dwellings are immediately adjacent to the private road. Intensive work was done in the area, which is within the southern bank of the lake and the creek to a point about 100 feet above the road and paralleling it. The area was carefully checked from time to time for nests during the entire eight-weeks period.

Second growth trees and undisturbed undergrowth make up the cover on the hillsides. Among the more common deciduous trees of general distribution are several species of oak, white and black walnut, scalybark and pignut hickory. Other trees characteristic of the wooded slopes are beech, maple, tulip poplar, wild cherry, ash, elm, buckeye, honey and black locust. Considerable hop hornbeam, box elder, willow, and blue beech form a fringe at the edge of the lake. A few stately sycamores are in the valley and on the hillside west of the creek. The undergrowth consists

of spicebush, black raspberry, the usual saplings, together with much poison ivy, wild grape vines, Virginia creeper, and honeysuckle. In spring the ground is carpeted with wild flowers such as squirrel corn, Dutchman's breeches, trillium, trout lily, rue, and false anemone, blood root, toothwort, hepatica, wild ginger, shooting star, and fire pink. In the moist shaded nooks, violets, jack-in-the-pulpit, and celandine poppies grow in profusion. Here and there are many outcroppings of limestone ledges, thickly covered with moss, walking ferns, and mitrewort.

Observations were made on April 12, 20; May 1, 3, 10, 13, 16, 17, 24, 28; June 1, 7. Most trips were between the hours of 6:30 A. M. and noon. (Walter Shackleton resides in the area and contributed records from additional observations). Weather during this period was exceptionally good, although on some days showers prevented censusing the entire area. Nesting, however, did not seem delayed because of weather conditions. As far as possible, breeding data were based on actual nests found. A map of the area was made, and nests were charted on it.

Many summer residents did not nest immediately upon arrival, and in many cases nest building did not begin until two or three weeks later. Perhaps the early arrivals moved on farther north and the later birds remained to nest. An interesting example was the arrival of the Acadian Flycatchers on May 1, yet this species as a group was not active at nesting duties until May 24; however, one nest was found on May 17. The Indigo Bunting made its appearance on May 3, and nesting was not observed until May 17. A number of Wood Thrushes were singing on April 20, yet most nests were not under construction until the first week in May, and the peak egg-laying period was May 10-13. The majority of the Wood Thrush nests were found in maple saplings and spicebush along the edge of the road. Evidently this species needs only a limited territory, since the nests were close together.

Much evidence of parasitism by the Cowbird was observed, and of the nests recorded the Wood Thrush, Cardinal, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher suffered most in the order named. Also parasitized was one nest of the Kentucky Warbler. Some predation by snakes was also observed. There was some predation on adult birds, although its extent is not known.

One hundred and thirteen active nests of twenty-four species were found in the area (4 nests found on the opposite edge of the lake are included because the birds were seen feeding in the censused area). Some nests were found

before egg-laying started, some contained eggs, others young, and in a few young had fledged. The highest density of nesting occurred between May 24 and 28. This is based on actual nests which were in the process of being built, or which contained eggs or young. It is interesting to note that during this period inter-specific strife was very low. Even where Red-eyed Vireos, Acadian Flycatchers, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested in close proximity, there was little evidence of territorial defense.

Based on the number of nests only, the following species are arranged in the order of decreasing abundance: Wood Thrush, 23; Cardinal, 16; Acadian Flycatcher, 16; Red-eyed Vireo, 13; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 11; Prothonotary Warbler, 6; Phoebe, 4; Catbird, 3; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 2; Carolina Chickadee, 2; Carolina Wren, 2; Cerulean Warbler, 2; Summer Tanager, 2; Green Heron, 1; Wood Duck, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Crested Flycatcher, 1; Wood Pewee, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1; Kentucky Warbler, 1; Indigo Bunting, 1; Song Sparrow, 1.

A few remarks regarding the arrangement of the breeding list and the comments which follow each species will be necessary to a clear understanding of the whole. Species for which we found actual nests are listed without asterisks. A single asterisk occurs twelve times and refers to singing males or species found repeatedly in the area but for which we found no nests. A double asterisk marks five species where evidence of breeding is based on nocturnal calls alone. A triple asterisk precedes the names of four birds, indicating nesting based on parent birds carrying nesting material, carrying food to young, or the young seen out of the nest.

#### LIST OF THE BREEDING BIRDS

**GREEN HERON, *Butorides virescens*.** Recorded on each visit. One nest found on May 28 on edge of area. Another pair observed on May 24 carrying nesting material to east woods.

\*\*\***MALLARD, *Anas platyrhynchos*.** Not common. Two pairs noted on May 10, and young of this species observed on later visit.

**WOOD DUCK, *Aix sponsa*.** Not common. Ten young on May 9.

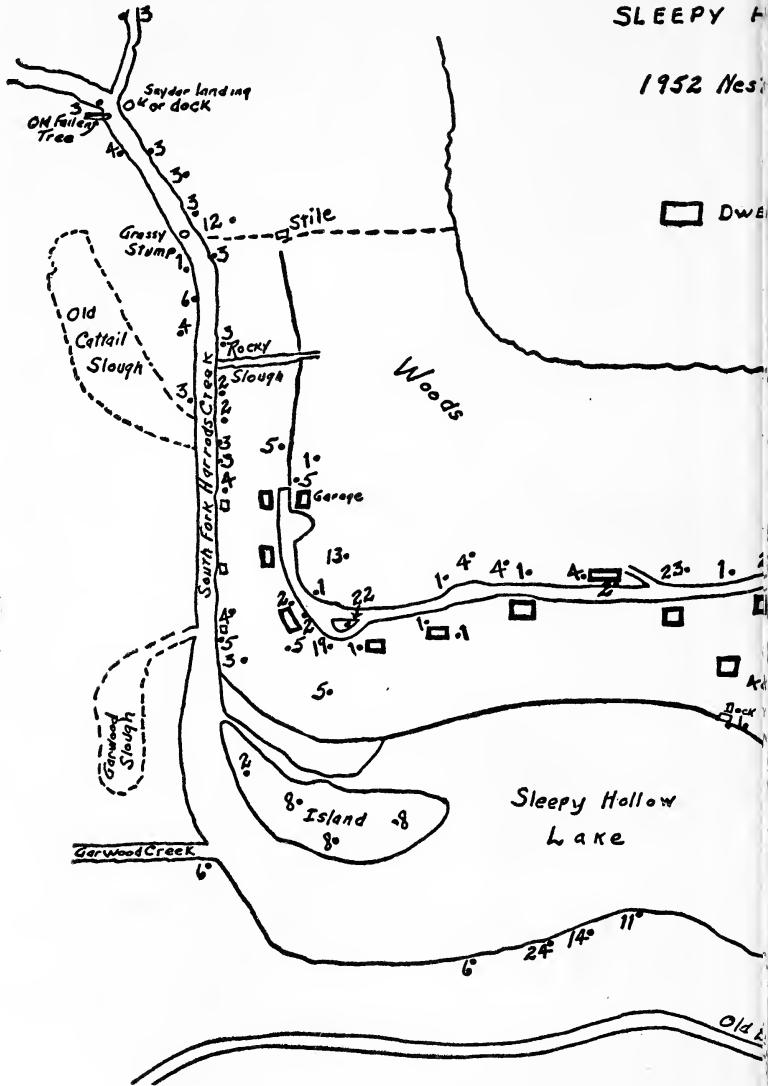
\***COOPER'S HAWK, *Accipiter cooperii*.** Species observed by Walter Shackleton.

\***RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, *Buteo lineatus*.** Species observed by Walter Shackleton.

\***BROAD-WINGED HAWK, *Buteo platypterus*.** One was seen at tree level along the road on May 13 and one on May 24 in the same area. Observed at other times by Walter Shackleton.

\***MOURNING DOVE, *Zenaidura macroura*.** Uncommon in area. One pair was found along the lake and another pair near the spring house where the road turns east.

\***YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO, *Coccyzus americanus*.** Fairly common in the valley and at the lower end of the property near the creek.



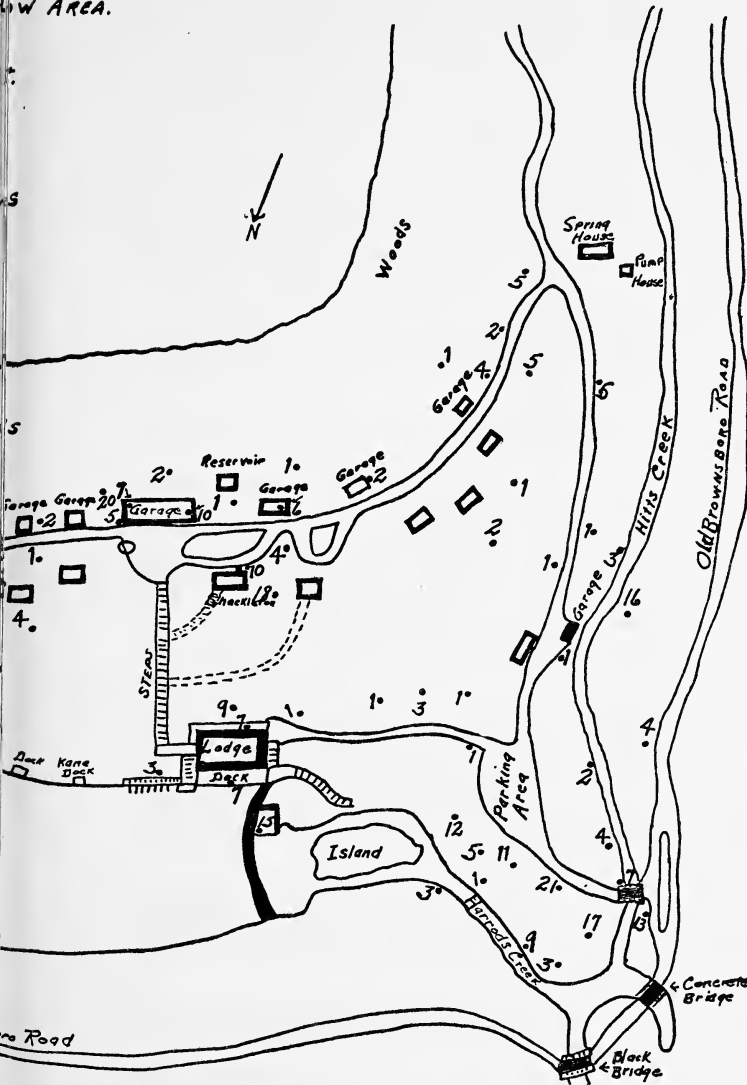
SKETCH-MAP OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

KEY FOR NEST CHART

Birds are listed with a key number referring to map; for example the key number for the Wood Thrush is 1, in which case a 1 is put on the map where nest of that species was found. Symbols are as follows:

- 1—Wood Thrush, 2—Cardinal, 3—Acadian Flycatcher, 4—Red-eyed

LOW AREA.

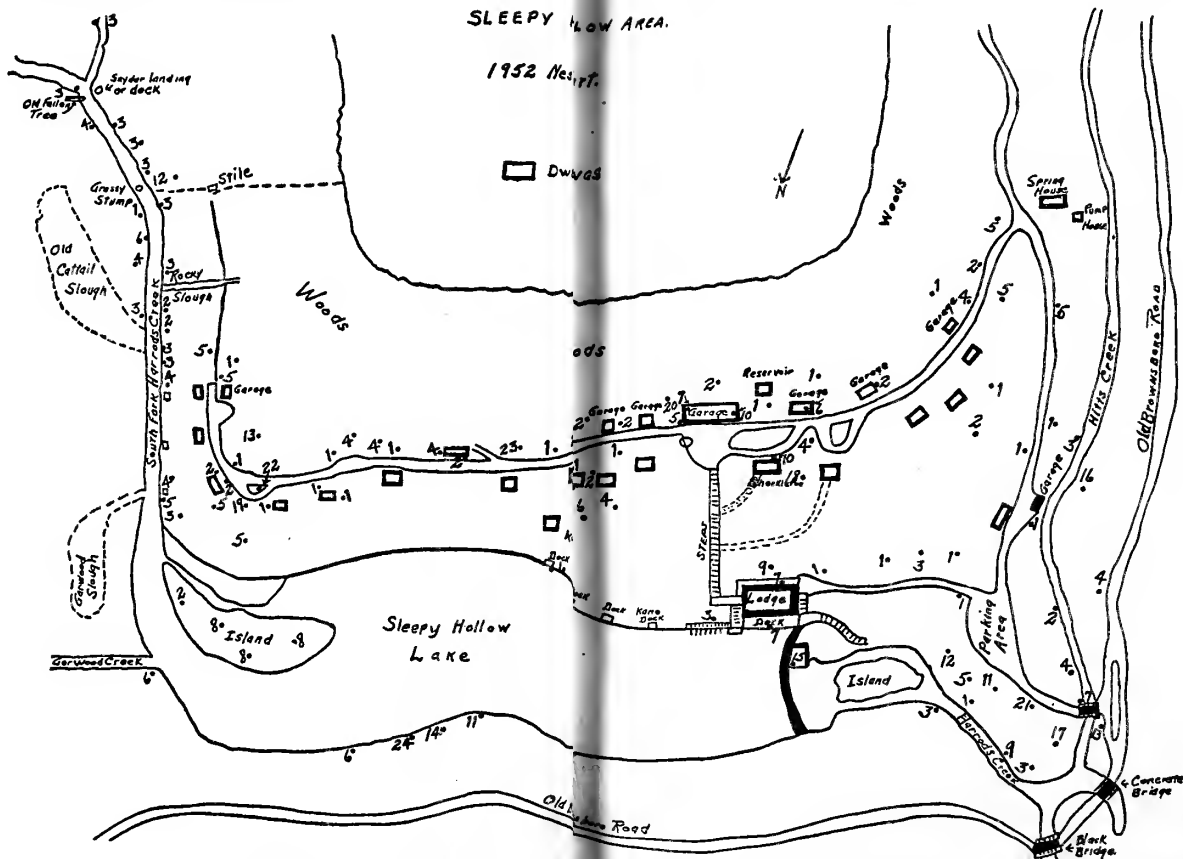


CA, SHOWING LOCATION OF NESTS

1—Vireo, 2—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 3—Prothonotary Warbler, 4—Phoebe, 5—Catbird, 6—Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 7—Carolina Wren, 8—Carolina Chickadee, 9—Cerulean Warbler, 10—Summer Tanager, 11—Green Heron, 12—Wood Duck, 13—Red-bellied Woodpecker, 14—Downy Woodpecker, 15—Crested Flycatcher, 16—Wood Pewee, 17—Yellow-throated Vireo, 18—White-breasted Nuthatch, 19—Kentucky Warbler, 20—Indigo Bunting, 21—Song Sparrow.







## KEY FOR NEST CHART

Birds are listed with a key number referring to map; for example the key number for the Wood Thrush is 1, in which case a 1 is put on the map where nest of that species was found. Symbols are as follows:

1—Wood Thrush, 2—Cardinal, 3—Acadian Flycatcher, 4—Red-eyed

Vireo, 5—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 6—Prothonotary Warbler, 7—Phoebe, 8—Catbird, 9—Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 10—Carolina Wren, 11—Carolina Chickadee, 12—Cerulean Warbler, 13—Summer Tanager, 14—Green Heron, 15—Wood Duck, 16—Red-bellied Woodpecker, 17—Downy Woodpecker, 18—Crested Flycatcher, 19—Wood Pewee, 20—Yellow-throated Vireo, 21—White-breasted Nuthatch, 22—Kentucky Warbler, 23—Indigo Bunting, 24—Song Sparrow.

\*\*SCREECH OWL, *Otus asio*. Heard numerous times; breeding based on calls.

\*\*HORNED OWL, *Bubo virginianus*. Heard numerous times by Walter Shackleton.

\*\*BARRED OWL, *Strix varia*. Noted by Walter Shackleton and others in the area.

\*\*CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW, *Caprimulgus carolinensis*. Listed on basis of calls heard by Walter Shackleton.

\*\*WHIP-POOR-WILL, *Caprimulgus vociferus*. Records indicate much calling especially during week of May 11. (Walter Shackleton).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, *Archilochus colubris*. Two nests found on June 1: one on a tiny branch of a beech sapling, and the other, ten feet from the ground on a limb overhanging the creek bank. Birds incubating.

\*BELTED KINGFISHER, *Megasceryle alcyon*. One or two noted on most visits along creek and lake.

\*YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER, *Colaptes auratus*. Not as common as Downy Woodpecker. The courtship of a pair observed on June 1.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, *Centurus carolinus*. A fair number present. One nest found on May 17, when parent birds were seen feeding young.

\*\*\*H A I R Y WOODPECKER, *Dendrocopus villosus*. Uncommon. Adult birds were seen carrying food to young.

DOWNY WOODPECKER, *Dendrocopus pubescens*. Fairly common. More numerous in the valley and on eastern edge of property. One nest found in cavity of elm tree about thirty feet from the ground on June 1. This nest was at the left of the entrance. Young out of the nest were also observed on the hillside above the boat club.

CRESTED FLYCATCHER, *Myiarchus crinitus*. Fairly common. Confined chiefly to the eastern area near creek. Pair occupied nest box in Shackleton's yard.

PHOEBE, *Sayornis phoebe*. Moderately common in half of the area. Four nests located, the earliest one on April 12.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax virescens*. A b u n d a n t summer resident. Sixteen nests located. Most nests were loosely constructed and in blue beech and box elder trees overhanging the creek and varied in height from three to twenty feet above the ground or water.

WOOD PEWEE, *Contopus virens*. Not as common as one would expect in such a wooded area. One lichen-encrusted nest was fifty feet high on outer limb of a large beech tree. The birds brought minute materials to add to the nest on June 1, although from all outward appearances it seemed finished.

\*BLUE JAY, *Cyanocitta cristata*. Permanent resident, yet not common. Found more frequently at upper end of area in more open territory.

\*AMERICAN CROW, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*. Permanent resident, and a number were seen in the area quite frequently.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE, *Parus carolinensis*. Fairly common, yet only two nests were found. One nest of interest was built in a three-inch iron post supporting a pot hanger which hung over a picnic grill. When it was found on May 16, the nest contained one young and three eggs.

\*\*\*TUFTED TITMOUSE, *Parus bicolor*. Rather common in certain sections. A pair observed carrying nesting material on April 20.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH, *Sitta carolinensis*. Uncommon permanent resident. Usually found at Shackleton's, and a pair nested in a cavity of a sycamore tree in the picnic area.

CAROLINA WREN, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. Most birds were observed near the dwellings. One nest was completely built on March 30 and was placed on a shelf above the door on Shackleton's porch. Another nest was found in the garage and built in a coffee can.

CATBIRD, *Dumetella carolinensis*. Uncommon. Species found only along creek edge and in the more open area. Three nests located on the island. Our earliest record is a nest with two eggs on May 10.

WOOD THRUSH, *Hylocichla mustelina*. Abundant summer resident. Twenty-three nests located. Most nests were in shrubs or saplings along the road edges.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, *Poliophtila caerulea*. Common summer resident. Eleven nests located. First nesting activity was noted on April 20.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO, *Vireo flavifrons*. Uncommon. Only one nest found and one other male heard singing, indicating an additional nest.

RED-EYED VIREO, *Vireo olivaceus*. Common summer resident, especially in wooded area. Thirteen nests found. First nesting activity noted on May 16.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, *Prothonotaria citrea*. Fairly common summer resident along the creek bank. Six nests were found, most of them in cavities of dead trees, but one of interest was in a mason jar which was on a shelf in Shackleton's garage. Our earliest record is a nest under construction on May 3 and containing three eggs on May 10.

CERULEAN WARBLER, *Dendroica cerulea*. Moderately common in some of the area. Two nests located high in walnut trees. The first nest was found May 17.

\*YELLOW-THROATED (SYCAMORE) WARBLER, *Dendroica dominica*. Earliest arrival of the summer residents. A few heard throughout the entire study. Found primarily in the valley and at the eastern end of the creek where it forks.

\*\*\*LOUISIANA WATER THRUSH, *Seiurus motacilla*. Fairly common along the valley, sloughs and creek bed. One observed carrying food on June 1.

KENTUCKY WARBLER, *Oporornis formosus*. Summer resident of the moist woodlands. Singing males indicate six pair in the area. One nest found on May 13 was built on a platform of maple leaves and at the base of a sapling.

\*YELLOW-THROAT, *Geothlypis trichas*. Uncommon. A few observed on island and likely nested there, as they were heard on most trips. On numerous occasions the birds gave alarm notes as we searched the vegetation on the island.

COWBIRD, *Molothrus ater*. Common in area. Three eggs of this species were found in one Cardinal nest and four eggs in that of the Kentucky Warbler, others too numerous to mention.

SUMMER TANAGER, *Piranga rubra*. Two nests located and singing males indicate six or seven pairs. There was considerable distance between singing males. Birds were incubating when nests were found on May 28 and June 1.

CARDINAL, *Richmondia cardinalis*. Common permanent resident. Sixteen nests found. Nests varied in location from those in shrubs, the elbow of a drain pipe below eaves, to one placed on a plank which was in a garage, eight or ten feet from the floor. Our earliest nesting record is a nest with three eggs on April 20.

**INDIGO BUNTING, *Passerina cyanea*.** Not common. Found in the more open spaces. On May 17 a pair found building a nest in a wild hydrangea about four feet from the ground and near the road; later the nest was abandoned. Another pair was seen gathering nesting material on the hillside near the Boat Club.

**\*EASTERN TOWHEE, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*.** Uncommon. Found only two pairs.

**SONG SPARROW, *Melospiza melodia*.** Not common. Found only along island and slightly to the east of the island. One nest located on May 28 at edge of area and evidence of another nest when adult bird was seen (on edge of island) carrying food.

Visitors to the area included the Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Chimney Swift, Rough-winged Swallow, Orchard Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, and Goldfinch. The Warbling Vireo and Baltimore Oriole were noted on one day only. Transients were most conspicuous on May 17. A Blue-headed Vireo, which was found on numerous occasions to the left of the parking area, is worthy of mentioning because it was observed as late as June 1. A Nashville Warbler was also noted on that date.

We are indebted to Floyd Carpenter for assistance in determining the acreage covered.

Acknowledgment for helpful assistance in nest searching and examination is made to Mrs. Walter Shackleton, Mrs. Milton Glock, Thos. C. Fuller, and Frederick W. Stamm. Acknowledgment is made to Mrs. William B. Tabler for assistance on May 1 and May 13, to Harvey B. Lovell and Mrs. F. P. Shannon on April 12. Other Beckham Bird Club members who participated in the two field trips scheduled in connection with this project were: Mrs. Yancey Altsheler, Helen Browning, Floyd Carpenter, William F. Fleisher, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hansen, Sabra Hansen, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Krull, Mr. and Mrs. Walton Jackson, Charles Mitchell, Louis Pieper, Marie Pieper, Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Shannon, and Audrey Wright.

## FIELD NOTES

### AN ALBINISTIC CARDINAL

On December 6, 1952, I flushed, among many other Cardinals, an albinistic one on the farm of Miss Florence Schneider, on Drake's Creek four miles east of Bowling Green. It was entirely white except for a pink wash on its outer breast, at the tips of the primaries, and the tip of the tail. In every way it seemed perfectly normal, so far as agility and call notes were concerned. On our Christmas Bird Count, December 22, Dr. J. R. Whitmer and I saw this bird again. Though I returned several times, I was not able to find it again.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

\* \* \* \* \*

### AN ALBINO BLUE JAY

On the Owensboro-Yelvington Road, eight miles east of Owensboro, two miles west of Carpenter Lake, on the farm of William Nantz I found an albino Blue Jay. There was no suggestion of any color except for its feet and bill. I studied it with field glasses at 50 feet for 10 minutes. The bird has been seen by a dozen or more people in the neighborhood.—J. C. KEELEY, Owensboro.

### CARDINAL BANDING

I have just compiled my records of Cardinal banding for 1952. During 1952 and through February 10, 1953, I banded 95 new birds. On February 5, 9, and 10, I banded 44 birds. In 1951 I banded 104 new birds. The total number of Cardinals banded to date has been 563, of which 36 were nestlings. Of the 527 the sex of which was determined, 264 were males and 263 were females, which indicates that one sex is as easy to trap as the other, assuming the sex ratio to be 1 to 1.

My most interesting record has been that of an adult female, first banded on September 5, 1943, which returned on January 18, 1946, November 15, 1949, and twice on May 5, 1951. The later date is nearly 8 years after she was first banded. If she was a second-year bird when banded, as seems likely from her mature plumage, she was really about 9 years old when last taken.

A summary of my returns since May 11, 1937, is as follows (The age is that of the bird assuming it was about 1 year old when banded): 1-year-old, 23; 2-year-old, 8; 3-year-old, 10; 4-year-old, 9; 5-year-old, 6; 9-year-old, 1.—BRASHER BACON, Spring Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Madisonville.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

One of our recent K. O. S. members, **Barbara Jo Parkinson**, is a Junior at Mt. Carmel High School in Illinois. She is building a fine life list and, after adding the American Golden-eye and Canvasback on the Wabash River recently, now has 218 species. While at the Girl Scout Camp at McCormick's Creek State Park in Indiana last summer, she tells about adding another species. The park naturalist had directed her to a large sycamore tree in an overgrown meadow, where she might find a Prairie Warbler, a new species for which she had been looking.

"About an hour and a half later," she writes, "I had become a little dubious about adding that new species. I could not see anywhere the small yellow and olive warbler with the black streaks for which I had been searching. Only Yellow-breasted Chats and Eastern Bluebirds were singing. I realized that it was time to be getting back to camp, but I had to take one more quick look. It must have been pure luck, because there in a lower branch of the sycamore perched a warbler new to me, but clearly the Prairie Warbler. He sang, preened his feathers, and put on quite a show. As you must have guessed, I hastened back to camp with a feeling of achievement."

\* \* \* \* \*

### K. O. S. SPRING MEETING

The thirtieth annual spring meeting was held on Friday, April 17, in the Mirror Room of the Kentucky Hotel. About 200 members and guests enjoyed the program.

**LUNCHEON.** Thirty-two members attended. Mrs. Francis P. Shannon was chairman of the arrangements. Place cards had a colorful hand-made iris standing on them.

**VIEWPOINTS IN ORNITHOLOGY** by Professor A. S. Bradshaw of Transylvania College completed the noon program. He discussed there under three headings: the ridiculous, the sentimental, and the realistic. Will Cuppy was used to illustrate the first. Those of you who are familiar with his description of an ornithological field trip

know how funny he can be. A series of nature poems illustrated the second point. For the realistic, Mr. Bradshaw quoted from Aldo Leopold, whose writings combine accuracy with a charming style.

**AFTERNOON SESSION. A DEMONSTRATION LESSON** by Grade 6 of Cochran School, Miss Mary McAlister, teacher. Twenty-four pupils carried on a class lesson in bird study. An interesting feature was a series of bird games which were played in groups of 3 or 4, each group playing a different game. Although the pupils had assignments, the program was unrehearsed. They knew an amazing amount of bird lore, and the program was most successful in showing teachers how to conduct such a class.

**EXHIBIT OF BIRD PAINTINGS.** Calvin Burris, a junior at Valley High School, exhibited three paintings done in oils of a Cardinal, a Brown Thrasher, and a Flicker. The birds are very lifelike, with attractive backgrounds.

Howard Rollin, the bird artist from Colorado, who has sent us several fine water colors, had these exhibited. These have been described in the *Kentucky Warbler* previously. They have been framed and are available for loan to K. O. S. members.

**AMERICAN BIRD ARTISTS AND THEIR WORKS,** by Professor Howard Michaux of Purdue University, was the main event of the afternoon program. He showed colored slides of paintings of leading bird artists past and present. He was particularly enthusiastic about the work of Louis Agassiz Fuertes, who was the first of the great modern artist-ornithologists.

**FIELD TRIP, SATURDAY MORNING.** In spite of the cold rain, 5 cars showed up at 7:30 A. M. At Indian Hills Swamp two American Bitterns were feeding.



**NEST OF KENTUCKY WARBLER**

With 1 Cowbird egg. Previously it contained 2 Warbler eggs and 2 Cowbird eggs, and outside the nest 2 additional Cowbird eggs on the ground with holes pecked in them.

Photo by Anne Stamm, see page 27.

.K 37  
BIRDS

THE Division of Birds  
**KENTUCKY  
WARBLER**

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NESTS OF DOVE AND ROBIN ON SAME BRANCH

Photo by Matt Brown

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Vol. 29 No. 3



August, 1953

## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1923 by

B. C. BACON, L. O. PINDAR, and GORDON WILSON

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Vice-President.....Roger Barbour, University of Kentucky

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Assistant Editors.....Leonard Brecher, Grace Wyatt

All members are urged to send notes, articles, news items, or other material for publication to one of the editors.

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP \$2.00, STUDENT MEMBERSHIP \$1.00

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP \$5.00, LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$50.00

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## THE LARGE CONCENTRATION OF WILDFOWL WINTERING IN THE HENDERSON AREA

by W. P. RHOADS, Henderson

On Sunday, February 22, 1953 the writer accepted an invitation to accompany R. C. Soaper, Federal Game Management Agent, on a regular inspection trip of waterfowl along the Ohio River as far as the day's boatripe would permit us to travel and return by nightfall.

We boarded the Fish and Wildlife Service boat (named the Baldpate in honor of the skipper) before 8 a. m. at the Henderson dock and headed downstream. The weather was clear with bright sun and a temperature of 25° F. A wind was blowing from the north-west at the rate of 15-20 miles per hour and persisted for most of the day. The temperature remained at or below freezing.

The trip covered the river downstream for 35 miles past Henderson, Dead Man's and Diamond Islands, around Slim Island below Mt. Vernon, Indiana and back up past Henderson and Evansville to the Audubon Memorial Bridge and down to Henderson again. The river was at a stage of between 7 and 8 feet above normal low water level.

We went to see birds and that indeed we did! We saw more waterfowl than any one now living has ever seen in the territory.

One more general statement needs to be made here before we proceed further. There was a serious lack of rainfall during all of the fall and winter months so that all of the numerous sloughs and small streams were practically dry, and consequently did not furnish feeding grounds for the enormous waterfowl population. The waterfowl adopted another plan of living. They spent the days on the river and in the late afternoon flew out to corn and bean fields, to feed and returned to the river at daybreak or soon thereafter. Sometimes they flew as far as 15 or 20 miles distant from where they were found during the day.

It seems that the southern migration of waterfowl was late this season and that these birds did not begin to arrive in large numbers until the week of January 15, nor did they continue the journey southward, but remained here. The week of January 20-27, there was a 60 to 80% increase in their numbers. During the second week in February some of the returning species that were on the northward flight, joined those that had stopped here. This gave another boost to the population. By the day this trip was made some

evidence was beginning to be observed that some were continuing the northward migration. The Blacks and Mallards were definitely pairing off for the approaching breeding season.

As we rounded any bend in the river we always found ducks and geese and every stretch of still water had a considerable number. Several wildlife agents, who were brought into this region from even as far as northern Indiana and Illinois, estimated that numbers ranged from 80,000 to 130,000.

Of course, most of them were Mallards and Black Ducks, with some Pintails. An occasional Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Ring-neck Duck or Lesser Scaup kept us on the alert. Several Coots were noted too. Present in large numbers were Canada Geese and we estimated them at approximately 10,000. On our way back, about 2 p. m., as we came around Black's Point, which is a very sharp bend, with an almost three-fourths of a complete turn; we found our largest flock of geese. They were on a sand bar which is located on the Kentucky side and is about a mile in length and averages fifty yards in width. Here, the long-necked honkers were preening and sunning themselves. Among the flock on the lower end of the sand bar was one goose that seemed to be nearly twice the size of the rest. It was also on the lower end of this bar that a flock of a few hundred Herring Gulls were enjoying the warm sunshine and shelter from the wind.

Where one finds ducks and geese in large concentrations, especially in winter, it is a good place to look for Bald Eagles. It was our rare pleasure to see four of these majestic creatures in the air at one time, just as we were coming into Mt. Vernon, Indiana.

Some miles above Diamond Island we put the boat into a little cove behind a big sand bar and found the usual ducks and geese, and to our surprise, three Great Blue Herons.

On the Indiana side opposite Black's Point, we found a goose flying with a steel-trap, stake and all fastened to its left foot. As one can well surmise this goose could neither swim nor fly well. When it alighted on the water it was easily scooped up with a dip net. We landed the goose; made a picture, removed the trap, and released it. The outer toe was broken and only a small amount of bleeding was noticed. It still had a lot of fight left for it had the trap-chain in its mouth when the picture was taken. (See Photo).

Above this location, we found a dead goose that had been so badly mutilated by opossums that we could find no

cause of death. Another, too weak to swim or fly well, was scooped up into a net, and brought to a pond where it could be fed. It is recovering rapidly.

The primary purpose of these inspection trips is to keep the Service Centers informed of the numbers and movements of these birds and also to be on the lookout for game violators. All small craft were stopped, checked for guns or evidence of waterfowl. One man informed us that it was becoming more difficult for him to remain a law-abiding citizen. From all reports there seems to have been very few cases of illegal shooting during the time of this unusual supply of game.

The skipper really demonstrated boatmanship and endurance on this trip. We met or passed nine big tow-boats and encountered their waves, ran narrow chutes, dodged driftwood, and made landings without a bit of trouble. The controls of the boat are so arranged that the operator must be standing when the boat is running. This trip required more than 8 hours of constant watchfulness along 70 miles of the crookedest part of the Ohio.

If seeing is believing, I have seen, but I just can not get my mind to accept the fact that there could be such a great concentration of waterfowl in one 35-mile stretch of river.

## MIGRATION OF BIRDS AT NIGHT

A Report by CHARLES STRULL

In the spring of 1948, members of the Beckham Bird Club contributed to the telescopic study of nocturnal migration of birds transiting the full moon, initiated by Dr. George H. Lowery, Curator of the Museum of Zoology of Louisiana State University. Louisville was one of about thirty stations distributed in the eastern half of the United States, Mexico and Canada, where telescopic observations were made. Murray was the only other station in Kentucky.

In April, 1948, at full moon period, we observed during three nights, embracing twenty hours, and in the following month of May we watched two nights during fourteen full hours. Murray's record shows two nights in April, with thirteen hours of observations, and none in May.

The data forwarded to Baton Rouge was subjected to mathematical analysis and calculations for the purpose of determining the hourly station flight densities. Flight density, as defined by Dr. Lowery, is "the number of birds passing over a line one mile long; and it may be calculated

from the number of birds crossing the segment of that line, included in an elliptical cross section of the cone of observation."

In a table of hourly densities in 1948 listed in the pamphlet, "A Quantitative Study of the Nocturnal Migration of Birds" by George H. Lowery, page 434, Louisville and Murray, each is credited with 2,000 birds per hour in April. That would indicate that Louisville and Murray recorded about the same number of flights in equal periods of time.

In May, Louisville is credited with a density of 700 birds per hour with the average of 1500 for the season.

Only Tampico and Yucatan stations near the Gulf of Mexico exceeded Louisville's record in April. In May, of the 17 stations listed, Louisville was right in the middle, 8 exceeded it and 8 below its density.

In the table of maximum hourly stations densities in April, 1948, Louisville is credited with 5,000 and Murray with 3,700; Knoxville, Tenn. with 5,800 is the only listed station in the United States that exceeded Louisville in this respect. In May, the 14 stations listed, Louisville ranked eighth.

In the table of maximum nightly densities with more than one night of observation, Louisville is credited with 17,000 in April and 8,400 in May; Murray with 16,000 in April. The two Kentucky stations have about the same records for April in the average hourly station's density category and in the maximum nightly density at stations with more than one night. Of the 10 stations listed for May, 4 stations had larger densities than Louisville in this classification.

Dr. Lowery, on several occasions, commended Louisville's contribution to the 1948 study.

In June, 1952, Robert J. Newman, Assistant Curator of the Museum at Louisiana State University, requested the writer to cooperate again in a more extensive study of nocturnal bird migration during the summer and fall seasons. The Beckham Bird Club promptly adopted the plan as a club project, again under the direction of the writer. A goodly number of members present at the June meeting volunteered as observers and recorders.

Using a 5-inch refractor telescope with a 60-power eye piece, we began the first observation the night of June 6, 1952. Bird flights passing the full moon were recorded on special sheets of paper. As soon as the observers called "bird" (occasionally a bat) the recorder with the aid of a flash light, noted the time, the point of entry on the lunar

disk which is considered as the dial of a clock; the point of exit from the moon, the focus, whether good, sharp, poor or indistinct; the apparent size of the bird in terms of the Crater Tycho; and additional information under REMARKS was noted. The observers reported whether the flight appeared straight, curved, zigzag or undulating.

Not expecting to see bird flights since it was past the spring migration, we were pleasantly surprised to count three bird flights during one and one-half hours of observation. On the night of June 8th (the night previous was cloudy) we recorded in one hour seven birds. Our average for both June nights was four per hour.

In the July lunar cycle, we observed on three nights for a total of five hours. We recorded in all twenty-six birds, an average of five plus per hour.

On August 4th and 5th during two and one-half hours, we recorded fifty birds, an average of twenty-three per hour. Were we seeing birds in early migration?

On the night of August 31st, we garnered sixty-eight birds in three and one-half hours, an average of twenty-eight birds per hour. We were convinced that seasonal migration was in progress.

Our conviction was strengthened on the night of September 2nd (on September 1st it was raining) when in four hours and thirteen minutes of observations, we listed two hundred ninety-eight birds, an average of seventy per hour. The observations continued until 3:13 a. m. On September 3rd, in six hours and twenty-three minutes we recorded two hundred fifty-one birds in flight, about forty per hour. We worked until 3:15 a. m. The following night in six and one-fourth hours at the telescope we had seventy-eight birds, an average of twelve plus per hour, and on September 5th, we checked ninety-six birds in seven hours, or an average of nearly fourteen per hour.

During the summer, the writer forwarded to Mr. Newman, geographical, topographical, and physiographic information in reference to the location of the observing station, its latitude and longitude; its three mile proximity to the Ohio River; proximity to Cherokee and Seneca Parks, their areas in acres, stations' elevation, its distance to the nearest weather bureau (Standiford Field). Accompanying the report of each night's observations, detailed meteorological information such as hourly temperatures, hourly surface and upper level wind directions and velocities, clouds, etc. These data are helpful in evaluating nocturnal bird flights under varying conditions.

At the next lunar cycle on September 30th, we resumed observations from 7:40 P. M. to 1:32 A. M. In five hours and twenty-five minutes of actual observations, we recorded one hundred ninety-one bird flights, thirty-five per hour.

On October 2nd, clouds covered the sky all day. About 8:00 P. M. a cool northerly breeze had swept the sky clear. We postponed observations until after Karl Maslowsky's Audubon Screen Tour lecture. Beginning at 10:23 P. M., we garnered one hundred sixty-three birds in four hours and twenty-five minutes, thirty-six per hour. Maslowsky observed with us for a while.

In seven and one-half hours on October 3rd only thirty-nine birds were seen to pass the moon, an average of five per hour. With the smaller three-inch telescope of thirty power, an average of four per hour was recorded. On October 4th, in four hours and fifty-six minutes, we saw only twenty birds, four per hour. Skipping October 5th on account of clouds, we counted one hundred six birds in two hours twenty-two minutes on October 6th. The marked difference in the results of this night and of the two previous observing nights, puzzled me greatly. Checking the meteorological conditions, I found that the prevailing winds on the two previous nights were from the south with relatively higher temperatures and on September 30th, October 2nd and October 6th, the winds moved from the north producing cooler weather. I arrived at the tentative conclusion that decidedly fewer birds flew against the wind and many more with the wind. That seems to confirm Robert J. Newman's statement that "The telescopic observations thus far have supported the view that bird migration is profoundly affected by the movement of the air masses. It looks as though migrants tend to travel with the wind toward low pressure areas, just as has been supposed on the basis of other evidences. The correlations to date between migration and air currents have, however, been rather broad and general." (See Paragraph 1, page 35, "Studying Nocturnal Bird Migration by Means of the Moon," by Robert J. Newman).

On the night of October 26th, a few hours after returning from the K. O. S. meeting at Mammoth Cave, I set up the telescope at 7:06 and observed till 9:14. The temperature range was between 64° and 59°. Surface winds were from the south and upper level winds southwesterly. Not a single bird crossed the eight day old moon. Even though an eight day moon would not show as many as a full moon there was a sufficiently illuminated area to enable the observer to see at least 4/7 as many.

On the following night, October 27th, in two hours, spaced in the early and later parts of the evening, nineteen birds were recorded, an average of nine plus per hour. About 7:00 P. M. the wind had changed directions from southwest to northwest. The northwest winds brought the birds with them.

During one hour and five minutes, the following night, only one bird was sighted at 10:30 P. M. The winds were southerly and southwesterly.

On October 30th, for more than two hours, I stared at the blank twelve day moon without recording any life. Winds were southwesterly. Apparently no birds were flying against the winds.

One hour's observation on October 31st, yielded one bird. The winds were from the southwest with sixty-three degrees temperature.

I met with similar experience November 1st. In two hours and twenty-four minutes, I saw only one large bird and one bat. The winds came from the south and southeast, and in the upper levels from the southwest with unseasonal temperatures of 65° to 58°. I skipped November 2nd, because of clouds.

November 3rd, however, showed that the fall migration was not really over. With northwesterly winds which had brought down the thermometer to 38°, I recorded sixty-two birds in two hours and twenty-four minutes. Since I recorded my own observations, I may have missed seeing several. The wind direction and lower temperatures induced the birds to ride the waves of the air currents toward their winter home.

The next full moon period was December 31st. No bird flights were recorded in one hour and five minutes of observation. Was the fall migration period at an end now that we had passed the winter solstice? I was convinced of this the following night, when no bird was seen during an hour with eye glued to the telescope. New Year's Eve was cloudy. So, to make up for it, I spent an hour at the scope on New Year's night January 1, 1953. The weather was cool, winds were from the north. The lack of birds could no longer be blamed on wind directions, the fall migration was no more.

To summarize: During the summer and fall seasons we observed on twenty-nine nights for an aggregate total of 85¼ hours of actual watching at the telescope. In 1948, ours was about one of thirty stations. In 1952, according to a report from Dr. George H. Lowery, observations at no fewer than three hundred twenty-five stations with over

twenty-five hundred persons participating cooperated in the fall project. It is safe to venture the opinion that no station furnished data that were more painstaking than those of the Beckham Bird Club. Our reward is the satisfying belief that our contributions, however modest, to the study of nocturnal bird migration may help unravel some of the mystery of seasonal migration. It was a work of pleasure and happy associations.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.** Without the devoted helpful cooperation of many members of the Beckham Bird Club, the work herein described would not have been possible. The following assisted in 1948 or in 1952, or both: Mr. and Mrs. Yancey Altscheler, Hayward Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brecher, Mr. and Mrs. Otto K. Dietrich, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. F. Fleischer, Thomas Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Frank X. Krull, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey B. Lovell, Burt Monroe, Sr., and Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Patterson, Louis and Marie Pieper, Evelyn Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Shackleton, Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Shannon, Mabel Slack, Austin Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. William Tabler, Mr. and Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, and Audrey Wright.

## THE PURSUIT OF BIRD STUDY IN NORTHEASTERN KENTUCKY

OKIE S. GREEN, 2529 Euclid Avenue, Ashland

When used in this article the term "Northeastern" is used to cover Boyd County specifically, together with a small area to the south and west in the Little Sandy River watershed. This is made necessary by the fact that Ashland, the largest city of Boyd, as well as the rest of this area, is the headquarters of those few individuals and organizations now active in bird study and allied pursuits.

Since some mention is made of the activities of the Huntington, West Virginia Bird Club, it is well perhaps to state why. This general region is known as the "Tri-state", because Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky meet at the point where the Big Sandy River joins the Ohio, after fighting its tortuous way through the mountains lying to the south. The cities in this area constitute one large metropolitan area and the interests found in any one are usually participated in by some people from the others. Bird study is no exception to this rule as will be set forth later. It is inevitable that people with kindred pursuits will always associate themselves together when the opportunity exists.

A glance at the Topographical map of Boyd County will reveal it to be roughly 10 miles from east to west and 20 miles from north to south. In elevation it ranges from 500 to 1000 feet above sea level. The county is traversed by innumerable water courses, ranging from the myriad small and precipitous branches which carry water from the steep knobs, to the winding, sluggish lowland streams, such as



the East Fork of the Little Sandy. The Ohio and Big Sandy rivers are boundary streams, to which the runoff from this area eventually finds its way. Many small rivulets empty directly into these two large streams, since some of the bordering land is steep and rugged. Most of this area is cut over, second growth timber land. The major areas of cultivation are along the creeks and rivers, in the bottoms which border them. The hills or knobs, which constitute the major portion of the county's land surface, are therefore a mixture of second growth deciduous and evergreen woods. White, black and chestnut oaks predominate, with hickory, ash, gum, pitch and loblolly pine, liberally interspersed. Along the streams one may find sycamore, willow, birch, poplar, wild cherry, beech, and box elder. Shrubs common to each location are found in profusion. Adjacent to the many deep and rocky ravines, which are found here, numerous types of mosses, lichens, and ferns abound. During the spring season this is one of the most beautiful spots in the state, with its slopes and creek-sides a riot of color from such shrubs as redbud, dogwood, "sarvice," and azalea, together with the many species of herbaceous flowers, which fill all the countryside with innumerable spots of breath-taking beauty.

In the low lands, close to the water table, many swamps and marshes have persisted, filled with aquatic life. Now and then, abandoned farmsteads are found in the more remote areas with their ancient orchards and weed fields.

In all seasons of the year this area is possessed of a natural, haunting beauty which is enhanced by a varied bird population. One may find several types of habitat within the county's different sectors and range of elevation. From the shore birds on the Ohio River sand bars, to the Great Horned Owl in the knobs, there may be found a great variety of species. During migration the creek valleys serve as natural highways for the passage of migrants. The region is then virtually alive with all kinds of birds, particularly the warblers. These continental travelers apparently are drawn to these valleys by the combination of water and food.

Much of the city of Ashland consists of wooded areas. Central Park is a 52-acre tract of huge, virgin trees, situated in the center of the city, and it and many other areas offer suitable habitats for birds. Within the city many people feed the birds and have a casual interest in them, yet there are few who can name any except the "redbirds and sparrows." Even such minor interest is commendable and may lead to further activities if properly stimulated.

No organization on the adult level exists at present in the city or county which is devoted to the study of wild birds or nature in any form. The neighboring city of Huntington has a bird club, which is the closest nature society.

For many years several individuals have been consistent bird students, but for the most part neither knew the other. In a few

cases Ashland people have become associated with the Huntington club. No concerted effort to set up an organization has ever been made. Progress is being made by several people working in co-ordination with the Boy and Girl Scouts and Junior Audubon Clubs. In the years since the Second World War many young people have become interested and junior activity is at an all time high. The next few years should find a nucleus in this group of people. The author is serving as counsellor on Nature and Conservation to both groups of Scouts and is confident that the development of interest in the young of today will result in a greater understanding of natural history in the adults of tomorrow.

In conclusion, it is our intention to set up an organization among the interested bird students in this area in the near future, we hope during the year 1953. This article has dealt in generalities. It will be the object of future ones, to deal with specific phases and field studies connected with bird work in this, the Northeastern sector of our state.

## FIELD NOTES

### INDIGO BUNTING PARASITISED BY A COWBIRD

By JAMES W. HANCOCK, Madisonville

On May 24, 1948, while following a singing male Blue-winged Warbler in scrub growth about 3 miles southwest of Madisonville, I came upon the nest of an Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). The nest contained 3 eggs of the owner and 1 of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*).

May 28: Still 4 eggs in the nest. Parent bird not seen in act of incubating but eggs warm. I unintentionally cracked one Bunting egg while examining it, but did not remove it.

June 2: One young Indigo Bunting and 1 young Cowbird and 2 unhatched eggs in nest; parent bird brooding young. The Cowbird appeared huge compared to its tiny nest companion.

June 9: Cowbird still in nest and almost filling it, but the nestling Bunting had disappeared. The Cowbird had grown very rapidly and was rather well-feathered. It showed signs of fear and floundered from the nest. I replaced it 4 times before I finally got it to stay. The 2 remaining eggs appeared not to be cracked. Obviously the one that had hatched was the one I cracked slightly on May 28.

June 10: Only 1 infertile egg in nest at 6:00 A. M. and Cowbird was gone. There was no sign of the other egg beneath nest. The nest was made of large grass blades, small leaves, small weed stems and lined with fine grass.

Friedman (*The Cowbirds*, 1929, pp. 230-231) records the Indigo Bunting as "A very commonly imposed upon species... Ordinarily it is not known to try in any way to rid itself of the strange eggs so

frequently foisted upon it, although one instance has come to my notice of an Indigo Bird burying a Cowbird's egg which was deposited before it had any eggs of its own.

"Dr. A. H. Cordier found a nest of this bird containing young Indigo Buntings and, on top of one of them, a fresh Cowbird's egg (unpublished record)."

The Indigo Bunting is probably a more common victim in Kentucky than published records indicate. Probably many records of parasitism, made by reliable field students, have simply not yet been published.

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE NEST OF A TURKEY VULTURE

By DAVID M. BIGELOW, Evansville Public Museum, Indiana

One warm spring day in late March, 1952, my wife and I drove down into Kentucky to do a little exploring along Green River. Just south of Beech Grove, Kentucky, there lies a long, commanding ridge. It is heavily wooded and occasionally studded with bold outcroppings of limestone. We drove up an old carriage road until we could go no farther. Here we unpacked our collecting equipment and picnic bags and started down the trail.

Zebra swallowtails had freshly emerged and were flying among the pawpaws. Here and there a bedraggled mourning-cloak butterfly, just out from a winter's hibernation, had settled upon the damp leaves to quench its thirst. Bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches, rue anemone, and wild ginger were just pushing through the forest floor. Our trail led along a winding ledge of rock under which we gathered several dusky and red-backed salamanders.

Suddenly we found ourselves in a rocky glen with towering masses of limestone rising sharply among the trees. Here and there was a dark crevice. We peered into every inviting cranny to see what mysteries would lie within. Across the glen we spied a very black opening near the base of a thirty-foot cliff. We were curious to investigate. Finding a secure foothold, we were able to peer in. Suddenly there was a loud hissing sound that never ceased as long as we were there. An extremely foul odor permeated the air. We struck a match to light the interior. Two very large white, spotted eggs lay directly before us among the loose gravel and sand. In the far corner, trembling but with her back turned toward us stood a Turkey Vulture. We decided to return at a much later date when the eggs would be hatched.

Again in May, Mrs. Bigelow and I returned with six members of our Museum Nature Trails Club. They had been promised a chance to see the young Turkey Vultures. When we reached the limestone glen, I gave a boy a flashlight and boosted him up to the cave level, and instantly he called out with great excitement that they were hatched. Two snow-white, downy, little vultures were huddled together and hissing just as their parent had done. Their bare-skin

faces hung very low and dejected close to the ground; they were apparently terrified by their human visitors. We were quite surprised to find these young birds so small, for our first visit had been nearly two months before.

We made still another visit early in July and found the young vultures still in their cave, though fully feathered and perhaps soon able to fly. Usually Turkey Vultures will occupy the same nesting site for several years, and Mrs. Bigelow and I plan to accompany various members of our local Audubon Society on several trips to visit the ledge at Beech Grove. We hope to secure a series of motion pictures, as well as black and white stills, which will record the life story at the aerie.

\* \* \* \* \*

### RECOVERY NOTES ON A BANDED CARDINAL

I have had an interesting report on the recovery of a female Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*) which I banded on December 20, 1951.

The bird was trapped on our back porch where a Potter trap had been placed because of snowy weather. It was banded No. 50-138628. No further thought was given to the bird until a note came from Mrs. Amelia Laskey of Nashville, Tennessee, and I am indebted to her for the following information:

The Cardinal was found roosting in a wood shed at Ridgetop, Tennessee. This is about 20 miles north of Nashville and approximately 165 miles from Louisville. Mrs. Laskey stated that, "the persons who caught the bird read the number, released the bird but remember only that it was previous to January 1, 1952." Later the same individuals heard Mrs. R. E. Lynn give a talk on bird banding and gave the information to her, which she in turn sent to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Normally, we think of Cardinals as being more sedentary in their habits. Yet, some individuals surprise us and make rather long flights. Mary Thatcher Cooke of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service had an interesting note, "Cardinals Not Always Sedentary" in the April 1946 issue of *Bird Banding*. She cited eight records that "have come to light as a result of bird banding" where individuals had been recovered at distances of from 35 to 200 miles; and I noticed the time which had elapsed between banding and recovery of the bird was from 36 days to more than a year's time. The cardinal which had been recovered 36 days after banding had been found dead at a distance of about 35 miles from the place of banding. No. 50-138628 was recovered within 10 days or less from the banding date and from available records seems to have traveled farther or a greater distance in a less period of time than others of the same species.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

**NOTES FROM REED, KENTUCKY**

A dead Virginia Rail was found in a driveway on April 21, 1953. This is a fairly early date for this not too common bird in this area.

We noted a Brown Thrasher in our yard acting very excited under a Japonica bush. It was pecking furiously at something. A few minutes later we saw it raise a 26-inch snake several inches off the ground, quite a feat for a bird the size of a thrasher. We destroyed the snake and later observed the bird carrying worms to a brood in the bush.

On April 25, 1953, we observed two pairs of Robins and one pair of Mourning Doves building nests in the same California privet.—**MRS. NAT STANLEY, Reed.**

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**BROWN THRASHER SWALLOWED BY A SNAKE**

Recently we saw a Brown Thrasher fluttering around a dark mass in a shrub close to the window of the Audubon State Museum at Henderson. We discovered that the brown mass was a snake. The bird was not making any outcry, just fluttering around aimlessly as if fascinated by the snake. The snake was killed and was found to have swallowed another Brown Thrasher, perhaps the mate of the live one. We could not help wondering how the snake was able to catch such a large and vigorous bird as a thrasher. Although bird students often suspect that snakes have killed birds that they were watching, it is not often that they are able to confirm their suspicions.—**MRS. ARCH SHELTON, Curator, Audubon State Museum.**

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**PINE SISKINS WINTERED AT BOWLING GREEN**

Last summer, when I camped for some time in the Rocky Mountains, I did not realize that my daily association with Pine Siskins would so soon be repeated. On December 13, 1952, I thought several times that I heard a siskin or two among some small flocks of Goldfinches. Several other times I heard a strange note but could not isolate the bird. Finally, on February 21, 1953, I saw at close range twenty to thirty siskins, right among contrasting Goldfinches. After that there was never a week and rarely a day that I did not see and hear them until May 8, when the last one was seen in the town. There must have been hundreds inside the town itself and smaller numbers in every part of the county where I walked and observed birds. I found a few at Mammoth Cave National Park on March 28 and again on April 26. Numerous local observers recorded them day by day, especially in March and April. I was able to teach several people the strange rasping note of the bird, which is the best way to detect its presence, as it so often acts and looks at a distance like the better-known Goldfinch. Letters from many bird observers indicate that the winter of 1952-'53 brought more Pine Siskins south than have ever been recorded before.—**GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.**

## AN ALBINISTIC CARDINAL

On December 6 and again on December 22, 1952, I saw at close range an albinistic Cardinal on the farm of Miss Florence Schneider, some four miles from Bowling Green. The bird had only a few pinkish feathers in the crest, the outer primaries, and the tail. It seemed to be as large and active as the normal Cardinals that were all around it.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

Mr. Louis Pieper, a life member of the K. O. S., who for some time has been supervisor of the Accounts Payable Department at the Louisville Branch of the Ford Motor Company, retired on June 15, 1953. He has been with the firm for 37 years. He plans to have time for some of his hobbies and to attend the University of Louisville this fall and study Zoology.

\* \* \* \* \*

K. O. S. members who attended the thirty-fourth annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club which was held at the University of Michigan Biological Station on Douglas Lake, Michigan, are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brecher, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mengel, Mr. and Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm.

Members reported much interest in this meeting and especially in the field trips which gave them an opportunity to view such nesting species as the Tree Swallow, Kirtland's, Black-throated Green, and Parula Warblers, American Redstart and the Vesper Sparrow.

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The photograph of the Canada Geese in the last issue was taken by Mr. E. C. Selle, Henderson. These were two injured Geese that were placed on a farm pond for protection by the federal warden (See article by Mr. Rhoads).

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### BOOK REVIEWS

WILSON, GORDON, 1953. **Birds of the Mammoth Cave National Park.** 28 pages, 10 photographs, 1 map. This is a revision of a previous booklet. After an introduction describing the changes that have occurred since the establishment of the park, Dr. Wilson tells where to look for birds in the area. He then discusses some distinctive birds of the park such as the Cardinal, Pileated Woodpecker, Scarlet Tanager and the warblers. Table I shows species that have declined in numbers, Table II, species that have definitely increased, and Table III species that have changed but little since 1937. Thirty species have declined compared to only 8 species that have increased in abundance. The birds are then divided into permanent residents, summer residents, winter residents and transients, a total of 176 species. The rest of the booklet consists of an annotated list of all species of birds which have been recorded either in the park or at

Bowling Green which is only 25 miles from the park. This list is one of the most complete ever compiled for any part of Kentucky and is a very valuable aid to any one studying birds in almost every part of the state. Every Kentucky ornithologist will want one for his shelf of bird books.

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**CUMBERLAND FALLS MEETING.** The annual fall meeting will take place from October 9 to 11. The chief speakers will be Dr. Joseph C. Howell, "The Measurement of Roadside Bird Populations," and Dr. Maurice Brooks, "The Southern Highlands as a Place for Bird Study." Other speakers will be Dr. Gordon Wilson and Albert F. Ganier. Reservations should be made by October 1 for DuPont Lodge. There are also cabins both in and near the park. An unusually fine camp site with showers will be available for members who prefer tent camping.

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**FOUR-YEAR INDEX.** When we published the index to volumes 21 to 24, we promised you another 4-year index for volumes 25 to 28. This is now ready with a title page and may be obtained either from the secretary or the editor for twenty-five cents. About 15 persons had the other 4 years bound, and it is hoped that many more will have the current 4 years bound as one volume. The editor will arrange this for \$2.00; so send him your file of **KENTUCKY WARBLERS** from 1949 through 1952. Better still, bring them to the Fall Meeting at Cumberland Falls. We shall be glad to furnish missing copies to members at the special price of twenty-five cents each.

There are still some copies left of the **Bibliography of Kentucky Ornithology**, which may be purchased for \$1.00 post paid from the Secretary. There are also a few Check-lists of Kentucky Birds cards available at 15 for 25c, or 35 for 50c, or 75 for \$1.00.

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**COVER PICTURE.** Nests of a pair of Robins and a pair of Doves on the same branch was observed over a period of several weeks by Amelia Klutey at Henderson. A picture of this pair of nests appeared in the **Courier-Journal** on July 12. A detailed account of the unusual relationships between the Robins and the Doves has been received and will appear in the next issue of this magazine.

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CANADA GOOSE WITH TRAP ON FOOT  
held by R. C. Soaper



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BIRDS

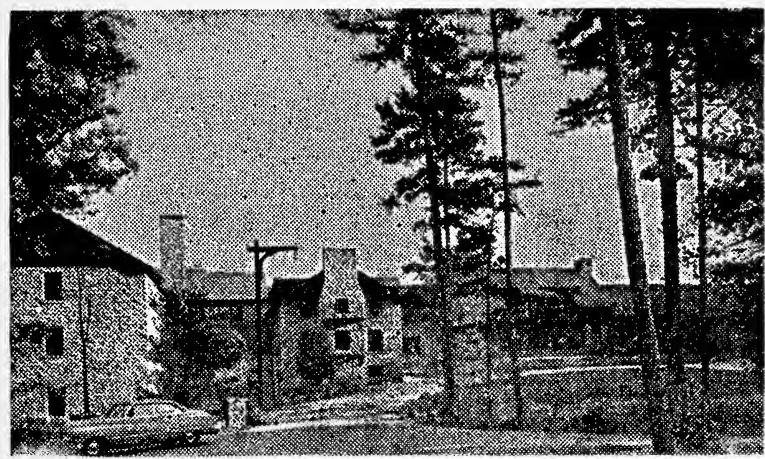
# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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Division of Birds



DU PONT LODGE, CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE PARK  
THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE K. O. S. AT ITS  
FALL MEETING, OCTOBER 9-11, 1953




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Vol. 29 No. 4

November, 1953

## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## NEST OF THE PILEATED WOODPECKER IN BERNHEIM FOREST

By Kay Altsheler, Louisville

On Saturday, May 9, 1953, Dr. William M. Clay and Mr. Burt Monroe, Jr., took the University of Louisville class in Ornithology on an early-morning field trip to Bernheim Forest in Bullitt and Nelson Counties, Kentucky. As a member of that class I went along. My husband, Yancey Altsheler, met me there at noon, and together we explored some of the trails.

On Memorial Day we returned to the Forest, arriving at the parking lot below the fire tower about 10:30 in the morning. We decided to follow Trail No. 7, leading from the left of the parking area and away from the fire tower. We continued on Trail 7 about 250 yards beyond the spot where Trail 8 branches off to the left. Yancey was about 50 feet ahead of me when he signaled to me to come quietly to where he was standing. He had seen a Pileated Woodpecker (*Hylatomus pileatus*) fly through the deep woods on his right. We stood silently and searched the area with our binoculars. Before long Yancey discovered a dead tree about 100 feet to the right of the trail. It was about 50 feet tall, without bark, and broken off at the top. Although its base was surrounded by lower trees and there were tall living trees nearby, the top extended 20 feet in the open. About 5 feet below the top there was an oval hole approximately three and one-half by four and one-half inches in size. Three small heads protruded through this oval.

About one-half hour later an adult Pileated Woodpecker flew through the woods to the nesting tree. It flew about 20 feet above the ground and alighted on the dead tree 4 or 5 feet below the hole, looking cautiously to the right and left. After apparently assuring itself that it was not under observation, it fed the nestlings. As it fed by regurgitation, its whole body shook violently. The entire feeding operation took less than one minute. The adult then flew back into the trees, and the three nestlings continued to peer out of the hole.

One week later, on June 6, we returned to Bernheim Forest. We stopped at the Museum in the Nature Center, where we were joined by Charles Tribble, assistant naturalist, who went with us to the nesting area.

As we left the parking lot below the fire tower and proceeded down Trail 7, we heard a great racket, which seemed to come from the vicinity of the nest. There obviously were several Pileated Woodpeckers "kuk-kuking" at the same time. We proceeded cautiously, but by the time we had reached our observation point, all was quiet. There was only one nestling poking its head out of the hole. Its brilliant flame-colored crest, long bill, and long neck were very conspicuous. At times it protruded so far out of the hole that we could see its shoulders. Its bill appeared to be white, and its head and neck markings like those of the adult.

The three of us waited quietly for about one-half hour, but there was no further action. We decided to investigate the area surrounding the base of the dead tree. The diameter of the trunk at the base was about three feet, and the tree was dead down to the ground. There was some bark adhering to the lower part of the trunk. We collected a piece, and it was later tentatively identified as red oak. While we were in there, we could look straight up the trunk to the nesting hole. The young bird appeared to be watching us.

We took Mr. Tribble back to the Museum, and then Yancey and I returned to our observation point. We waited very quietly. After about 20 minutes, we heard the nestling in the hole cry. Soon there was a tremendous clatter from some nearby deciduous trees. We caught glimpses of one, or possibly two adults flying in these trees, and we distinctly saw two fledglings flutter from branch to branch in the same group of trees. They came to rest on the trunk of one of the trees, which they appeared to hug much more closely than do adult Pileated Woodpeckers.

We continued to wait quietly while the crying continued in the trees and from the nestling. We thought we could distinguish the young cries from the answers of the adult. The former seemed to be more piercing, insistent, and constant. Soon one of the adults, which we identified as the male by his red cheek stripe, alighted on the dead trunk and hitched himself up towards the nesting hole. As before, he watched carefully to the right and left. The adult apparently noticed a motion on our part and disappeared into the woods.

The crying of the nestling and the fledglings continued for about one-half hour, when we again saw the male reach the nesting tree, climb it, and proceed to feed the nestling. The nestling withdrew into the nest, and the adult put his head and neck up to his shoulders into the hole and repeated the pumping process we had noticed previously. He then flew back to the tree where the fledglings had continued to cry all of the time he was tending the nestling. They had moved while we were watching the proceedings at the hole; so we did not actually see the adult feed the fledglings but assume that he did so, as all was again quiet. The adult disappeared into the woods. We waited another 30 minutes, but there was no further activity, and we left.

The following morning, after a stormy night, Mr. and Mrs. John McChord of Louisville visited the spot and reported that they had seen two young heads protruding from the nesting hole and a fledgling in a nearby tree. They twice saw an adult feed the two in the nest. Had one fledgling returned to the hole, or had there been four instead of three young hatched? At no time during the entire period of observation were more than three young seen at one time.

The next morning Mrs. Frederick Stamm, Mrs. Whiteford Cole, Jr., and I returned to the area. There were no birds in the hole. We heard some young Pileated Woodpeckers crying in the woods. We saw an adult fly across the trail close to the parking area. In a few minutes we located one of the fledglings hugging a dead tree deeper in the woods than had been the nesting tree. We had an excellent view of it and watched it for about ten minutes. It was slate gray with a brilliant red crest, white bill, and marking on the head and neck as the adult. We noticed its powerful feet, which were grasping the tree trunk.

We soon heard cries of other young. I went still deeper into the woods. I saw two fledglings and an adult flying away through some tall oak trees. They went too deep into the woods for me to follow, and I did not see them again. While I was in there, the fledgling which had been on the trunk of the dead tree disappeared. It apparently had joined the others.

Another trip was made on June 13, but we saw no Pileated Woodpeckers. We heard faint calls, but they seemed to come from far away.

**DOVE AND ROBIN SHARE SAME LIMB**

By Amelia Klutey, Henderson

(See cover picture, August, 1953)

Could it be that a pair of Doves and a pair of Robins thought of a housing shortage, or did it just happen that they chose the same branch of a young hackberry tree and then held on to their rental rights?

The closeness of the two nests afforded a very interesting observation for twelve days for several members of the Henderson Audubon Society and me. No one could recall having ever heard of such a happening before. It was especially questionable whether all would be well through the whole incubation period, with only eleven inches of space between the two nests, only sixteen inches from center to center.

It was possible to make quick, long, and frequent observations of the birds, as the tree was only eighteen feet from the office window of the Klutey Brick and Clay Products Company. The building stands in the midst of grassland and trees, with thick woodland in the distance and with the highway only two blocks away.

The Robin had been seen in the tree earlier, but it was on June 17, 1953, that I first noticed the two nests, ten feet above the ground, each with its rightful owner seated back to back. For the next five days everything was harmonious, and no changes were noted except that if a visitor came too close, the Robin would leave her nest, but the Dove remained. On Monday, June 22, after seeing the Robin feeding her young, I ascended a ladder and found that the Dove also had two young, apparently several days old. On Wednesday, June 24, Thomas V. Miller, Jr., *Courier-Journal* photographer, took pictures of the birds, which appeared in the July 12 issue. He spent about two hours trying to get the parent birds with their young, but they would not accommodate him. It was he that noted that there were only three young Robins. Throughout his stay the Dove did not appear, but late in the afternoon, after everything was quiet, she returned, but this time to her neighbor's nest. As she hovered over the little Robins, they opened their mouths wide, not sensing that this was not their mother. She was determined to feed them and thrust her bill deep into the throat of one Robin while it clambered higher, and the other young Robins tried to receive attention also. Soon the Robin came to her nest but was scared off by the Dove, which flapped her wings rapidly. Fearing the Dove, in its method of feeding, would injure the young Robins, I scared it away. Later she returned to her own nest, the Robin came back to hers, and life was again peaceful that day and the next. The following day Matt Brown took several pictures, one of which appeared on the cover of the August, 1953, *WARBLER*. The Dove remained away, but the male Robin cleaned its own nest and then cleaned the Dove's nest, a thing which the Dove never did while we observed it. One of the small Doves left the nest but could not be found. It was about twelve days old, as well as could be determined, but too young to be on its own. Not long after Mr. Brown left, the Dove cautiously returned to her nest, fed her one remaining baby, and again went over to the young Robins. Again she was shooed away. Mr. R. C. Soaper, Federal Wildlife Conservation Agent of Henderson, came and banded the little Dove, and everything seemed settled.

Early the next morning I discovered the second Dove in the nest; somehow it had got back in the night, but I still do not know how. It soon followed its mother in flight and was never seen again. The

remaining Dove walked over to the Robin's nest, where it was not apparently noticed by either of the adult Robins. At eight o'clock that evening it was still in the Robins' nest. I placed it back in its own nest, but it soon got out into another tree and flew away the next day.

The Robins left their nest on June 29, already well feathered.

## FIELD NOTES

### NOTES ON THE PURPLE FINCH

A flock of Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) moved into my yard on April 16, 1953, and remained for ten days. I counted as many as thirty in the flock; there may have been more. While this species winters in the Louisville area, we seldom find them in our immediate vicinity; they usually frequent the more wooded areas. This is the first time in twenty years that we have recorded them in our yard. Evidently the migration was above normal, since they were very much in evidence throughout the middle and latter part of April. The birds seemed to feed on the new buds of the trees, but liked especially those of the Chinese elm. Long before dawn I heard their lively notes, which seem akin to those of the Warbling Vireo. Their spirited notes sounded throughout the day and at times became tiresome. They were such persistent singers that one warbled softly and cheerfully while I held it in my hand. I banded ten of the flock, using a water-drip trap.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Brasher C. Bacon** is writing a weekly column for the Hopkins County Times entitled "Leaves from a Naturalist's Scrap Book." The first two "Leaves" contain some very interesting nature lore, some of it about birds. For example, he writes that "Bronzed Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Cowbirds arrived February 12th in large flocks." In another place he writes of his special favorites, the hawks: "The Eastern Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) is beginning to nest (March 24). I have examined several nests on this date, all of which had fresh or slightly incubated eggs. They often nest in oak and sycamore trees, usually at quite a height. The nest is flat and shallow, of large sticks, lined with strips of bark, dead leaves, corn husks, and a few sprigs of cedar or pine. The two to four eggs are dull white, irregularly marked with cinnamon-brown. This is one of the farmers' best friends and should be protected. Field mice make up a large part of its diet." Here is still another useful bird note: "Purple Martins arrived from the south last year on March 14th, becoming common on the 26th. The males precede the females by a few days. The average date of arrival over a period of 32 years is March 26th." An interesting recovery of a large aquatic bird was this item: "An American Coot banded and liberated on Spring Lake on April 18, 1952, was shot on a marsh near Gobles, Van Buren County, Michigan, on October 5, 1952."

### A DAY ON THE OHIO

March 22, 1953, began with a hard rain, a continuance from the night before. It looked bad for a boat trip down the river, but our party could not be bluffed by the clouds and rain. Three of us pushed off from the boat dock at Henderson for a trip down the Ohio. We soon were able to discard our raincoats.

As we had been having an unusually early spring, we did not expect to see many of the water birds but sighted two Pied-billed Grebes as we pulled out of the harbor. They refused to fly and persisted in diving and popping up yards away from where they had gone down.

As we skimmed along close to the willows, we saw eight or ten species of ducks, but no large flocks: Baldpate, Ruddy, Black, Mallard, Bufflehead, Lesser Scaup, and Red-breasted Merganser. We enjoyed the Mergansers most of all, especially their fearlessness as our boat wove in and among them. We found one Mallard female that we thought had been wounded, as she was unable to raise herself from the water. She managed to hide in the willows.

Near noon we circled around a point of land and turned into a sort of bayou between the bank and a sand bar. The birds were rather plentiful here, especially Great Blue Herons. Many of them flew when we entered, but they returned as we ate our lunch and did a deal of talking among themselves. We passed Mount Vernon, Indiana, and circled Slim Island, still scaring up groups of ducks, from two to twelve in each group.

On the way back up the river we sighted two different pairs of Belted Kingfishers but could not get near them. Several miles in shore we sighted the heronry, where there are hundreds of nests in some very tall trees. As the leaves had not yet appeared, we could see what the famous bird village is like. Soon after our seeing the heronry the annual hordes of herons and egrets would arrive for the summer.

We watched a flock of gulls feeding on some small silver-colored little fish. We also saw one Red-tailed Hawk. At 4:00 P. M. we docked our boat after a good day, though it had started off rather gloomily.—HELEN A. WATSON, Henderson.

\* \* \* \* \*

### WATERFOWL BROOD STUDIES

On July 8, 1953, a limited waterfowl brood study was made on Green River by personnel of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. The study was conducted by the local district biologist, Mr. Francis W. Collins, and assisted by Conservation Officer Clark Bailey. The section of the river covered was from Rochester, Butler County, to Calhoun, McLean County, a distance of about fifty-one miles. The time was from 9:15 A. M. to 7:00 P. M. of the same day. The equipment consisted of a sixteen-foot boat, powered by a 10 h. p. outboard motor. Binoculars were used for observation.

During the trip a total of 39 ducks were flushed, all of them identified as Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*). Two flocks of six birds each were recorded and two flocks of three birds each. One pair of ducks were seen, at which time a sex identification was made. One brood of three juveniles, estimated to be 9-11 days old, accompanied by an adult hen, was seen in the morning. Because of heavy brush, a close examination of the young was impossible. They escaped by going into the shoreline vegetation. About 6:30 P. M. another brood of five juveniles and one adult were seen, but again they escaped into

the vegetation. The age of these was estimated at 15-20 days. Also during the day three broody hens were flushed, and concentrated efforts were made to find the nest of the young. However, nothing came of this. What appeared to be a juvenile hen Wood Duck was found floating on the water and was on the verge of death. Since no indication of shot wounds could be found, it was assumed that the bird was suffering from some disease or parasites.—F. W. COLLINS, Madisonville.

\* \* \* \* \*

### SOME NESTING NOTES FROM DAVIESS COUNTY

May 9, 1953, brought me several interesting nesting records. One was a Wood Thrush's nest seven or eight feet from the ground in a box elder, with the bird incubating. The nest was on a branch about an inch in diameter in a fork. At Pup Creek that day I saw a Louisiana Water-thrush feeding two young, but I was unable to find a nest. In a cattail marsh I located the nest of a Red-winged Blackbird, only eighteen inches above the water and containing four eggs. Four immature Song Sparrows were found the same day, out of the nest. In what I took to be a Field Sparrow's nest I found a Cowbird's egg. Cowbirds were common in this area, and I later saw many young ones in the area around the lake.

Wood Pewees and Crested Flycatchers had nests at Kingfisher Lakes, across the road from Carpenter's Lake. The Crested nested in a dead tree right over the water, the Pewee on a large horizontal limb about twenty-five feet from the ground. Under the eaves of a cabin at Carpenter's Lake I saw a Phoebe incubating, but I could not reach the nest to determine the number of eggs. On the same day in June when I found the nest of the Phoebe I saw several young Kingbirds.

The House Wren seems to be common this year, as I have found two nests and have heard singing birds all over the town of Owensboro. The ordinary nesters—such as Robins, Cardinals, Mockingbirds—have been found in the usual numbers. On a level with the third story of the office where I work I observed a Robin's nest from the first materials that were brought until the young left the nest. It was in a maple on a forked limb, twenty feet off the ground. Incubation started on May 20; there were two young on June 1, only one on June 10, and the young one left the nest on June 13.

Sonny Ellis reported a Hummingbird's nest at Carpenter's Lake. It was ten feet above the ground on an extended limb of a beech.—ALBERT POWELL, Owensboro.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

Professor A. S. Bradshaw of Transylvania University, who spoke so eloquently and scientifically on "Viewpoints in Ornithology" at our spring, 1953, meeting, has recently accepted a position in the Zoology Department of Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio. The K. O. S. regret losing such a fine outdoor man from Kentucky but hope that he will often return for our meetings, spring and fall.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Ben J. Blincoe, who attended our fall meeting, was on the very first program given by our society, at Louisville, in April, 1924. He left Kentucky shortly afterwards for Ohio; this was his first visit to the society since 1924.

### CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

For many years the K. O. S. has taken an annual mid-winter bird count. We need more and more of these censuses, particularly this year, when it will be interesting to discover whether the long-continued drought has had any appreciable effect on bird life. Please take an all-day count, some time between Christmas Day and January 3, and send your results to the editor at once. The spring issue of the WARBLER will print all these lists.

\* \* \* \* \*

### NEW EDITOR

The officers chose for the editor of the WARBLER for the next year Dr. Gordon Wilson, Western State College, Bowling Green. Please send notes and articles to him and help keep our publication the distinctive little magazine that Dr. Harvey Lovell has made it in his long service as editor.

\* \* \* \* \*

### THIRTIETH ANNUAL FALL MEETING

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its thirtieth annual fall meeting at Cumberland Falls State Park on October 9-11, 1953, with the Tennessee Ornithological Society as guests. About 120 people attended the meeting, 14 of them from Tennessee. The following were among the distinguished guests present: Mr. and Mrs. Ben J. Blincoe, Dayton, Ohio; Oscar McKinley Bryens, Three Rivers, Michigan; Professor Maurice Brooks and Mrs. Brooks, the University of West Virginia; Albert F. Ganier and Dr. George R. Mayfield, founders of the Tennessee Ornithological Society; and R. C. Soaper, Henderson, agent for the Federal Game Management activities in the state. Professor Brooks is a past president of the Wilson Ornithological Club; Burt Monroe, Sr., who introduced him on Saturday evening, is the present president of that great regional society.

Dr. Joseph C. Howell, of the University of Tennessee, spoke on Friday evening on "The Measurement of Roadside Bird Populations," outlining his methods of counting and indicating the use of the data he has amassed. He has discovered, by his persistent counts, that bird populations in Knox County, Tennessee, are declining or are shifting. Some species, however, seem to hold their own in spite of the building of suburbs over some of the observation territory. Some excellent films on game management were presented by Mr. Soaper.

Saturday morning and afternoon were devoted to field trips under the direction of Eugene Cypert, Paris, Tennessee; Dr. Roger W. Barbour, University of Kentucky, Lexington; Dr. Harvey Lovell, University of Louisville; and Dr. Gordon Wilson, Western State College, Bowling Green. The combined lists gave a total of 58 species, which is fairly good for the season.

Dr. Brooks gave the address on Saturday evening: "The Southern Highlands as a Place for Bird Study." He stressed the unique advantage of being able to find in a fifteen-mile ascent to the tops of the tallest mountains a range of species like that to be found from the Carolinas to Canada.

At the business meeting the following officers were elected:

President.....	Dr. Roger W. Barbour, Lexington
Vice-President.....	Mrs. Anne Stamm, Louisville
Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.....	Mrs. William B. Tabler, 2923 Riedling Drive, Louisville 6
Recording Secretary.....	Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Shelbyville
Councillors.....	Mrs. J. Kidwell Grannis, Flemingsburg, two years; Mr. Charles Meade, Henderson, two years; Mr. James Hancock, Madisonville, one year.

Mr. Walter Shackleton, Louisville, was elected a Councillor in 1952 for a two-year term.

The society is deeply indebted to Miss Virginia Smith, the retiring president, for this most satisfactory and inspiring meeting as well as for the highly successful meeting at Mammoth Cave National Park in 1952.—ESTHER MASON, Acting Recording Secretary.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT, OCTOBER 10, 1953

##### RECEIPTS:

Balance on hand, October, 1952.....	\$101.92
Membership dues.....	423.00
Donation from Beckham Bird Club.....	75.00
Sale of <b>Bib. of Ky. Ornithology</b> .....	3.00
Sale of <b>WARBLERS</b> .....	5.50
Sale of Field Cards.....	13.50
Dividends from Jefferson Savings Stock.....	21.00
Balance from Spring Luncheon.....	1.55
Sale of 4-year Index—4 at 25c.....	1.00
Total Receipts.....	\$645.47

##### EXPENDITURES:

To Selby Smith, 4 Issues of <b>WARBLER</b> , plus postage and cuts.....	\$395.28
Selby Smith, cost of 4-year Index.....	49.50
Expense for Fall Meeting.....	4.00
Postage, Stamps, Envelopes, for mailing <b>WARBLER</b> and Notices of Meetings.....	44.57
Duplistickers (300).....	2.88
To <b>Courier-Journal</b> , Map of Sleepy Hollow.....	7.70
Filing Fee for Annual Statement to Frankfort....	1.00
Spring Programs and Rubber Stamp.....	5.00
Expense, Spring Luncheon.....	2.00
Bank Tax and Charge.....	.75
Total Expenditures .....	\$515.68

Balance In Bank October 9, 1953.....\$129.79

Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, Treasurer.



### BIRD NAMES

There have come to the editor's desk reprints of two learned and interesting articles about bird names. The author, Mr. W. L. McAtee, now retired, was, as many of us know, long associated with the Bureau of Fish and Game of the United States Department of Agriculture. Though a life-time biologist, Mr. McAtee has always had a keen interest in folklore, particularly as it relates to plant and animal life. One of the articles, "Bird Names Connected with Weather, Seasons, and Hours," appeared in the December, 1951, issue of AMERICAN SPEECH. This article, for which some of us furnished distinctly Kentucky folk names, lists many such names as Raincrow, Stormbird, May Plover, October Duck, Winter Owl, and Frost Bird. One of the interesting Kentucky names for a bird is Dogwood-winter Bird, a term sometimes heard in our mountain area for the Scarlet Tanager, which, quite obviously, appears just about the time of the spring cold spell that all of us call dogwood winter. The second article, "Longevity of Bird Names," appearing in NAMES, June, 1953, is a discussion of the changing common names for birds. Quite often the folk name is quite strange to those who have been reared with a bird book in their hands; some of us older people will recall how many folk names we have heard for such common birds as the Phoebe, the Flicker, the Nighthawk. You might be interested to know that the Barn Swallow was so called as early as 1778, the House Wren as early as 1799, the Kingbird as early as 1776. In recent years Mr. McAtee has published several comprehensive word lists of regions he has studied in America and has thus added another field to a long and scholarly life.

\* \* \* \* \*

### OUR COVER PICTURE

The picture of DuPONT LODGE at Cumberland Falls State Park comes with the compliments of the Division of Publicity of Kentucky. We have many delightful places for bird study in our state parks, places that we must come to utilize to the greatest extent. From time to time we shall have other pictures of our recreation areas, furnished by Mack Sisk, editor of IN KENTUCKY and publicity director for the state.

\* \* \* \* \*

### NEW MEMBERS OF THE K. O. S.

The following people have become members since our last published list:

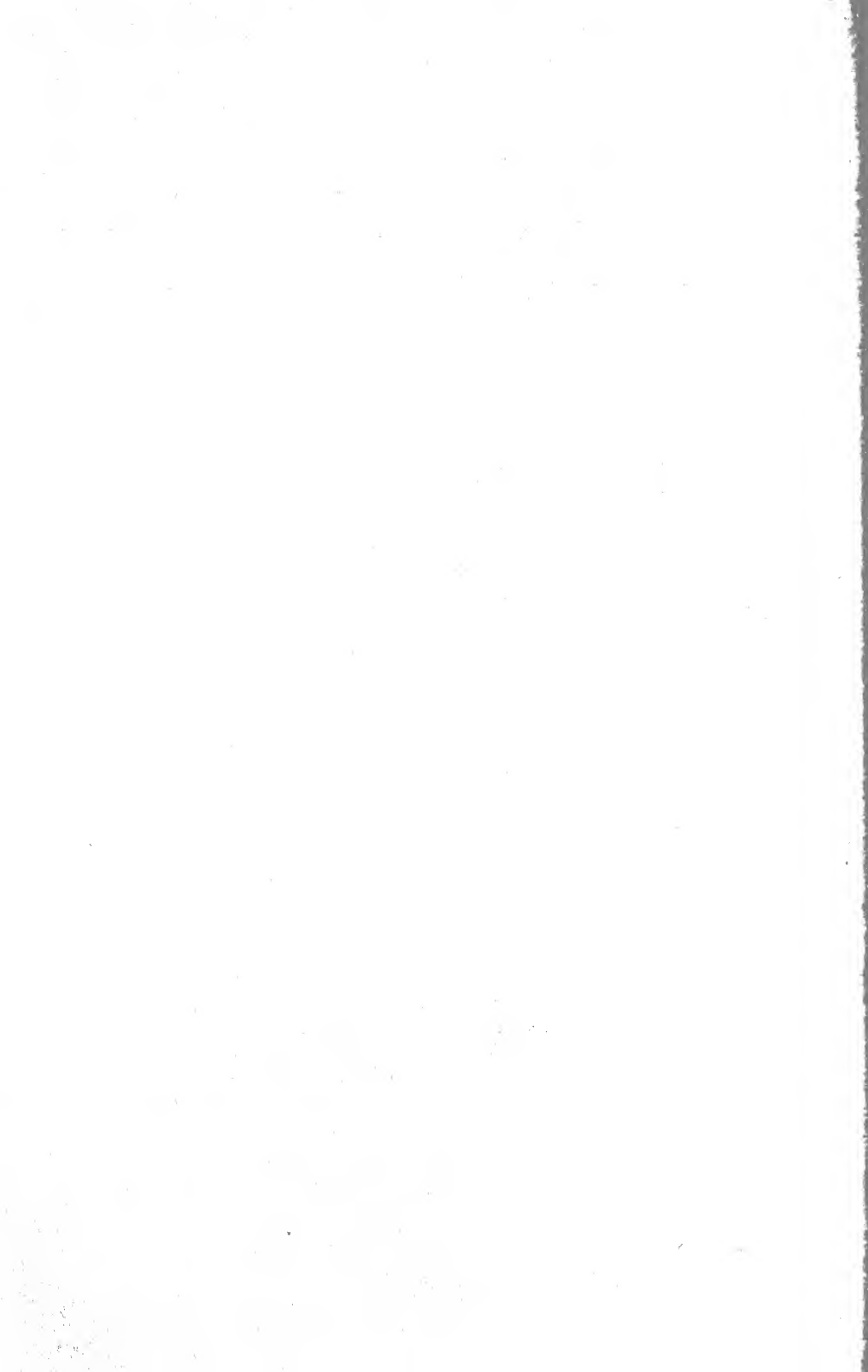
- Brown, Matt, 224 Second Street, Henderson.
- Collins, F. W., Madisonville
- Darrow, Kenneth W., Sr., 231 South Main, Three Rivers, Mich.
- Garrett, Mrs. Paul L., State College, Bowling Green.
- Gill, Helen, 204 West Maple Ave., Lancaster.
- McClure, Dr. George, 304 South Fourth Street, Danville.
- McClure, Mrs. George, 304 South Fourth Street, Danville.
- Quinn, R. C., 224 Washington Street, Henderson.
- Quinn, Mrs. R. C., 224 Washington Street, Henderson.
- Short, Walter D., 918 Governor Street, Evansville, Ind.
- Soaper, Mrs. Edith W., Henderson.

### KEEPING RECORDS

We who have studied birds a long time realize how often an observation seems inconsequential; as a result, we fail to record our find and thus lose a chance to add to human knowledge. Personally, I wish all our members would keep voluminous records, following their own bent in the type of things put down in writing. For example, why not make yourself famous in our state organization by keeping a year-by-year account of all nests and young? Even one year's data would be interesting; after a few years you would have not merely some interesting notes for our columns but a longer article. Maybe you are interested, like the editor, in migration data. Too few people take the trouble to record the first and last dates of our migrants. Try it one season and find yourself with a lifetime interest. There should be two dozen migration-record students working all the time in our state. What do birds eat, how much, how often? Your observation might add something very strikingly interesting to ornithology. The late Cal Rogers, of Glasgow, as some of our older members will recall, had a perfect mania for knowing what birds feed their young. Through a long life he remembered fascinating things he had learned while watching adult birds feed their young; his notes formed the basis for a valuable article in the *WARBLER* written by Dr. Lovell after Mr. Rogers's death. I do not know of any continuous study such as this that is being made in the state today. Some of you with good ears should devote some time to learning and recording the varying songs of any given species. Why not become a song expert? The older scholars in this field are passing away pretty rapidly; they would have been the first to declare that they had merely started a study that should be carried on further by younger and more persistent students. The address by Dr. Howell at our recent meeting opened up a field that has had too few people to cultivate—population studies over a given area annually. Our censuses are valuable and should be kept up, whether they represent a one-day count at Christmas or in nesting season or are carried on at stated intervals in every season. Recently I suggested to one of the park naturalists of the state a monthly census in his park, taken with the same care that all of us lavish on our Christmas censuses. My own interest in ecological factors, as in the Mammoth Cave National Park, has made me wish that we could have a good number of other studies of areas that are undergoing ecological changes because of the retiring of farm lands from cultivation, the development of plantings, the changes resulting from farm practices that are promoting the "green pastures" program. Stake out some such area and begin, however sketchily, a study that will ultimately make you a scholar in your little area. Only an occasional person can hope to discover a new subspecies; trained museum men will have to do that kind of work. But even the humblest of us can observe and record what might otherwise escape people less bright-eyed than we. And here is a selfish interest I have in this, selfish for our society: report your findings systematically to the *WARBLER*. What you have found out might be something valuable and would make good reading for all our members.

—THE EDITOR.





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BIRDS

Division of Birds

SMITHSONIAN  
APR 28 1954

# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Official Publication  
of

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XXX

FEBRUARY, 1954

No. 1



THE OLD MILL, LEVI JACKSON STATE PARK

Near London, Kentucky

(Cut used with the compliments of IN KENTUCKY MAGAZINE and Mack Sisk, Editor.)

# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Vol. XXX

FEBRUARY, 1954

No. 1

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## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

President.....Dr. Roger W. Barbour, Lexington  
Vice-President.....Mrs. Anne L. Stamm, Louisville  
Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer... Mrs. W. B. Tabler, 2923 Riedling Dr., Louisville  
Recording Secretary.....Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Shelbyville

### Councillors:

Mrs. J. Kidwell Grannis, Flemingsburg, two years

Mr. Charles Meade, Henderson, two years

Mr. James W. Hancock, Madisonville, one year

Retiring President.....Miss Virginia Smith, Henderson  
Librarian .....Miss Evelyn J. Schneider, Univ. of Louisville Library  
Curator .....Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Ridge Road, Anchorage  
Editor .....Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut, Bowling Green  
Assistant Editors .....Leonard C. Brecher, Grace Wyatt

Active Membership, \$2.00; Student Membership, \$1.00; Contributing Membership, \$5.00; Life Membership, \$50.00.

All members are urged to send notes, articles, news items, and other material for publication to one of the editors.

## THE BREEDING BIRDS OF HOPKINS COUNTY

By James W. Hancock, Madisonville

Hopkins County occupies 546 square miles of hills, rivers, and creek bottoms, lying on the dissected plateau of the Western Coalfield, between Tradewater and Pond Rivers. It is separated from McLean and Muhlenberg Counties on the east by Pond River and from Christian County by the Tradewater River. In elevation it varies from 350 feet on the Tradewater to 720 feet or more in the rocky Sisk Ridge section. It is relatively densely populated for western Kentucky counties, having a population of 50,000.

The county appears to have three types of land: ridge or hill land; bottom, or black, flat land; and rolling land based on reddish-yellow clay formations.

Coal-mining is, definitely, the backbone of Hopkins County, which is almost in the center of the coal-producing area. In 1952 the county ranked first in the state in coal mined. In addition to about twenty underground mines, there is also much mining done by the open pit, or strip, method; at present there are about eleven strip mines in operation. Although dating back, on a small scale, to World War I, this type of mining became more extensive during World War II. During the period 1917-'52 there were 6,474 acres stripped within the county. Huge earth-moving machines, some of them capable of scooping up 50 yards at a time, were moved into the area and were used to dig away the overburden, which covers the veins of coal near the surface. This stripping method is much faster and more complete than the conventional shaft or slope mining, but, unfortunately, unsightly "spoil banks" are left behind, and streams are polluted with copperas waste, which, particularly when the streams overflow, kills timber and other vegetation, thus frequently damaging or even utterly destroying the habitats of birds and other wild life. Not only do the upland-dwelling species of birds decrease through the ripping apart of wooded hillsides, but those species in the lowlands suffer through the destruction of their habitat by the pollution brought on by improper drainage. In several instances good farm land has been stripped, or damaged by the resultant pollution.

There is an organization of coal operators, begun in 1948, known as the Kentucky Reclamation Association, which is of some value, it must be admitted. According to data furnished by the association, considerable planting of the spoil banks, in proper season, has been carried out. There are still many spoil banks that have not been planted. The following trees have been used: black locust, shortleaf, loblolly, white, and Virginia pine; red and white oak; red gum; black walnut; sycamore; tulip tree; white and green ash; and catalpa. Also 18,500 multiflora roses and 15,000 crowns of Kudzu vine, a legume, have been planted. Furthermore, the association has recently made experimental plantings, for wild life, of the following: bicolor lespedeza, 52,750; false indigo, 1,500; Russian mulberry, 2,000; Siberian pea tree, 1,000. Despite the length of the 1953 drought, there has been a 65% rate of survival on the last-mentioned plantings. It will be interesting, in years to come, where the various plantings are successfully established, to see what effect they have upon the occurrence and breeding of birds and other wild life.

The major farm cash crop of the county is tobacco; registered cattle raising is on the increase; there are a number of dairy farms, too.

In regard to conservation within the county, there is also a bright side. Already there are 2,000 acres in five wildlife refuges. Brasher C. Bacon was instrumental in the establishment of about 75% of these. Among others, these include the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge, where Bacon's Museum of Oology is located; and, in another refuge, Madisonville's beautiful 450-acre city park. Also plans are well advanced for the establishment of a new refuge at the 400-acre city-owned lake recently constructed at Madisonville, and, in fact, the city and various local organizations have already approved it as a refuge.

The writer's own conservation efforts have been limited mainly to setting plantations of loblolly and shortleaf pine and to the planting of other wild life plants, such as *lespedeza bicolor* and *multiflora rose*.

Only a small number of persons have taken an active interest in birds in Hopkins County. The pioneer of these seems to have been Brasher C. Bacon, a postal employee, now retired, who has studied birds here from about 1905 to the present, but in recent years, because of ill health, he has done largely bird-banding and conservation work.

James G. Suthard, a chemist, became interested in birds about 1910, but he says, he kept "no accurate breeding records until 1922." From 1922-'25 he did considerable collecting in company with Bacon.

The writer took up bird study in the late summer of 1931. During the period 1937-'44, he carried on little ornithological activity, his fieldwork, for the most part, being resumed in 1945 and continuing to the present time.

Mrs. Sue Wyatt Semple and Mrs. Mabel Holt, although living at Providence, in Webster County, have done some field-work in recent years in western Hopkins County. Dr. T. Atchison Frazer was reared in the county and has lived for many years at Marion, Crittenden County, doing an occasional bit of observation in the county. Other than occasional visitors from outside the county, Miss Thelma Gentry and Mr. Jewell Thompson have done a little bird study here.

The writer wishes to express his appreciation, in particular, to the following persons, who have assisted in the preparation of this paper: Mr. James G. Suthard, now of Long Beach, California; Mrs. Sue Wyatt Semple, Providence; Mr. Brasher C. Bacon, Madisonville; Mr. John H. Gray, Hopkins County Farm Bureau, Madisonville; Mr. James H. Moore, Earlington, director of the Kentucky Reclamation Association; and former Senator Fred Beshear, Dawson Springs. Mr. Suthard and Mrs. Semple very kindly furnished data from their unpublished notes; Messrs. Bacon, Gray, Moore, and Beshear were very cooperative in supplying information for the introduction.

There is no doubt, in the writer's mind, that many species of birds have decreased within the county during the past twenty years. Many species of warblers, even including the already rare Hooded and Worm-eating, have suffered from the inroads of strip-mining and pollution on their woodland habitats. We might add to this the vireos, the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, the Scarlet Tanager, the Wood Thrush, and other such woodland-dwellers.

Saw-milling, which is hardly so destructive as mining, brings changes. The cutting out of the tall, straight trees and thinning of the understorey soon causes a decrease or disappearance of most woodland birds, whereupon the Blue-winged Warbler either comes in or increases, and the Chipping Sparrow appears. The latter sings from the few trees that remain about the sheds while the sawmill is in operation, but after human activity is over and a dense understorey sets in, the "Chippy" disappears, Saw-milling, doubtless, brought in a



Golden-winged Warbler that was seen on June 10 and 12, 1946 (Hancock, 1947), a singing male that seemed to show territorial inclinations.

The Red-headed Woodpecker has suffered from the invasion of the Starling and has become increasingly rare. Of course, there may be other reasons for its becoming less common. The Flicker, on the contrary, has held its own rather well, judging by the winter counts. Not much favorable can be said about the increase of birds, except possibly the Starling, but probably many birds of farmland and open-country habitat have, everything being considered, held their own rather well. Also, north Hopkins County is mainly of low, level farmland and creek and river bottoms, with little or no mining; hence it is doubtful whether the changes have been so abrupt in that region.

By way of explanation, when not otherwise accredited, breeding records were made by the writer. Those here given are not intended as conclusive, even for the species on which the most data have been available, but rather as a basis upon which further observations can be built.

Strip-mining, saw-milling, housing projects, the invasion of the Starling and the English Sparrow, cleanly-cultivated farms, etc., have doubtless taken their toll of the county's native birds. Yet, among others, the loud, clear song of the Swainson's Warbler, one of the rarest warblers in the United States, still rings out along some of our streams; the Great Blue Heron appears over the swamp land; and, as the evening shadows deepen, the Chuck-will's-widow calls from our oak groves.

(To be continued.)

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#### MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1953-'54

For our Mid-winter Bird Count 110 species were reported on the actual counts and three more for the period. Twenty-three species were reported from only one place, thirteen from only two places. Some of the oddities for the census, which are commented on later in this report, were the following: Woodlands: Snow Goose, Golden Eagle, Eastern Turkey; Henderson: Common Loon, Shoveller, Peregrine Falcon, Barn Owl, Harris's Sparrow; Owensboro: Ring-necked Pheasant, Short-eared Owl; Bowling Green: Wilson's Snipe, Water Pipit; Mammoth Cave: Blue Goose; Otter Creek: Horned Grebe, Bald Eagle; Louisville: Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Heron, Redhead, Old-squaw, Ruddy Duck, Glaucous Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Vesper Sparrow, Oregon Junco; Ashland: Black-capped Chickadee (to be expected in that area of the state). The Brown Thrasher appeared at Woodlands, Henderson, and Louisville. In spite of the very severe drought of the summer and fall of 1953, there is no appreciable variation in ordinary species from the usual records of our censuses. The Pine Siskin, which moved into our state in large numbers last year, does not appear on any list, though a single bird of this species was seen at Mammoth Cave National Park on October 31, 1953. The great concentration of waterfowl on the Ohio River and in Woodlands is to be expected because of the absence of ponds and overflow water elsewhere. The editor takes this opportunity to thank all the people who participated in the counts; please stand by for the one next year and help make this annual event a great one for our society.

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Golden Pond. Jan. 1; 6:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. A 7½-mile radius centering at the junction of highway 58 and the ridgeroad and extending northward to Kentucky Dam, southward to the Rock Castle Road and Sugar Creek, westward to the center of Kentucky Lake, and eastward to Cumberland River. Clear; Temp. 25 to 62; wind W to SW, 3-7 m. p. h.; ground thawing. Seven observers in four parties. Total party hours, 29 (25 on foot, 4 by car); total party miles, 98 (16 by foot, 82 by car). Total, 70 species, 24,889 individuals. Probably our most interesting observation was the Golden Eagle. There are several Golden Eagles at the Duck River Refuge, just a few miles up the lake. Mr. Cunningham, who found this species at Woodlands, is familiar with the prominent markings of this species: white tails with the wide dark terminal band and the white spots at the base of the primaries.—EVELYN BARBIG, FRED CUNNINGHAM, EUGENE CYPERT (compiler), MARY LOU CYPERT, ROY GRISELL, CHARLES McPHERSON, and LAUREN PUTNAM.

MARION.—Dec. 27. Around Marion and in Ohio River bottoms. Wind strong; clear; temp. 30. Total, 45 species, 1768 individuals.—DR. T. ATCHISON FRAZER and CHASTAIN FRAZER.

MADISONVILLE.—Jan. 4; 7:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. W. W. Hancock Farm, Brown and Frostburg Roads, and six lakes at Madisonville; open fields 20%, deciduous woodlands and thickets 50%, lake shore 30%. Heavy frost; wind SE, 8-12 m. p. h.; temp. 25 to 51. Total hours, 10; total miles, 34 (8 on foot, 26 by car). Total, 42 species, approx. 1220 individuals. Other species recorded during the week: Mallard, Pintail, Red-tailed Hawk, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Purple Finch. Some 50 ducks on Madisonville's new 400-acre lake were too far away for identification; they were probably Mallards or Black Ducks.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

HENDERSON.—Dec. 26. Area covered was a 7½-mile radius from Audubon Memorial State Park. King Benson, Fred Katterjohn, and W. P. Rhoads worked the park for their part of the count. The prolonged drought had continued; there was no water in the small streams or ponds in the area; the lakes in the park were frozen over from the cold weather earlier in the week. We came upon a sugar maple that had been tapped in several places by a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Chickadees, Titmice, and Nuthatches, with a number of Downy Woodpeckers, were taking advantage of the Sapsucker's work and were drinking the sap ravenously.—WALTER ALVES, KING BENSON, MRS. LORA CLARK, LESLIE CRAIGHEAD, JIMMIE ESCHE, NELLIE FARLEY, JIMMY FIELDS, FRED KATTERJOHN, AMELIA KLUTYE, CATHERINE REUTER, W. P. RHOADS (compiler), FRANK SAUERHEBER, VIRGINIA SMITH, ROBERT C. SOAPER, MR. AND MRS. GEORGE STANLEY, MRS. NAT STANLEY, SR., MR. AND MRS. NAT STANLEY, JR., EDNA VOGEL, and HELEN WATSON.

OWENSBORO. No. 1.—Dec. 26; 6:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Sixty-four miles by car, 8 miles on foot. The Mongolian Ring-neck Pheasant was found in the back yard of Mrs. Nellie Thornsbury, on York Avenue, at the edge of Owensboro. The back of her property ad-

joins the back acres of a farm. A drainage ditch divides the property. The fence row brush is where we watched the bird for a long time. A week previous to the census Mrs. Thornsbery had called me to her house and shown me a hen pheasant with its tail missing. The bird we saw on the census was in full plumage; there are certainly two birds in that area. I tried to find whether anyone in that section was raising pheasants but found no one. Clint Bowers, fish and wild-life biologist, told me that several hundred of these birds had been released earlier in the season many miles from where these birds were found. The first bird flew when I came close, but the second one only ran. A walk across the Owensboro-Daviess County Airport disclosed the five Short-eared Owls. We had a wonderful chance to study these birds at close range for a long time. The identification was easy because of the excellent light and because of our nearness. One of the boys at the airport said that he had seen a Snowy Owl earlier in the week. The albino Blue Jay reported in the WARBLER by Jack Keeley is still here, as we both saw the bird at the same place where it was reported by Keeley (at the Nance Farm on the Carpenter Lake Road). Our counting tour took us along the Ohio River; through woods and fields; along roadsides; and around the lake. Temp. 40; clear; windy. Total, 39 species, 4033 individuals.—A. L. POWELL, JR., (compiler) and JOE FORD.

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OWENSBORO No. 2.—Jan. 1; 9:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. About 40 miles by car, 6 miles on foot. Clear; windy. General area somewhat similar to that covered on December 26. Total, 32 species, 2497 individuals. For two counts: total, 47 species, 6540 individuals.—A. L. POWELL, JR. (compiler), MRS. A. L. POWELL, JR., JOE FORD.

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BOWLING GREEN.—Dec. 26; 6:45 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Bay's Fork and Alvaton areas, Three Springs, Lost River, down Drake's Creek from Cemetery Pike to Barren River and down river to Bowling Green. Clear; wind west, 7-12 m. p. h.; ponds and still places of streams frozen over; ground bare. Temp. 28 to 38. Three observers in two parties. Party miles, 40 (20 on foot, 20 by car); party hours, 27 (20 on foot, 7 by car). Seen on December 19: Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Red-headed Woodpecker, Water Pipit; December 24: Screech Owl. The numbers for the Red-bellied Woodpecker, the Red-winged Blackbird, and the Goldfinch are the highest for the thirty-six years that counts have been made here. Total, 54 species, 4668 individuals.—L. Y. LANCASTER, CHARLES L. TAYLOR, AND GORDON WILSON (compiler).

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MAMMOTH CAVE.—Jan. 1; 6:45 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Central area, First Creek, Turnhole Bend, Silent Grove, Katy Pace Valley, Sloan's Crossing, Joppa, Union City, Park City Entrance. Clear; temp. 28-50; wind west, 1-7 m. p. h.; river and lake frozen over; ground bare. Five observers in three parties. Total party hours, 40 (35 on foot, 5 by car); total party miles, 50 (20 on foot, 30 by car). The Blue Goose is a new record for the park at any season; the Bewick's Wren is a new winter record. The following species were found in larger numbers than on any of the previous mid-winter counts: Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Savannah Sparrow. Total, 41

MID-WINTER BIRD  
COUNT 1953-'54

	Ky. Woodlands	Marion	Madisonville	Henderson	Owensboro (1)	Owensboro (2)	Bowling Green	Mam. Ca. N. P.	Otter Creek	Louisville	Ashland
No. of observers .....	7	2	1	21	2	3	3	5	2	35	5
No. of species .....	70	45	42	80	39	32	54	41	45	86	39
Common Loon .....				2							
Horned Grebe .....									1	1	
Pied-billed Grebe .....				1						2	
D-cr. Cormorant .....										1	
Gr. Blue Heron .....	2	2		2			1			1	
Bl-cr. Night Heron .....										28	
Canada Goose .....	2069		8	638	300	x				11	
Snow Goose .....	1										
Blue Goose .....		17						24*			
Mallard .....	13M	650	*	104M	2500		48			86	2
Black Duck .....	5000	32	1	5000				15	10	158	
Gadwall .....	50				4						
Am. Widgeon .....	16									1	
Pintail .....	2		*	10						7	
Gr.-W. Teal .....	5			2						1	
Bl.-W. Teal .....	25										1
Shoveller .....				1							
Wood Duck .....	15			10							
Redhead .....										2	
Ring-necked Duck .....	29		10		6					x	
Canvas-back .....				20	3					11	
L. Scaup Duck .....	32			25		4			25	202	
Am. Golden-eye .....	10			4						14	
Buffle-head .....	56			6						6	
Old-squaw .....										x	
Ruddy Duck .....										3	
Hooded Merganser .....	300									4	
Am. Merganser .....	15									1	
Turkey Vulture .....		3		4			2	3			
Black Vulture .....							6	6		19	
Sh.-shinned Hawk .....		1		1						1	
Cooper's Hawk .....				6			1		1	2	1
Red-tailed Hawk .....	4	2	*	1	2	x	2	5*	2	9	2
Red-shouldered Hawk .....	4		2	5	1	1	3		1	8	1
Rough-legged Hawk .....				1			2	1		1	
Golden Eagle .....	4*										
Bald Eagle .....	6										
Marsh Hawk .....		3		4	4		1		1	7	
Peregrine Falcon .....				1							
Sparrow Hawk .....	3	5	1	21	17	11	2	x	1	62	4
Bob-white .....	10	27		71	1		2	15	37	75	10
Ring-necked Pheasant .....					1*						
Eastern Turkey .....	1										
American Coot .....		7		1	1				2	10	
Killdeer .....	3		12	9			x			53	2
Wilson's Snipe .....							x				
Glaucous Gull .....										1*	
Herring Gull .....	20	11		109	200					34	
Ring-billed Gull .....	3000				600					80	
Bonaparte's Gull .....										1	
Rock Dove .....	2										
Mourning Dove .....	5	31	5	987	59	35	87		1	81	
Barn Owl .....				1							
Screech Owl .....		1		3		x				3	
Horned Owl .....	1	2		8						3	

## MID-WINTER BIRD

COUNT 1953-'54

	Ky. Woodlands	Marion	Madisonville	Henderson	Owensboro (1)	Owensboro (2)	Bowling Green	Mam. Ca. N. P.	Otter Creek	Louisville	Ashland
Barred Owl .....	3		*	3		2				1	
Short-eared Owl .....					5*					1	
Belted Kingfisher .....	1		*	7	1		1	2		18	
Yellow-shafted Flicker .....	10	4	16	28	9	15	11	13	6	65	5
Pileated Woodpecker .....	2	2	2	3	8		10	6	2	4	
Red-bellied Woodpecker .....	18	2	11	14		12	28*	17*	5	45	1
Red-headed Woodpecker .....	7			2	1		x				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker .....	4	1		4		1		3	2	4	
Hairy Woodpecker .....	1	2	3	8	1	4	3	5*	3	16	5
Downy Woodpecker .....	19	14	8	47	5	6	22	6	4	85	12
Eastern Phoebe .....	1						1				
Horned Lark .....	6	30	3	130	5	15	126	1		156	
Blue Jay .....	140	15	30	61	18*	20	62	42*	20	63	9
Crow .....	32	39	6	35M	100	850	1240	22	67	874	600
Black-capped Chickadee .....											14
Carolina Chickadee .....	38	19	16	77	25	70	55	67*	31	137	6
Tufted Titmouse .....	33	7	14	39	8	50	51	48*	12	178	40
White-br. Nuthatch .....	16	2	5	4				14*	5	30	8
Red-br. Nuthatch .....				2				5*			2
Brown Creeper .....	2		1	3			4	3	1	15	2
Winter Wren .....	1			3			8	1	1	2	1
Bewick's Wren .....		6	2	2				1*		3	
Carolina Wren .....	6	6	15	18		7	25	4	5	58	25
Mockingbird .....	5	6	7	21	6	8	5	2	5	54	
Brown Thrasher .....	1			1						1	
Robin .....	19	16	280	35	1	42	5	73	7	11	
Hermit Thrush .....				2			1	3	1	1	
Bluebird .....	7	8	14	44	13	12	19	31	28	58	20
Golden-cr. Kinglet .....	1		*	6			5	15	3	28	20
Ruby-cr. Kinglet .....	1			5						1	6
Water Pipit .....							x				
Cedar Waxwing .....		4		22		17	15	5	4	5	
Migrant Shrike .....			1	1			2			6	
Starling .....	20	240	80	2371	135	600	1750		66	3853	500
Myrtle Warbler .....	8		7	3			4	12	16	12	12
English Sparrow .....	53	20	141	1946	100	550	48	2	16	372	100
Eastern Meadowlark .....	4	1	22	608	22	41	67			101	
Red-wing .....	1	14		2		4	28*			22	
Rusty Blackbird .....			155				125			7	
Bronzed Grackle .....				1000			4			2	
Brown-h. Cowbird .....	15	400		3						1	
Cardinal .....	131	29	59	117	36	23	138	35	37	349	75
Purple Finch .....	5		*				13	31	35	2	
Goldfinch .....	76	11	49	26	9	13	206*	26	9	74	50
Eastern Towhee .....	35	3	31	17	7	6	17	29	4	20	6
Savannah Sparrow .....								5*			
Vesper Sparrow .....										1*	
Slate-col. Junco .....	451	57	126	106	15	60	175	114	106	340	100
Oregon Junco .....										1*	
Amer. Tree Sparrow .....	1	5	9	3		5	54		4	157	5
Chipping Sparrow .....				24							
Field Sparrow .....	3	2	29	27	4	3	9		17	65	25
Harris's Sparrow .....				3							
White-cr. Sparrow .....			4	26	44	2	22			36	
White-thr. Sparrow .....	19		11	11			83	12	1	76	20
Fox Sparrow .....			2	2			5				1
Swamp Sparrow .....			3	5			13		8	14	
Song Sparrow .....	3	11	17	27	75	8	50	13	5	136	35

species, 757 individuals. Also 20 unidentified ducks.—FRANK EWING, MYRON HAYS, L. Y. LANCASTER, C. T. REID, and GORDON WILSON (compiler).

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OTTER CREEK PARK.—Dec. 31; 10:00 A. M., to 4:45 P. M. Ohio River, Otter Creek, the park area, and adjacent meadows. Clear, sunny; some ice on creeks; wind, 3-5 m. p. h. Two observers in one party. Total hours, 6¾; total miles, 15 (6 on foot, 9 by car). In addition to the ducks listed by name, we saw about forty others that could not be identified with certainty with our 7x50 glasses, because they were too far away. Mr. Johnson, the area manager, had a covey of 17 Bobwhites feeding in his yard; they are included in the total. On December 30 Floyd Carpenter visited the area and saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Total species, 45; total individuals, 619.—ANNE L. AND FREDERICK W. STAMM, Louisville.

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LOUISVILLE.—Dec. 27; 5:00 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Ohio River from Louisville to Twelve-mile Island and inland about twelve miles to Anchorage, Prospect, and Valley. Clear to partly cloudy; temp. 41 to 48; wind south to southwest, 0-8 m. p. h.; creeks and ponds frozen over, river open. Thirty-five observers in 12 parties. Total party hours, 79 (45 on foot, 28 by car, 6 by boat); total party miles, 127 (37 on foot, 86 by car, 4 by boat). Total species, 86; total individuals, 8551 plus. The Rough-legged Hawk was found by the Stamms. The Glaucous Gull, an adult, was found in the company of Herring Gulls both the day before the census and the day of the census at the Falls of the Ohio by the Monroes. The Vesper Sparrow was found at the same locality separately by the Monroes and Smith. A well-marked Oregon Junco is wintering at Sleepy Hollow, reported by Shackleton. Also seen during the week of the count: Ring-necked Duck and Old-Squaw.—MR. AND MRS. Y. A. ALTSHELER, GEORGE BABCOCK, MR. AND MRS. LEONARD C. BRECHER, CARL C. CORNETT, JOSEPH CROFT, JACOB P. DOUGHTY, THOMAS FULLER, PAXTON GIBBS, FRANK H. KRULL, FRANK X. KRULL, HARVEY B. LOVELL, JOHN H. LOVELL, ESTHER E. MASON, MRS. JOHN H. McCHORD, BURT L. MONROE, JR., BURT L. MONROE, SR., MRS. H. V. NOLAND, LOUIS H. PIEPER, MARIE E. PIEPER, WILLIAM PIKE, EVELYN J. SCHNEIDER, WALTER H. SHACKLETON, MR. AND MRS. FRANCIS P. SHANNON, CLIFF SIPE, MR. AND MRS. FREDERICK W. STAMM, THOMAS P. SMITH, ROBERT H. STEILBERG, MR. AND MRS. CHARLES STRULL, S. CHARLES THACHER, VIRGINIA WINDSTANDLEY, AUDREY A. WRIGHT (Members of the Beckham Bird Club).

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ASHLAND.—Jan. 2; 7:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Ohio River east to Dam 29, southwest to Naples, Ky., northeast to southeast limits of Ashland, east to Cannonsburg—Boyd and Greenup Counties. Clear; temp. 30 to 50; wind variable, 5-15 m. p. h., half the time; no wind rest of day; all fresh water frozen and thawing except Ohio River. Five observers in two parties. Total party hours, 50 (45 on foot, 5 by car); total party miles, 131 (37 on foot, 94 by car). Total species, 39; total individuals, 1729. The late summer and fall of 1953 were

extremely dry; the prolonged drought, the worst in recent years, brought a great outbreak of forest fires, which burned over hundreds of acres, destroying cover and food supplies. Many highly favored feeding areas have been completely destroyed.—WALTER W. FORSON (compiler), GARY GRAF, OKIE S. GREEN, HENRY J. HUGHES, JR., MELVIN KUNKLE.

THREE RIVERS, MICH.—Dec. 27. Clear in morning, partly cloudy in afternoon; wind SW, light; temp. 26 to 40. Most of ground covered thinly with snow; ponds and some of lakes and streams frozen over. Observer alone on foot, covering 7½ miles of city, marshes, edge of woods, and open territory. Mallard, 57; Am. Golden-eye, 9; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 10 (1 covey); Rock Dove, 26; Mourning Dove, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Prairie Horned Lark, 1; Blue Jay, 19; Crow, 6; Black-capped Chickadee, 7; Tufted Titmouse, 6; White-breasted Nuthatch, 8; Brown Creeper, 2; Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 21; English Sparrow, 206; Cardinal, 8; Purple Finch, 3; Goldfinch, 133; Slate-colored Junco, 7; Tree Sparrow, 88; Song Sparrow, 3; Total, 29 species, 639 individuals. Other species seen in census period: Canada Goose, Meadowlark, Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS.

## FIELD NOTES

### KING RAIL NESTING IN FULTON COUNTY

The King Rail is known to nest in Kentucky, but in view of the paucity of records, it is felt advisable to record the following observations. On June 14, 1953, while driving along a graveled road about one mile east of Miller, Fulton County, I observed a pair of King Rails, accompanied by at least five downy young, wade from the edge of a roadside pond and enter a large grassy field. The male was collected and is now in the collections of the Zoology Department of the University of Kentucky. A few hundred yards closer to Miller I observed another adult with at least two chicks.—ROGER W. BARBOUR, University of Kentucky, Lexington.

### WEASEL PREYS ON TITMOUSE

One morning in early June, 1953, I found a young decapitated Tufted Titmouse lying on a walk between the house and an ivy-covered stone wall. The body of the bird was still warm; the head was neatly severed but was not found. I laid the body back on the walk and wondered what the predator could be. Then I saw an approaching weasel suddenly turn and dart away. As it did so, there was a movement in the ivy. Out slipped a second weasel, which with lightning speed snatched up the headless Titmouse and was off with its prey. We have not seen weasels before in this wooded area.—CATHERINE HOPE NOLAND, Indian Hills Trail, Louisville.

### CROW PREYS ON ROBIN NESTLING

Although we speak of Crows as destroyers of the young of birds, we seldom see them in the act. It is because of this that I should like to describe what happened in our yard in May, 1950. About 5:30

in the morning we were awakened by the loud distress calls of the Robins. Hurrying to the window, we were surprised to see a Crow sitting on the edge of a Robin's nest eating the young, which had been hatched four days earlier. We were unable to get the Crow to leave, despite our protests, though the nest was only twenty feet from the house, on a maple tree, and directly in front of us. It was not until we rushed downstairs and out of doors that the Crow flew away, and then only after it had taken a nestling in its bill. The female Robin remained in the tree for some time and, just before she flew back to the nest, uttered a few shrill notes, peered into the nest, and flew away. There was no further activity at the nest.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

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#### A MISSISSIPPI KITE AT LOUISVILLE

One of the more unusual birds observed while we were on our annual spring field day of the Beckham Bird Club, May 3, 1953, was the Mississippi Kite. It was first seen soaring over Cherokee Park when attention was called to a Red-shouldered Hawk circling overhead. The Kite was at a much greater altitude, but its greyish-white head was noticed immediately. The pale markings or stripe on the rear edge of the wings was readily seen and also the perfectly narrow and rather long black tail. The contrast between the graceful falcon-shaped bird of prey and the chunky *buteo* provided an interesting study. Catherine Hope Noland, Mabel Slack, and Polly McChord were also in the group and watched the Kite until it disappeared from sight.—ANNE L. STAMM and HELEN MOORE COLE, Louisville.

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#### BLUEBIRD BOXES AT DUNCAN MEMORIAL CHAPEL

The Duncan Memorial Chapel, at Floydsburg, Kentucky, is surrounded by a very old and beautiful cemetery. We had two Bluebird boxes there last year and have been given permission by the superintendent to place additional ones there for 1954. There are several tall and stately cedar trees in the cemetery, each of them an invitation to a Bluebird house to be placed on the trunk about five feet above the ground, but never among branches, which are here twenty-five feet above the ground. We have now placed 1000 boxes and estimate that 1000 more have been placed as a direct result of this pleasurable hobby of ours. Specifications and descriptions will gladly be sent to any interested person, without cost.—W. G. DUNCAN, 315 Jarvis Lane, Louisville.

#### SUMMER BIRDS AT MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

In early June, 1942, Dr. Russell Starr, then a medical student at the University of Louisville, and I camped for six days, June 9-14, in the Mammoth Cave National Park for the express purpose of finding as many nesting species of birds as possible. (See "Summer Birds in Mammoth Cave National Park," KENTUCKY WARBLER, 18:58-59). In 1952 we decided to make the same trip again, to see what changes had occurred in ten years. We were joined for a day by Mrs. Mary Clyde Nuckols and Miss Alice Furber of Glasgow and for three days by Dr. L. Y. Lancaster of Bowling Green. We covered, from May 31 to June 3, practically the same areas, from First Creek Lake on the far western end, to Sloan's Crossing, Hickory Cabin, the Central area,



and the Three Springs Pumphouse. In 1942 there were still a good many cultivated fields in the park, and thousands of acres had been retired from cultivation only recently. We found in 1942 a total of 81 species within the park area and 6 others just outside, some of them in fields that had not then been acquired by the park but that are now a part of it. In 1952, with all our help and zeal, we found only 71 species, three of them not recorded in 1942: the very erratic Cedar Waxwing, the Sharp-shinned Hawk, and the Belted Kingfisher. The eleven species found in 1942 but not in 1952: Black Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Horned Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Kingbird, Barn Swallow, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Starling, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, and Goldfinch. A careful checking of my records for the years 1942-'52 shows that these species are often absent from summer lists in the park, and some of them rarely appear at any season. The following species showed a decrease in numbers: Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Flicker, Purple Martin, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Brown Thrasher, Bluebird, White-eyed Vireo, Louisiana Water-thrush, Yellow-throat, Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, and Orchard Oriole. Some of this group were only locally abundant on this count, for on earlier and later counts in 1952 they seemed normal and equal to their 1942 numbers, such as the Flicker, the Carolina Chickadee, the White-eyed Vireo, the Yellow-throat, and the Louisiana Water-thrush. The Carolina Wren is far below its former numbers in all southern Kentucky areas, seemingly as a result of the severe winter of 1950-'51. The other species besides the ones I have named have remained as they were except the Whip-poor-will, the Red-bellied Woodpecker, the Worm-eating Warbler, and the Cerulean Warbler, all of which have increased noticeably. We also found that the Oven-bird and the Hooded Warbler are extending their range as the old fields grow up. The disappointing features of our 1952 count are the passing of many species that formerly were regularly found and the obvious decrease in the number of farm, orchard, and garden birds. A further check in 1962 would be desirable to see what further changes have occurred as the forests approach more nearly the condition of the land before it was cleared.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

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#### LARGE MIGRATION OF HORNED GREBE ON THE OHIO RIVER

On November 29, 1953, Mrs. H. V. Noland and I found four flocks of Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*) on the Ohio River between Indian Hills Trail and Glenview. At least 50 were in each flock. We also saw several small groups of six or more swimming close to the Kentucky shore. All the birds were in winter plumage. It was an interesting sight to see such a large concentration, going down stream. Seldom do we see more than a few at one time. Dr. Harvey B. Lovell and Don Summerfield were at the harbor on the same day and saw 16 of the species. The area was visited a week later, but no grebes were to be seen.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

#### NOTES FROM MARION

The season of 1953 was the poorest for nests that I have ever seen. On June 13 we had a very severe rainstorm that destroyed most nests in trees or on the ground. Another severe storm on June 20 completed the destruction. I saw only one young Robin and one young Cardinal in the entire season. The Doves are late nesters and

did fairly well. I am happy to report that the Black-billed Cuckoo nested in Marion in the summer of 1953. I caught one of the young after it left the nest and made certain of the identification.—DR. T. ATCHISON FRAZER, Marion.

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#### BLUE GROSBEAK AT PRINCETON

The most interesting find I had in 1953 was the Blue Grosbeak. Two came to my back yard. I studied them closely, on April 3, for twenty minutes. They are new for my life list.—DR. CYNTHIA C. COUNCE, Princeton.

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#### NOTES FROM PARIS

It has been said that the Bewick's Wren does not inhabit these parts. That cannot be said again, truthfully: I recently found this species at the edge of Paris. I have not seen the Pine Siskin this season. The long drought has affected nearly all of our bird life here, as many streams are dry and even the larger ones are very low. Even the Robins seem to have left us in late October, though they sometimes remain, quite obviously, through the winter.—REVEREND J. W. CLOTFELTER, Paris.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

#### BECKHAM BIRD CLUB NOTES

The following notes about the activities of the Beckham Bird Club (Louisville chapter of the K. O. S.) for the past two years may be of interest to other state members.

Though many interesting projects were undertaken during this period, perhaps the one that seemed the most significant was the leasing of two pieces of property, contiguous to what is known as Caperton's Swamp Area, as a wildlife sanctuary. Signs were purchased and erected, posting the area as a wildlife sanctuary, and an effort is to be made to keep poachers from destroying the wildlife and to preserve it in its present state.

Members again cooperated in setting up a station recording nocturnal migrations across the moon, in both the summer and fall months. This was done in cooperation with Mr. Robert Newman, Louisiana State University and was directed by Charles Strull.

The club registered as an education and scientific organization with the United States Treasury Department and, therefore, received tax exemption.

Again, the club has, as it has for the past nine years, cooperated with the Kentucky Society of Natural History in presenting the Audubon Screen Tours. These are given free to the Louisville public in the interest of conservation education. The club also participated in the twelfth and thirteenth Kentucky Natural History and Wildlife Conferences.

A series of field trips was undertaken which covered various types of habitats and included Cherokee, Seneca, and Iroquois Parks; Caperton's Swamp; Municipal Harbor; as well as a longer trip to the flooded corn fields near Bowling Green and to other points of ornithological interest. Special studies were planned with emphasis on the water birds on the Falls of the Ohio and the nesting birds at.

Sleepy Hollow. A few identification trips were planned primarily for those not too familiar with noticeable field marks of birds. Helen Browning and Mabel Slack were co-chairmen of the field trips and were assisted by Harvey B. Lovell and Don Summerfield.

Excellent programs were given at the monthly meetings, which were held from September through June each year. These programs were planned by a committee, with Dr. William Clay as the chairman. The following talks were presented: Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, "The Latest Information on Bird Migration"; Dr. Gerald Cole, "Physiological Aspects of Birds and Their Relationship to Avian Ecology"; Milton Bowman, "The Mourning Dove in Kentucky"; Dr. William Clay, "Some Remarks on Bird Songs"; Virginia Windstandley, "Review of A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING"; Dr. E. K. Hall, "Hormones in the Life of Birds"; Dr. Arch Cole, "Air Sacs of Birds"; Esther Mason, "Birds of Paradise"; a panel on warblers with the following taking part: Dr. H. B. Lovell, Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Mabel Slack, Mrs. F. W. Stamm; a panel on the nesting study at Sleepy Hollow: Walter Shackleton, Mabel Slack, and Mrs. F. W. Stamm; a panel on shore birds: Leonard Brecher, Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Donald Summerfield, Mabel Slack; Evelyn Schneider, "Birds of the Allegheny Plateau"; Dr. Gerald Cole, "Flightless Birds"; Dr. H. B. Lovell, "Habits of Cardinals as Determined through Banding"; Dr. William Clay, "Open Forum Discussion on Spring Arrivals"; Mrs. F. P. Shannon, "Life History of the Pileated Woodpecker"; Audrey Wright, "Effect of Insecticides on Bird Life". Three films were shown during the year—"Bird Migration," "Water Wilderness," and one by Dr. Clay entitled "The Scenic Smoky Mountains." Featured speakers at the dinner meetings were: Dr. Dan Webster, Hanover College, "The Distribution of Birds in Southeastern Alaska"; Dr. Ralph Edeburn, Marshall College, "Birds of the Lower Ohio Valley in West Virginia"; and a movie, "Outdoor Adventure."

A four-page brochure setting forth the aims and activities of the club was published. This was done in order to reach more people that may be interested in bird study. Evelyn Schneider and Frederick W. Stamm were in charge of this project.

An award to be given annually to the member making the most constructive contribution to Kentucky ornithology was inaugurated.

A special committee was appointed to outline a program to benefit non-game birds.

The club also went on record as being in favor of the bill to preserve the Bald Eagle in Alaska and joined the Nature Conservancy organization.

Other activities included the annual mid-winter and spring bird counts and the selling of bird houses and feeders as well as bird cards, stationery, notes with bird motifs, etc., as a means of increasing the revenue to be used for club activities. Burt L. Monroe, Sr., has been the general chairman of the bird counts.

Mrs. Mame Boulware was chairman of the membership committee, and forty-seven new members were added to the roster.

A number of our members attended the annual meetings of the American Ornithologists' Union and the Wilson Ornithological Club.

Officers for the past two years have been: President, Mrs. F. W. Stamm; Vice-President, Esther Mason; Treasurer, Mrs. H. C. Mitchell; Secretary, Mrs. F. P. Shannon, 1951-'52, Marie Pieper, 1952-'53; Directors: Leonard Brecher, Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Mabel Slack, Mrs. William Tabler, and Dr. Harvey B. Lovell.—MARIE E. PIEPER, Secretary.

### THE POWELLS HONORED

The **Owensboro Messenger** for November carried a long illustrated article by Charlotte Baumgarten about the bird study activities of Mr. and Mrs. Albert (Bert) Powell. Much of the article is taken up with the many amusing incidents that have resulted because Bert has been mistaken for a spy, a criminal, and just about everything else except a perfectly harmless ornithologist. Bert put in a plug for bird protection while he had this good chance and challenged the people of Daviess County and Owensboro to rally to the saving of as many of the birds as possible. Birds are always news; bird watchers can be fine news also. Congratulations to Owensboro for having such avid ornithologists!

### MISS TOWLES DIES

Miss Susan Starling Towles, long a member of our society and one of the most versatile people Kentucky has ever produced, died during the Christmas holidays. She was for almost a half century the librarian at the Henderson Public Library. Among her numerous interests were the Henderson County Historical Society, of which she was for several decades the leader. She was one of the earliest people to suggest the Audubon Memorial Park at Henderson and was instrumental in getting much of the material now housed in the museum at the park. She was a charter member of the Kentucky Audubon Society.

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### OUR SPRING MEETING

Already plans are being formed for our annual spring meeting in Louisville, April 23, 1954. Make your plans to be with us at our luncheon and afternoon sessions. Later you will receive a program and full details about the meeting. The place will be the Kentucky Hotel. There will also be the annual spring field trip on Saturday morning, April 24.

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### ANOTHER PAINTING FROM ROLLIN

Our artist friend from Weldona, Colorado, Howard Rollin, who has so generously contributed many paintings of birds to our society, has sent another one as a Christmas gift. It is 9½ by 12 inches and shows a pair of Kingfishers perched on a branch over a stream. In the high bank across the stream above the shrubbery is shown their nesting hole. As always in his work, Mr. Rollin has exhibited perfect coloring and lifelike qualities, along with meticulous detail.—EVELYN J. SCHNEIDER.

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### EDITORIAL USED

The editorial in our November, 1953, issue, "Keeping Records," is being used by the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union by the permission of the editor of the **WARBLER**.

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### MISS SMITH IS MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

The officers of the K. O. S. have chosen, very wisely, Miss Virginia Smith as the chairman of a committee to seek new members for our society. She is to select some helpers. All of us recognize the unusual ability of our ex-president in getting interested people to join forces with us. Let us all help her out by adding a new member for each of the present members of the K. O. S. Wouldn't that be a great achievement for us?

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# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Official Publication  
of

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

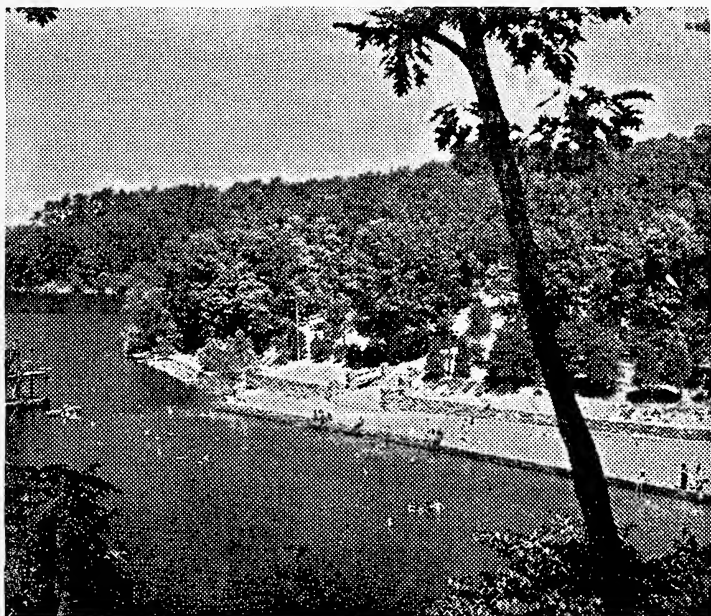
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At Pennyrile Forest State Park near Dawson Springs, this beach and swimming area provide the guest with the best in recreational facilities. Boats are also available and fishing is good.

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## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

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## THE BREEDING BIRDS OF HOPKINS COUNTY

(Second Installment)

By James W. Hancock, Madisonville

**PIED-BILLED GREBE.** *Podilymbus podiceps podiceps*. Fairly common transient, rare in summer. Bacon cites several nesting records (1935), mostly at Atkinson Lake, from 1909 to 1929.

**GREAT BLUE HERON.** *Ardea herodias*. Rare summer resident. Nests in the large swamp in western Hopkins County and probably also in Pond River bottoms, at the eastern boundary of the county. Mrs. Mabel Holt, her son-in-law, Robert Grause of Louisville, and the late Ham Frazer visited a heronry near the Frazer farm in early July, 1952. This heronry contained 12 nests approximately 50-60 feet up in about six trees, most of which were dead. According to Frazer, there had been about 75 birds, adults and young included, in mid-June, but only 1 young bird remained at the time of their visit. The ground was littered with food, feathers, and droppings.

**EASTERN GREEN HERON.** *Butorides virescens virescens*. Common summer resident. A nest in a willow has been previously described (Hancock, 1950). Another nest with 5 eggs was 12 feet up in an apple tree in a neglected orchard on May 21, 1953.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.** *Nyctanassa violacea*. Rare summer resident. Believed to breed in the Pond River area and also in the large western swamp. On May 31, 1948, two adults appeared to be making regular trips in and out of Pond River bottoms, as though carrying food, although no nest was ever discovered. Suthard (1926) recorded the species on June 27 and July 4, 1926, but at that time he regarded it as a migrant.

**AMERICAN BITTERN.** *Botaurus lentiginosus*. Very rare summer resident. Bacon writes (1933): "I have never found a nest but have seen the young unable to fly." This species was recorded in June in 1946 and 1953.

**EASTERN LEAST BITTERN.** *Ixobrychus exilis exilis*. Formerly a fairly common summer resident, now quite rare. Nest with 3 eggs in cattails at Spring Lake on June 3, 1935.

**MALLARD.** *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*. Rare summer resident (Bacon, 1933); common transient.

**WOOD DUCK.** *Aix sponsa*. Uncommon summer resident. Female with 8 young at Pond River on May 31, 1948.

**TURKEY VULTURE.** *Cathartes aura*. Formerly a common permanent resident, but it has decreased in recent years. Suthard writes: "I have recorded two sets of eggs of this species collected from a large hollow log in Osborne's woods, west of Madisonville. A set almost ready to hatch was collected on May 27, 1923, and another set collected on April 23, 1924, from the same log. The latter was fresh. Both sets are so similar as to suggest the same pair of birds. In late April, 1912 and 1913, a number of nests were found in hollow logs, tree stumps, and brush piles in the woods near our home east of Madisonville."

**BLACK VULTURE.** *Coragyps atratus*. Permanent resident, now rarely seen about Madisonville. Up to at least 1935 this species was frequently recorded in the Madisonville area. Mrs. Semple still finds it hardly so rare in western Hopkins County.

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.** *Accipiter striatus velox*. Rare permanent resident.

**COOPER'S HAWK.** *Accipiter cooperii*. Rare permanent resident. Suthard considered it a "common resident in thickly wooded areas. Several nests found in late April and May from 1915 to 1918 but I was never able to climb the trees because of their height and a lack of climbing equipment."

**RED-TAILED HAWK.** *Buteo jamaicensis*. Rare permanent resident. Quoting from Suthard: "On April 11, 1937, in company with Brasher Bacon, I visited an area known as Ball's Knob, where we found Red-tail nests in trees on a ridge overlooking a valley area, which is typical of this species. One nest was 15 feet up in the top of a large sycamore. This contained two poorly marked eggs which were ready to hatch. In another similar area about a mile northwest, we found other nests, a large one, 50 feet up in the top forks of a *Liriodendron tulipifera* (yellow poplar) tree. This nest apparently had not been used this year. Nearby, another old nest was located in a hickory about 45 feet up. The third nest in the area was 50 feet up in the small top of an elm tree and contained 2 young about 2-3 days old and part of a small rabbit. The nest was rather thin; so it must have built this year." Bacon cites nests in oak and sycamore trees (1953).

**RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.** *Buteo lineatus*. Fairly common permanent resident. Nest at Clear Creek about 20 feet up in a birch tree on April 16, 1935. According to Suthard: "On April 11, 1937, I found a nest of this species in a thinly wooded, damp area in the Elk Creek area. The nest was 40 feet up in an oak tree. The female remained on until I started to climb the tree. The nest contained one young about one day old and two heavily incubated eggs. These were nicely marked, as is common with this species in southern Illinois."

**SPARROW HAWK.** *Falco sparverius*. Fairly common permanent resident. Four young birds out of the nest at Municipal Park, Madisonville, on May 19, 1952. This species nests regularly in a Purple Martin box within the park. Suthard found numerous nests, but his records do not show any eggs having been collected. He found a nest with "3 white chicks about 2 days old" in a dead stub on May 13, 1923.

**BOB-WHITE.** *Colinus virginianus*. Common permanent resident. Nest with 6 eggs on the ground in a clover patch on June 16, 1934. Another in a weedfield, held 17 eggs on July 2, 1932. A third, in a hay field, contained 4 eggs on August 2, 1935. On September 3, 1953, 2 adults with 3 or more young, tiny but well-fledged, were found out of the nest.

**KILLDEER.** *Charadrius vociferus vociferus*. Common permanent resident. Nest on the ground at a former garden spot, about 4 feet from a bank and placed beside a lone mullein plant, contained 4 eggs on April 7, 1953. Another, with 4 eggs, on the ground in a pasture on April 20, 1939. Two young out of the nest at Madisonville's new lake on April 27, 1953. Suthard gives these egg dates: April 14, 1924—4 fresh eggs; May 15, 1928—4 fresh eggs; June 3, 1923—4 eggs advanced in incubation; June 13, 1934—4 fresh eggs; June 18, 1925—4 fresh eggs.

**WOODCOCK.** *Philohela minor*. Rare summer resident. Nest with 4 eggs on the ground in a walnut grove on March 22, 1936.



**MOURNING DOVE.** *Zenaidura macroura*. Common permanent resident. Nests recorded in honeysuckle and in cedar, peach, apple, crabapple, willow, osage orange, elm, maple, sassafras, and oak trees, ranging 3-15 feet up. Nest with 2 eggs 3 feet up in an apple tree on March 17, 1946. Another, with 2 well-fledged young, about 4 feet up in an apple tree on September 28, 1945. Suthard records a nest with 2 fresh eggs on March 1, 1920. He had found numerous nests on the ground in wheat and rye fields.

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.** *Coccyzus americanus americanus*. Common summer resident. Nests have been recorded in elm, hickory, and crabapple trees, ranging 5 to 20 feet up. A nest with 2 eggs in a button-bush at Spring Lake on June 9, 1935. A late August nest, containing 3 eggs, at Clear Creek, has been previously described (Hancock, 1947). Suthard records: June 6, 1922—2 fresh eggs; July 15, 1924—3 eggs slightly incubated.

**BARN OWL.** *Tyto alba pratincola*. Rare permanent resident.

**SCREECH OWL.** *Otus asio*. Uncommon permanent resident. Suthard records 4 young just hatched on April 20, 1920, and he collected 4 eggs ready to hatch on April 14, 1924.

**GREAT HORNED OWL.** *Bubo virginianus*. Uncommon or rare permanent resident. A young bird was seen out of its nest at Clear Creek on April 8, 1949. Suthard says, "In all the years I collected around Madisonville, this species was common wherever suitable woods survived, but I was never able to locate a nest. On March 1, 1937, while at home preparatory to our exodus to California, I visited my mother's woods east of Madisonville in search of this species, which I had collected in southern Illinois. From a large dead shag-bark hickory stub about 45 feet high I flushed a Great Horned Owl during a snowstorm. After much bark stripping and hard climbing, I reached the top. There, on a heavy mat of owl feathers surrounded by snow, lay 2 eggs of *Bubo virginianus virginianus*."

**BARRED OWL.** *Strix varia*. Fairly common permanent resident. Two young and 1 adult seen together in Elk Creek bottoms on May 8, 1951. Also 2 young out of the nest on June 7, 1934.

**CHUCK-WILL'S WIDOW.** *Caprimulgus carolinensis*. Common summer resident. With the rapid disappearance of extensive woodlands and the resultant small woodlands and groves, this species has become increasingly common. Nest with 2 eggs on the ground in an oak woodland on May 12, 1952. Another nest has already been described (Hancock, 1951). A young bird with a broken wing found in a neighbor's cabbage patch on August 8, 1934. It opened its wide mouth and begged for food.

**WHIP-POOR-WILL.** *Caprimulgus vociferus*. Summer resident, common now where there are extensive woodlands, such as those surrounding Brown Meadow Lake, at Earlington. One called in the writer's neighborhood on May 28, 1953, the first recorded near his home in many years, but it was not heard thereafter.

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK.** *Chordeiles minor*. Common summer resident. Doubtless nests on the roofs of buildings in down-town Madisonville.

**CHIMNEY SWIFT.** *Chaetura pelagica*. Common summer resident. Often nests in the large chimney at the writer's mother's home. A nest and 4 downy young fell from the chimney on July 6, 1935.

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.** *Archilochus colubris*. Fairly common summer resident. Nests found in maple and beech trees, ranging from 7 to 30 feet up. Nest with 2 eggs 7 feet up in a maple in Silent Run area on May 13, 1935. Another, with 2 eggs, about 12 feet up in a beech at Clear Creek on June 15, 1935.

**EASTERN BELTED KINGFISHER.** *Megaceryle alcyon alcyon*. Uncommon permanent resident. According to Suthard: "Common along ditches and pond banks of sufficient height to afford a nesting site. Most of my experiences were futile, as I excavated the cavity before the eggs were laid. My one set of 5 fresh eggs was collected on May 22, 1928."

**YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER.** *Colaptes auratus*. Common permanent resident. Nest in a dead tree on March 26, 1945; entrance hole about 10 feet up. Starlings in possession by March 30. Another, 25 feet up in dead tree at Municipal Park on April 27, 1953; adults taking turns at incubation. Suthard found it a "very common species in orchards and wood lots in 1910-1922." He collected 7 fresh eggs on April 20, 1922, and the same number on May 18, 1922.

**PILEATED WOODPECKER.** *Hylatomus pileatus*. Uncommon permanent resident. Suthard found this species a "Common resident in large and heavily wooded areas. I have seen numerous nests in early April but could not climb the large dead trees. On April 13, 1937, while at home briefly, I collected 4 fresh eggs from a large dead tree about 50 feet high in the Elk Creek area. The nesting cavity was 40 feet from the ground and measured 18 inches in depth, with a tapered cavity varying in diameter from 6 inches at the top to 10 inches near the bottom. The bottom of the cavity contained some loose chips of pulpy wood. The entrance was 3 inches in diameter."

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.** *Centurus carolinus*. Fairly common permanent resident. Nest approximately 50 feet up in a living oak at the edge of an oak woodland; both parents carrying food to the young on May 22, 1934. Another, about 20 feet up in a dead tree at Municipal Park and 50 feet from a Flicker nest on April 27, 1953.

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.** *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Permanent resident, decreasing in numbers in recent years. Adults feeding young in a telephone pole at the Illinois Central Railroad on September 4, 1934. Starlings were noted annoying this species as early as March 28, 1934. Suthard found it a "very common resident, subject to decimation by automobiles because of its interest in paved highways. This decimation was apparent to me in 1920, when I saw many of these beautiful birds killed by automobiles." He furnishes these egg dates: May 19, 1922—5 fresh eggs; May 15, 1919—8 fresh eggs; June 8, 1924—7 fresh eggs; June 12, 1924—6 slightly incubated eggs.

**HAIRY WOODPECKER.** *Dendrocopus villosus*. Uncommon permanent resident. Nest in a dead stub in an apple tree; young calling on April 25, 1933. Suthard writes: "Irregular in my observation; in some years it was quite common. One nest, found in a dead crab-apple stub, contained 4 fresh eggs on June 8, 1922."

**DOWNY WOODPECKER.** *Dendrocopus pubescens*. Fairly common permanent resident. Nest 9 feet up in a dead stub; young calling on May 21, 1950. Suthard collected 4 fresh eggs on May 19, 1922.

**EASTERN KINGBIRD.** *Tyrannus tyrannus*. Fairly common summer resident. Bird on nest about 20 feet up in a sweet gum at Municipal Park on May 12, 1952. Pair were seen building about 20 feet up in a tall sycamore on June 11, 1934. Suthard collected a set of 3 fresh eggs on May 27, 1925.

**CRESTED FLYCATCHER.** *Myiarchus crinitus*. Fairly common summer resident. Young bird seen out of nest on June 20, 1949. An adult seen carrying nesting material on May 28, 1953. Suthard collected 5 fresh eggs on June 5, 1923, and also 5 fresh eggs on June 13, 1922.

**EASTERN PHOEBE.** *Sayornis phoebe*. Fairly common summer resident, rare in winter. Nests recorded on walls of railroad culverts, under bridges, attached to or under rocky ledges, and under the eaves of houses and outbuildings. Nest with 5 eggs on wall of I. C. Railroad culvert on April 19, 1934. Another, with 5 eggs, in similar culvert on May 3, 1933. Suthard cites these egg dates: April 20, 1924—4 fresh eggs; April 29, 1923—5 fresh eggs; May 10, 1922—5 fresh eggs.

**ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.** *Empidonax virescens*. Fairly common summer resident. Bird incubating in nest about 25 feet up in maple in Silent Run area on June 6, 1949.

**WOOD PEWEE.** *Contopus virens*. Common summer resident. Adults feeding young in nest placed in a fork of a sweet gum about 20 feet up at Clear Creek on June 10, 1945. Suthard collected 2 fresh eggs on June 6, 1922, and again 2 fresh eggs on June 10, 1924.

**HORNED LARK.** *Eremophila alpestris*. Rare summer resident, perhaps less so in western Hopkins County; also recorded regularly in winter. Deserted nest, believed to be of this species, examined on the Owen Stinnett truck farm on June 16, 1952. It was in a slight depression at the edge of a cleanly-cultivated tomato patch and contained 4 eggs. Lovell writes (1947): "In a letter dated November 25, 1944, Dr. T. Atchison Frazer says that he was well acquainted with this bird in Hopkins County as a boy on the farm under the name of Yankee Sparrow and found its nest almost every year."

**ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.** *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis*. Uncommon summer resident. Pair seen carrying nesting material into a culvert under the L. and N. Railroad on April 30, 1936.

**BARN SWALLOW.** *Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*. Fairly common summer resident. Five well-fledged young in a nest within Ham Frazer's stable on June 6, 1949. Nests examined usually contained 4-5 eggs or young.

**PURPLE MARTIN.** *Progne subis subis*. Fairly common summer resident. Several colonies build regularly in bird boxes at Madisonville and Earlington, including one colony at Brasher Bacon's home.

**BLUE JAY.** *Cyanocitta cristata*. Common permanent resident. Nests recorded in pear, apple, plum, elm, sweet gum, and oak trees, and in a lilac bush. Nest with 4 eggs in a pear tree on April 7, 1935. Another, with 2 young being fed, about 25 feet up in a sweet gum at Loch Mary on June 10, 1945. Nests found ranged from 6-25 feet above ground and usually contained 3 to 5 eggs or young. Suthard writes: "I believe the eggs of this species were the first I ever collected. A set of 4 beautiful eggs collected on April 30, 1910." He also recorded 5 eggs, just hatching, on April 20, 1922, and 2 fresh eggs on May 7, 1922.

**COMMON CROW.** *Corvus brachyrhynchos.* Common permanent resident. Bird carrying nesting material on March 14, 1946. Another, on nest about 20 feet up in a sassafras tree on April 12, 1946. Suthard cites these egg dates: March 29, 1924—4 fresh eggs; April 9, 1922—5 fresh eggs; May 22, 1922—5 slightly incubated eggs.

**CAROLINA CHICKADEE.** *Parus carolinensis.* Common permanent resident. Nest with 5 eggs in fence post on May 3, 1933. Another, 4 feet up in fence post, also containing 5 eggs, on May 4, 1951. Suthard sends these egg dates: April 2, 1925—5 eggs, incubation advanced; May 1, 1922—4 young; May 21, 1922—5 fresh eggs; May 28, 1924—5 eggs about one-third incubated.

**TUFTED TITMOUSE.** *Parus bicolor.* Common permanent resident. Nest with 5 eggs, entrance hole about 8 feet up in dead stub, on April 20, 1935. Young bird being fed out of nest at Clear Creek on July 28, 1952. Suthard records a nest with 4 fresh eggs on May 6, 1928.

**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.** *Sitta carolinensis.* Uncommon permanent resident. Suthard saw a female of this species carrying nesting material in the Elk Creek area on March 21, 1937. He was unable to follow the bird closely and so did not find the nesting site.

**BEWICK'S WREN.** *Thryomanes bewickii.* Common permanent resident. Nests recorded in rural mail boxes, atop a dictionary in an outbuilding, in gourds, in an old automobile tire, on a ledge in a shed, etc. Mail boxes are frequently used. Nest with 8 eggs in a mail box on April 15, 1934; another, also in a mail box, with 3 eggs on June 25, 1948. Nests recorded contained 3-7 eggs or young, rarely 8. Suthard records a nest with 7 fresh eggs on May 6, 1923.

**CAROLINA WREN.** *Thryothorus ludovicianus.* Common permanent resident. Nests found on a wooden shelf, in a wooden box, atop bottles in an outbuilding, in a cardboard box, and in an unused pigeon box. Nest with 6 eggs on a wooden shelf on April 22, 1935. Another, with 5 young, in a cardboard box in an outbuilding on July 19, 1928. Suthard records a nest with 5 slightly incubated eggs on May 13, 1928.

**EASTERN MOCKINGBIRD.** *Mimus polyglottos polyglottos.* Common permanent resident. Nests recorded in wild and garden rosebushes, osage orange, wild cherry, honeysuckle in young pear tree, young elms, and in apple and cedar trees, ranging from 2-7 feet up; usually contained 3-4 eggs or young, sometimes 5. Nest with 4 eggs 4½ feet up in a cedar on April 15, 1949. Another, with 3 well-fledged young, 7 feet up in a wild cherry on September 2, 1951. Suthard collected 4 fresh eggs on April 24, 1922, and again 4 fresh eggs on May 13, 1923.

**CATBIRD.** *Dumetella carolinensis.* Common summer resident. Nests recorded in apple, crabapple, willow, wild cherry, and wild plum trees, and in blackberry, honeysuckle, lilac, rosebush, and buttonbush, ranging 2-11 feet up; usually contained 3-4 eggs or young. Nest with 4 eggs 11 feet up in an apple tree on May 17, 1948. A late nest with 2 young and 1 egg 7½ feet up in a crotch of a willow at Spring Lake on August 14, 1934. Suthard records 3 fresh eggs collected on the following dates: May 11, 15, and 16, 1922.

**BROWN THRASHER. *Toxostoma rufum.*** Common summer resident, rare in winter. The writer has recorded 59 nests of this species. These were placed in apple, crabapple, wild plum, peach, willow, and osage orange trees, and in a low sassafras clump, wild rose bushes, blackberry thicket, honeysuckle, briars, button-bush, and in brush piles; 3 were on the ground, 1 of which has been described (Hancock, 1951). Twenty-one of these nests were in crabapple trees, or in honeysuckle growing within them. Doubtless other plants are used, such as garden shrubbery and other species of trees. Nests above ground ranged from 1½-9½ feet up, but with only 1 nest above 6 feet. Complete nests of eggs averaged 3-4, with sometimes 5, and in some cases 2 appeared to be a complete set; one set of 6 recorded on May 12, 1934, a nest placed in blackberry briars. Nest with 4 eggs in honeysuckle growing in a crabapple tree on March 30, 1945. Another, with 3 young, 5½ feet up in willow on the shore of a pond on July 16, 1946. Suthard collected 4 fresh eggs on April 20, 1922, and again 4 fresh eggs on May 1, 1922.

**ROBIN. *Turdus migratorius.*** Common permanent resident. Nests recorded in peach, apple, crabapple, plum, pear, cherry, wild cherry, maple, walnut, hickory, oak, willow, persimmon, pine, elm, and cedar trees, on supports on telephone poles, and on a rail fence, ranging from slightly over 1 foot (fifteen inches) to approximately 50 feet up. Nest with 4 eggs in a small crabapple tree on April 2, 1945. Another, with young (number undetermined) being fed approximately 50 feet up and near the top of an elm tree on August 21, 1948. Nests usually contained 3-4 eggs or young. Suthard collected 4 fresh eggs on each of the following dates: April 10, 1922; April 17, 1922; and May 8, 1922.

**WOOD THRUSH. *Hyllocichla mustelina.*** Common summer resident. Seen building nest in a maple on May 11, 1936. A nest with 2 downy young 6 feet up in an elm at Sunset Lake on June 30, 1948. Mrs. Sue Wyatt Semple saw a nest being built in a medium-sized tree on Weir's Creek levee on May 1, 1951. This nest contained 2 eggs on May 11 but was empty on May 13. Suthard collected 4 fresh eggs on May 10, 1924, and 3 fresh eggs on June 1, 1924.

<sup>Bluebird</sup>  
**EASTERN BLUEJAY. *Sialia sialis.*** Common permanent resident. Nests recorded in cavities in oak, walnut, willow, and apple trees, in fence posts, mail boxes, and even tin cans, which were equipped with a side entrance and perch and placed in shaded spots. Usually 3-5 eggs or young in nests, but sometimes 6. Nest with 4 eggs in a mail box on April 10, 1933. Another nest with 2 young and 1 infertile egg, also in a mail box, on July 24, 1950. Sometimes sets of eggs lacking the blue coloring have been seen. A third nest, in a mail box, contained 6 totally white eggs on May 8, 1936. Suthard collected 5 fresh eggs on April 25, 1923.

**BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. *Poliptila caerulea caerulea.*** Common summer resident. Nests recorded in elm, birch, oak, sweet gum, and black gum trees, ranging approximately 15-30 feet up. A pair were seen building in a black gum at Clear Creek on April 24, 1953. When nests are being built, the birds will go to the nests without hesitation, even when being watched.

(To Be Concluded)

## FOUR SPECIES OF BIRDS AS RECORDED IN HOPKINS COUNTY

By Brasher C. Bacon, Madisonville

### AMERICAN WOODCOCK. *Philohela minor*

The Woodcock is a fairly common migrant and a rare summer resident in Hopkins County. On only two occasions have I seen the aerial flight performance during the mating season of this dweller of the bogs. It is nocturnal in its feeding habits and is rarely seen unless flushed from its resting and feeding grounds, in low, damp woods and wet fields. I have found them nesting, with fresh eggs as early as March 20 and with young as early as April 6, when a light snow covered the ground. My records indicate that they are more common in the fall, and the height of migration is reached during the last week in November. My records are as follows: April 15, 1906, two birds were flushed from a wet area in W. A. Osborn's woods, on Greasy Creek, three miles west of Madisonville; April 6, 1907, an adult with four young a few days old was flushed near a small stream in a grove in the Odd Fellows Cemetery; April 18, 1908, an adult and three young were flushed from the same grove of the preceding year. The old bird fluttered along the ground as if crippled; the young scurried into the honeysuckle that covered the area and were soon lost to view.

On November 20, 1909, I saw one on the edge of a cornfield in a wet area near Clear Creek, eight miles northwest of Madisonville; on March 3, 1911, I saw two birds in a wet area along Greasy Creek in Osburn's woods, three miles west of Madisonville. This was the first courtship flight performance that I had ever witnessed; on April 18, 1911, I found a nest and four eggs advanced in incubation. The nest was in the leaves near the edge of a pond near Clear Creek, eight miles west of Madisonville. On March 12, 1913, two birds were seen along the edge of Pond Creek, seven miles west of Madisonville. On March 20, 1914, I found a nest of this species in a wet meadow on the edge of a grove, forty feet from Greasy Creek, on Mangums farm. The nest was made of leaves and contained four fresh eggs. The bird was flushed from the nest. On April 19, 1914, one was brought to me by J. H. Lynn, for identification. The bird had been found dead on Scott Street in Madisonville.

On November 25, 1915, three birds were flushed from the edge of a pond near Elk Creek, three miles northeast of Madisonville. Mr. S. L. Todd found a Woodcock dead on the highway and brought it to me on February 20, 1916. I saw one bird feeding on the mud flats along the edge of Loch Mary, near Earlington, on May 2, 1918. On February 20, 1920, two birds were observed on the edge of J. A. Major's pond in a pasture. I witnessed the courtship demonstration of this pair until they finally disappeared in a small woodland nearby. On March 26, 1922, I saw one in a wet meadow near Greasy Creek, three miles west of Madisonville. David Arnold brought to me on June 10, 1924, a Woodcock that had been found dead near a pond in the edge of the woods in Wolf Hollow, ten miles northeast of Madisonville. On December 10, 1926, I flushed a Woodcock from the grass along the edge of Pond Creek. On November 14, 1927, two birds were flushed from the shore of Loch Mary, near Earlington. On November 14, 1927, one bird was flushed from a field near Loch Mary. R. V. Omer, a rural letter carrier, on November 25, 1928, brought me a dead bird that he had found on the highway. On April 8, 1928, I flushed

one bird from a field near Brown Meadow Lake, near Earlington. James Burton brought to me for identification a bird that had been killed in a meadow. On November 16, 1929, one bird was flushed from the shore of Spring Lake on the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge, one mile southwest of Madisonville. James L. Edwards brought me one on November 28, 1929, that he had killed in a wet meadow, two and a half miles west of Madisonville. Also, on that same day Robert Myers brought in one that had been killed at the edge of a cornfield.

James Burton brought in one found dead in a field on November 19, 1930. N. G. Hollinger killed one on November 19, 1931, near Dalton, Hopkins County. The same day Maurice Salmon brought for identification one that had been killed three and a half miles west of Madisonville. Three days later one that had been killed by Jewell Banks, near a pond in south Hopkins County, was brought for identification. One was seen near the lake on the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge on July 10, 1931. On March 10, 1932, two birds were seen at the south end of Loch Mary in company with several Killdeers. Lucian Johnson, Rural Route 3, found one crippled in a field three miles east of Madisonville on November 28, 1933, and brought it to me. On November 20, 1935, one flew into a garage building at Earlington and was brought to me for identification. On January 26, 1936, two birds were flushed from the shore of the lake at the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge.

It was three years before I recorded the species again. On November 12, 1939, Carl Hatler brought me a bird that had been killed in a field near a pond, five miles north of Madisonville. On October 12, 1939, one bird was found dead on the dam at the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge. On February 12, 1939, two birds were observed at Brown Meadow Lake near the spillway. Two were observed feeding along the shore at Spring Lake on November 25, 1940. Two were flushed near a pond in a cornfield near Clear Creek on November 21, 1942. On March 1, 1943, two were seen at Spring Lake feeding in the overflow back of the lake. On February 28, 1945, one was flushed from the shore of Grapevine Lake on the Grapevine Wildlife Refuge, two miles southeast of Madisonville. One was seen near the museum at the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge on November 29, 1947. On November 10, 1947, two were flushed from the shore of Pleasant View Lake, four miles southwest of Madisonville. Two were seen on November 29, 1951, on the mud flats of Loch Mary. On April 6, 1951, one bird was seen on the east shore of Loch Mary, boring in the mud. On December 3, 1953, two birds were seen along the edge of Spring Lake. I also saw these same birds or two more on December 5, 1953.

I may have other records of this species that I have overlooked or failed to find. All of these are my unpublished records over the years. I hope that they may give insight into the relative abundance of the species over the past years in Hopkins County. Probably they are not so common today as in past years. But my activities in the field have been curtailed to a great extent in recent years and have been confined largely to the birds found on our five wildlife refuges. Woodcock have been observed in every month of the year with the exception of August and September. I have one record for January, four for February, six for March, nine for April, one each for May, June, and July, two for October, twenty for November, and three for December. One or more observers were with me on each field trip when this species was recorded.

WOOD IBIS. *Myctera americana*

My earliest record of the occurrence of the Wood Ibis in Hopkins County is September 7, 1908. A bird was killed by Robert Stewart out of a flock of three feeding in the overflow west of Spring Lake and brought to me for identification. On July 21, 1925, Phil Powell, who lives at Sebree, Webster County, twenty miles north of Madisonville, called me by telephone, saying that he had killed a large black and white bird and was sending it to me for identification. It was one of a flock of 52 which were feeding in a slough near Green River. This bird proved to be an adult male Wood Ibis. I mounted it and displayed it for years in my museum at Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge, along with one which I had secured in Hopkins County. On July 23, 1925, a bird of this species was killed by Claud Hanner, who observed several feeding in his pond for a few days. On July 26, 1925, James Suthard and Gatlin Harris saw four birds in W. A. Osburn's woods, along Greasy Creek, four miles west of Madisonville. Suthard is an outstanding ornithologist, and Harris is a competent observer. On July 28, 1925, a flock of 37 birds was reported to me by Gus Hunt, who lived three miles west of Madisonville, near Lunsford's Slough, close to Greasy Creek, where the birds were sighted. When I arrived, the birds were feeding in the pond and along the slough. I secured one adult male from the flock. The birds stayed in the area for several days, feeding in the ponds and sloughs near the creek. On July 31, 1935, Tom Bruce, a farmer who lived near the pond, killed a bird of this species; Gatlin Harris mounted the bird, which was a young male. On August 25, 1925, a conservation officer, Billy Aussenbaugh, reported that he had seen several on the Ohio River in Henderson County. An article in the Louisville *Courier-Journal* for September 2, 1925, reported the occurrence of a large flock of black and white birds near New Albany, Indiana. Gus Hunt, who is a competent observer and who saw the birds near Madisonville in 1925, reported to me that he and his son had seen two Wood Ibises feeding in a slough near Black Creek in west Hopkins County in September, 1950.

Through an error of my own or of the printer, in my "Water and Wading Birds of Hopkins County" (KENTUCKY WARBLER, October, 1933) the year of the occurrence of this species was listed as 1927 instead of 1925.

WHISTLING SWAN. *Cygnus columbianus*

The Whistling Swan is a very rare visitant in Hopkins County. The first record of its occurrence was on December 9, 1932, when a flock of ten was reported on Grapevine Lake, three miles southeast of Madisonville. Five of these birds were killed by Buddy Wilson and Toledo Hale, two boys who lived near the area. Two of the birds were sold to citizens of Madisonville, and three of them were brought to me for identification. The birds proved to be Whistling Swans. This violation of the Federal Migratory Bird Act was prosecuted and is on record in Federal Court in Owensboro. Sam Linebaugh, Guthrie, Kentucky, who was at that time Federal Game Warden, and J. H. Pittman, Conservation Officer for Hopkins County, who lived in Greenville, were the complaining witnesses. On February 2, 1933, two birds were reported on Grapevine Lake by Lorenzo Hayes of Madisonville. On February 4, 1933, a single bird was seen by David



Siria, a rural mail carrier. This bird was flying low over the lake. On February, 3, 1933, four large white birds were observed by Mrs. Lawrence Cardwell as they circled the area near the lake. On April 1, 1933, a bird of this species visited the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge. These birds were probably remnants of the flock of ten that had visited Grapevine Lake. These birds were also seen on Boddie and Powell's Lake nearby. On April 1 and 2, 1935, a Whistling Swan visited the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge, leaving on the evening of the second day. This bird was very tame and was viewed at close range. We approached within 50 feet of it as it leisurely took wing and circled the lake twice before leaving. On December 2, 1940, one bird visited the refuge and stayed for one half day. It was very tame and fed near a flock of semi-domesticated Mallards, just off the shore of the lake.

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#### SOUTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER.

##### *Ceophlocus pileatus pileatus*

The Southern Pileated Woodpecker is a fairly common permanent resident in Hopkins County. Formerly an inhabitant of the hills and heavily timbered bottomlands, it may now be found in open and mixed groves of second-growth forests. Civilization to some extent is banishing this fine bird from many of its former happy hunting grounds, as the shrieking moans of numerous sawmills are hymning its requiem. It is nearly impossible for it to find new prospects and privileges under civilization's new conditions, as have many other species, but must share the fate of the primeval forest, since its life is part and parcel with the untamed spirit that haunts the wilderness. The writer has been familiar with this bird for more than forty years in western Kentucky. Here it has held its own despite the growth in population and the rapid deforestation that has taken place in that length of time. To study this bird in its haunts is a memorable experience. The woods reverberate with its music. When it is hewing its way to a meal in the heart of a tree, the silence is filled with the clatter of its workshop, and the flying chips give ample evidence of the prowess of its strong, sharp bill. This species, like all the other woodpeckers, is very fond of ants, which make up a large part of its diet. The ants are secured by driving holes to the heart of growing trees, tapping the central chamber of the colony. I have watched these birds for hours drill into the heart of a living tree. Their food consists, in addition to ants, of beetles and wild fruit. I have frequently observed them on our refuges feeding on acorns, persimmons, sumac berries, wild summer grapes, and wild black cherries. In most instances they are not suspicious, allowing close approach, especially on the wildlife refuges. They occur frequently on Brown Meadow Wildlife Refuge, near Earlington, where they feed

in the oak grove near the club house. They are fairly common permanent residents near Madisonville on Lake Wood Pewee, at Grampan Hills, at Grapevine Lake, and on the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge. They are also to be found on the Penryrile Wildlife Refuge in Christian County. As far as I have been able to ascertain, only one brood is reared in a season. The period of incubation, which I checked on two pairs of birds, is eighteen days. The eggs are pure white and glossy and vary from ovate to elliptical-ovate, sometimes pointed. I have only one set of eggs of this interesting bird in my collection. My earliest nesting date is April 20, the latest May 30.

My nesting records for Hopkins County follow: April 25, 1909, Mitchell Hills, 30 feet from the ground in an elm tree located in a swampy area near Little Greasy Creek. The nesting cavity contained three fresh eggs. These birds were seen in the woods near the nesting site. This area, a forested region of open mixed woods, is now included in Lake Pewee Wildlife Refuge, three miles northwest of Madisonville. On May 20, 1912, I found a nest in a dead sweet gum at a height of 38 feet. The nesting cavity contained two young birds about three days old. The tree was about 125 feet from the first nesting tree found in 1909 and was in the edge of the woods. On April 20, 1914, I found a nest at a height of 18 feet in a partially dead maple near the creek bank, in Mitchell Hills. Two birds were seen in the area. There were two nesting holes in the tree, and four fresh eggs were collected. On May 30, 1915, at Spring Lake, I found a nest in a cavity in a tulip poplar, 32 feet from the ground. I examined this nest, which contained three nestlings about three days old. They were naked and blind. At Spring Lake on April 26, 1918, I found a nest in a hollow of a dead maple 160 feet from the water's edge. This tree had two nesting holes, one of which contained four fresh eggs. On the Lunsford Farm, on Little Greasy Creek, four miles west of Madisonville on the Rosecreek Road, I found a nest on May 12, 1918. The nest was about 40 feet up in a dead elm tree in an open field near the creek. The birds nested in this tree for several years. On April 22, 1923, in Harris Woods, two and a half miles west of Madisonville on the Rosecreek Road, I found a nest in a partially dead maple tree at a height of 20 feet. The excavation was 20 inches deep and took the birds three weeks and two days to complete before the first egg was laid. Both birds were seen each time I visited the nesting site, and both birds took part in the excavation of the nesting cavity. On April 20, 1923, on John A. Powell's farm, four miles west of Madisonville, there was a nesting hole 35 feet from the ground in a dead elm, located in an open field near a pond. The cavity contained fresh eggs on that date. On May 10, 1925, in Harris Woods, in the same tree as the one located in 1923, a nest contained four fresh eggs and was 26 feet up. On the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge, on April 21, 1931, a nest containing fresh eggs was found. I determined this by flushing the bird again on two occasions. On April 24, 1933, on Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge I found a nest in the same tree as the one last named, containing three eggs. So far as I know, the birds have not nested near the lake since that date, as a pair of Barred Owls established themselves in an oak nearby in 1934. The nesting site was located in a ravine near the present site of the Museum of Oology on Chickadee Hill. Thirty-five years ago the birds nested in a large dead oak tree near the present site of my lodge in Grampan Hills, where they are still frequently seen flying back and forth across the lake. In later years the tree has blown down, and the birds have moved farther into the woods across the lake.

## FIELD NOTES

Late Censuses.—Two censuses arrived after the February issue had gone to press. They appear here, for they are deeply appreciated and show some fine interest in two areas where we need many more active bird students: the mountains and the central Bluegrass area.

DANVILLE.—Jan. 2; 6:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. County roads, farmland, thickets. Clear: 32 to 50. Six observers in three parties. Water open by late afternoon but frozen for several days before. Many ponds and creeks dry. Mallard, 42; Turkey Vulture, 28; Black Vulture, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Pigeon Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 18; Barn Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Horned Lark, 28; Blue Jay, 6; Crow, 8600; Carolina Chickadee, 32; Tufted Titmouse, 27; Carolina Wren, 5; Mockingbird, 2; Robin, 5; Bluebird, 21; Cedar Waxwing, 1; Migrant Shrike, 2; Starling, 460; English Sparrow, 123; Meadowlark, 28; Bronzed Grackle, 1; Cardinal, 68; Goldfinch, 18; Eastern Towhee, 7; Slate-colored Junco, 64; Field Sparrow, 7; White-crowned Sparrow, 14; White-throated Sparrow, 23; Fox Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 11. Total, 38 species, 9667 individuals. A Brown Thrasher was seen two days after the count. The severe drought has so dried up our streams and ponds that I have seen only one Wilson's Snipe this whole winter.—W. S. GLORE, JR.

WILLARD.—December 29; 9:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. About 8 miles through fields and woodlands. Temp. 48 to 39. Sparrow Hawk, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 10; Crow, 27; Carolina Chickadee, 20; Tufted Titmouse, 6; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 9; Bluebird, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; English Sparrow, 12; Cardinal, 25; Goldfinch, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 45; Tree Sparrow, 15; Song Sparrow, 12. Total, 18 species, 201 individuals. Other species observed during Christmas week: Bob-white, Marsh Hawk, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Mourning Dove.—ERCEL KOZEE.

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### A SHRIKE'S NEST

Two Loggerhead Shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus*) were perched on the wires along Hurstborne Lane, which is located in open farming country on the edge of Jefferson County. As the date was May 3, 1953, it occurred to me that they were probably nesting. After looking up and down the road carefully, I decided that there was only one good place for their nest, a dense bush which had been trimmed back many times by the telephone company to protect their wires. It turned out to be a redbud (*Cercia canadensis*) overgrown with Japanese honeysuckle vines. Near the top, ten feet from the ground, there was a bulky nest in the thickest part of the bush. Paper formed the outer part of the nest, and several strings had been woven into the margin. The nest contained 6 eggs.

On May 6 the nestlings had hatched and were just beginning to grow feathers, but they were too young to show any fear of man. Both times when I examined the nest, the adults made no attempt to attack me, although one of them flew over the area two or three

times. Shrikes are not particularly common in the Louisville area, but persistent driving in the open farming areas will nearly always uncover a bird or two. The only other nest observed by the author was in Oldham County, beyond the Covered Bridge Boy Scout Reservation. This nest was found, with the aid of Mabel Slack, along the road in the spring of 1937. On May 31, 1947, near Anchorage, in Jefferson County the author saw 3 young shrikes on a fence and, later, one on a telephone wire. All were calling loudly for food; one on the fence and the one on the telephone wire were fed with what appeared to be insect larvae.

Very little has been written on Loggerhead Shrikes in Kentucky. The only other published records of nests appear to be two by Gordon Wilson (*WILSON BULLETIN*, 36: 119, 1923) for the Bowling Green area, one found in 1912 and the other being built on April 11, 1923.—*HARVEY B. LOVELL*, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

### OBSERVATIONS ON SHRIKES

It is a well-known fact that shrikes occasionally prey upon other birds. I have made two observations that may prove of interest to other ornithologists. A few years ago, while I was hunting in Warren County, a Migrant Shrike was observed attempting to impale a Carolina Wren on a twig of a small tree. I watched it for some time, and it was still struggling with its problem when I left. The second observation was made while we were taking the 1953 Bird Count on December 26 in the Bowling Green area. Professor Charles L. Taylor and I were observing the birds in a partially wooded spot when we noticed some Cardinals flying out of a thicket in great haste and confusion. Soon a male Cardinal flew by us with a Migrant Shrike in hot pursuit. They crossed a clear area and disappeared in a cedar grove. The final result was suspected but not definitely known.—*L. Y. LANCASTER*, Bowling Green.

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### AN ALBINO ROBIN

As I was leaving my house yesterday morning, February 1, 1953, I observed a large number of Robins in the yard. Feeding in the midst of them was one of a snow-white color, with the exception of small black markings on the wing tips. I called my wife, who also observed what to me was a rarity. I also called Louie Gerow, who is fairly well versed in ornithology, who also identified the bird as a Robin.—*J. T. COX*, Assistant Director, Division of Fisheries, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

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### BARRED OWL INSIDE CITY

Several times during the fall of 1953 there came to me reports that a Barred Owl had been observed inside the city. However, before an investigation could be made, an unusual incident occurred. On the evening of December 27, 1953, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Brashear and their son David were away from their home on Nutwood Avenue.

When they returned, they heard a disturbance in David's pigeon yard. Upon investigating, David found a Barred Owl had entered the enclosure through the entrance trap provided for the pigeons. The hungry visitor had destroyed two choice birds and was eating on one of them. The owl was promptly despatched and its skin turned over to a taxidermist for mounting.—L. Y. LANCASTER, Bowling Green. (On February 23, 1954, a Barred Owl was seen in the water maple next to the window of the office of the president of Western, at 9:00 A. M. A great commotion among the Starlings attracted my attention to it.—Editor).

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#### WOODCOCK OBSERVATIONS

On the gravel road in Mammoth Cave National Park between Sloan's Crossing and the site of old Union City on February 24, 1954, four Woodcocks were heard "peenting." All four birds could be heard making periodic flights, and three were observed in flight. Two birds were noted leaving the ground simultaneously; together they spiraled upward in tight circles and were watched out of sight. Both landed at their respective stations on the ground and resumed "peenting." On March 2, 1954, a series of seven listening stations were established in areas of favorable Woodcock habitat along this road. The distance between each station and the next was at least four tenths of a mile; the overall route was about three miles long. Beginning at dusk and listening a few minutes at each station, I heard a total of seven Woodcock, three of which were observed in flight. Two birds were heard at each of three stations and one at another.—DAN M. RUSSELL, Bowling Green.

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#### ALBINO CROWS AT PARIS

As I came into Paris, Kentucky, one Sunday morning in March, 1953, a few miles out of town I saw a flight of fifty or sixty Crows, flying low across the road, two hundred yards ahead of me. That was not unusual for this part of the state, but it was unusual to see a dozen or more albinos scattered among the normal ones. It was my first time to see an albino Crow.—J. W. CLOTFELTER.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

#### MISS SMITH AS NATURE LEADER

Miss Virginia Smith was nature leader at Cumberland Falls State Park the week of March 21, 1954, for the Kentucky Recreation Workshop.

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#### DR. LOVELL HONORED

The 1954 annual award given by the Beckham Bird Club was presented to Dr. Harvey B. Lovell on February 10, 1954. The award recognizes someone who has made "constructive contributions to Kentucky ornithology." At this dinner meeting of the club Dr. George R. Mayfield, one of the founders of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, spoke on "Learning Bird Calls and Songs." The 1953 award went to Burt L. Monroe.

### A TRIBUTE TO ORNITHOLOGY

Mrs. Yancey Altsheler writes: "At a dinner party recently I sat next to Dr. Frank H. Caldwell, president of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Louisville. During a discussion of ornithology, he told me of a communication that he had had some time ago. I thought you might be interested in it for the **KENTUCKY WARBLER** and asked him to write it for you. I am sending his note with this letter."

"Every once in a while a theological seminary receives a voluntary suggestion as to ways in which its work might be improved in preparing young men for the Gospel ministry. To me, one of the most interesting of such suggestions was contained in a letter from a minister in Virginia who has made bird study his major hobby. In his letter he expressed the serious conviction that ornithology be incorporated in the seminary as a basic prescribed course, along with traditional courses in Hebrew, Greek, Doctrinal Theology, Church History, Missions, Homiletics, etc. 'I have learned more about God,' he said, 'in my study of birds than I ever learned out of the textbooks in systematic theology'."

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### A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI

by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. Oxford University Press, 1953. \$6.00

This book is identical in plan to the eastern guide, which is familiar to most Kentuckians. The western area contains only 22 states but is actually a much larger area than that covered by the first volume. Over 300 persons helped in this great cooperative endeavor. The descriptions of seven of the states were written by men especially expert on the areas, namely, Arizona by Gale Monson, Arkansas by W. J. Baerg, California by C. G. Sibley and H. L. Cogswell, Nevada by Jean Linsdale, New Mexico by J. Stokley Ligon, Oregon by Robert M. Storm, and Utah by Wm. H. Behle. The other 15 states were described by Pettingill, himself, with the aid of a group of ornithologists listed at the end of each chapter.

Each chapter is headed by an attractive black and white sketch of a typical bird of the area; for example, Arizona by a Cactus Wren, California by a Condor, Colorado by the Ptarmigan, Idaho by Clark's Nutcracker, Iowa by the Upland Plover, Kansas by a Magpie, Louisiana by the Brown Pelican, Montana by the Western Grebe, New Mexico by the Road Runner, etc. The common names have been revised from those in the A. O. U. Check List, following closely those names used by the National Audubon Society for the Christmas Bird Counts and Peterson in his Bird Guides, chiefly to obtain a common name for the species as a whole. This tampering with the common names is creating considerable confusion, and it is to be hoped that the next check list will establish a name which will be used by all writers of popular bird books. The fault lies with the A. O. U. for not bringing their list up to date, however, and not with popular writers. Subspecies are omitted except in a few cases, where they are given in parentheses, in line with a growing trend.

Each state description begins with an extensive introduction, in which the physiographic features of the state are described in an interesting way and lists of typical birds are given for the most common habitats. This is followed by a description of the best places to go to look for both typical and unusual birds. When difficult-to-find spots are described, detailed directions are given as in Washington: "If a bird finder is anxious to see Black Oyster-catchers, he should visit CAPE FLATTERY on the western tip of the Olympic Peninsula. A wild, desolate place, it is the only spot in Washington where these big shorebirds may be found at any time of the year. The cape is reached from Port Angeles by driving west 39 miles on State Route 9A to a point about 5 miles beyond Pysht. Turn here to Clallam Bay and Neah Bay (25 miles distant) on an unnumbered road," and so on for half a page.

Probably more Kentuckians have spent more time in Rocky Mountain National Park than in any other Western spot. An interesting trip up Trail Ridge Road is described with beaver dams and pikas thrown in. And near the top, "Next, stop at Iceberg Lake, which is above 12,000 feet; walk to the edge of the cirque on the left and peer over its edge to view the steep walls; Brown-capped Rosy Finches are likely to be perched on the ledge shelves or moving to and from their nests in the various crevices."

Other features of this remarkable book are a list of museums, such as the Denver Museum of Natural History, with 25,000 bird skins, 5,000 sets of eggs, and 1,000 mounts, the latter grouped according to altitudinal associations; a list of bird clubs such as the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, which publishes the *Nebraska Bird Review* and may be contacted at the Nebraska State Museum, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; and a long list of references at the end of the book. There is also a 57-page, double-column index, which indexes birds according to states as well as all localities described in the text.—HARVEY B. LOVELL.

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### THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

The 31st annual Spring Meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held in Louisville, April 23, 24, 1954. The session began with a luncheon meeting on Friday in the Kentucky Hotel with Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Vice-President, presiding.

The speaker for this occasion was Dr. Charles M. Kirkpatrick of Purdue University whose subject was "Education in Wildlife." He stated that the problems of wildlife conservation are difficult to solve. With thousands of hunters, imbued with the ingrained instinct to kill, and farmers destroying many natural habitats, wildlife is being depleted. "Wildlife management is management of human beings," and though Kentucky is swamped with funds for the conservation of wildlife, very little of this money is being used to educate the public. He said that it was the duty of each citizen to assume some responsibility for the conservation of wildlife.

At the conclusion of Dr. Kirkpatrick's talk a motion was adopted that the Executive Committee study this problem with the State Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Mrs. William B. Tabler read the Treasurer's report; and Dr. Gordon Wilson, Editor of the Kentucky Warbler, asked for material, a wealth of it making his job less difficult.

Mrs. Stamm announced that the Fall Meeting would be October 8-10 at Kenlake Hotel. She also stated that Miss Virginia Smith, appointed Membership Chairman by Dr. Barbour, reported 325 members.

Attention was called to the pamphlet, **Birds of the Mammoth Cave National Park**, by Dr. Gordon Wilson.

In the afternoon the Science Club of the 5th and 6th Grades of Kerrick School—Mrs. Margaret Graham and Miss Lena Roberts, Teachers; Mrs. Martha M. Chamberlain, Principal—held "A club meeting wherein the problems of the feeding habits and protection of birds are discussed."

Also Prof. James B. Cope, Professor of Biology at Earlham College, gave an interesting talk, illustrated with color slides, on "The Museum as an Education Tool for the Study of Birds." He said that movies, such as Walt Disney's **Water Birds**; live specimens of snakes, frogs, birds, animals; also bird nests were used as leaders to attract townspeople, as well as students and children to the museum.

In conclusion Dr. Harvey B. Lovell showed two movies, courtesy of the Louisville Board of Education: "Song Birds of the North Woods," photographed by Dr. Arthur Allen, Cornell University; and "Ruby-throated Hummingbird," photographed by Dr. Olin S. Pettinghill, Jr.

Saturday morning, a field trip, led by Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, concluded the meeting.

VESTINA BAILEY THOMAS, Recording Secretary.

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#### TREASURER'S REPORT APRIL 23, 1954

Balance on hand October, 1953.....	\$129.79
RECEIPTS:	
Membership dues to date.....	366.00
Dividend on Endowment .....	12.25
Donations to cover expense of Fall Meeting.....	82.50
Sale of Check Lists, <b>Warblers</b> , Bibliographies and Indexes .....	12.43
Total.....	\$602.97
DISBURSEMENTS:	
To Selby Smith for printing Nov. and Feb. <b>Warblers</b> .....	\$164.20
Expenses of Fall Meeting.....	82.00
Bank Charge.....	1.00
Postage and Envelopes.....	45.82
Total.....	293.02
Balance.....	\$309.95
\$75.00 of this amount belongs in our Endowment Fund.	
In our Endowment Fund we also have seven \$100 bonds.....	\$700.00

FAN B. TABLER, Secretary-Treasurer



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BIRDS

Division of Birds

# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

K-13

Official Publication  
of  
THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XXX

AUGUST, 1954

No. 3



Nests of Great Blue Heron in Heronry near the  
Frazer Farm, Western Hopkins County.

Photograph by Mrs. Mabel Holt

(See May, 1954, KENTUCKY WARBLER, p. 19)

# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

President.....Dr. Roger W. Barbour, Lexington  
Vice-President.....Mrs. Anne L. Stamm, Louisville  
Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer... Mrs. W. B. Tabler, 2923 Riedling Dr., Louisville  
Recording Secretary.....Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Shelbyville  
Councillors:

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    Mr. Charles Meade, Henderson, two years

    Mr. James W. Hancock, Madisonville, one year

Retiring President.....Miss Virginia Smith, Henderson  
Librarian .....

    Miss Evelyn J. Schneider, Univ. of Louisville Library  
Curator .....

    Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Ridge Road, Anchorage  
Editor .....

    Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut, Bowling Green  
Assistant Editors .....

    Leonard C. Brecher, Grace Wyatt

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Active Membership, \$2.00; Student Membership, \$1.00; Contributing Membership, \$5.00; Life Membership, \$50.00.

All members are urged to send notes, articles, news items, and other material for publication to one of the editors.

**THE JOHN A. KLEBER SANCTUARY**

by

ROBERT A. PIERCE

Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources  
Frankfort, Kentucky

The Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources acquired title to the John A. Kleber Sanctuary during the latter part of April, 1953. This area consists of about 700 acres of strongly sloping to steep land located in Owen County near the Owen-Franklin County line. About three-fourths of the total cost of the area was provided by funds left to the Department for this purpose by the late John A. Kleber, of Frankfort. The remaining money needed to purchase the area was provided by the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, which will also provide the funds needed to develop and manage the tract. The area will be managed as a Game Preserve and Songbird Sanctuary in accordance with the provisions set forth in the last will and testament of Mr. Kleber.

The Sanctuary is unique in that it is possibly the only area owned or controlled by a State Game and Fish Department to be managed primarily for the benefit of non-game song and insectivorous birds. Although most State Game and Fish Departments are charged, along with appropriate federal authorities, with the enforcement of laws protecting non-game birds, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is among the first to attempt management practices for them and to provide an area where the citizens of the state can study and enjoy them.

The Sanctuary provides a very diversified habitat, which is attractive to a wide variety of birds and animals. Because of the type of terrain the area is not particularly attractive to marsh or water-loving species, however, and very little can be done to improve the tract for them. About 190 acres of the Sanctuary is open cropland, mostly grassland, and the remainder of the tract is covered with brush or woods. Cedar Creek, which bisects the Sanctuary; Elm Lick Creek, which flows along one side of the area; and several farm ponds provide a fairly well-distributed water supply. A number of cedar thickets provide excellent roosting areas for wintering birds.

Future management of the area will be aimed at securing a better distribution than now exists of a well-diversified habitat which will be attractive to a wide variety of birds and mammals throughout the year. The grassy fields now present are rather well distributed throughout the area. Their management will consist of practices which will keep them open and will provide a variety of herbaceous plants which will furnish food, shelter, and nesting sites for birds and animals which prefer open fields.

Management of the brushy and wooded sections of the Sanctuary are designed to take advantage of the natural plant succession of the region to provide a variety of shrub and tree habitats, from brush to mature woods, as widely distributed over the area as possible. Fruit and nut-bearing trees and shrubs will be encouraged, and some which do not occur naturally on the area at present will be planted. Brushy field borders will be encouraged, since it is felt that twenty or thirty acres of shrubs bordering open fields and woods will be useful to a larger number of birds and animals than would the same acreage in one block. Several of the steeper slopes, which had been cleared with a bulldozer and put into improved pasture, will be permitted to revert back to woodland.

Food plots and strips of annual and perennial seed-bearing plants will be planted throughout the Sanctuary in order to attract and provide food for as many seed-eating birds and mammals as possible. These will be especially useful during the winter months, when the presence or absence of many birds is dependent upon the food supply. Bird houses will be erected for use by hole-nesting species. Several additional farm ponds will be dug to provide a readily accessible source of water on those parts of the Sanctuary which are at present some distance from a water supply.

A number of capital improvements, to be made from time to time during the next ten years as money becomes available, are planned for the area. Foot trails are to be laid out and marked in the near future so that visitors will be able to find points of interest readily. A picnic area will be developed, and a log cabin, located in a remote part of the Sanctuary, will be repaired for use as a shelter for hikers. One and possibly two low dams will be placed in Cedar Creek to provide fishing facilities and a small marshy area for birds. A building with kitchen facilities is to be erected for the use of organizations which may wish to hold meetings on the Sanctuary, and facilities may be made available for Junior Clubs, 4-H clubs, and the like, to hold two or three-day camps on the area.

Hunters, whose license fees are being used to develop the sanctuary, will reap many benefits from the work which will be done here, also, since new plant species being considered for use in upland game management in Kentucky will receive their field trials on this area. Because of the droughty nature of the soils on this area, it is believed that plants which can be grown successfully here will be suitable for most upland situations in the state. Plantings of various species of herbaceous and woody plants will be made, and their survival, growth habits, and usefulness to quail, rabbits, and songbirds studied before they are recommended for use in the state.

The Sanctuary is well suited for the study of problems which require intensive research on small areas. It will be used by the Department to solve specific problems concerning upland game and to study the effects of several types of land management on populations of both game and non-game birds and mammals. Ornithologists may wish to study some problem on the area. A census of the breeding and wintering birds found on the area, for instance, would provide interesting and worthwhile information if the work were done over a period of years.

The development of the Kleber Sanctuary cannot be completed in one or two years, since the availability of funds and manpower determine the amount of work which can be finished in any one year and the time required for plants to grow and for studies to be carried to completion determines the amount of information which can be gathered each season. In the meantime, the Sanctuary offers a wide variety of birds and mammals for the enjoyment of all who may wish to spend an hour or a day with nature.

## THE BREEDING BIRDS OF HOPKINS COUNTY

(Third Installment)

By James W. Hancock, Madisonville

**CEDAR WAXWING.** *Bombycilla cedrorum*. Permanent resident, rare in summer and especially in July.

**LOGGERHEAD (MIGRANT) SHRIKE.** *Lanius ludovicianus*. Rare permanent resident. Mrs. Semple saw 5 young shrikes on a wire fence on the John Norwood farm on May 9, 1948. She located the nest they had vacated, nearby in a small cedar tree.

**STARLING.** *Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*. Very common permanent resident. Nest with 5 eggs about 12 feet up in a dead tree, a former woodpecker hole, on March 30, 1945. Another, with 4 young and 1 egg, in a crevice on a dwelling house on April 19, 1945. Young seen being fed out of the nest on April 28, 1945.

**WHITE-EYED VIREO.** *Vireo griseus*. Common summer resident. Bacon recorded a nest 1½ feet up in a sassafras at Spring Lake, which contained 3 eggs of this species and 1 of a Cowbird, on June 22, 1948. Suthard collected 4 fresh eggs on May 27, 1923, and 3 fresh eggs on June 21, 1925.

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.** *Vireo flavifrons*. Uncommon summer resident.

**RED-EYED VIREO.** *Vireo olivaceus*. Common summer resident; in fact, one of our commonest birds in woodlands, both upland and lowland. Nest with 2 eggs 9 feet up in a hickory on May 7, 1948. Harvey Lovell and the writer found a nest approximately 35 feet up in a sweet gum at Clear Creek on June 6, 1951; the bird was apparently incubating. Suthard collected 3 fresh eggs on June 5, 1925.

**WARBLING VIREO.** *Vireo gilvus gilvus*. Uncommon summer resident. Nests regularly at certain lakes, such as Spring Lake, Atkinson Lake, and Loch Mary. Mrs. Semple finds a pair of this species nesting every spring in a maple near Highway 109. She says, "They seem to prefer to build their nests on the east side of the maple."

**BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.** *Mniotilta varia*. Rare summer resident. One of the many species that have declined since strip-mining has been so extensive.

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER.** *Protonotaria citrea*. Fairly common summer resident. Mrs. Semple has located a number of nests in western Hopkins County in dead trees and stubs and has seen young being fed. Suthard found the species a "fairly common summer habitant where dead timber and water are simultaneously available during the summer. Fresh eggs were found between May 20 and June 1." He collected a set of 4 incubated eggs on June 6, 1925.

**SWAINSON'S WARBLER.** *Limnithlypis swainsonii*. Rare summer resident. Recorded in the vicinity of Pond River in May and June, 1948 (Hancock, 1949) and in 1949. Also at Clear Creek in spring and summer for three consecutive seasons, 1949-51. In 1951 the song was heard up to July 10. No nesting records have been made as yet, but the species must undoubtedly be breeding here. Sometimes the writer has found this species singing repeatedly and has watched it at good range. At other times the same individual seems shy and elusive, a difficult subject for observation.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER.** *Helmitheros vermivorus*. Rare summer resident. A nest with 3 eggs and another with 4 well-fledged young have been previously described (Hancock, 1937 and 1951).

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER.** *Vermivora pinus*. Rare summer resident. Two young seen out of the nest in the Elk Creek area on June 1, 1953; one caught and examined while the adults protested nearby.

**PARULA WARBLER.** *Parula americana*. Rare summer resident. Suthard says, "In early June, 1925, I found a pair of this species in the bottom land of Mr. Lee Schmetzer, feeding a young bird that was able to fly. Over the years I searched for this species, because it certainly nests in the heavily-wooded wet bottom areas of Hopkins County. My efforts were never rewarded with a set of eggs."

**YELLOW WARBLER.** *Dendroica petechia*. Fairly common transient, rare in summer. Adult feeding a young bird out of the nest at Loch Mary on June 10, 1945. Found most regularly in summer at Loch Mary, but two singing males recorded at Atkinson Lake on June 8, 1953.

**CERULEAN WARBLER.** *Dendroica cerulea*. Fairly common summer resident in creek and river bottoms. A young bird out of the nest seen being fed by adults at Elk Creek bottoms on June 25, 1951. Especially common at Elk Creek and in Pond River bottoms.

**YELLOW-THROATED (SYCAMORE) WARBLER.** *Dendroica dominica*. Uncommon summer resident. Adult seen building a nest approximately 60 feet up in a sweetgum at Clear Creek on April 27, 1953; first noted while it was gathering nesting material near the ground from a mass of dead trees and brush.

**PRAIRIE WARBLER.** *Dendroica discolor*. Fairly common summer resident. Perhaps because of an increase in brush-grown fields in uplands near stripped areas, this species appears to have increased within recent years. In many instances, however, this may prove to be only a temporary increase. Nests in a maple sapling and a post oak have been previously described (Hancock, 1948 and 1951). A third nest 5 feet up in a persimmon sapling contained 1 egg and 2 downy young on July 1, 1952. These three nests ranged from 2 to 5 feet up and contained 3 to 5 eggs or young.

**OVEN-BIRD.** *Seiurus aurocapillus*. Rare summer resident. Six singing males found in the Elk Creek area on June 25, 1951. Recorded regularly there since then, but, otherwise, except in spring and fall, only a late summer record at Clear Creek.

**LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH.** *Seiurus motacilla*. Uncommon summer resident. A young bird being fed out of the nest at Loch Mary on June 3, 1946.



Nest of Kentucky Warbler that contained 5 well-fledged young at Elk Creek on May 31, 1954

**KENTUCKY WARBLER.** *Oporornis formosus*. Common summer resident. Well distributed in low, wet woodlands and sometimes found in ravines in uplands woods. Nest containing 5 well-fledged young at Elk Creek on May 31, 1954. The nest was located 6 feet from a logging road, after about an hour of watching the adults and occasionally searching the area. The young all fled while preparations were being made to photograph the nest.

**YELLOW-THROAT.** *Geothlypis trichas*. Very common summer resident. Nest with 5 eggs on the ground in a weed field in the vicinity of Pond River on June 2, 1952. Located about 40 feet from willows and button-bush along a dry stream bed and made of "rusty" grass blades, rusty appearance obviously caused by copperas in the water when the field had been recently flooded. Suthard collected 5 fresh eggs on June 4, 1924.

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.** *Icteria virens virens*. Very common summer resident. Nests recorded in a wild cherry sapling, wild blackberry plants, honeysuckle, an unidentified bush, an oak sapling, and dense briars, ranging from 1½ to 3 feet in height. Complete sets of eggs included 3 or 4. A nest on June 1, 1950, with 2 eggs of the Cowbird and 4 of the owner, has been described (Hancock, 1951). Nest with 4 eggs in a wild blackberry on May 16, 1935. A nest with 1 egg, on July 23, 1947, was 2½ feet up in honeysuckle entwined on a blackberry plant; empty and deserted on July 29. Suthard collected 3 fresh eggs on June 15, 1923.

**HOODED WARBLER.** *Wilsonia citrina*. Rare summer resident. Recorded at Clear Creek (2 males singing regularly) and deep within Pond River bottoms.

**AMERICAN REDSTART.** *Setophaga ruticilla*. Rare summer resident. Recorded most regularly in summer at Elk Creek and at Pond River.

**ENGLISH SPARROW.** *Passer domesticus domesticus*. Very common permanent resident. A nest with 3 eggs in crevice of a dwelling house on April 19, 1945. Another, in similar crevice, with 2 young about 6 days old on August 2, 1947.

**EASTERN MEADOWLARK.** *Sturnella magna*. Common permanent resident. Nest with 3 eggs on ground beside a clump of red clover on April 28, 1952. Another, with 2 young, on ground in a red-top field, on July 7, 1934. Suthard cites these egg dates: May 4, 1924—4 fresh eggs; May 13, 1928—5 fresh eggs; July 12, 1922—4 addled eggs.

**RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.** *Agelaius phoeniceus*. Common summer resident. Nests usually recorded in button-bush or cat-tails and ranging from 2½ to 5 feet up, but sometimes located elsewhere. One nest, containing 2 downy young and 1 egg, on May 21, 1952, was only 9 inches above ground in marsh grass. Three nests examined on May 7, 1951; all were about 3 feet up in button-bushes in a marshy pond; each contained 4 eggs. A nest with 3 eggs at Loch Mary, on July 9, 1948, was 2½ feet up and fastened between a button-bush and a small willow. Suthard collected eggs on these dates: April 24, 1922—3 fresh eggs; May 3, 1922—3 fresh eggs.

**ORCHARD ORIOLE.** *Icterus spurius*. Fairly common summer resident. Suthard found this species an "irregular summer habitant. One found building a nest on May 8, 1922. No egg dates." The writer has failed to search out a nest, although he examined a deserted nest in the fall of 1953, which was about 30 feet up in a maple on his mother's lawn. It was made entirely of grass stems.

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE.** *Icterus galbula*. Transient; now very rare in summer. One recent summer record: a male at Municipal Park, Madisonville, on June 8, 1953. Suthard found it a "common summer habitant near dwellings. I have found many nests but could never collect any eggs intact. Nesting period, May-June."

**BRONZED GRACKLE.** *Quiscalus versicolor*. Common summer resident, rare in winter. Suthard collected a set of 5 fresh eggs at Browning Springs, Madisonville, on April 22, 1922.

**BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD.** *Molothrus ater ater*. Common summer resident. Eggs recorded by the writer in nests of Yellow-breasted Chat (1951), Towhee (1947), Field Sparrow, Indigo Bunting (1953), and perhaps others. Robert Mengel and the writer saw a large young Cowbird being fed out of the nest by a Red-eyed Vireo in the Silent Run area on July 12, 1952.

**SCARLET TANAGER.** *Piranga olivacea*. Rare summer resident. Female on a nest 20 feet up in a sycamore at Clear Creek on July 27, 1934. Unfortunately, the nest was not easily accessible, and the contents were not examined.

**SUMMER TANAGER.** *Piranga rubra rubra*. Common summer resident. A young bird out of the nest in the Elk Creek area on June 1, 1953. Nest with 3 eggs 6 feet up in a peach tree behind a deserted house on June 19, 1945; male of the pair immature. Another nest with 3 eggs, about 10 feet up in an oak on June 23, 1935. Robert Mengel and the writer saw an occupied nest about 45 feet up in a



hickory on July 12, 1952. Suthard recorded nests in elm, white oak, black oak, and sycamore trees, ranging from 8 to 25 feet up. He cites these egg dates: May 24, 1922—3 fresh eggs; May 29, 1922—3 fresh eggs and 2 Cowbird eggs; June 5, 1934—3 fresh eggs.

**CARDINAL.** *Richmondia cardinalis*. Very common permanent resident. Nests recorded in peach, apple, pine, elm, and crabapple trees and in honeysuckle, wild grape, blackberry, garden and wild rose bushes, and briars, ranging from scarcely 2 feet to 7 feet up. Generally contained 2 to 3 eggs or young, rarely 4. Nest with 4 eggs in a wild rose bush on April 14, 1935. Another, with 3 young, 7 feet up in honeysuckle on a dead apple tree on August 25, 1933. Suthard collected 3 fresh eggs on April 20, 1922, and 3 fresh eggs and 1 Cowbird egg on May 14, 1922.

**INDIGO BUNTING.** *Passerina cyanea*. Very common summer resident. A nest in a spice bush, with 3 eggs of this species and 1 of the Cowbird, on May 24, 1948, has been described (Hancock, 1953). Another, with 3 eggs, was 2½ feet up in a wild blackberry on July 14, 1947. Suthard collected as follows: June 24, 1923—2 fresh eggs and a Cowbird egg; July 12, 1923—3 fresh eggs.

**DICKCISSEL.** *Spiza americana*. Summer resident, more common in the western end of the county, where there is much open country, than in the Madisonville area.

**GOLDFINCH.** *Spinus tristis tristis*. Common permanent resident. Two young birds being fed out of the nest on September 5, 1953. Suthard writes, "In my experience, this was always a late-nesting species which I found common in July. The nests invariably built in the tops of the persimmon or sassafras bushes, where they formed the scattered second growth in old fields. My egg dates are: July 27, 1925—6 fresh eggs; July 30, 1927—5 fresh eggs; July 30, 1927—5 fresh eggs."

**EASTERN TOWHEE.** *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. Very common permanent resident. Nests recorded usually contained 2 to 4 eggs or young. Those on the ground found in weeds, under a clump of broom sedge, on leaves in an oak woodland, and among poison ivy and dewberry vines. Nest with 4 eggs on the ground in an oak woodland on April 23, 1934. Another, with 3 eggs, on the ground under dewberry vines on June 7, 1945. A nest with 2 eggs of this species and 2 of the Cowbird has been described (Hancock, 1947). Nests above ground have been recorded in briar tangle, in cane, button-bush, an apple tree, and elm sprouts, ranging from 2 feet to nearly 6 feet up. Nest with 1 downy young 3 feet up in briar tangle in an upland wood on June 4, 1948. A nest in a button-bush, with 3 eggs, on July 30, 1948, has been described (Hancock, 1948). Suthard cites these nesting dates: April 30, 1922—3 and 4 fresh eggs; May 1, 1922—4 young; May 4, 1922—4 fresh eggs and 1 Cowbird egg; May 11, 1922—4 young. On July 20, 1924, he recorded a nest with 3 eggs which was 3 feet up in an oak sapling, evidence that the Towhee nested above ground here more than 30 years ago.

**GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.** *Ammodramus savannarum*. Rare summer resident. Suthard found a nest with 4 young in a pasture on a grassy slope, east of Madisonville, on June 8, 1924. It was so buried that the rim of the nest was even with the top of the ground.

**PINEWOODS (BACHMAN'S) SPARROW.** *Aimophila aestivalis*. Rare summer resident.

**CHIPPING SPARROW.** *Spizella passerina passerina*. Fairly common summer resident. A nest 3½ feet up in an ornamental evergreen (sp. ?) contained 2 downy young and 2 infertile eggs on June 3, 1952. Another, with 3 eggs, was 6½ feet up in a young elm on June 15, 1951. A third nest, in a maple, held 2 eggs on July 12, 1935. Usually this species nests here in trees or shrubbery on lawns and in cemeteries, but several singing males are also recorded each summer in park-like oak-hickory woodlands in the Elk Creek area. Suthard collected 3 fresh eggs on each of the following dates: April 28, 1922; May 1, 1922; May 15, 1922; and June 8, 1923.

**FIELD SPARROW.** *Spizella pusilla pusilla*. Common permanent resident. Nests recorded on or barely above ground and up to 2½ feet. Those on the ground found in a clump of yarrow and between stalks of goldenrod; above ground, in a grass clump, in wild blackberry, broom sedge, honeysuckle, a small elm, and in briars. Generally, the nests contained 3 to 4 eggs or young, but sometimes only 2. A nest with 2 eggs and 1 of a Cowbird was nearly 2 feet up in a wild blackberry on May 31, 1950. Nest with 3 eggs one foot above ground in a clump of broom sedge on April 28, 1953; found by Brenda Hancock. Another, with 3 downy young, was 4 inches above the ground in a clump of grass on July 29, 1946. Suthard cites these egg dates: May 7, 1923—3 fresh eggs and 1 Cowbird egg; May 15, 1922—4 fresh eggs; May 27, 1925—4 fresh eggs; July 6, 1924—3 fresh eggs.

**SONG SPARROW.** *Melospiza melodia*. Rare and irregular summer resident; common winter resident. Recorded in the Madisonville area in summer, 1945-47, but has not been found since then, except as a winter resident. It was seen in summer at Atkinson Lake, as well as near Earlington and in the Pleasant View Church section (Hancock, 1947), but it disappeared even from Atkinson Lake, where it was found most regularly, after 1947. It is believed to breed here irregularly.

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#### SOME ERRORS IN PREVIOUS INSTALMENTS OF MR. HANCOCK'S ARTICLE

The editor gladly prints the following corrections of errors made a previous instalment of this article. In the May, 1954, issue Robert Grause should have read **Krause**, p. 19; on p. 20, line 12, "One nest was 45 feet up in the top of a large sycamore" instead of 15 feet; on p. 21, line 44, "Common now **only** where there are extensive woodlands" instead of the sentence without **only**; p. 24, lines 33-34, should read "on July 19, 1932," instead of 1928; and p. 25, line 36, "EASTERN BLUEBIRD, *Sialia sialis*" instead of BLUEJAY. The editor and the secretary-treasurer found this last error too late to make the correction before the issues of the WARBLER were mailed out.

## FIELD NOTES

### WESTERN MEADOWLARK AT MADISONVILLE

On March 24, 1954, I heard a Meadowlark with an unfamiliar but melodious song near my brother's home, about a mile southwest of Madisonville. At first I just thought it our common Eastern Meadow-

lark with an unusual song, since individuals often differ slightly. For example, I heard an Orchard Oriole in Livingston County in June, 1945, that had a song so different that I was unable to identify the bird until I saw it. Later, after I had checked the literature on the two Meadowlarks, I decided that it was probably a Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). On April 18, to learn more definitely, I made a special visit to see the songster. I found it ranging over three fields, often perching to sing from fence posts, telephone wires, and even trees along the edge of an oak grove, and occasionally singing in flight. The song, which I had studied from descriptions by Pough, Peterson, and Saunders, was definitely flute-like, bubbling, and uttered rapidly toward the close. This bird seemed to have two songs or variations. Because of the rapidity of the last notes, it was difficult to get an accurate count, but there seemed to be about seven notes in the first song, eight in the second. Several Eastern Meadowlarks were there and sang their slower, very different songs. The "chuck" call-note of the Western bird was also heard. About two days after my identification was made, tractors were brought in, and one of the fields was plowed. Apparently the bird had intended to nest in this field, for the song was not heard thereafter, and the bird disappeared promptly. I know of no previous published records of this species in Kentucky.—JAMES W. HANCOCK, Madisonville.

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#### BLUE GEESE AT CHRISTMAS

When Dr. L. Y. Lancaster and I recorded 24 Blue Geese at Mammoth Cave National Park on January 1, 1954, in our Mid-winter Bird Count, I was eager to see the results of the Fifty-fourth Christmas Bird Census conducted by the National Audubon Society. The report of the censuses, published in the April, 1954, issue of AUDUBON FIELD NOTES, shows some very interesting records of this species. All told, Blue Geese were reported from nineteen places, only eight of them from areas where the birds would normally be expected: Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, and New Mexico. Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana, has the only large number, 12,992. Rather oddly, the second highest number was reported from Grafton, Illinois, 900. Unusual places for the species besides Mammoth Cave National Park and Grafton, Illinois, were Reading, Pennsylvania; Dorchester County, Maryland; Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia; Hopewell, Virginia; Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; Huntington, West Virginia; Elsay, Illinois; and Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, Jet, Oklahoma. Only a few individuals were reported from most of these places. I wonder whether Blue Geese may not be more widely scattered in winter than most ornithologists formerly believed. It is possible that some have been ignored just because they were not expected. Those of our members who take their counts along the Ohio and its tributaries should keep a close watch of any geese recorded in winter hereafter.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

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#### BIG SPRING LISTS

Only five Big Spring Lists came in this year. Plan now to add yours for next year, for this effort to beat one's own record and make a good showing with observers in other parts of the state will be the means of finding many a bird in migration times. Here are the lists.

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS—May 2. Woods, lakes, and open fields. Weather warm, with showers; temp. 62 to 68; wind, west, strong as 10 m. p. h. at times. Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Canada Goose, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Osprey, Sparrow Hawk, Bob-white, Turkey, Coot, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Horned Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Empidonax?, Wood Pewee, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Bell's Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Parula Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Oven-bird, Northern Water-thrush, Louisiana Water-thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Redstart, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Rusty Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Goldfinch, Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow. Total species, 106; total individuals, 1216. The individuals were not especially numerous, even though the species were quite good. It was a miserable day for birding, and we needed some more birders to cover areas that we did not get to reach.—EUGENE CYPERT, MARY LOU CYPERT, DARA CHILDS, GEORGE SMITH, FRED CUNNINGHAM, MRS. FRED CUNNINGHAM, ROY A. GRIZZELL, JR., and GRACE WYATT.

MADISONVILLE.—May 10; 4:30 A. M. to 7:30 P. M.; 11:45 P. M. to 12 midnight. Clear and calm early; later a light SW wind. Partly cloudy by late morning; later overcast but partly cloudy again by late afternoon. Temp. 37 to 59. About five miles on foot, 42 by car; 15¼ hours in the field; observer alone. W. W. Hancock farm, four lakes at Madisonville, Clear Creek, Brown and Frostburg Roads, and a cat-tail marsh. Pied-billed Grebe, Green Heron, American Bittern, Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bob-white, Sora(?), Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow (mixed flock of about 20 Cliffs and Barns), Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush,

Olive-backed Thrush, Veery, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Migrant Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Sycamore Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Oven-bird, Northern Water-thrush, Louisiana Water-thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Redstart, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Goldfinch, Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow. Total, 106 Species, 869 individuals.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

HENDERSON.—May 2. Weather cloudy and threatening; this seemed to bring the warblers down low enough to be seen well. We have never seen so many in low shrubs. 6:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Twenty observers in all types of habitat; temp. 68-72; wind SW 3-7 m. p. h.; gusts up to 25 m. p. h. during shower. W. P. Rhoads and King Benson worked Audubon Memorial State Park, finding 107 species within its bounds; workers elsewhere raised the total to 138 species. Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Green Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Gadwall, Baldpate, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, American Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Sparrow Hawk, Bob-white, Coot, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Woodcock, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellow-legs, Lesser Yellow-legs, Least Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Screech Owl, Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Migrant Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Sycamore Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Northern Water-thrush, Louisiana Water-thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Redstart, English Sparrow, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Pine Siskin, Goldfinch, Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field

Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Our club is making periodic visits to the nest of a Pileated Woodpecker.—HENDERSON AUDUBON SOCIETY, W. P. RHOADS, compiler.

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK.—April 30 - May 2; 4:30 P. M., April 30 to 12:30 P. M., May 2. Windy, threatening. Overnight camps at Campground; by car to most of the central areas, Beaver Pond, Silent Grove, and Mammoth Cave Ridge. Warblers very numerous. Starred forms were found at the edges of the park but not inside. \*Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, Turkey Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, \*Sparrow Hawk, Bob-white, \*Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Whip-poor-will, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, \*Horned Lark, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, \*Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, \*House Wren, \*Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, \*Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, \*Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Sycamore Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Oven-bird, Northern Water-thrush, Louisiana Water-thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Redstart, English Sparrow, \*Bobolink, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, \*Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Goldfinch, Towhee, \*Grasshopper Sparrow, Bachman's Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow. Total, 100 species. The 27 warblers set a new second-high record, my best for a single weekend being 29.—GORDON WILSON.

LOUISVILLE.—May 2; 4:30 A. M. to 8:20 P. M. Louisville and its environs, including the Ohio River; woodlands, meadow lands, and river. Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Little Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Sparrow Hawk, Bob-white, Coot, Semi-palmated Plover, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Common Tern, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher,

Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Migrant Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Myrtle Warbler Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Sycamore Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Palm Warbler, Northern Water-thrush, Louisiana Water-thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Wilson's Warbler, Redstart, English Sparrow, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Goldfinch, Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Bachman's Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Total, 133 species.—C. W. BECKHAM BIRD CLUB.

All told, there were 172 species of birds recorded on these five censuses.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### HOPKINS COUNTY HERONRY

I enjoyed seeing James W. Hancock's account of the heron nesting area in Hopkins County. I grew up within a mile and a half of this heronry and remember seventy years ago seeing these fine birds by the hundreds flying over our home, going back and forth from the nesting swamp to Lick Creek for food for their young. My father had a name for all our common birds; he called these Great Blue Herons Big Blue Cranes. This swamp and its heronry were well known in our neighborhood; it bore the name locally of the Penitentiary. Many acres were covered with water all the year. It might be interesting to know that beavers built a dam across Clear Creek many years ago. The channel of the creek was full, and the outlying parts of the pond were called the Scatters. The last time I visited this rookery, about twenty years ago, there were one hundred and twenty nests in five large overcup oak trees. The young were about ready to fly; many of them were out on the limbs. My brother shot an adult, and it is impossible to describe the noise made by the young and adults at this intrusion of their home territory, especially when the gun was fired. I am sure that this nesting place has been used for more than a hundred years.—DR. T. ATCHISON FRAZER, Marion.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### OUR FALL MEETING

Be sure to make plans to join us at Kenlake Hotel at our fall meeting. Though our society has often met in the Jackson Purchase, we have never before had our headquarters right at Kentucky Lake. Full details will be sent out to each member well in advance of our meeting.



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DIVISION OF BIRDS

# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Official Publication

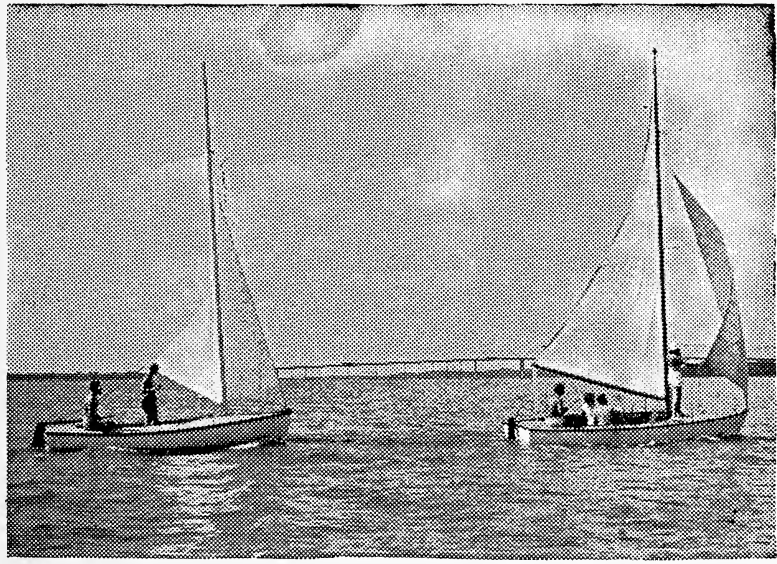
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## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XXX

NOVEMBER, 1954

No. 4



Sailing along on the breeze-ruffled waters of Kentucky Lake provides a thrill for many persons who visit the lake, located in the western portion of the state. Eggner's Ferry Bridge is seen in the background. Kentucky Lake, Kentucky Dam Village and Cherokee State Park are in the vicinity.

(Cut used with the compliments of IN KENTUCKY MAGAZINE  
and Mack Sisk, Editor)



# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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All members are urged to send notes, articles, news items, and other material for publication to one of the editors.

**SOME CHANGES IN BIRD POPULATIONS OF KENTUCKY LAKE**

By Eugene Cypert, Paris, Tennessee

Kentucky Lake, the lowermost and largest of the T. V. A. system, extends southward 184 miles from the dam at Gilbertsville, Kentucky. The surface area is approximately 156,000 acres, and there is a 2,200 mile shore line. Before the construction of the dam, the surface area of the Tennessee River for this distance was only a small part of what the lake is at present. It was to be expected that such a change in the area of the water and the amount of the shoreline would result in changes in the populations of water and shore birds.

Prior to the formation of the lake, visits by waterfowl were only occasional and of short duration. There was no regular wintering population. In the winter of 1944-45, the year the lake was filled, there was a very large influx of ducks, principally Mallards, Black Ducks, Pintails, and Ring-necks. There was an estimated peak population of 250,000 and this number was maintained for the greater part of the winter.

Hunters and nature lovers jumped to the conclusion that such numbers of ducks would be the usual thing during the winter. In the winter of 1945-46 the peak duck population was only about 12,000, and the wintering population was nil.

The following year there was a marked improvement. The duck population reached a peak of 30,000, and during most of the winter the lake was host to some 20,000. In 1947-1948 there was a further increase. Approximately 80,000 ducks spent most of the winter. Since then, the lake has been host each winter to populations ranging from 75,000 to 250,000 ducks. For each of the past four years the usual wintering population, with some variation, has been about 100,000.

There are some plausible reasons for the great influx of ducks in the first year of the formation of the lake, for the abrupt drop in the following year, and for the rise in the population thereafter. The first year there was an abundance of weed seed available as food for ducks following the flooding of thousands of acres of fields and cleared land. The great flights of ducks which ordinarily passed nearly unnoticed stopped and stayed. A year later the ducks had no such feast in Kentucky Lake. The weed seeds had disappeared, and there was no new aquatic growth.

The water schedule of Kentucky Lake is such that strictly aquatic duck food plants, such as pond weeds, water shield, musk grass, and naiad, cannot thrive. Usually the water level is raised to lake full level (359 feet above sea level) about May 1 and held there until about July 1. Then it is drawn down gradually the remainder of the summer until the level is about 354 or 355 feet. It is held at this low level all winter or until there is a threat of a major flood on the lower Ohio or Mississippi Rivers. As the flats emerge during the summer drawdown, there is a growth of vegetation, some of which is desirable as a duck food. Wild millet, smartweed, and sedges, along with less desirable plants, occupy this zone. The difficulty is that, unless the flats are reflooded, such food is left stranded during the fall and winter and is not accessible to the ducks.

One reason for the summer drawdown is mosquito control. But this drawdown does not eliminate all mosquito breeding habitat on the lake. There are certain flat land areas at several points which would not drain readily. Such areas have been diked off by T. V. A., and water is kept pumped off during the late spring and summer. These are called "dewatering areas." There are eight of them on Kentucky Lake. One of them embraces the West Sandy arm of the lake near Springville, Tennessee, and covers approximately 2,700 acres; another, near Big Sandy, Tennessee, is about 650 acres; one across the lake from Johnsonville, Tennessee, is about 3,000 acres; another, in lower Duck River bottom, is about 3,000 acres; and four smaller areas of from 150 to 250 acres each are up the lake, near Perryville, Tennessee.

After the mosquito season the dewatering areas are allowed to refill. It is only in these areas that there are usually any accessible natural duck foods. Here on the lower, wetter ground there is commonly a growth of smartweed, wild millet, sedges, and bur marigold. Only a small part of the some 10,000 acres included in the dewatering areas, probably less than 1,000 acres, actually produces waterfowl food. The rest of the dewatering area land is either crop land, timber land, or brush land. Hence, out of this vast 156,000 acre lake, only a small part serves as a source of natural foods for ducks. It is easy to understand why so few ducks used the lake the second year after it was flooded.

Why, then, the increase in duck populations the following years? Why did the populations jump to 30,000 in 1946-47 and continue to gain until a wintering population of 100,000 was reached?

Apparently this was due, in a great measure, to work done by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the Tennessee Fish and Game Commission under their Federal Aid programs and to the work of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Kentucky Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge and the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge. It was in the summer of 1946 that these agencies began their waterfowl management work on the lake. Since the Kentucky Lake water schedule was not favorable to natural duck food plants, the only answer was to produce duck food by raising field crops and by tilling the soil to induce the growth of desirable vegetation.

In 1946, the Kentucky Woodlands and Tennessee refuges had approximately 2,400 acres under cultivation near the lake shoreline. Most of this was farmed by neighboring farmers, who left from one third to one fourth of their crops unharvested for waterfowl as payment for the rent of the land. That year the state of Kentucky put under cultivation approximately 50 acres and the state of Tennessee about 300 acres, all of which was left unharvested for waterfowl.

These operations have been expanded since the first year. At present more than 7,400 acres of public land on Kentucky Lake is in cultivation under the federal and state waterfowl management programs. Of this, about 2,500 acres are cultivated entirely for the production of waterfowl food, and about 4,900 acres are cultivated by share-cropping farmers.

The principal crops are corn, soy beans, milo-maize, buckwheat, and millet, and such winter green food as small grains and rye grass. In the dewatering areas, it is possible to flood some of these crops to make them more readily available, but flooding is not necessary. It has been found that ducks will feed on most of these crops on the upland. On the refuges the corn is dragged down. The other crops, except millet, will be taken just as they are. The millet must be flooded before it will be taken readily. The small grain and rye grass are planted more for the benefit of Canada Geese than for ducks, but ducks frequently graze on these crops also.

Ducks, common as residents or visitors on Kentucky Lake, are the Mallard, Black Duck, Pintail, Ring-neck, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Baldpate, Gadwall, Wood Duck, Shoveller, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, and Common Merganser. Less common visitors are the Bufflehead, Canvas-back, Redhead, Golden-eye, Red-breasted Merganser, and Ruddy Duck. The Old Squaw, White-winged Scoter, and Greater Scaup have been seen occasionally.

Unlike the duck populations, the population of Canada Geese has had a steady increase. In 1946-47, there were only about 770 Canada Geese, and most of these stayed only a short time. The following year there was a regular wintering population of about 1,000 geese. In 1953-54 approximately 11,000 geese spent most of the winter on and in the vicinity of the lake.

The Blue Goose and the Snow Goose are common migrants and accidental winter residents. The Atlantic Brant has been observed on one occasion in the Duck River area.

Unfortunately, Crows and blackbirds have become serious competitors with the waterfowl for the unharvested crops. There are no estimates of the number of Crows spending the winter along Kentucky Lake, but there are certainly thousands of them. Tremendous flocks of Red-wings, Grackles, Cowbirds, and Starlings are also present during this period.

With the increase in waterfowl, eagles have become an interesting addition to the avifauna of the lake. Bald Eagles are common during the waterfowl season. For the past two years, at least, the Golden Eagle has been a winter resident. This species has been observed in Duck River bottom and at Kentucky Woodlands Refuge.

Naturally, the fish-eating birds have found Kentucky Lake to their liking. There is now a large rookery in the Duck River area where more than a thousand nests of Great Blue Herons, Common Egrets, Double-crested Cormorants, and Anhingas may be seen. The Great Blue Herons and the Egrets, formerly common, have become quite numerous. The Cormorant was only an occasional visitor to the Tennessee River but is now a common permanent resident. The swampy areas of Duck River bottom are the only places on the lake that are suitable habitat for the Anhinga; so Kentucky Lake's population of this interesting bird must necessarily be restricted to that area.

The Pied-billed Grebe is now a common winter resident and an uncommon nester. The Horned Grebe is an uncommon winter resident, and Holboell's Grebe has been reported. The White Pelican is an occasional visitor.

With exposure of thousands of acres of mud flats along the shoreline in the late summer, it was expected that Kentucky Lake would be a tremendous attraction to migrating shore birds. This expectation has not been fulfilled. There have been few visiting shore birds. However, there has been an interesting variety of them. The Killdeer is, of course, a common permanent resident. Common migrants include the Semipalmated Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Woodcock, and Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. The Avocet, the Upland Plover, the Dowitcher, the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and the Golden Plover have been observed.

The Coot is now a common, and sometimes an abundant, winter visitor. The King Rail is an uncommon summer resident, and the Sora and Virginia Rail are common migrants. The Florida Gallinule has been seen.

The Ring-billed Gull has become abundant as a winter resident, and the Herring Gull is common at that time. Bonaparte's Gull is an uncommon migrant. The Black Tern and the Least Tern are common migrants.

Kentucky Lake can hardly be called an ornithologist's paradise, but it has brought to the lower Tennessee Valley impressive numbers of waterfowl and an interesting variety of other water and shore birds. Visiting ornithologists may expect to see the largest concentrations of waterfowl in midwinter and the greatest variety of ducks and other water birds in April. Late August is the best time for seeing shore birds.

\* \* \* \* \*

### WOODCOCK STUDIES

By Dan M. Russell, Study Leader, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

(Note by the Editor: Here is a summary of a nineteen-page report by Mr. Russell, a complete copy of which can be obtained from the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Mr. Russell asked me to condense and summarize his article, data for which he has been carefully gathering from our members and from hunters, biologists, and other interested people. You will especially like the fourteen pages of tables with which he has illustrated the article. It is a real regret that we do not have space for the whole article.)

**A. Introduction.**—The Woodcock Study was initiated on July 1, 1953, for the primary purpose of determining when and where Woodcock were present in Kentucky, the relative abundance in various seasons, and the types of habitat most often utilized. The two jobs listed in the work plans for this study were: spring and fall migration censuses and reproduction studies. Provisions were also made for recording all incidental observations, such as mortality, feeding, movements, etc. Data were obtained by accepted census methods as described in literature and by intensive field work in areas believed to contain suitable cover. Further information and past records were obtained by a questionnaire poll of the members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society and other individuals who were known to keep such records. The reports received were dated as early as 1893 and on up to the present. Mr. Brashear C. Bacon, of

Madisonville, reported some fifty sight records of Woodcock flushes, nests, and broods in Hopkins County between 1906 and 1953. It appears that Woodcock are more generally distributed throughout the state than may have been previously supposed. While the information presented in this report is not considered conclusive, because of the short period of study, there has been some pertinent information obtained on the Woodcock in Kentucky. In accordance with a Departmental policy to reduce investigational activities, the Woodcock Segment of the general work plan has been discontinued. However, provisions have been made to tabulate any random or voluntary information that may be received from biologists and others.

**B. Area Worked On.**—The scope of the study was statewide, with emphasis on selected areas containing suitable habitat in each of the twelve Pittman-Robinson Districts.

**C. Methods of Obtaining Data.**—

1. **Census:** Selected suitable cover types were censused repeatedly during the periods October 15 through December 15 and February 15 through April 15. During the former period, areas were revisited regardless of whether sight or sign was noted. During the former period, different areas were covered each time unless a Woodcock was flushed or sign noted, and repeat visits were made until the area was obviously abandoned by Woodcock. The reason for the change to the latter method was to omit blank areas as much as possible and to obtain some information on the length of time a particular covert might be used. Singing Ground counts were conducted approximately every ten days from February 1 through April 15. Standard data report cards were provided to record all random observations.

2. **Survey Questionnaire.**—A questionnaire form was mailed with a return envelope to all members on the roster of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. Of 236 forms mailed, 32 (13.6%) were returned.

3. **Interview.**—Contacts were made with sportsmen, conservation officers, and other outdoor people to obtain information on preferred cover types, population, and movements.

**D. Fall Census.**—During the fall census of suitable cover types there were 147 trips made, covering 1,181 acres. A total of 8 Woodcock were flushed, one for every 37.3 man-hours afield. Six of the 8 birds were seen in October. The average for October was a bird for every 5.3 trips or one bird for 8.3 man-hours.

**E. Spring Census.**—Six birds were flushed in 54 trips; an average of a bird for 13.5 man-hours afield.

**F. Random Observations.**—A total of 32 random observations, involving 72 Woodcock, were reported by biologists prior to and during the course of this study. There were 16 records of 48 birds that were observed prior to 1953 and 16 records of 24 birds received during the study period. Most observations were of single birds. A group of 6 Woodcock were flushed in Trigg County in March, 1954. An estimated 14 Woodcock were flushed from small open fields, predominantly broomsedge and surrounded by mixed hardwoods, in Calloway County on November 21, 1952. One of these birds was collected by Biologist Odin.

### G. Reproduction Studies.—

1. Singing Ground Counts.—During February, March, and April, 110 trips were made over singing ground routes, and 45 Woodcock were heard. All the birds were heard during February and March. One route of seven stations was established in Mammoth Cave National Park, and records were as follows: during the first trip, on February 24, three Woodcock were heard at one station; during the second trip, on March 2, seven were heard; on March 12, eleven were heard; on March 17, three were heard; on March 27, only one was heard. An attempt to observe this bird closely by moving toward the singing ground while the Woodcock was in the air caused him to leave the singing ground and go to another small, cleared area a short distance away. The bird was heard "peenting" on this cleared area; but when he came down from his flight, he landed on the original ground, where two observers were hidden. The bird seemed to sense that something was wrong, and after "peenting" twice, he flew directly away from the area. During trips on April 2 and 17, no birds were heard. During February and March there was a rather large concentration of Woodcock in this particular area of Mammoth Cave National Park. Woodcock, other than those counted on singing ground routes, were heard and known to be in this area. It is probable that this was a migrating group with the exception of the one bird that remained through March 30. The statewide average for February was one Woodcock for 29.7 stops. For March, the statewide average was one bird for 11.3 stops.

2. Courtship Flights, Nests, and Broods.—A total of 18 nests and broods were reported. The nests were located in March and April; the broods were all located in April. In the combined reports received, the courtship flights were first noticed on February 3 in Casey and McCreary Counties. The latest in the spring was recorded on April 22, in Edmonson County. There was one report received of a Woodcock in flight and song heard on November 2, by Dr. Gordon Wilson, of Warren County. There were 9 nests with eggs reported. Eight were described. Dates of nesting ranged from March 20 to April 21. Since there were so few, a brief description of each is given below:

Nest. Brushy broomsedge field, Marshall County.

Nest—4 eggs, 4-18-1911. In leaves near edge of pond near stream, Hopkins County.

Nest—4 eggs, 3-20-1914. In leaves at edge of meadow near stream, Hopkins County.

Nest—4 eggs, 3-22-1936. In walnut grove, Hopkins County.

Nest—4 eggs, 4-21-1951. In dense weeds and brush near river, Edmonson County.

Nest—5 eggs, 4-00-1950. Sedge grass near path in woods near lake, Henderson County.

Nest—4 eggs, 4-00-1952. In heavy weeds, uncultivated land near creek, Caldwell County.

Nest—4 eggs, 3-18-1954. In woodlot in oak-hickory grove, Todd County.



A total of four broods were described as follows:

Adult and 4 young, April 6. Along stream in grove in upland cemetery.

Adult and 3 young, April 18. Along stream in honeysuckle.

Adult and young, April 30. Woods, predominantly catalpa.

Adult and 2 young, April 10. In Shortleaf-Virginia pine, with opening of blackberry.

The broods were all located in the month of April.

H. **Habitat.**—Much emphasis is placed on habitat in most of the Woodcock literature. It was found to be difficult to classify habitat in detail because of so much overlapping. For example, **Timber** may be upland or lowland; **Stream** may be in timber or pasture, etc. In determining preferred cover types, **Timber** (to include forests and farm woodlots) was by far the most often mentioned. It may be seen that the less cover on the land, the fewer Woodcock were seen.

I. **Relative Abundance and General Distribution.**—One reason why more Woodcock might be reported in March and November is that these are the months when fishermen and hunters take to the areas of suitable Woodcock habitat. The information on hand shows that there are two periods when Woodcock are most abundant. It is also interesting to note that through random and intensive efforts, the biologists were able to locate in one year approximately the same number of Woodcock that were in all the records obtained from Kentucky Ornithological Society members and interested parties. While this in no way minimizes the importance of the results of the questionnaire, one thing is clearly shown: while the Woodcock are assumed to be scarce and seldom seen by most people, they can be found in Kentucky if searched for in suitable habitat. Woodcock were seen and / or heard in 39 of the 120 counties of the state. This was from a total of 180 observations involving 298 Woodcock, 12 broods, and 9 nests. There were 51 counties worked intensively by biologists, and Woodcock were found in 25 of the 51 counties. Thus it may be supposed that Woodcock are generally distributed throughout the state.

J. **Mortality.**—In 24 reports involving 25 birds it was found that the greatest mortality was due to hunters. Periods of greatest loss were during the fall and spring. These reports, too, may be correlated with the increase of hunters and fishermen in the field at those times.

## FIELD NOTES

### ANOTHER SHRIKE'S NEST

At the suggestion of Harvey B. Lovell I am recording a nest of the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) to add to those which he listed in a previous issue of the *Kentucky Warbler*.

The nest, containing young, was found in a hackberry tree along Springdale road on June 5, 1949, by Mabel Slack and me. The area is typical open country with meadows on either side of the road. The

nest was a bulky structure, well built with thick twigs on the exterior. It was about twelve feet from the ground in an upright fork, midway between the trunk and the outer branches and on the half of the tree which faced the meadow. We could not determine the number of young, as we could not reach the nest.

Both parent birds maintained their "watch" from the telephone wires and at some distance from the nest-tree. The shrikes had a pattern of flying from the wire to specific spots in the meadow and, without hesitancy, picking up their prey, which in most cases appeared to be a grasshopper; then fly back to the wire and wait for some time before flying across the road to feed the young.

Other species we found nesting in the same area were as follows: Field Sparrow, Yellow-throat, Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow, Dickcissel, Indigo Bunting, and a pair of Brown Thrashers.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Horned Lark's Nest at Paducah.**—On March 15, 1954, I found on the Paducah Airport the nest of the Horned Lark. It contained three young; though I am not a good judge of the age of nestlings, I thought them to be three or four days old.—Mrs. E. M. West, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Sparrow Hawk's Hovering.**—Recently I observed a Sparrow Hawk hovering in mid-air, darting to the ground, and picking up a field mouse. This occurred five consecutive times. Each time the bird flew to a nearby stump to devour the mouse.—Mrs. Nat Stanley, Sr., Reed.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Twin Phoebe Nests.**—On April 27, 1954, I heard a Phoebe calling near the entrance to Tall Trees in Otter Creek Park. I checked the covered porch on the dining room where Phoebes had nested in previous years. As I did so, a Phoebe flushed from a nest. When I looked up, there were two nests within an inch of each other. I found a single, cold, white egg in the left nest, but the right nest contained four warm eggs. Evidently the Phoebe had become confused and laid one of her eggs in the wrong nest. Both nests seemed to be in excellent shape, but it is possible that only one was the new nest, the other an old one that had been reworked to some extent.—Harvey B. Lovell, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Young of Spotted Sandpiper in Franklin County.**—Late in the afternoon of June 18, 1954, Miss Jane Ann Wallace and I discovered two downy young of the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*). A single adult sandpiper was feeding along the shallow, mud-bottomed edge of a man-made lake at the State Game Farm, near Frankfort. Occasionally the bird would run up into the low weeds, which were about five feet from the edge of the water. As it ran through the weeds, it would give its shrill peep call and teeter in the manner of this species. Finally, on one of the trips into the weeds, one of the young birds came out of hiding. Quickly I approached the spot where the adult and young were. The adult ran off a few feet and took wing, while the young one ran a short distance and hid in the weeds. Even though I knew the approximate location where the bird

was hidden, it took a good bit of searching to find it; for when in concealment, the young sandpiper would allow itself to be picked up rather than run to a new hiding place. Withdrawing to a discreet distance, we again watched the adult sandpiper enter the weeds and call to the young. This time two tiny mites of gray and black fuzz came out of hiding and joined their parent. The interest of our discovery was dulled, but only slightly, by our inability to locate the nest. Perhaps this will be possible if the Spotted Sandpiper returns to the Game Farm lake to raise its brood.—Thomas L. Despard, Frankfort.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Another Woodcock Nest at Mammoth Cave National Park.**—On July 24, 1954, Hugh Smith, one of the ferrymen at Houchins Ferry, in Mammoth Cave National Park, showed me the spot where a Woodcock nest was built this year and three young brought off. It was on the north side of Green River at the ferry, not far behind the tower that supports the cable used when the water is high. It was downstream from the road, just as was one on the opposite bank that I saw on April 21, 1951.—Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.

**The Best Time to Observe Cerulean Warblers.**—During the early spring it is sometimes difficult to see the Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) at close range. Because this species frequents the highest treetops, it is more often heard than seen. Yet there is a time when it comes to the ground or flits about on low bushes, and that is during the nest-building period, or at the time of the young in the nest. I have seen the female come to the ground within a few feet of me to gather minute nesting material, and on one occasion (May 17, 1952) the bird returned six times to the same spot, all within a short period of time. My presence did not deter her from gathering the silk-like threads of the spider web which she so desired for her nest, which was placed about 45 feet up in a walnut tree, near the extremity of a horizontal limb. On four subsequent trips there were no indications that the male assisted with the incubation of the eggs; he was always to be found in the nearby trees, singing incessantly. At one time he was seen chasing a Blue-headed Vireo. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, a Wood Thrush, and a Carolina Chickadee nested in the same area, Sleepy Hollow, and a Summer Tanager's nest was saddled on an elm tree not more than 150 feet away; yet no conflict was noted. Of course, all these species nested at a lower level. On May 31, 1953, I was with a group at Sleepy Hollow when a Cerulean Warbler came down to some honeysuckle vines by the roadside. The bird was directly in front of the group and remained there long enough for all of us to see her diminutive size and delicate color markings. On June 30, 1946, I was in the Caperton Swamp area with Lieutenant Kitchen of Oklahoma, who was at that time stationed at Fort Knox. We saw a male Cerulean with food in its bill, sitting on a low limb directly overhead. This gave us an excellent opportunity to watch the bird. Two of the four nests which I have observed in the last few years were in walnut trees, one in a basswood, and the other in an oak. All the nests were found in different localities, but all were near streams and where trees were deciduous. The height varied from 35 to about 60 feet above the ground, and all were well out toward the end of the branches and away from the trunk. In this locality it seems that May 17-27 is the best time to observe the nest-building of this species; there is also the chance that one may have the rare opportunity to see the bird at close range.—Anne L. Stamm, Louisville

### LATE SEASON OR SECOND SEASON?

A juvenile Goldfinch was found out of its nest and still being fed by its parents on October 12, 1954, near Berea by Bob Eplee, a member of the Berea College Outing Club. This find seems unusual, since the breeding period is often during July. Moreover, Palmer (*FIELD-BOOK OF NATURAL HISTORY*) reports that the Goldfinch has only one brood a year. However, this breeding coincided with a prolonged summer, the first killing frost not having occurred by the time I am setting this down (October 22). During August and September, there was apparently sufficient rain, which in conjunction with the late warm temperatures, provided the right conditions for a second set of blooms to develop on several of the local plants, including the Redbud and Japonica. Also, Morning Glories were blooming on October 15. But what stimulus made the Goldfinch breed in late September? The bird found was definitely immature. Its wing and tail feathers were only about half as long as in a mature bird. The bird's skin was prepared by Hugh Bailey (president of the Outing Club), and it was found that the pin feathers were very poorly attached, making the skin unsuitable for our permanent collection. The bird had only its left wing and lacked a completed outer toe on its right foot and the middle toe on its left foot. Each of these toe structures were mere vestiges. The humerus was found on the right wing, but internal examination showed a bit of blood clot at the base of the bone. There seemed to be no external signs of injury on this wing area or on the toes. It cannot be decided definitely whether the three modified parts were the result of malformation during embryological development from hereditary or other causes or whether the nestling had been attacked by a predator while very young. The combination of unusual circumstances has indeed been very interesting.—FRANK B. GAILEY, Biology Department, Berea College.

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### HOUSE WREN NESTING IN MADISONVILLE

In a conversation with Fire Chief Basil Toombs on June 17, 1954, I learned that a small gray-brown bird was nesting in a gourd bird house erected in an iron pipe, in the yard of his neighbor, Otto Fulkerson, on south Church Street. In company with Chief Toombs I visited the nesting site and found the birds feeding their young on this date. The birds were identified as House Wrens, a species not heretofore recorded as nesting in or around Madisonville. On June 23, 1954, Frank Collins, biologist for the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, and the writer visited the nesting site and watched the birds for more than an hour. Again they were definitely identified as House Wrens. Photographs of the nest were taken. This is the first nesting record of this species for the writer in more than 45 years of observation. It has been recorded as nesting in Bowling Green by Dr. Gordon Wilson in recent years. It has nested in Jefferson County for many years, being one of the most common to be recorded there. This species is gradually extending its range westward over Kentucky and should soon appear in many other places.—B. C. BACON, Madisonville.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

Three excellent Christmas Bird Censuses were sent in for publication in the **Junior Science Bulletin**, the publication of the Kentucky Junior Academy of Science, which is affiliated with the Kentucky Ornithological Society. These censuses were from Kingston High School, Madison County; Valley High School, Jefferson County; and Taylor County High School, at Campbellsville.

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The Tennessee Ornithological Society held its annual spring meeting at Standing Stone State Park on May 8-9, 1954. Our Dr. Harvey Lovell was the guest speaker, his subject being "The Habitat Niche of Nesting Birds."

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The Henderson Audubon Society presented an attractive program for 1953-54. Screen-tour lectures were given by Allan D. Cruikshank, Walter H. Shackleton, and Richard Bird. Three great spring outings were staged, culminating in the Big Spring List on May 2. Miss Virginia Smith is the president of the society; there are 250 members listed in the booklet announcing the year's activities.

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### DR. FRAZER STILL ACTIVE

The **COURIER-JOURNAL** for July 5 carried an item about our Dr. T. Aitchison Frazer, who long ago came to be known as the "grand old man of the K. O. S." The item was a summary of a longer one in the **VANDERBILT ALUMNUS** in which Dr. Frazer said that he felt that it is a foolish thing to quit working after a lifetime of hard work. "If a man quits work when he is still able, he generally dies pretty soon. I think he should die, and get out of the way. I am past eighty-four years old and still working every day. I do not believe in retirement and think that most men who retire are too lazy to work." Certainly Dr. Frazer lives up to what he has said, for he has never let a few years or even some times of poor health keep him from his daily practice and his equally ardent observation of birds.

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The following Kentuckians attended the meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club, June 11-14, at Cape May, New Jersey: Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brecher, Harvey B. Lovell, Mr. and Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm, and Donald Summerfield. While interesting field trips were planned to observe breeding colonies of the Eastern Willet, the Black Skimmer, the Least Tern, the Common Tern, and others, the species that attracted the most attention was the Cattle Egret. At the business session Burt L. Monroe, Sr., was elected president.

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At the recent annual meeting of the Beckham Bird Club Harvey B. Lovell was elected president.

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Miss Mabel Slack took a sabbatical leave this past year and had an interesting time traveling and studying. Last summer she attended the Marine Biological Station at Pacific Grove, California. She remained in California until early May, when she went to Mexico.

Later she took some work at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory Colorado. She is now back at her regular position in Atherton High School, Louisville.

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#### A CORRECTION

Miss Esther Mason, who turned over to the editor the minutes of our 1953 fall meeting at Cumberland Falls, has called attention to an omission in the minutes, for which she and the WARBLER are sorry. There should have been a statement that the books of the treasurer, Mrs. Charles S. Thacher, were audited by a committee headed by Mr. W. P. Rhoads and were commended for their accuracy and care. Also the committee praised Mrs. Thacher for her years of distinctive service as an officer of the K. O. S.

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#### CYPERTS DO SUMMER WORK IN TEXAS

Eugene and Mary Lou Cypert, of the Tennessee Wildlife Refuge on Kentucky Lake, spent part of the hot summer of 1954 working in the Davy Crockett National Forest, near Crockett, Texas. Their specific problem was to determine the effects of fire on the vegetation of the forest floor. They report a new bird for their life list, the Road Runner, as well as such old acquaintances as the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

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#### OUR FALL MEETING

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its thirty-first fall meeting at Kentucky Lake State Park on October 8-10, 1954, with Kenlake Hotel as headquarters. On Friday evening our president, Dr. Roger W. Barbour, welcomed the members and guests. Mr. Robert Pierce, manager of the Kleber Sanctuary, gave an interesting history and description of the sanctuary, expressing the hope that our members can make use of this 700-acre tract in Owen County. Mr. Larry Gale, director of the Division of Game, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, spoke on "Game Bird Research in Kentucky." He discussed the life history of the Mourning Dove, the Bob-white, and other game birds; he summarized studies in highway mortality and the annual number of birds killed by hunters. He stated that an increase of game birds in Kentucky is not now in sight. Mr. Parker Smith, principal biologist of the Tennessee Department of Fish and Game, told of the importance of waterfowl on Kentucky Lake. He showed slides of plantings of large acreages to attract waterfowl. An interesting panel discussion concluded this meeting. The members besides Messrs. Gale, Pierce, and Smith were Mr. Frank Collins, district biologist; Mr. William Gault, assistant district biologist; Mr. Eugene Cypert, wildlife management biologist; Mr. William Lee, assistant game management agent; and Mr. Robert C. Soaper, game management agent.

Saturday was given over to field trips in the Woodlands Wildlife Refuge. The following were leaders of trips: Mr. Eugene Cypert, Burt L. Monroe, Mr. A. F. Ganier, Dr. Gordon Wilson, and Dr. Roger W. Barbour. More than 70 species of birds were seen, but the highlight was a flock of some 800 Canada Geese.

At the dinner meeting on Saturday evening Mr. Robert Mengel, of the Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, gave the principal address, "Birds of Kentucky." He was introduced by Mr. Burt L. Monroe, president of the Wilson Ornithological Club, lifelong friend. Mr. Mengel spoke of his years of collecting data for his thesis, which will soon appear. He suggested that our society, though small, can do great scientific work.

**The following officers were elected for next year:**

- President: Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm, Louisville;
- Vice-President: Mr. Robert Pierce, Frankfort;
- Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer: Mrs. William B. Tabler, 6 Glenn Hill Road, Louisville;
- Recording Secretary: Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Shelbyville;
- Councillors, 1954-'56: Mr. Rodney M. Hays, Lexington; and Mr. Hunter Hancock, Murray; 1953-'55 Councillors who remain in office: Mrs. J. Kidwell Grannis, Flemingsburg; and Mr. Charles Meade, Henderson.

Approximately 75 of our members were in attendance at this fall meeting.

The spring meeting in Louisville was announced. The 1955 fall meeting is scheduled for Berea.

VESTINA BAILEY THOMAS, Recording Secretary

\* \* \* \* \*

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Balance on hand, April 23, 1954.....	\$309.95
Receipts—	
Membership Dues .....	62.50
Dividend on Endowment .....	12.25
Sale of Check Lists, WARBLERS, Bibliographies, and Indexes .....	8.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$392.70</b>
Disbursements—	
To Selby Smith for Printing May and August Issues of WARBLER .....	\$205.09
Bank Expenses (Tax and Service) .....	.90
Expense of Spring Meeting .....	2.00
Postage and Envelopes .....	5.92
Junior Academy of Science Award .....	5.00
Filing Fee to Secretary of State, Frankfort .....	1.00
Returned Check .....	2.00
Refund on One Copy of WARBLER .....	.25
<b>Total Disbursements .....</b>	<b>\$222.16</b>

FAN B. TABLER, Secretary-Treasurer

Shelbyville, Kentucky, October 19, 1954.

Mr. Gordon Wilson, Editor of KENTUCKY WARBLER  
Western State College  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Wilson:

At the business meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, held at Kenlake Hotel on October 9, 1954, a motion was made by Mr. F. P. Shannon, duly seconded and carried, that the following change be made in the Constitution, Article V, Section A.

**The Constitution reads:**

**ARTICLE V. MEETINGS**

Section A. The Society shall hold one regular meeting in the spring, and one regular meeting in the fall. The spring meeting shall be held in Louisville annually in connection with the Kentucky Education Association. The fall meeting shall be the annual meeting and shall be held in some other place, alternating between localities in the eastern and the western sections of the state as far as practicable.

**The proposed change:**

**ARTICLE V. MEETINGS**

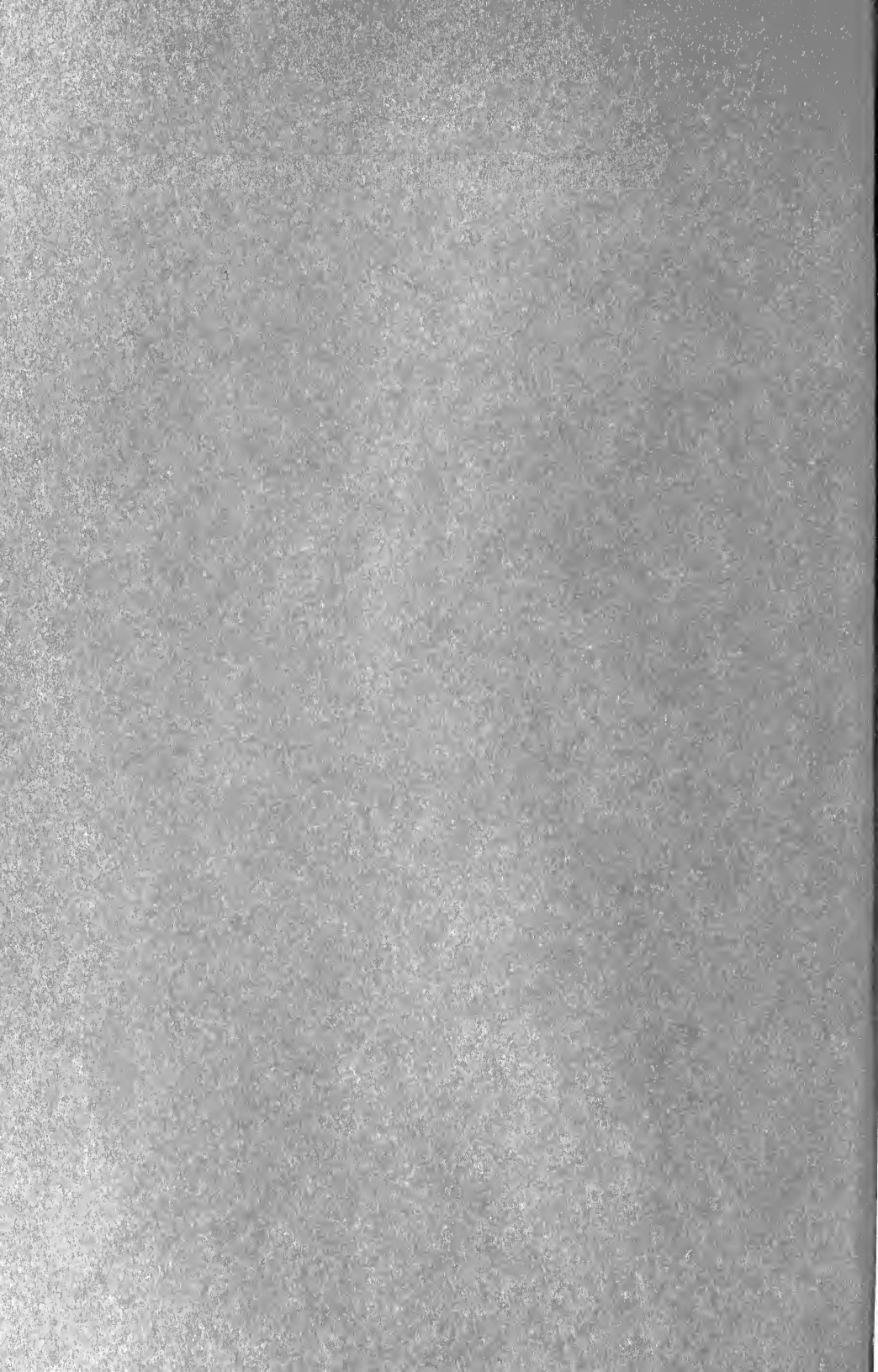
Section A. The Society shall hold one regular meeting in the spring and one regular meeting in the fall. The location for the spring meeting shall be selected by the Executive Board. The fall meeting shall be the annual meeting, alternating between locations in the eastern and the western sections of the state as far as practicable.

Sincerely,

VESTINA BAILEY THOMAS, Recording Secretary







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# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Official Publication

of

## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XXXI FEBRUARY, 1955 No. 1

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### THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

President..... Anne L. (Mrs. Frederick W.) Stamm, Louisville 5  
 Vice-President..... Robert A. Pierce, Frankfort  
 Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer..... Mrs. William B. Tabler, 6 Glen Hill Road, Louisville 7  
 Recording Secretary..... Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Shelbyville

#### Councillors:

- Mrs. J. Kidwell Grannis, Flemingsburg, 1953-1955
- Charles Meade, Henderson, 1953-1955
- Rodney Hays, Lexington, 1954-1956
- Hunter Hancock, Murray, 1954-1956

Retiring President..... Dr. Roger W. Barbour, Lexington  
 Librarian..... Evelyn J. Schneider, University of Louisville Library  
 Curator..... Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Ridge Road, Anchorage  
 Editor..... Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green  
 Assistant Editors..... Leonard C. Brecher and Roger W. Barbour

#### Chairmen of Committees:

Helen Browning, Membership; Leonard C. Brecher, Endowment; Rodney Hays, Conservation and Legislation.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### OUR 1954-55 MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

You will enjoy in this issue the results of our annual mid-winter bird count. Here are some figures that will show you how well our members worked: number of observers, 100; number of species, 114; number of individuals, 81,324. Most of the places where counts were made had better than average numbers of species and individuals because of the open winter. The party of fifteen who counted birds at Woodlands sent in the largest list of species, 85. So far as the editor can recall, there are four new species on our combined lists this year: the White-winged Crossbill, the Evening Grosbeak, the Grasshopper Sparrow, and the House Wren. There are also records of several species that are usually rare at this season: Loon, Horned Grebe, Black-crowned Night Heron, Blue Goose, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Brown Thrasher, Pine Siskin, Palm Warbler, and Vesper Sparrow. Louisville reports the Oregon Junco again this winter. The various counters have done a good job and are to be congratulated on having seen so many birds.

\* \* \* \* \*

### BIRD COUNTS IN THE NEWS

Several of our counts appeared in the local papers as news. Bird watchers are not such funny people after all; even they can have their pictures in newspapers and magazines. TIME ran an excellent article on our tribe, and the Christmas Counts conducted by AUDUBON FIELD NOTES, in the January 10, 1955, issue. It was illustrated by British-born Dennis Puleston, whose name will appear later as a member of two groups of counters in the New York area.

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### JUNIOR ACADEMY BIRDERS

You will find in this issue an outstanding count by the Bunsen Science Club of Atherton High School, with our Mrs. Anne Stamm and our Miss Mabel Slack as leaders. We welcome such contributions and are mindful of the importance of our younger members and well-wishers.

\* \* \* \* \*

### BERT POWELL IMPROVED

It is good news to hear that our A. L. (Bert) Powell, of Owensboro, who has been "under the weather," was able to do some good birding this season. Good health to you, Bert; we need your interest and contributions to our knowledge of Kentucky birds.

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### SPRING MEETING

The thirty-second spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held in Louisville on Friday, April 15. The luncheon and afternoon program will be in the Reynolds Room of the Seelbach Hotel. The field trip the next morning will be to some interesting

(News and Views Continued on Page 20)

## A BREEDING BIRD STUDY IN OWEN COUNTY

By Harvey B. Lovell, Anne L. Stamm, and Robert A. Pierce

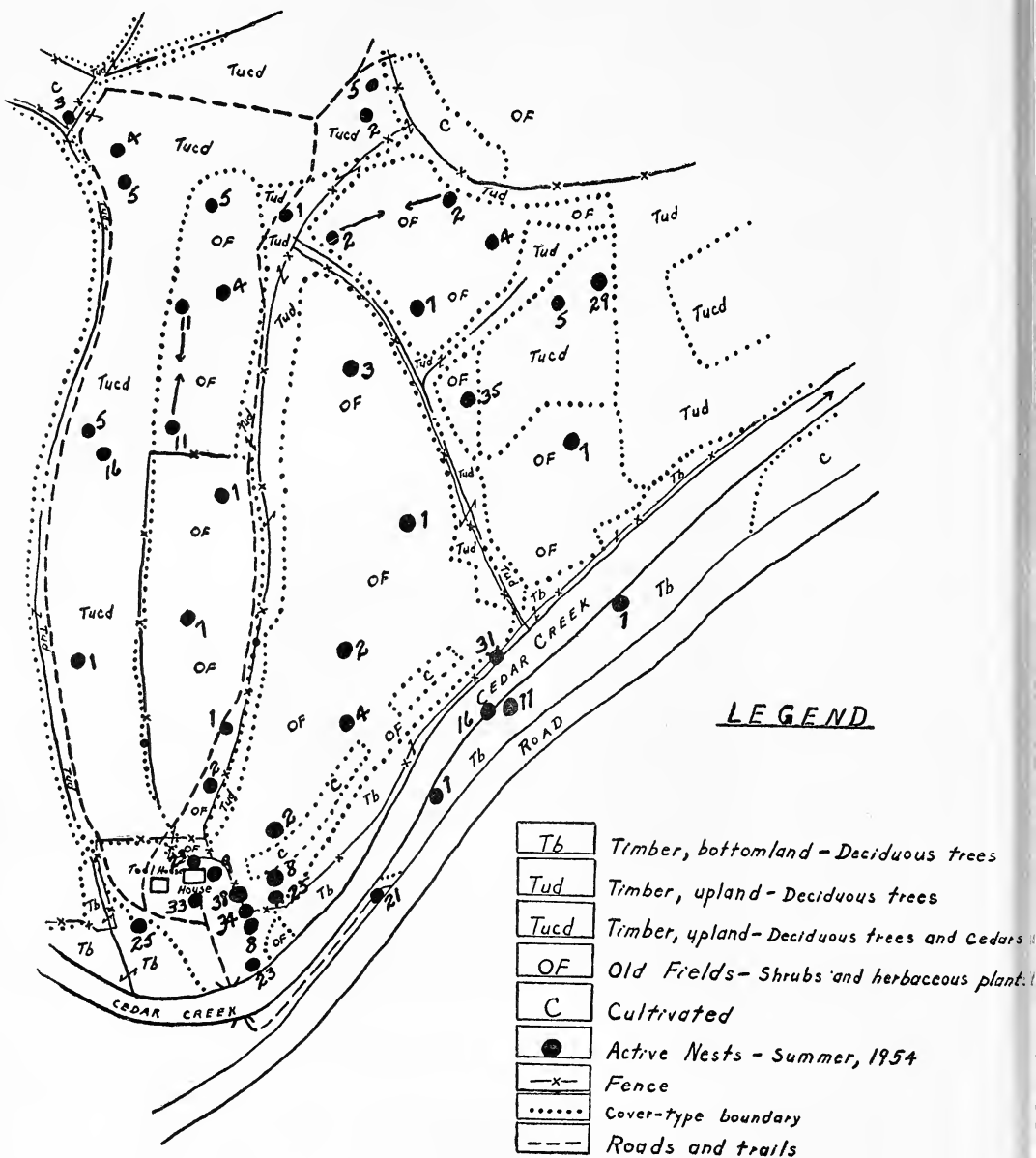
A study of the breeding birds was made on a 40-acre tract of the John A. Kleber Song Bird Sanctuary in Owen County, Kentucky, during the summer of 1954 (Stamm, Lovell, and Pierce, 1954). The objectives were to determine the breeding population density, to secure information on the habitat requirements, and to find as many nests as possible. A brief description of the sanctuary has been given by Pierce (1954). The area selected for study lies along the main highway and Cedar Creek, and consists of abandoned farm lands with fairly large trees along fence rows and along two wet-weather creeks. Cedar Creek is also fringed with large trees. The area is submarginal land with very thin soils and rolling hills with northern and eastern slopes, with an elevation of approximately 975 feet. The old fields have started to grow up in briers, sumac, elms, red cedars, and other pioneer vegetation. The surrounding areas are very similar in habitat and had the same species of birds. An abandoned house with one side torn away stands near the creek. In this area a dozen Bluebird houses and two Colonial Martin houses have been erected. The yard in front of the house was mowed with a tractor several times, and a half acre near the house was planted with multiflora rose, shrub lespedeza, and assorted plants useful to wildlife. However, during the period of the nesting study the food plants had not matured any seeds.

Large trees present along old fences are chiefly oak (*Quercus* spp.) shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), ash (*Fraxinus*, sp.), honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), Ohio buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*), and red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). Along the banks of Cedar Creek with their roots more or less in the water flourish bottom-land species such as sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), blue beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*), and box elder (*Acer negundo*). The ground cover consists in part of coral berry or buckbush (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*), trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*), blackberry (*Rubus* spp.), teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris*), blazing star (*Liatris scabra*), bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), ironweed (*Vernonia altissima*), giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*), and many other species. Patches of grass still survive in many of the old fields, but they are rapidly being crowded out by the coarser perennials except around the deserted house.

The summer was unusually dry, especially after the middle of June. The two wet-weather creeks dried up entirely, and even Cedar Creek ceased to flow and was reduced to several pools. However, two or three of these were rather large and deep and furnished plenty of water for the wildlife.

Two or more of us visited the study area during the nesting season between the hours of 6 a. m. and 3:30 p. m. on the following days: May 22, 23, 30, July 2, 17, 27, and August 6. Two evening visits were also made. The total man hours were 67.

As one would expect, the more common birds were those which are associated with open brushy fields and pioneer vegetation. Indigo Buntings were extremely numerous, and two or three males were singing within hearing on almost any part of the area. Field Sparrows were also very common on the more open bushy areas. The Yellow-breasted Chat had established territories around many of the



FORTY ACRE SECTION OF THE  
 JOHN A. KLEBER SANCTUARY  
 OWEN COUNTY, KENTUCKY.

**KEY FOR MAY STUDY OF ACTIVE NESTS\***

1—Indigo Bunting, 2—Field Sparrow, 3—Yellow-breasted Chat, 4—American Goldfinch, 5—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 7—Prairie Warbler, 8—Purple Martin, 9—Carolina Wren, 11—Cardinal, 16—Acadian Flycatcher, 21—White-eyed Vireo, 23—Phoebe, 25—Chipping Sparrow, 29—Whip-poor-will, 31—Red Bellied Woodpecker, 33—Catbird, 34—Bluebird, 38—English Sparrow.

\* Key corresponds to map study used for breeding census (1954)

\* \* \* \* \*

patches of low shrubs. Later in the season the American Goldfinch was also common in similar habitats. The Prairie Warbler was present in many of the old fields where low shrubby elms were abundant. In the wooded stretches the Blue-grey Gnatcatcher and the Red-eyed Vireo were the most common species. We shall now take up those species in which 3 pairs or at least 3 singing males were recorded.

Indigo Bunting, *Passerina cyanea*, was the most common species. For the sixteen pairs found in the area, we located 7 nests, 3 in oak sprouts, 3 in box elder, and 1 in an ash sprout. Their average height from the ground was 4.1 feet with a range from 3 to 6 feet. Two of the nests contained a Cowbird egg only and were apparently



Nest of Indigo Bunting in an ash sprout, 44 inches from ground, August 6, 1954.—  
Photograph by Anne L. Stamm.

abandoned. Of the other five nests, 3 contained 3 eggs, and two contained two eggs or young. All five of these were successful as far as we could tell. Indigo Buntings nested rather late. On July 2, a nest was being built in a box elder along Cedar Creek, 6 feet up. It contained 2 eggs on July 17, and two well-feathered young on July 27. Two nests were found on August 6; one 40 inches high in an oak sapling near the end of a leafy branch had 2 newly hatched young.

This nest was very well concealed and faced a grassy area 20 feet wide. The other was placed 44 inches up in an ash sapling. This was in an open shrubby field near the bottom of a steep slope and 15 feet from a row of trees. This nest contained 3 eggs (see photo). Two other nests built in box elder were along Cedar Creek, where the vegetation was more dense, but the creek bed furnished an open area in front of the nests.

Typical nests of this species had a foundation of dead leaves and grasses, giving a loose, interlacing structure, whereas the inner part was compactly lined with finer grasses and leaf stalks. One nest measured as follows: Outside diameter,  $2\frac{7}{8}$  inches; inside diameter,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches; height,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches; inside depth of cup,  $1\frac{7}{8}$  inches.

Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*, was the second most abundant nesting species, with 9 pairs recorded for the area. Six nests were found, averaging 17 inches from the ground, with one on the ground to 2 nests 36 inches high. The ground nest was at the base of a cluster of sweet clover in the field north of the old house and contained 5 young birds when found on May 22. A nest on the slope on the southwest corner of the plot was 10 inches high in a tiny red cedar, and on May 22 it contained 1 Field Sparrow egg and 1 Cowbird egg. It was apparently deserted, as no sign of the parents could be found. On July 2, a nest with 3 eggs was found near a fence row in another small cedar. On July 17, this nest was empty. (The young could have hatched and left in the 15-day interval).

All nests of this species were well rounded on the bottom and neatly made of fine dried grasses and lined with even finer grasses and considerable horse hair. The following measurements of a nest were typical: Height,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches; depth of cup,  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches; interior diameter,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Yellow-breasted Chat, *Icteria virens*, was the next most common species, being represented by 7.5 pairs. (When the range of a singing male was only half within the study area, we counted it as .5 of a pair). On May 23, three nests were found, two with eggs and one in the process of being built. The latter nest was never finished. A nest 33 inches high in a patch of coral berry along a fence contained 4 eggs on May 23 and 3 young and 1 egg on May 30. This nest was surrounded by open country except for a couple of small trees. A second nest with 4 eggs was placed 4 feet up in a red cedar on the north ridge. Here several cedars were surrounded by tall deciduous trees, a quite different habitat.

The nests of the Chat were much alike, the foundation consisting of dead oak and elm leaves, coarse weed stems, and with the inner lining firmly woven of fine rootlets. The dimensions of a typical nest were: Outside diameter,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches; inside diameter,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches; the external height, 3 inches; and the depth of the cavity slightly more than 2 inches.

American Goldfinch, *Spinus tristis*, occupied the more open areas where the ground cover included goldenrod and blazing star but thistles were scarce. Seven pairs were present. Four nests were found, one on July 17, two on July 27, and one on August 6, but none contained eggs. These nests averaged 11.8 feet from the ground, the highest being 25 feet up in an upright fork of a shagbark hickory, and the lowest nest  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet up in a nine-foot elm sapling.



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila caerulea*, was represented by 6 pairs of breeding birds. We were fortunate to find 6 nests, one of which was on the margin of the area being studied. These nests averaged 21.5 feet from the ground, the lowest being 9 feet and the highest 40 feet. One nest on May 23 was already abandoned when found, but a pair of birds were taking pieces of the nest and apparently using them for a new nest. On the following day only 50 percent of the nest remained. Bent (1949) comments on this peculiarity of the species, "tearing up a completed nest or partly built nest and re-using the material to build a new nest a short distance away." He mentions that L. L. Hargrave summarized a number of published accounts of this habit and concludes that nests are deserted because of a change of conditions that make the first site unsuitable or no longer desirable. We found two nests with young on July 17, one 35 feet up in a shagbark hickory and the other 15 feet up in a walnut tree. The latter was on the edge of an open area, and the two nests were only 250 feet apart.

A Gnatcatcher nest collected on May 23 seems typical. It was saddled on an upright fork, and is beautifully constructed of plant down, delicate stems of small weeds, hair, and bits of a rust-colored downy substance scattered about in the inner part. There is no special lining, but the outside is completely covered with small pieces of greenish lichens fastened securely with spider webs. The depth of the cavity of this soft, down, cup-shaped structure is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches; the external height, 3 inches; the outside diameter,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches; with the thickness of the wall  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch.

Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*, was represented by 6 breeding



View of study area looking southward, showing tree growth along dry gulch. Prairie Warblers nested in the foreground and on area between gulch and ridge of trees.—Photograph by Anne L. Stamm.

pairs. It was the second most common woodland bird, a pair occupying almost every patch of large trees. No nests were found.

Prairie Warbler, *Dendroica discolor*, was a typical breeding bird of the brushy fields, where 6 pairs were located. Three nests were found, all in small bushy elms. They were 3, 5, and 6 feet up, an average of 4.7 feet. The first one was found on May 22 and contained 1 host egg and 1 Cowbird egg. The next day the nest was empty. The second nest contained 4 eggs on May 23, and the third nest contained 2 eggs on May 30. Old fields filled with bushes and small saplings are the typical habitat of this species in central Kentucky, where coniferous trees are scarce.

Nests of the Prairie Warbler were compactly made of plant down, fine grass, and a few feathers firmly woven in the body of the nest and lined with soft, light-colored hair. A nest we measured had an internal depth of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches, the external height of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches, with the external diameter being  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Purple Martin, *Progne subis*, had been attracted to the area by the two large colonial boxes. Four pairs occupied the boxes, but we did not examine them.

Carolina Wren, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*, was represented by 4 pairs on the study area. The only nest found was in the old house on a beam of the outer room with the side torn away. The nest contained 3 well-fledged young on May 23.

Common Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis trichas*. Four pairs were located on areas near the creeks. No nests were found, but a fledgling unable to fly was seen on July 2.

Cardinal, *Richmondena cardinalis*. Four pairs were present, and nests of 3 of these were found. Two were in red cedars, and 1 was in an ash sapling. Two contained 3 eggs, and one had 2 eggs. The average height of the nests was 4.8 feet, the lowest being 4.2 feet and the highest (near Cedar Creek) being 6 feet up.

Wood Pewee, *Contopus virens*. We located 3.5 pairs on the area in spots where the larger trees were growing.

Bob-white, *Colinus virginianus*. There were apparently 3 pairs breeding on the area.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus*. We listed 3 pairs. They range rather widely in the taller trees of the area.

Downy Woodpecker, *Dendrocopus pubescens*. Only three pairs were found on the area. The scarcity of woodpeckers was apparently due to the absence of dead or dying trees.

Acadian Flycatcher, *Empidonax virescens*. Two pairs were breeding along Cedar Creek, and a third singing male was found along the wet weather creek. Two nests were found which were easily identified as belonging to this species by their fragile structure and pendant streamers. A flycatcher was observed working on one of these on May 23.

Carolina Chickadee, *Parus carolinensis*. Three pairs were listed for the study area.

Tufted Titmouse, *Parus bicolor*. Three pairs were present on the more wooded portions of the area.

Cowbird, *Molothus ater*. It is difficult to determine the number of

Cowbirds since they do not build nests and appear to wander over the area. We estimated 3 pairs. Eggs were found in the nests of the Phoebe, Prairie Warbler, Indigo Bunting, and Field Sparrow. In addition, on July 2 a Yellow-throated Vireo was observed feeding a young Cowbird (out of the nest).

Eastern Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. Three pairs were recorded. They were in patches of underbrush in the wooded areas.

Fewer than 3 breeding pairs were found of the following species: White-eyed Vireo, (2.5), Summer Tanager (2.5), Phoebe, (2), Kentucky Warbler (2), Chipping Sparrow (2), Mourning Dove (1.5), Orchard Oriole (1.5), Green Heron (1), Whip-poor-will (1), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (1), Red-bellied Woodpecker (1), Crested Flycatcher (1), Catbird (1), Bluebird (1), Yellow-throated Vireo (1), Black and White Warbler (1), Louisiana Waterthrush (1), English Sparrow (1), Pine Woods Sparrow (1), Screech Owl (+). We shall comment briefly on the nests found for these less common species.

Two nests of the Phoebe, *Sayornis phoebe*, were found, one with 3 eggs, over the window ledge inside the back room of the house on May 30. The young were found dead on our next visit. The other nest was in the culvert under the road. This nest was stuck onto the side of a circular cement culvert and on May 23 contained young. A Cowbird's egg was stuck to the outside rim as if it had been rolled out of the nest by the Phoebes. Friedman (1929) reports that the Phoebe is one of the most victimized birds at Ithaca, New York, but does not mention any case where the eggs of the intruder were thrown out. A second brood was reared in the same nest, and 4 newly hatched birds were present on July 2.

A nest of the Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella passerina*, containing 4 young was found on May 23, 12 feet up in small elm near the old house. A second nest high up in an elm tree near Cedar Creek had an incubating bird.

A Whip-poor-will, *Caprimulgus vociferus*, was flushed, and two young were found near the wooded area along the back ridge on May 30. One young was larger than the other, and both birds had their eyes closed and remained as motionless as clods of earth. When persistently touched, they suddenly jumped or hopped in a toad-like fashion. The brownish-buff tones of the young made them well camouflaged as they rested on the dead leaves beneath some saplings of beech and dogwood trees.

One pair of Bluebirds, *Sialia sialis*, nested in one of the martin boxes, as did a pair of English Sparrows. The Red-bellied Woodpecker, *Centurus carolinus*, was observed to enter a hole 35 feet up in a dead tree along Cedar Creek on May 23.

The total nesting species recorded were 40. A total of 127 territorial males was listed and plotted on maps of the area. This is equivalent to 318 territorial males per 100 acres. This is a fairly heavy population considering the submarginal nature of most of the area studied.

The following visitors were also recorded: Chimney Swift, 14; Crows, 4; Blue Jay, 4; Robins, 4; Nighthawk, 3; Barn Swallows, 2; Turkey Vulture, 2; Starling, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Eastern Kingbird, 1; Purple Grackle, 1. The Barn Swallows started two nests on

the porch of the house on May 30, but since they never finished them and were not present on later visits, we recorded them merely as visitors.

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Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Frankfort, Kentucky.

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#### MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1954-'55

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (7½ mile radius centering near the junction of old Highway 58 and the ridge road and extending northward to Kentucky Dam Village and southward to the Mulberry Flat road, eastward to the Cumberland River, and westward to the west side of Kentucky Lake; open water 15%, marsh 10%, fields 60%, woodlands 10%, urban 5%).—Dec. 26; 6:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear to partly cloudy; temp. 30 to 62; wind S to SW, 0 to 8 m. p. h. Ground with thin crust of ice, which melted during the day; open water not frozen; smaller protected pools with thin layer of ice in early morning. Fifteen observers in six parties. Total party-hours, 54 (40 on foot, 10 by car, 4 by motor boat); total party-miles, 205 (31 on foot, 164 by car, 10 by motor boat). Total, 85 species, about 19,573 individuals. We covered the ground better this year than ever before. However, there were some conspicuous absences like Cormorants, Grebes, Turkey Vultures, Canvas-backs, Coots, and Ruddy Ducks. The Loggerhead Migrant Shrike is fairly common in western Kentucky but for some reason is rare between the rivers. We feel lucky in being able to report the Golden Eagle, Bonaparte's Gull, House Wren, Chipping Sparrow, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Putnam, Smith, Mathis, and Cypert all saw Golden Eagles. Bonaparte's Gull was seen by Beck. Putnam saw the House Wren and the Chipping Sparrow, and Mrs. Cypert and Mrs. Barbig saw the Red-breasted Nuthatch.—EVELYN BARBIG, HOWARD BARBIG, JOHN BECK, FRED CUNNINGHAM, EUGENE CYPERT (compiler), MARY LOU CYPERT, ROY GRISSELL, HUNTER HANCOCK, KENNETH MAYNARD, TAYE MAYNARD, TIM MAYNARD, CROCKETT MATHIS, CHARLES McPHERSON, LAUREN PUTNAM, GEORGE SMITH (Kentucky Lake Natural History Society).

MARION (City of Marion and Ohio River bottoms, fields and woodlands).—Dec. 26; noon to 4:30. Clear; strong wind; temp. 36.

Total, 50 species, 1549 individuals.—DR. T. ATCHISON FRAZER and C. L. FRAZER.

PENNYRILE FOREST STATE PARK (Deciduous and pine woods and fields within the park area, Pennyrile Lake, and adjoining farmlands; wooded area 40%, open fields in the park 30%, farmlands 20%, lake shore 10%).—Dec. 20; 7:00 A. M. to 4:15 P. M. Cloudy, snow flurries; wind NW, 1-7 m. p. h.; temp. 24 to 30. Total hours, 9¼; total miles, 19 (8 on foot, 11 by car). Observers together. Total, 34 species, 352 individuals. There was an increase noted in Tree Sparrows and more Winter Wrens than are usually recorded, but many species were scarce.—BILLY WINSTEAD and JAMES W. HANCOCK.

MADISONVILLE (W. W. Hancock farm, Clear Creek, Brown and Frostburg Roads, and five lakes at Madisonville; open fields 20%, deciduous woodlands and thickets 50%, lake shore 30%).—Jan. 5; 6:45 A. M. to 4:45 P. M. Cloudy; wind SW, 13-18 m. p. h.; temp. 59 to 66. Total hours, 10; total miles, 37 (5 on foot, 32 by car.) Total, 41 species, 1208 individuals. Other species recorded near the time of the count: American Widgeon, Pintail, Coot, Belted Kingfisher, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, and Rusty Blackbird. On January 10 I saw 700 Red-wings, in two flocks. Also Brasher C. Bacon trapped a Brown Thrasher at his Spring Lake Bird Banding Station on January 4 and another on January 10.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

HENDERSON (7½ mile radius centering in Audubon State Park Museum—typical western Kentucky habitats). Dec. 26; 7:30 to 4:00. Clear. Eleven observers in five parties. Total, 78 species, 16,908 individuals. We did not have as many observers as we had planned to have, but, as things turned out, we succeeded in choosing the only good day in the time acceptable. There is a possibility that Miss Smith found the Harris's Sparrow again this year, but it was very late when it was seen. One observer reported a Baltimore Oriole, but that record is not yet confirmed.

King Benson and W. P. Rhoads are responsible for the reports of the Grasshopper Sparrow and the Broad-winged Hawk. The sparrows were found in the old broom sedge part of the park area. We had a good view of them, both with the unaided eye and with our bifocals. We were within 25-30 feet and above them for several minutes before they flew. All the distinctive markings were plainly visible. According to both Pough and Peterson, they are within the range of the wintering places of the species, as southern Illinois is specified. The Broad-winged Hawk was soaring; its distinctive marking, shape, and size were quite apparent, as it was only about two tree-lengths up.

Rather oddly, as we were watching a bird feeder in the park about 4:00 P. M., two bats came by, making us wonder whether this was winter or spring.—WALTER ALVES, KING BENSON, MRS. LORA CLARK, GARLAN HAYS, AMELIA KLUTEY, JERRY MCKINNEY, WILLIAM H. RHOADS, W. P. RHOADS (compiler), FRANK SAUERHEBER, ROBERT C. SOAPER, and VIRGINIA SMITH.

OWENSBORO (Daviss County: Ohio River bottoms, Carpenter's Lake, river shore and water, lake shore and water).—Dec. 31; 7:45 to

12:00 noon. Overcast. Nearly all observing done from River Road, little hiking. Two observers together. Twenty miles by car, about a mile on foot. The starred species were found in the same area on December 26 and January 1. Joe Ford observed from 2:00 to 4:00 P. M. on December 26; Mr. and Mrs. Powell observed from 9:45 to 11:45 A. M. on January 1, 1955. Total, 31 species, 574 individuals.—JOE FORD and A. L. POWELL.

**BOWLING GREEN** (Chaney Marsh, Three Springs, Schneider Farm, Mouth of Gasper area; marsh 10%, fields 50%, stream banks 20%, open woods 20%).—Dec. 29; 6:45 A. M. to 4:45 P. M. Cloudy all day; several showers; storm at 11:00 A. M., with winds up to 35 m. p. h. and driving rain. Windy the rest of the day. Temp. 40 to 64. Six observers in three parties. Total, 55 species, 3656 individuals. We saw 20 unidentified ducks. Though this was the thirty-seventh census here, seven species were found in greater numbers than ever before: Pied-billed Grebe, Rough-legged Hawk, Winter Wren, Meadowlark, Savannah Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow. The Pine Siskin is a new Bowling Green census record, though we have other winter records. Seven species were found in greater numbers than ever before since 1944. Starlings, English Sparrows, Crows, and White-crowned Sparrows, however, were far below average for our counts.—L. Y. LANCASTER, DAN RUSSELL, RUSSELL STARR, CHARLES L. TAYLOR, J. R. WHITMER, and GORDON WILSON (compiler).

**MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK** (Silent Grove, Turnhole Bend, Katy Pace Valley, Beaver Pond, Central Area, New Entrance, Union City, and Chaumont).—Dec. 23; 6:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Clear; snow in patches. Temp. 30-54. Two observers together. About eight miles on foot, 40 miles by car. Birds hard to find; woodpeckers astonishingly scarce. Total, 32 species, 541 individuals.—L. Y. LANCASTER and GORDON WILSON (compiler).

**OTTER CREEK PARK** (Ohio River, the park area and adjacent farmlands; river 10%, mature woods 10%, brush fields 50%, open meadows and farmlands 30%).—Jan. 2; 8:30 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Sunny; temp. 40 to 55; wind slight, variable, west to northwest, 7 m. p. h. Four observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 12 (8 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 30 (12 on foot, 18 by car). Total, 44 species, 1281 individuals.—FRANK X. KRULL, HARVEY B. LOVELL, ANNE L. STAMM, and FREDERICK W. STAMM.

**LOUISVILLE** (Cave Hill Cemetery, Indian Hills, Cherokee Park, Ohio River, Seneca Park).—Dec. 23; 8:00 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Total, 43 species, 5947 individuals. Also 600 unidentified ducks. Seven members of the Bunsen Science Club of J. M. Atherton High School and Miss Mabel Slack and Mrs. F. W. Stamm.

**LOUISVILLE** (Ohio River from Louisville to Twelve-Mile Island and inland about twelve miles to Anchorage and Prospect).—Dec. 26; 5:00 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Clear, with bright sunlight; temp. 37 to 60; wind south to southwest, 0-5 m. p. h.; ponds frozen over, creeks and river open. Thirty-two observers in ten parties. Total party-hours, 69 (58 on foot, 11 by car); total party-miles, 110 (32 on foot, 78 by car). Total, 79 species, 17,128 plus individuals. The Palm Warblers

were found by the Krulls; The White-winged Crossbills were found in Cave Hill Cemetery by Mabel Slack; the Vesper Sparrow was found by the Ellingtons. Two well-marked Oregon Juncoes, reported by Shackleton, are wintering at Sleepy Hollow.—MR. AND MRS. YANCEY R. ALTSHELER, LEONARD C. BRECHER, PVT. CHARLES L. CLAGETT, MRS. W. R. COLE, JOSEPH CROFT, AMY DEANE, CHARLOTTE AND DOROTHY ELLINGTON, THOMAS C. FULLER, PAXTON GIBBS, MRS. A. W. HALVERSON, FRANK H. AND FRANK X. KRULL, DR. AND MRS. HARVEY B. LOVELL, JOHN H. LOVELL, MRS. JOHN H. McCHORD, ERIC MILLS, BURT L. MONROE, SR. (Compiler), MRS. H. V. NOLAND, LOUIS H. PIEPER, MARIE PIEPER, WALTER H. SHACKLETON, MABEL SLACK, MR. AND MRS. FREDERICK W. STAMM, CHARLES STRULL, MRS. WILLIAM B. TABLER, EDWARD WETHERELL, VIRGINIA WINDSTANLEY, AUDREY A. WRIGHT (Members of the Beckham Bird Club).

KLEBER SONGBIRD SANCTUARY, OWEN COUNTY (On foot along Elm Branch and Cedar Creek bottoms and adjacent hillsides; cultivated fields 20%, brushy fields 25%, cedar thickets 5%, pasture 10%, mixed cedars and deciduous trees 20%, deciduous woods 20%, in car along Ky. 368 through the sanctuary to Elmville).—Jan. 8; 8:30 A. M. to 12:30 P. M., 1-3 P. M. on foot, 3-3:30 in car. Partly cloudy; wind W, 10-15 m. p. h.; temp. 35-45. Total hours, 6½; total miles, 9½ (4½ on foot, 5 by car). Three observers together. Birds do not appear to be as abundant in this area this winter as they were last year. The Evening Grosbeak, a female, was observed for about fifteen minutes through 7-power binoculars at a distance of about twenty-five feet. It was sitting in a box elder tree which was growing at the edge of Elm Branch (on the boundary of the sanctuary) and was feeding on box elder seeds. Total, 39 species, 466 individuals.—MR. AND MRS. FRED W. STAMM and ROBERT A. PIERCE.

DANVILLE (Most roads in and near Boyle County; farm lands, thickets, and ponds).—Jan. 2; 6:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Rain most of the day; temp. 35 to 53; wind SW, 5-20 m. p. h. All water open but ponds so full there were no margins. Nine observers in four parties. Total party-hours, 30 (9 on foot, 21 by car). Total party-miles, 225 (15 on foot, 210 by car). Total, 39 species, 9682 individuals. Crows and Starlings were partly estimated. We missed a number of the common species but attributed this partly to the very bad day; late in the day it was so dark that it was hard to identify small birds.—JOHN CHEEK, FLORENCE DAVIS, JACKSON DAVIS, MARGARET GLORE, SCOTT GLORE, JR. (Compiler), EDNA DRILL HECK, FRANK HECK, BETTY ULLRICH, AND LeROY ULLRICH.

ASHLAND (Wildwood Park area, including lake, southwest to Naples, Kentucky, east to Summit, northeast to southeast limits of Ashland—Boyd and Greenup Counties).—Jan. 1; 7:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Partly cloudy; temp. 35 to 65; no wind until around 3:00 P. M., then 5 to 15 m. p. h. Cloudy and slight rain after that. All water open. Three observers in one party. Total party-hours, 30 (24 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 120 (30 on foot, 90 by car). Total, 41 species, 2164 individuals. After a very beautiful autumn in which great numbers of migrating birds were observed, many more winter residents are in evidence than during the winter of 1953-54. Natural

**MID-WINTER  
BIRD COUNT  
1954-'55**

	Woodlands	Marion	Pennyrite S. P.	Madisonville	Henderson	Owensboro	Bowling Green	Mam. Ca. N. P.	Otter Creek P.	Louisville 1	Louisville 2	Kleber Sanct.	Danville	Ashland	Willard
No. Observers .....	15	2	2	1	11	2	6	2	4	9	32	3	9	3	1
No. Species .....	85	50	34	41	78	31	55	32	44	43	79	39	39	41	21
No. Individuals .....	19573	1549	352	1208	16908	574	3656	541	1281	5947	17128	466	9682	2164	297
Common Loon .....						2									
Horned Grebe .....											3				
Pied-b. Grebe .....							2								
G. B. Heron .....	3	2			12	1	1						1		2
B-c. N. Heron .....											39				
Canada Goose .....	3500				269		*								
Blue Goose .....		18													
Mallard .....	10800	40		250	5450	300	1	16	8		2600			43	
Black Duck .....	1250	16		10	280	7	25	15		16	600			5	
Gadwall .....	105														
Am. Widgeon .....	58			*											
Pintail .....	87			*	202						9				
G-w. Teal .....	1				13										
Shoveller .....	1														
Wood Duck .....					10										
Redhead .....	18				2										
Ring-n. Duck .....	61			115		3				6	10				
Canvas-back .....					8	24					25			2	
L. Scaup Duck .....	47	4			27					3	350			1	
Am. Golden-eye .....	5					1					3				
Buffle-head .....	6									3	2				
Ruddy Duck .....										2	2			2	
H. Merganser .....	120														
Am. Merganser .....	348														
R-b. Merganser .....	2				6										
Turkey Vulture .....		2			8		3				13		61		
Black Vulture .....	2	5									9				
Sh.-sh. Hawk .....		1			11				1						
Cooper's Hawk .....	2				4					1	1				
Red-t. Hawk .....	1	1	1	1	11	2	3		4		5	1	2	2	
Br.-w. Hawk .....					1										
Red-sh. Hawk .....	7	3			2	1	1		1		9	1			
Rough-l. Hawk .....					5		3								
G. Eagle .....	2														
B. Eagle .....	16										1				
Marsh Hawk .....	5	4		1	14	*	1				6				
Per. Falcon .....					2						1				
Pigeon Hawk .....					1										
Sparrow Hawk .....	1	5		2	9	10	3		1	7	20		21		
Bob-white .....	21	23	16	16	52		3		5		47	4			
Turkey .....	2														
Coot .....		4		*	26						1				
Killdeer .....	21			3	5	*			1	2	23				
W. Snipe .....											3				
Herring Gull .....	22	17			73					4	37				
Ring-b. Gull .....	630			8						2	433				
Bon. Gull .....	1														
M. Dove .....	22	131		33	817	150	160		1	8	50		1		3
Barn Owl .....		1			4										
Screech Owl .....					4						3				
Horned Owl .....	7										2				
Barred Owl .....	2				1	*	2				3				2
Sh.-e. Owl .....					1						2				
B. Kingfisher .....	3	2		*	4	1	2		3	2	5	1	3		
Yel-sh. Flicker .....	12	5	5	10	12	8	35	7	7	3	44	3	1	25	1
Pil. Woodpecker .....	3	2	1		2		11	4	2		5			1	1



**MID-WINTER  
BIRD COUNT  
1954-'55**

	Woodlands	Marion	Pennyrite S. P.	Madisonville	Henderson	Owensboro	Bowling Green	Mam. Ca. N. P.	Otter Creek P.	Louisville 1	Louisville 2	Kleber Sanct.	Danville	Ashland	Willard
Red-b. Woodpecker	13	7	2	5	9	2	21		3	1	36	2	1	2	
Red-h. Woodpecker	1				13		1				1			50	
Yel.-b. Sapsucker	1	1			2		1		1		1	1	1	2	
Hairy Woodpecker	5	3	1	3	5	*	7		1		13	3		15	2
Downy Woodpecker	62	13	3	4	14	3	28	8	4	5	28	13	16	20	3
Phoebe	2			1			1					2			
Horned Lark	1	19		1	66	*	179	5	1	34	98		5		
Blue Jay	41	14	6	8	34	2	43	8	32	17	46	9	6	25	
Crow	64	77	34	4	4850	10	477	19	68	1	200	37	8000	1500	7
B.-c. Chickadee														25	
Car. Chickadee	63		13	10	30	5	70	21	42	13	133	35	56	12	3
Tuft. Titmouse	94	16	4	7	24	1	70	14	17	18	44	26	46	50	6
Wh.-br. Nuthatch	39	2		*	11		*	7	3		20	1	4	6	
Red-br. Nuthatch	1		2		3		*	2	1		2			4	
Brown Creeper	3						3	2	1	1	3	1		3	1
House Wren	1										2			2	
Winter Wren	1		5		2	1	6					1		1	
Bewick's Wren	1	3	3	*	1		1						1	1	
Car. Wren	12	6		17	11	2	25	3	6	1	33	9	16	15	3
S.-b. Marsh Wren														3	
Mockingbird	7	5		1	21	*	12		2	5	62	4	8		
Brown Thrasher	2			*							1				
Robin	53	10	3	224	16		132	55	83	3	529	22	22	12	2
Hermit Thrush	2		2		2		6	2							
Bluebird	67	19	7	15	50	15	56	40	21		61	13	41	12	3
G.-c. Kinglet	8		8		3		*	1	1	1	7	2		15	7
R.-c. Kinglet	1				2										
Cedar Waxwing	6	5	12	18	24	1	222	30	47		21	18	1		
Log. Shrike				*	1		*	1			3	5			
Starling	265	300	10	21	3500	25	474		600	5000	10000	7	520	50	
Myrtle Warbler	19		6		1		*		21	15			1	2	
Palm Warbler											6				
Eng. Sparrow	58	165	8	115	275	100	159	23	30	1	256	10	347	40	35-
Meadowlark	115	8	5	30	95	40	192		27		72		15		
Red-wing	87	12		59	2		6	1		24	24				
Rusty Blackbird				*											
Purple Grackle	206	4			21	*	*		1						
B.-h. Cowbird	3	260			6										
Cardinal	107	22	15	27	92	8	145	22	26	19	229	31	106	30	4
Evening Grosbeak												1			
Purple Finch	104	8	5	3			29	27	11	1	1	1			
Pine Siskin							1	2		36	98	6			
Goldfinch	92	150	10	27	34	5	203	34	47	1	146	11	20	36	152
White-w. Crossbill										14	23				
E. Towhee	45	5	13	10	6	2	33	8	11	1	85	23	4	24	1
Sav. Sparrow	5						11	1			1				
Grass. Sparrow					6										
Vesper Sparrow					17						1			4	
S.-c. Junco	443	61	76	61	162		198	121	95	40	246	58	126	50	53
Oregon Junco											2				
Tree Sparrow	1	32	44	20	15	3	2		26	1	1	19			
Chipping Sparrow	2				6									10	1
Field Sparrow	14		8	21	22	*	16	2	2	1	23	6	31	25	4
Wh.-cr. Sparrow	5	20		4	38	*	11			11	28	1	52	15	
Wh.-th. Sparrow	209	8	6	20	29	4	378	14	2	1	105	10	34	30	
Fox Sparrow	32		1	6	3		19				1	9		10	
Swamp Sparrow	4		7	5	9	6	15		4		15	9			
Song Sparrow	10	12	10	12	8	*	25	7	14	3	51	55	59	25	5-

food supplies are abundant. One of the oddities of this winter is the vast number of Robins observed over the entire area. As a rule, this species is extremely scarce in winter in this area. There is also a marked increase in the Red-headed Woodpecker, which has been rare in the past several years. Of interest was the presence of many flying insects, including grasshoppers and myriads of gnat-like flies late in the afternoon of the day of the count.—OKIE S. GREEN (Compiler), HENRY J. HUGHES, JR., and WALTER W. FORSON.

WILLARD (About four miles through fields and woodlands).—Dec. 26; 9:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Clear; temp. 52 to 64. Total, 21 species, 297 individuals.—ERCEL KOZEE.

THREE RIVERS, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, MICHIGAN—Jan. 2, 1955. Clear; temp. 34 to 41; moderate westerly wind. Observer alone and on foot, covering northern part of city, much open area, some ponds and rivers and also a small woodland. Ponds partly frozen over; rivers open; little snow on ground. Six and a half miles. from 7:00 A. M. to 10:15 A. M. Mallard, 127; Am. Golden-eye, 26; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Blue Jay, 22; Crow, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 4; Tufted Titmouse, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown Creeper, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 29; English Sparrow, 134; Meadowlark, 1; Cardinal, 9; Evening Grosbeak, 18; Purple Finch, 1; Goldfinch, 5; Slate-colored Junco, 5; Tree Sparrow, 11; Song Sparrow, 1. Total, 22 species, 407 individuals. Species observed recently but not on the date of the census: Dec. 31: Prairie Horned Lark, 1; Bob-white, 1; Jan. 1: Sparrow Hawk, 1; Mourning Dove, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Jan. 6: Canada Goose, 8; Snow Bunting, 1.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS.

## FIELD NOTES

### EARLY NESTING RECORDS

Just how early and how late do various species nest in Kentucky areas? It seems to me that this sort of data, collected over a sufficient length of time, could prove extremely useful. For the Louisville area I offer the following:

#### Robin:

March 29, 1954.....	nest building
April 3.....	first egg
April 15.....	first egg hatched
April 29.....	young left nest

#### Cardinal:

April 12, 1954.....	nest building
April 15.....	first egg
April 29.....	first egg hatched
May 3.....	young left nest

For late dates I have only one:

#### Robin:

August 19, 1954.....	adult seen feeding young in nest
----------------------	----------------------------------

—JAMES B. YOUNG, Louisville.

(Too many ornithologists and bird students take for granted data pertaining to our more common species. As a result, there is a paucity in the literature of much valuable data, especially that of nesting records of well-known and much-observed birds. There are great gaps in Kentucky's ornithology, many of which can be filled by the publication of records which might seem commonplace to advanced students; however, the lack of such records at the moment is the big obstacle to be overcome to those who might be doing research work in this state. All members of the K. O. S. should be encouraged to record in print items pertaining to the life history of all of our birds.—Comment on Mr. Young's note by Burt L. Monroe, Sr.)

\* \* \* \* \*

#### SNOWY OWL IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

On November 21, 1954, a Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) was found shot in Washington County. It had been in the vicinity of St. Rose Priory for two or three days before it was shot. It was found on the property of the priory, about two miles west of Springfield, by Ernest Kelty. I have the dead bird in my possession for mounting. The owl was banded, but the number and exact place are not definitely known, as the band was sent in by Kelty before I was notified that he had the owl. He thinks the following information was on the band: "Dr. Dillon, El Paso, Canada, June 21, 1952." He has not yet received word from sending in the band. I am still trying to get the exact data and will report it to the WARBLER if I do so.—JAMES O. MOYNAHAN, District 9 Biologist.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

The recent appearance of a flock of White-winged Crossbills, *Loxia leucoptera*, in Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Kentucky, is an event of major interest since it was in this same cemetery that this northern species was recorded 17 years ago, when Slack found 5 and established what we believe to be the only record for the state. Especially significant is the fact that the present flock seems to be wintering here as did those in 1937-38 (*Ky. Warbler*, 14:17-18).

It was on December 23, 1954, when we made a Christmas census with the Science Club of Atherton High School, that we first discovered 14 of these birds. Since that time we have found them in widely scattered areas of the 291-acre tract on the following dates: December 24, 26, 31, 1954; January 2, 7, 8, 15, and 16, 1955. At least 20 other members of the Beckham Bird Club have seen them during this period.

The birds have been found in flocks of 5, 9, 11, 13, 14, and 23, but on two occasions a single female was seen. On two days only we found 23 birds, December 26, 1954, when we recorded them on the Christmas census of the Beckham Bird Club, and on December 31, 1954. On one occasion at least 8 males were counted.

On every visit to the area the crossbills have been seen feeding on the fruits of the numerous hemlock and sweet gum trees. There is an abundance of food, which may be a determining factor in their length of stay.

They have also been seen drinking and bathing in the lotus pond and at a large ornamental fountain.

Their presence in this area is consistent with this winter's southern movement, as we have had reports that they have been seen in Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio; West Virginia; and Illinois.

At the present the birds are still here and evidently finding food and cover suitable to their needs. We hope to keep them under careful observation, and if they stay, we expect to publish further notes about them.—MABEL SLACK and ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### OCCURRENCE OF THE EVENING GROSBEAK IN KENTUCKY

While making the mid-winter bird count on January 8, 1955, on the Kleber Song Bird Sanctuary in Owen County, Kentucky, a female Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) (Cooper) was observed on this area. The bird was sitting alone in a box elder tree and was feeding on box elder (*Acer Negundo* L.) seeds, which were hanging on the tree in which it was sitting. The tree was situated on the bank of Elm Branch on the boundary of the area. The bottoms along this creek have been planted to various seed-bearing plants, such as cane, milo, soybeans, cowpeas, millet, and sunflowers. Most of the sunflower seeds had been consumed by birds, but the other seeds were abundant. The bird was observed for about 15 minutes through 7-power binoculars at a distance of about 25 feet, during which time the bird continued to feed. We then continued slowly past the bird, approaching to within 15 feet without apparent disturbance to the bird, but when a Grosbeak was discovered a few minutes later in the top of a tall tree, a check failed to disclose a bird in the box elder tree. Checks of this area on January 12, 14, and 20 failed to produce further observations of this bird.

A search of the literature shows that there are four published accounts of the occurrence of the Evening Grosbeak in Kentucky. A small flock was observed near Hickman, Fulton County, Kentucky, on March 18, 22, 23, and 25, 1887, by L. O. Pindar (AUK. IV:257). Burt L. Monroe and Robert M. Mengel collected an adult male at Anchorage, Ky., February 24, 1946 (Wilson Bul. 58 (2):116), and Robert Steilburg and Jerry Smith found one female while making a Christmas Census in 1951 at Prospect, Ky. (Ky. Warbler 28(1):12). On December 30, 1951, a small flock was discovered on the Bernheim Forest Park, Bullitt County, Ky. (An. Ky. Nat. Hist., 1:57-60) by Burt Monroe, Sr., Burt Monroe, Jr., and Thomas Fuller. These birds remained in the park until January 20, 1952. The observation herein recorded thus appears to be the fifth published account of the Evening Grosbeak in Kentucky and is apparently the most easterly record for this species in the state.—ROBERT A. PIERCE and ANNE L. STAMM.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### SOME COMMON SPECIES OF BIRDS AT FORT KNOX

Only July 16, 1954, a five-species roost was found in front of the Post Chapel, Dixie Street and Seventh Avenue, Fort Knox, Kentucky. The roost was centered in three tall, densely-foliaged trees, a White Ash and two Norway Maples. The inhabitants, in decreasing order of abundance on that date, were Bronzed Grackles, Purple Martins, Starlings, Red-wings, and Cowbirds. The following observations were made during a series of visits to this area in the late-summer months.

ROOST BEHAVIOR.—There was a well-defined order in which the various species entered the roost in the evening. The Starlings were the first to enter, coming in from their day's foraging roughly

an hour before sunset. Right after most of them had settled down in the trees, the Grackles arrived, with about half of their total number appearing within ten minutes, just about half an hour before sunset. The Red-wings and Cowbirds came in with the Grackles as small flocks or as individuals.

The behavior of the Martins was most interesting. Although they were the last species to enter the roost, they were the first ones to arrive in the vicinity, some showing up an hour before the Starlings. Instead of entering the trees immediately, they congregated on the nearby telephone wires and water towers. Their number increased steadily until the last half-hour before sunset. But it wasn't until shortly before dark and after practically the last blackbird had found itself a perch for the night that the husky swallows left their wires in a long column and entered the roost.

As the weeks passed and their number increased to several thousand, the Martins would form a single loose flock, about a half-hour before dusk, and would fly over the roost in a great circle for fifteen or twenty minutes, gradually dropping into the trees. This behavior is quite similar to that of a Chimney Swift colony in entering its home chimney at dusk. It was quite a spectacle as the big swallows would appear to fill all the available sky, like a swarm of bees, their soft chirruping and the patter of their droppings providing an odd contrast to the angry squealing of the blackbirds. Occasionally, a portion of the flock would dip low over the trees and would seem to rain birds as a large number of Martins dived down simultaneously into the foliage.

**VARIATIONS in NUMBERS.**—Martin.—The Martin flock was just beginning to build up on July 16 when some 500 birds were counted. Its peak was reached in the middle of August, when William Shuler and I estimated at least 6000 present one evening. By the end of August, only half this number remained, and a cold spell in early September quickly cleaned out all but a few hundred. The last birds were seen on September 12.

Grackle.—The initial observation on the Chapel Roost revealed approximately 1500 Bronzed Grackles. By the end of July, this entire flock had gone away, leaving a dozen or so individuals. What may have been the same flock or at least a similar-sized one was seen on September 11, flying over Muldraugh, some four miles to the northwest of the Post Chapel. In early October a large mixed blackbird roost, with more than a thousand Grackles, was found near the Fort Knox Parade Ground, some 500 yards northeast of the Chapel Roost. The Grackles were still there when I wrote this (November 4).

Starling.—The number of Starlings in the Chapel Roost remained fairly constant from the middle of July to the end of August, some 750 birds. This number was doubled to 1500 birds in September, and then, like the Grackles, the Starling flock deserted the roost en masse on or about the ninth of September. There are some 300 Starlings in the Parade Ground Roost now.

Red-wing.—The Red-wing was never an abundant species, some fifty individuals remaining at the Chapel Roost from July 16 until early September, when a flock of 200 appeared. They usually mingled with the Starlings or Grackles when flying in at dusk. They disappeared from the Chapel Roost in the middle of September. Some 100 are now in the Parade Ground Roost.

Cowbird.—The Cowbird was the rarest of the five species at the Chapel Roost, remaining from July 16 through the middle of September. About fifty are now at the Parade Ground Roost.

The Chapel Roost is now entirely deserted. The Martins have gone south, and the blackbirds have moved off to parts unknown or perhaps are still present at the Parade Ground Roost. It will be interesting to see whether the trees around the Chapel will be utilized again next summer by these various species.—Pvt. CHARLES L. CLAGETT, Fort Knox.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Continued from Page 2)

wooded areas. Plan now to attend. Mark your calendar and "make a date" to meet new members and renew friendships. Detailed announcements will be mailed to members at a late date.

\* \* \* \* \*

**BROLEYS IN LOUISVILLE**

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Broley passed through Louisville on their way to Tampa, Florida, to continue their banding of Bald Eagles. Mr. Broley addressed the Beckham Bird Club on Saturday night, December 4, in the Allen Court Room at the University of Louisville. He showed one film on the "Swallows of Eastern North America," which gave some interesting shots of the birds building nests. The other film was on the Bald Eagle and showed closeup studies of eaglets in their nests, being fed by their parents. The final scene showed a beautiful Bald Eagle, our nation's emblem, flying back and forth over an American flag. Mr. Broley finds that the habits of the Bald Eagle are very beneficial and that they seldom if ever molest domestic animals.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Okie S. Green, in reporting the count from Ashland, added this brief note:

"Chimney Swifts, or what appeared to be, were observed by Green, flying in the pattern peculiar to Swifts, although they would be most unusual and improbable. Further investigation is being made."

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Books

Division of Birds



# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Official Publication  
of

## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XXXI

MAY, 1955

No. 2

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### THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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**NEWS AND VIEWS**

**PARIS CHAPTER REORGANIZES**

We are happy to report that the Reverend J. W. Clotfelter has been instrumental in reactivating the Bourbon County Bird Club at Paris, and there are now thirteen active members. Many of you will remember Mr. Clotfelter, for he has been a member of the K. O. S. for many years. At present he is serving on the membership committee. We extend our best wishes to the Paris members and hope they will become active participants in the various activities of the K. O. S. Congratulations!

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**WILSON CLUB NEWS**

At the recent meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society at Oklahoma A. and M. College, Stillwater, Oklahoma, Burt L. Monroe, Sr., was reelected president and Leonard C. Brecher, the retiring treasurer, was elected to the Council. Among the K. O. S. members attending the meeting were the following: Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Mr. and Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm, Louisville; Albert F. Ganier, Nashville, Tenn.; Burt L. Monroe, Jr., San Diego, Cal.; Daniel Webster, Madison, Ind.; and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mengel, Lawrence, Kan.

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**TOMMY SMITH'S PAINTINGS BEING SHOWN**

An exhibition of bird paintings by Thomas Price Smith, Pewee Valley, one of our members, is currently being shown at the Hadley Gallery, 1570 Story Avenue, Louisville. There are fifteen paintings in the display.

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**WOODBURN LAKES GOOD IN 1955**

The wet-weather lakes so long studied by our editor have been quite good this spring. Twenty species of ducks appeared in late February and in March, to equal any previous year of study there. As this issue goes to press, both lakes are falling fast and will probably be gone shortly after May 20. A fuller account of the season will appear in our August issue.

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**K. O. S. IN A FLOWER SHOW**

Any organization can profit by good publicity. Our president, Mrs. Frederick Stamm, had a marvelous opportunity recently to put the Kentucky Ornithological Society right in the public eye, and she certainly made the most of it.

On March 28 and 29 the Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc., was hostess to the South Atlantic Regional Meeting of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., which was held in Louisville. Part of the entertainment planned was a Flower Show on a much larger scale than ever before undertaken in Kentucky. K. O. S. was invited to have a display. Ann Stamm was right in the midst of

(News and Views Continued on Page 34)



## NESTING OF CERULEAN WARBLER IN SLEEPY HOLLOW

By Kay Altsheler

In the spring of 1954 my husband, Yancey, and I spent ten weeks in Sleepy Hollow, Oldham County, Kentucky. As this is one of the best birding areas in the Louisville region, we had an opportunity to observe closely many different species. Among these was the Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*).

Mrs. F. W. Stamm of Louisville has described fully the habitat in her article "A Study of Nesting Birds at Sleepy Hollow, Kentucky" (KENTUCKY WARBLER XXIX (1953, 21-28). Briefly, it is a deciduous woodland tract through which runs the South Fork of Harrod's Creek. The water has been impounded and forms Sleepy Hollow Lake. The cottage area winds along a dirt road several hundred feet above the edge of the water. Typical Kentucky woodland trees, shrubs, and wild flowers are abundant in this protected area. During the ten weeks from April 1 to June 15 we identified 130 species of birds, including both breeding and migratory species.

The Cerulean Warbler is common throughout Sleepy Hollow from the end of April to the early part of August. I first heard it on April 18, and by April 25 the males were singing in many spots. I determined to find and record the nesting of this beautiful little bright blue bird. My notes relative to that project follow.

May 7. The woods are full of male Ceruleans singing their incessant and sometimes monotonous song, but they are so high that I rarely see one.

May 10. For the first time, I today observed a male singing from a low perch. I have not yet seen a female, high or low, but assume they are here.

May 16. The males appear to have established their territories, as they seem to be evenly distributed throughout the Hollow. I have not yet been able to see any nesting activity.

May 21. I watched a male and a female in three white walnut trees near our cottage. I believe they may be getting ready to select a nesting spot.

May 24. The male sang all day from one or another of the three white walnut trees. The female was also observed in the same trees most of the day, but I could detect no sign of nesting activity. I have noticed that the Cerulean Warblers more often act like creepers or Black and White Warblers than they do like other members of their family. They keep closer to the limbs and are rarely seen at the ends of twigs or among the leaves. They sometimes fly out from a perch and back as do the flycatchers.

May 25. After sitting for most of five hours and watching the pair of Ceruleans in the walnut trees mentioned above, at four o'clock this afternoon I finally located the spot where the pair had decided to nest. They have selected a fork on a small branch of a horizontal limb about 20 feet from the trunk and 35 feet above the ground. The main part of the limb at the chosen spot is not more than an inch in diameter. The fork is encircled by small twigs and leaves. It is directly above our yard, and there are no interfering branches between it and the ground. It is, however, so well concealed from below by the twigs and leaves surrounding the fork that there are only three places in the yard from which I can view the beginning stages of their nest.

From above and the sides it is protected by other limbs of the nesting tree and of another nearby white walnut with interlacing branches.

Only the female is participating in the building, but the male is always alert for any possible danger and accompanies her to and from the nesting tree when she goes for additional material. This material is so small that I cannot identify it, even with binoculars. The male sings constantly, and when the female returns to the tree, he continues to distract attention from her by singing even more incessantly, from his perch on the opposite side of the tree. While he is doing his best to keep all eyes off her, she will usually creep from limb to limb until she reaches the nesting spot and then go quickly but quietly to work. I have, however, occasionally seen her fly directly to the nesting area.

During the day I observed that the male was very active in warding off intruders. There is a Summer Tanager nest, built last week, in the same tree about 30 feet away, but each male appears to respect the other's territory. I saw the male Cerulean drive off a Red-eyed Vireo which has a beautiful nest in a white walnut tree across the road, and in return when our male Cerulean lit on that tree, it was turn-about, and the Vireo forced him to leave.

May 26. At 6:45 this morning the female was working in her nest, but the male was not in evidence. The female stopped work when a Cowbird appeared in the tree. Later, when a Blue Jay, which has a nest with young a few hundred yards away, alighted in the walnut tree, the female was hunting insects on a remote limb of the nesting tree.

May 27. The female is working constantly. The nest is growing rapidly in width and height. It is brownish on the outside. It is still difficult to identify any of the material she is carrying, but some of it looks like grass. She works with her bill and with both feet in weaving. Sometimes she appears to be using a sewing technique, pushing the material from the inside with her feet, catching it on the outside with her bill, and putting it back through the wall to the inside. She shapes the interior by using her body to press against the inside wall. While sitting in the nest, she uses her bill to fluff out the interior of the wall. At five o'clock I could still see light through certain parts; I assume, then, that she has not yet lined the nest.

The male is not singing as formerly, but he still escorts his mate on every trip to and from the nesting tree. He never, though, goes near the nest. When he brings her back to the tree, he always bursts into song in an area on the other side of the tree, but he does not keep it up as long as formerly. He continues to be very belligerent if other birds approach the nesting area. Today he chased away a Crested Flycatcher and a Phoebe. The Phoebe and its mate have already fledged one brood and are starting a second nest under the eaves of the house next door.

May 28. I believe the nest has been finished. Although I cannot measure it, I estimate its outside measurements to be about two and a half inches in width and one and a half inches in height. The nest now appears to be grayish in color and to have some lichens on the outside. It has apparently been lined, as there are no holes through which light can be seen. The male and female have been very quiet most of the day, although the male did sing lustily during a heavy rain.

May 29. Observed the female on the nest several times today. The male was unusually quiet.

May 30. I believe the female may be laying eggs. The male sings occasionally and is always on guard to chase away intruders.

June 2. The female is incubating and now stays almost constantly on the nest. I did not see the male feeding, nor did I see her leave the nest, but I assume that at some times she does.

I observed another pair of Ceruleans courting. They were beautiful as they went into an aerial display. They flew in unison high into the sky, circling as they rose. At one time they seemed to put their bills together, tip to tip, and with spread tails and wings they formed a delicate rosette as they whirled around for a few seconds. When this final display was over, they descended rapidly and lit on different branches of a white walnut tree in the yard next door. The female preened her feathers, and the male sang loudly.

June 3. Our female is incubating, and both are very quiet.

June 5. The female is still incubating. The male sings early in the morning and at sundown but is quiet during the day except when chasing away possible enemies. He does not feed his mate, and I have never seen him near the nest. The female rarely leaves it.

June 9. The female appears to be still incubating as there is no sign of feeding young. Both are quiet most of the time. Other males in Sleepy Hollow continue to court and are singing throughout the day.

June 14. It was a very hot and humid day. I saw the female straddling the nest, a leg on each rim. Beneath her body I saw two tiny heads appear. I am not sure just when the eggs were hatched or whether there were more than two nestlings. I have, however, seen no feeding of young.

Today is our last in Sleepy Hollow until October. I shall not be able to observe whether or not our Ceruleans will be successful in raising their young, but it has been a memorable experience to be able to observe so closely the courting and nesting of this pair of faithful and beautiful little azure-blue warblers.

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October 18. We are again at Sleepy Hollow for a few weeks in the same cottage. The Cerulean nest is still snugly attached to its fork in the white walnut tree. Although it has now turned brown and there are holes through which light can be seen, it is interesting to know that our female built her nest strong enough to withstand so well the wind and rain of summer and early fall.

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## FIELD NOTES

### DATA ON INCUBATION PERIOD OF SONG SPARROW

Date nest discovered: July 8, 1953.

Location of nest: 40 inches from ground in a small spruce tree near Louisville.

Date nest completed: July 10, lined with soft, fine hay.

Dates eggs were laid: 1 each on July 14, 15, 16, and 17.

Dates eggs were hatched: 3 on July 28, 1 on July 29.

Incubation period: 12 days.

Behavior of parents when nest was approached: fluttered on ground as if crippled.

Date young birds left nest: August 7, which indicates a feeding period of 9 days.

—L. H. PIEPER, Louisville.

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### WOODCOCK FLIGHT SONGS IN HARLAN COUNTY

At dusk on the evening of March 10, 1955, at the summit of Big Black Mountain, near Lynch, Harlan County, Kentucky, in the area designated as Grassy Gap on the USGS Estillville Quadrangle, we heard the "peenting" and flight song of the Woodcock, *Philohela minor*. The weather was quite windy, and the clouds were so low and dense that visibility was almost nil. Earlier in the afternoon, when the clouds were apparently less dense, a moving man could not be seen, even against the sky line, at a distance of 75 yards. As nearly as we could determine audibly, several birds were involved.

The next afternoon we took up positions near the center of the singing area in an effort to further observe the antics. On this date, March 11, the wind was rather brisk, but the clouds were sufficiently high as not to interfere with lateral visibility. The air temperature was 57° F. At 5:50 P. M. C. S. T. we noted the first "peent." At 5:54 a Woodcock flew from a thicket, made two short spirals, and lit within 50 feet of us. After "peenting" several times on the ground, it made another spiraling flight, lasting approximately three-quarters of a minute. All together, we observed five flights, ranging from one-half to one minute, with an average duration of three-quarters of a minute. While in the air, the bird uttered the characteristic warbling songs.

Whether the Woodcock nests on the summit of Big Black Mountain is still a matter of conjecture, but these observations, coupled with the fact that Barbour (*Ky. Warbler*, XVII; 46-47) took a specimen from the area in summer, certainly lends credence to the theory that they do nest there.—ROGER W. BARBOUR and CHARLES E. SMITH, JR., Department of Zoology, University of Kentucky, Lexington.

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### MID-WINTER ROBIN INVASION

On the Christmas Bird Census this past year we saw and recorded an unusually large number of Robins. In the immediate area of our

home we recorded by count 278 Robins, although we are sure this conservative figure did not fully represent the entire population. Our home is located in eastern Jefferson County, approximately six miles east of Louisville. It is in the midst of what was once a nursery, and there are many mature trees, many of which are cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*—var. *canaerti*) and holly (*Ilex opaca*).

Within the week following the Christmas Bird Census increasingly large flocks of Robins continued to appear. By the end of January the number could only be estimated. After a walk over the approximately ten acres in the area, we attempted to estimate the number and arrived at 2000. In order to get an idea of the number of Robins in this ten-acre tract, it is interesting to note that during the holiday season the cedars were literally covered with berries. There are about 75 of these trees, about 25 to 30 feet tall. By the end of January the trees had been stripped of their berries.

Mr. R. L. Haag, of the Haag Nurseries, called on us the first of February to inquire whether we had observed the tremendous flocks of Robins throughout the nursery. He said that never before in all the years of his work in this area had he seen Robins in such numbers. He further stated that these flocks had stripped all his holly berries, too. He remarked that it seemed incredible to see a flock of Robins fly into one of these trees and depart, leaving the tree picked clean.

With the disappearance of the cedar and holly berries, the Robins also began to disappear, so that by the tenth of February only a small number were seen.—FRANK and MARY KRULL, Louisville.

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#### PILEATED WOODPECKER NESTING IN INDIAN HILLS AREA

I had suspected for years that the Pileated Woodpecker, *Ceophloeus pileatus*, nested in the Indian Hills area, but it was not until May 30, 1954, that I was certain of it. During the previous week, I had been attracted by high-pitched Flicker-like calls, particularly in the morning hours, and by following the notes, I finally discovered the nest. It was 70 feet up in the rotted top of an old sycamore tree, which is located within a few feet of the Indian Hills Trail. At the time of discovery, two young birds were poking their heads out of the nest cavity; they were calling noisily. The nest tree contained numerous other holes of the size used by the Pileated and the Flicker, which undoubtedly had been nesting sites in previous years. The young left the nest on May 31, 1954, the day after it was found.

On April 15, 1955, Emily Halverson and I found a pair active at a new cavity of the same tree, at a slightly lower elevation, approximately three-fourths of the way around from the old nest. On several occasions we have seen a Pileated looking out from within the cavity. The birds frequent two other large trees in the same area; these trees have oval cavities and may be roosting or nesting sites of previous years.

We have lived in this heavily-wooded section since 1917 and have observed these birds the year around since 1941. It seems strange to find this species nesting in a tree which is on a heavily traveled highway rather than farther back from the road in a more isolated part of the woods.—CATHERINE HOPE NOLAND, Louisville.

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#### INCUBATION OF THE CARDINAL

On July 16, 1954, about 4:00 P. M., I found a nest of the Cardinal in a mock orange shrub in our yard. The nest was approximately 84

inches above the ground. It contained one egg, and at the time of the discovery the bird was not on the nest. I checked the nest the following day at 5:00 P. M. It contained two eggs, and the female was incubating.

Two eggs were in the nest at 9:30 A. M. on July 28. At 5:00 P. M. the nest was checked again. There was one newly hatched bird and one egg. The nest was examined again at 7:40 P. M. the same day; the second egg had hatched. Since the bird was incubating the day of the laying of the second egg (July 17), then eleven days were required for incubation. Or, if we assume that the second egg was laid in the early morning hours and the bird started incubation immediately, then eleven and a half days were required for the period of incubation. The young birds remained in the nest for ten days and left.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

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### GOLDEN PLOVERS AT COX'S PARK

Shortly after 7:30 A. M. on March 27, 1955, Marie and Louis Pieper, Eric Mills, and the writers were happily surprised to see a flock of Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica*) fly directly in front of our parked cars in Cox's Park. (This is a newly created park of 58 acres, opened in 1953, located between the Ohio River and the River Road, approximately 3½ miles northeast of Louisville.) The high water of the previous weeks had flooded the low grassy areas, and here at the water's edge, not more than eight feet away, stood eleven of these birds. We looked at them carefully; they were in winter plumage.

Other birds of note that cold morning were 22 Pectoral Sandpipers (*Erolia melanotos*), which flew to the upper end, where it was dry, alighted on the frozen ground and crouched down, more or less huddled it as if to avoid the sharp wind that caused us to do most of our observing from the cars. Eight Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) and one Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes*) fed and preened at the edge of the flooded area, while in the deeper water six Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) and a pair of American Mergansers (*Mergus merganser*) swam about. A Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*), one of a flock of twelve that frequented the upper edge of the flooded area, seemed to plunder the fish that the mergansers were catching.

The same afternoon Harvey B. Lovell found 42 Golden Plovers in Cox's Park. He noticed that a few in the flock had some black streakings, indicating partial spring plumage. The following day, March 28, 1955, Mrs. H. V. Noland and Mrs. A. W. Halverson observed 80 of these birds in the same general area.

We visited the park on the following Sunday, April 3, 1955, but did not see any of the birds that were seen the preceding week. This may have happened because the water had receded.

This seems to be an early date for the plovers in this area. There are surprisingly few spring records of large flocks of this species in Kentucky, in spite of the fact that the main flyway of the Golden Plover passes through the Mississippi Valley.—ANNE L. STAMM and FRANK X. KRULL, Louisville.

### WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS AT LOUISVILLE

The White-winged Crossbills (*Loxia leucoptera*), which were discovered in Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, on December 23, 1954 (Ky. Warbler, XXXI: 17-18), remained through the middle of February. In fact, the last date the birds were recorded was February 17, 1955, when Stamm saw a single male sitting close to the trunk of a hemlock tree. A careful search of the area, however, did not reveal any other crossbills. Other dates on which the birds were recorded are as follows: January 22, 8, later 16-18 (Slack and Carpenter); 5 by Stamm; January 23, 16-18; January 29, 7 (Slack); February 3, 9 (Stamm and Lovell).

The crossbills were always seen feeding in sweet gum and hemlock trees except for one time each when they were found in a spruce and a larch. There was a tendency for most of the members of a flock to feed close together and on the outermost branches, moving about rapidly, and sidling down a branch to make a thorough job of the cones near the end—or flutter to another branch close by. This mannerism made it difficult to count numbers. The closest approach was made during one of these feedings. As twenty of these birds fed busily in a hemlock, Slack noticed the cones were falling under the tree like rain. The birds showed no fear as the tree was approached. Finally at arm's length one male was watched. He stopped a moment, looked right at the intruder, and then continued feeding. For the most part the birds fed quietly, yet on one occasion the crackling of cones could be heard, and on three visits the crossbills made loud chattering notes as they moved about while feeding.

The flight was slightly undulating, moderately rapid, and at about the level of the treetops. It was mainly direct, but on occasions erratic, as, seemingly in line for a particular perch, they suddenly changed their minds and, one by one as if following a leader, dropped down to a lower, near perch.

A dry "check, check, check, check" was uttered all the time the birds were in flight, and many times it was heard before the birds were seen. At other times another soft "cheep, cheep, cheep" or "peat-peat-peweeet" was noted as the birds moved about in the trees but were not feeding.

Occasionally the crossbills were seen feeding with Pine Siskins and Goldfinches. And it may be worthy of note that the Pine Siskin, also a rather erratic bird, remained throughout March.

Most of our countings of a flock were made as the birds flew. The greatest number of males counted at any one feeding was ten in a flock of eighteen.

It was interesting to experience observing the habits and feeding patterns of the White-winged Crossbills during the 56-day period they remained in the Louisville area.—MABEL SLACK and ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

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### A WINTERING BROWN THRASHER

In early November, 1954, I noticed a Brown Thrasher in my yard, which is in Louisville, near Cherokee Park. At first I thought it was just late in migration, but I saw it frequently until February 20, 1955.

Sometimes I saw it two or three times a week and at not more than ten-day intervals. Other members of the household saw it when I did not. It was here when the temperature went down almost to zero, on February 12 and 13.

On January 15 I saw the Brown Thrasher and less than a mile away in Cave Hill Cemetery saw a flock of White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins, and the very next day I saw a Phoebe's nest on Pendleton Hill, in northwestern Bullitt County. Quite a contrast!

The Brown Thrasher was quite tame and fed on bread scraps and seeds which we scattered on the ground. There were often many English Sparrows and Starlings feeding, and while the thrasher would eat with them, it preferred to be away from them. I usually scattered some food in some ivy on the ground and in leaves over the flower beds. These places were the thrasher's favorite feeding places. It seemed to enjoy scratching in the vines or leaves looking for food. It drank from and occasionally bathed in the bird bath. From all appearances it was in good health and could fly well.

After February 20 it was not seen until the middle of March, and since that is the time of arrival for early migrants, I do not know for certain whether it was the same bird. Since then one or more have been seen almost daily.—FLOYD S. CARPENTER, Louisville.

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#### AT LONG LAST—BLUEBIRDS!

Friday morning, April 15, Bluebirds came to the nest box on Jarvis Lane, for the first time in history! Azalea made the early-morning discovery, and since that fateful moment, she has been like an excited mother hen with a family of baby chicks. Bluebirds came with dogwood blossoms, and, almost as if on the wings of the Bluebirds, came John and Marion Terres, on their way north from a Florida vacation. It was an omen, and now we, also, can have Bluebirds in our garden.

Last winter, after suffering many seasons of disappointment and numerous House Wrens and English Sparrows, we finally decided to change the location of the nest box. We moved it from the back garden, where it had been surrounded by overgrown shrubbery, to a more open situation at the side of the house, on a slight eminence, overlooking a wide expanse of a neighbor's lawn. The box is now securely fastened to the top of a 5-foot post, facing out across the lawn. Male and female Bluebirds are busily bringing in pieces of yellow grass, for nesting material. One or the other rests occasionally on the leafless limb of a neighboring Mimosa.

"A Bluebird comes tenderly up to alight

And turns to the wind to unruffle a plume;

His song so pitched as not to excite

A single flower as yet to bloom."—Robert Frost.

—W. G. DUNCAN, Louisville



### NOTES ON THE NESTING OF THE CAROLINA WREN

In February, 1954, a pair of Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) chose as their nesting site a grape basket containing garden tools hanging on an inside wall of a narrow kitchen porch. Though there was considerable passage within two feet of the basket and frequent encounters with persons as the birds flew in and out of the porch, they were not deterred from completing a successful hatching. On February 25 the pair began collecting material, but no more was added until March 6, when a few leaves and grasses and roots were brought in. On March 8 material was taken into an old nesting box used in past years by wrens, located outside the porch, but none was added to the nest in the basket. However, the following day, March 9, both birds started at 7 A. M. to bring in material and worked feverishly to finish the nest. On the 10th and 11th a few bits were added in the early morning, and the nest was seemingly completed. For six days there was no inspection of or apparent interest in the nest. On March 17 the female began to use the basket as a roost, the male roosting in the box referred to above. In observing the roosting female with the aid of a flashlight, I was unable to see a definite outline of the bird, only a spread of grey rather than brown feathers with white markings.

The first egg was laid on March 22, and one each on four successive days. The laying was before 7 A. M. On April 11, when two nestlings were observed, the male brought in food for the female. No inspection was made on April 10. A third egg was hatched on April 12, and the fourth and fifth eggs on April 13. The incubation period seems to have been eighteen days. Eleven days later, April 24, the five young left the nest.

Nice in her detailed study of the Carolina Wren (WILSON BULLETIN, LX, No. 3, 1948) found that the incubation period was fourteen days.—CATHERINE HOPE NOLAND, Louisville.

(Editor's Note: Since there is a variation of four days in this incubation period, our members should follow up this study with other studies of variations in the incubation of our common species.)

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### PINE SISKINS AGAIN

In the winter of 1952-53 the Pine Siskin appeared at Bowling Green and remained until May 8, 1953. (KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXIX, 45). Unlike that winter, the next one, 1953-54, brought few siskins. Only a very few were seen until the last record of the season, May 14, 1954, when twenty appeared on the Western campus. In the season just past, 1954-55, there have been several records, but only a few appeared at any one time. Fortunately, we were able to get this species for both the Mammoth Cave National Park and the Bowling Green Christmas Bird Counts. One of the most memorable groups that I have seen were late-spring birds, at Mammoth Cave National Park on May 7, 1954, in company with a large flock of Goldfinches. There seemed to be only eight siskins, about the highest seen at any time during the season. I hope that the species has decided to make this area a regular wintering place.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

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### OUR ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Our annual spring meeting was held in Louisville in the Reynolds Room of the Seelbach Hotel on April 15, 1955. At a meeting of the officers before the program proper the place of the fall meeting for 1955 was changed from Berea to Frankfort, with headquarters at the Capitol Hotel. It was voted to reimburse the editor for expenses incurred in publishing *THE KENTUCKY WARBLER*. It was brought to the attention of the officers that the check lists used by many of our members are now practically exhausted; new ones were authorized. Miss Evelyn Schneider recommended that leaflets giving pertinent facts about the K. O. S. be printed, since many inquiries come to the officers that cannot be answered without considerable trouble.

At the luncheon the speaker was Mr. Russell E. Mumford, president of the Indiana Audubon Society, who spoke on "Some of the More Unusual Birds of a Neighboring State." He stated that since 1897, when 300 species were known to be in Indiana, 45 new ones had been added from the areas to the north, south, and west. In many instances Mr. Mumford's pictures showed the nests or young of many species.

At the afternoon meeting the change in the constitution proposed at Kentucky Lake in the fall of 1954 was carried. Instead of having the spring meeting regularly in Louisville, it was voted to leave the place of meetings wholly to the executive council. The matter of having leaflets concerning the society was also voted by the whole body.

Miss Amelia Klutey, assistant curator of the Audubon Memorial Museum at Henderson, gave an extensive account of "What the Museum Has to Offer." She told of the park itself, the beautiful museum building, and the large collection of Audubon paintings, prints, books, furniture, and also some of the artistry of the naturalist's sons, Victor and John W. Audubon. Recently the Baker-Hunt collection of mounted birds, mammals, and butterflies has been added.

Dr. William Clay, University of Louisville, discussed "The Ecological Role of Predation," in which he placed before us the significance of balance in nature, which man usually destroys when he ignorantly tries to correct or improve.

The concluding feature was a beautifully illustrated talk on "Portraits of Bird Nests," by Mr. J. S. Kennedy, of Louisville.

The next morning, led by Miss Mabel Slack and Mr. Leonard C. Brecher, 18 members made a field trip to Sleepy Hollow, where they identified 45 species of birds.

—VESTINA BAILEY THOMAS, Recording Secretary.

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**TREASURER'S REPORT, APRIL 15, 1955**

Balance on hand, October 9, 1954.....\$170.54

**Receipts:**

Membership Dues .....	\$425.00
Receipts at Fall Meeting, 1954 .....	213.25
Sale of check lists, WARBLERS, Bibliographies.....	6.33
Miscellaneous .....	2.05
Dividend, Jefferson—Federal .....	12.25
Profit on Bird Books, Fall Meeting .....	5.95
Credit, Bank Service.....	.75
Profit on Sale of Merchandise at K. O. S. Booth South Atlantic Regional Meeting of Flower Show.....	21.58
<b>Total Receipts .....</b>	<b>\$857.70</b>

**Disbursements:**

Expenses, Fall Meeting .....	\$207.40
Postage and Envelopes .....	35.70
Printing of 500 Statement Blanks .....	9.00
To Selby Smith for Printing November and February WARBLERS .....	225.42
Bank Service Charge .....	.75
Dues to Kentucky Conservation Council .....	2.00
Refund to Paris Bird Club .....	5.00
Mimeographing .....	2.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$370.43</b>

Of this sum \$75.00 belongs to our Endowment Fund. In our Endowment Fund we now have seven \$100 shares of Jefferson-Federal Building and Loan Association.

—FAN B. TABLER, Treasurer

(Continued from Page 22)

plans for our spring meeting—up to her ears, in fact. She hesitated just long enough to wonder how she could swing it then accepted. She really went to work. The result was an interesting booth of which the directors of the Flower Show were proud. Placed immediately at the entrance to the large room, it was a good introduction to what was to follow.

The Louisville Nursery Association decorated the place with large specimen plants of yews. To these Mrs. Stamm added cedars which she and Mr. Stamm had cut from the woods of a friend. With the use of a flat mirror and gravel she had a very naturalistic pool. Under the small trees grew, to all appearances, clumps of daffodils. From Mr. Lucien Beckner of the Louisville Museum she borrowed mounted birds, which she placed appropriately about. At the edge of the "water" stood a Ruddy Turnstone and a Lesser Yellow-legs. On a small log jutting out over the "water" stood a Green Heron in solemn dignity, a beautiful specimen. There were also a Killdeer and a Woodcock on the ground. In the trees, added reality and color, were a Mockingbird, a Baltimore Oriole, an Indigo Bunting, and a Cardinal. The whole made a lovely picture.

At one side there were tables on which bird books, stationery, bird houses, and check lists were offered for sale. On the walls above, attractive bird prints were displayed. There was also a chart with Migration Routes mapped out.

Many visitors stopped and chatted, asking questions about our society. In the Flower Show program there was a statement as to its purposes and aims. It was pleasant to have this occasion to see members from out in the state who were attending the meeting. Also there were guests from other states who evidenced quite a bit of interest in our society.

The members who assisted Mr. and Mrs. Stamm in setting up the booth were Mrs. Mame Boulware, Miss Marie Pieper, Mr. Louis Pieper, Mr. Henry Pieper, and Mrs. Wm. B. Tabler.

During the two days that the show was in progress members of K. O. S. were in constant attendance at the booth. These included: Mrs. Boulware, Mrs. Ewing Brown, Helen Browning, Amy Deane, Mrs. A. W. Halverson, Mrs. H. V. Noland, Mrs. Kenneth Patterson, Marie Pieper, Mrs. J. R. Poteat, Mrs. C. E. Schindler, Evelyn Schneider, Mrs. F. P. Shannon, Mabel Slack, Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Audrey Wright, and Dr. H. B. Lovell.

—MRS. FAN B. TABLER, Louisville

\* \* \* \* \*

## TWO LETTERS FROM DR. FRAZER

Marion, Kentucky, February 23, 1955

Dear Dr. Wilson:

I have just read the WARBLER and note with pleasure that White-winged Crossbills have again been found in Kentucky. About twenty years ago I saw two of these birds in Crittenden County and reported the find to the WARBLER, but my story was not published. I presume it was like my first report of the Brown Thrasher in the winter census—I was just thought to be dreaming. Since that time the Brown Thrasher has been reported from different parts of the state, and Bacon of Madisonville has trapped two this winter. I am of the opinion that there are several species in our state that have not been identified at off seasons.

I am doing very well for a man past eighty-five: I work every day and do not intend to retire as long as I am mentally and physically able to work.

Yours truly,

T. ATCHISON FRAZER.

Marion, Kentucky, April 7, 1955

Dear Dr. Wilson:

I have been in the hospital for the past six weeks. I am not sick but cannot walk. I've made some observations from my hospital bed that I feel might interest you. I have seen fifteen species of birds from my window, and the most interesting thing is a pair of Doves nesting about fifteen feet from my window. Each one does its part of the incubation. I can see them as they change three times a day.

I wish I was able to meet the folks in Louisville this month, but tell them they'll never see me any more unless they come to Marion.

Your friend,

T. ATCHISON FRAZER.

(These letters were presented before our meeting in Louisville. Miss Evelyn Schneider arranged a get-well letter to Dr. Frazer, which a large number of our members, long-time friends of his, signed and sent to him. It does all of us good to know that our "grand old man of the K. O. S." will not let a little thing like being in a hospital keep him from studying birds).

—EDITOR.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### A CORRECTION

The editor gladly makes this correction: In the Christmas Bird Count from Madisonville the 3 Bewick's Wrens should have been 3 Carolina Wrens. In the complicated tabulation such mistakes sometimes regrettably occur. Please feel free, all of you, to call attention to errors, for we want our publication to be as nearly perfect as is possible.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### COOPERATIVE MIGRATION STUDY—SPRING OF 1955

Again we should help in the Cooperative Migration Study being conducted by AUDUBON FIELD NOTES, in conjunction with the national government. The whole list is too long for insertion here but is being sent with your copy of the WARBLER. This cooperation would help keep our state group on the map as avid and scientific observers.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### MR. DUNCAN CARRIES ON

Mr. W. G. Duncan, our "Bluebird Man," often gets mixed up with Duncan Hines, who knows something about houses of another kind. Mr. Duncan, not Mr. Hines, lives at 315 Jarvis Lane, Louisville, and will be glad to communicate with you relative to Bluebird houses. He makes no profit of any sort from his interesting hobby—except, of course, satisfaction in helping to relieve the housing shortage. He estimates that he has already placed 3000 boxes. One of his houses occupies a proud place in the editor's back yard, though I fear no Bluebird will penetrate so far inside the city limits. A rather noisy House Wren was inspecting it in late April. Maybe it will take up lodgings there, as it did in another less pretentious house in my yard last year.

**CHARLES STRULL HONORED**

The annual banquet of the Beckham Bird Club was held in the Jefferson Room at the University of Louisville on February 11, 1955. The third Beckham Bird Club award was presented to Dr. Charles Strull for distinguished service to Kentucky ornithology. Dr. Strull has directed the project of counting birds across the moon during the spring and fall migrations. He has furnished his telescope, compiled the records, and sent them to Louisiana State University, where the data are interpreted. He has made this a genuinely cooperative project and has brought together a large number of members to assist him in the long, arduous work of observing the bird flights from the time the moon rises in the evening until it sets early in the morning.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. Frederick Hardy of the State Division of Fish and Wildlife Resources. He has directed the work of the Beaver Creek Wildlife Refuge in the Cumberland National Forest, not far from Cumberland Falls. He illustrated his talk with colored slides showing many nests of the Ruffed Grouse and the Wild Turkey. The chief study was made on the habits of the Ruffed Grouse. In addition, the refuge has been stocked with Wild Turkey and white-tailed deer which were trapped at Kentucky Woodlands Wildlife Refuge and released at Beaver Creek. Both the deer and the turkey have done well in their new home and have increased in numbers. The latest count shows a population of 100 Wild Turkeys.

\* \* \* \* \*

**BIG SPRING LISTS**

A good many of our members make an effort to find a large number of species at a weekend in late April or early May. Please send me your list, annotated, showing rare or unusual experiences, such as species that you do not commonly see, unusual numbers, or habitats that yielded good results. There will be a summary of your report in our next issue. For example, my own big list, taken on the afternoon of April 30 and most of the day of May 1, yielded 113 species. Some of the outstanding features of the count were the nineteen species of warblers, though I was not in especially good warbler territory, and twenty-one species of water birds. Within the week before the Big Spring List I recorded sixteen other species, making a grand total of 129 for the period from April 23 to May 1. Make any other comment that might be of interest.—The Editor.

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Birds

DIVISION OF BIRDS

# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Vol. XXXI

AUGUST, 1955

No. 3



A Worm-Eating warbler brooding five young in the nest pointed out in cut, page 55.

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## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

President . . . . .	Anne L. (Mrs. Frederick W.) Stamm, Louisville 5
Vice-President . . . . .	Robert A. Pierce, Frankfort
Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer . . . . .	Mrs. William B. Tabler, 6 Glen Hill Road, Louisville 7
Recording Secretary . . . . .	Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Shelbyville
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- Charles Meade, Henderson, 1953-1955
- Rodney Hays, Lexington, 1954-1956
- Hunter Hancock, Murray, 1954-1956

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Librarian . . . . .	Evelyn J. Schneider, University of Louisville Library
Curator . . . . .	Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Ridge Road, Anchorage
Editor . . . . .	Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green
Assistant Editors . . . . .	Leonard C. Brecher and Roger W. Barbour

### Chairmen of Committees:

- Helen Browning, Membership; Leonard C. Brecher, Endowment; Rodney Hays, Conservation and Legislation.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

The society will soon be holding its fall meeting in our historical capital city, Frankfort. Here, wooded bluffs surround the city and border the Kentucky River, and many scenic spots are to be found. In early October, the hillsides should be beautifully dressed in shades of red and gold; and the field trip, through rolling country to the state-owned Kleber Song Bird Sanctuary, should be a pleasant experience. Interesting programs are being planned, and may I urge each of you K. O. S. members to attend. The meeting affords an opportunity for the promotion of ornithology in the state, for the exchanging of ideas, and for renewing old friendships and fostering new ones.

K. O. S. has been growing, and we want to keep it that way, for an increasing membership is essential to our program. Each one of you may have a part in this growth by interesting your bird-minded friends in becoming members of our society. Or, if you wish to have the Membership Committee contact your friends, just notify any of the following: Helen Browning, chairman, Louisville; John Cheek, Buckhorn; J. W. Clotfelter, Paris; or Virginia Smith, Henderson.

Other active committees and their personnel are: Conservation and Legislation: Rodney Hays, chairman, Lexington; Harvey B. Lovell, Louisville; and R. C. Soaper, Henderson. Leonard C. Brecher, Louisville, is in charge of the Endowment Committee.

Your officers, councillors, editor, and committee personnel will be glad to assist you in any way to further the advancement of our society. We are looking forward to seeing you on October 7, 8, and 9 at Frankfort.—ANNE L. STAMM, President, K. O. S.

\* \* \* \* \*

### A SALUTE TO BURT L. MONROE, JR.

Burt L. Monroe, Jr., who has been in the navy for the past two years, has been promoted to Lieutenant, JG. During this period he has been stationed on the coast of California. When navy duties are not pressing, he spends his leisure time in studying Western birds and is active in the San Diego Audubon Society. His recent find, which certainly was a red letter day for him, was the collecting of a Japanese Gull, *Larus crassirostris*. According to the April, 1955, issue of the AUK, Mr. Monroe states that "it marks the first occurrence of the Japanese Gull on the North American Continent." Hats off to "Little Burt," who was literally born into the K. O. S.!



## IMPRESSIONS ON CHANGES IN URBAN BIRD POPULATIONS

(A Forty-Year Study of the Ornithology of the Louisville Region)

By Burt L. Monroe, Sr.

Forty years have passed since the author began a systematic study of the bird life in Jefferson County, Kentucky, particularly within the boundaries of and adjacent to the city of Louisville. During that period, there have been some noticeable changes in the bird populations. Some species have decreased in numbers, to be sure, but none has disappeared entirely. Some species have increased in numbers, and a few new species for the region have appeared during the period.

It is, of course, rather difficult to evaluate changes unless these changes are of such nature that they are obvious even to casual observers or have come about for an equally obvious reason. When birds are forced out of a city beyond its environs, the reason is elementary, generally. Birds just do not exist amid concrete and steel and heavy automobile traffic, especially when these same birds are accustomed to wide-open spaces, plenty of vegetation, and certain specialized habitats.

To attempt to define all changes within the city of Louisville during any given period, one would have to state exactly what the actual boundaries of the city were at that particular time. A city could have been confined to a relatively small area forty years ago; yet now it could be sprawling over many square miles, annexing more and more acres as each year rolls by. And in so doing, it could retain many types of habitat.

For example, when fields and woodlands which are confined within a city's limits are destroyed either through the clearing of the land or through the erection of subdivisions, then that particular type of habitat is gone. But the birds often move to the outskirts to renew their populations in the same type of habitat, which is in turn eventually engulfed within the city's limits. It becomes a sort of creeping movement, creating no real or decisive changes in either species or numbers.

As a result of all of this, changes in populations of birds become somewhat nebulous, presenting no actual information of scientific value insofar as "cities" are concerned. What is of more importance are changes which occur in extensive areas. These areas should be measured in units no smaller than counties and, perhaps, they should be as large as several counties, especially if the topography of each of these counties is similar to that of the other counties.

There is a wealth of evidence by which to prove that many birds abandon large regions because of man's activities. The building of houses, highways, factories, and business districts cause birds to move. And agricultural practices have not always been beneficial to all species of birds. Studies of these factors are indispensable if useful conceptions of the avian populations of the past as compared with those of the present are to be gained.

Likewise, some activities within an area, such as the establishment of parks, with the planting of hedges, shrubs, evergreens, and

flowers of many types, are certain to attract more species of birds to establish themselves. Areas retired to woodlands and for permanent wildlife cover rapidly become havens for many species. Other conservation practices affecting bird populations may be any type of field, meadow, or shrub buffer strips, woodland borders, windbreak plantings, and live shrub dams for small brooks.

All of these things are very important in any study of the birds within a circumscribed region. Thus, all of these factors must be weighed and measured in any attempt to provide data on those changes in bird populations wrought in the Louisville area in the last four decades. And since there is no logical exact measurement of the area under discussion nor a "yard-stick" for use in presenting the positive reasons for any changes, the discussion may be set forth merely as a series of "impressions."

Louisville itself is located at 38 degrees 15 minutes North Latitude and 85 degrees 46 minutes West Longitude. In elevation, it ranges from 420 feet above sea level at the bank of the Ohio River on the Upper Pool to 560 feet at the Reservoir in Crescent Hill and to 760 feet on top of the hill in Iroquois Park in the south end. It is bordered on the north and west by the mighty Ohio River and is traversed by Beargrass Creek, a sizeable stream which winds and meanders through much of the suburbs and business district. Innumerable small branches and rivulets from the bordering land, which often is hilly and occasionally rugged, enter the Ohio River and Beargrass Creek.

There are some areas of cultivation within the city's limits, particularly in the area along a portion of the Ohio River and in the outskirts toward the east and south. The hills or "knobs" which constitute a good portion of the southend of the city, are a mixture of second growth deciduous and evergreen woods. White, black, and chestnut oaks predominate, with hickory, ash, gum, pitch, and some loblolly pine liberally interspersed.

Along the streams and in other sections, sycamores, willow, birch, poplar, wild cherry, beech, box elder, and cottonwood may be found. Shrubs common to each location are found in profusion. And adjacent to the rocky ravines, numerous types of mosses, lichens, and ferns abound.

In all seasons of the year, this area is enhanced by a varied bird population. One may find several types of habitat in each of the city's sectors and range of elevation, each habitat attracting different species. During migrations, the many city parks—Cherokee, Seneca, Shawnee, Iroquois, and Carrie Gaulbert Cox—and the river valley are virtually alive with many species, particularly the warblers and the sparrows, since these areas are natural highways for the passage of migrants. And the two big airports at Standiford and Bowman Fields attract their own species of feathered visitants, such as the upland plover (*Bartramia longicauda*) and the American pipit (*Anthus spinoletta rubescens*).

Looking back in retrospect to that beginning forty years ago,

impressions regarding changes in urban bird populations might well be catalogued into four major categories:

- (1) Species which have decreased in numbers of individuals.
- (2) Species which have increased in numbers of individuals.
- (3) Species which have appeared in the area for the first time.
- (4) Species which have adapted themselves to changes in their environment.

Unquestionably, many reasons why the species may be catalogued in these categories may be advanced. However, many of these reasons may be considered to be general ones.

The question has arisen as to whether or not our climate is getting warmer. For the past 50 years, the earth's climate has been believed by many to be getting warmer, but the change hasn't been very great, and some of the weather experts are still arguing whether or not it really has taken place. On every continent, however, glaciers are shrinking, and in the western world, ornithologists have pointed out that a number of species of birds have been steadily pushing their range northward.

Just how much this shifting of populations has affected the Louisville area still isn't known. However, it is certain that it is playing some part in the numerical status of some species and in the introduction into the region of other species.

In evaluating the four categories, certain examples may be provided. First, the category of those species which have decreased in numbers of individuals may be reviewed. In listing these species, the A. O. U. order has not always been followed, because prominence has been given at times to the more spectacular and obvious changes as they affect the species involved. Wherever possible, the order has been adhered to strictly.

From 1912 through 1918, the common wren which inhabited Louisville was the Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewicki bewicki*). It nested in the bird boxes erected for its use in most of the suburbs. At that time, there were no other "house" wrens in the city, but in the early 1920's, the Eastern house wren (*Troglodytes aedon aedon*) invaded the region and became a fairly common nesting species in the early 1930's.

With the advent of the house wren, the Bewick's wren moved out and almost disappeared from the region, nesting sparingly only in a few localities on the perimeters. It is still an uncommon species in most of the area, but there is some evidence that it is increasing slightly, moving back into some of the territory formerly taken over and held by the house wren.

In 1916, 1917, and 1918, one of the big impressions was the annual summer flocking of purple (bronzed) grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula quiscula*), Eastern robins (*Turdus migratorius migratorius*), and purple martins (*Progne subis subis*). Thousands upon thousands of individuals of these three species descended each evening into the trees lining the Frankfort Highway in the eastern end of the city in a suburb known as Crescent Hill.

The birds appeared in such numbers that the residents were forced to shoot them out during the summer months. Hundreds were killed each evening, there being no Migratory Bird Treaty Act to pro-

tect them. By 1920, most of the flocks by-passed these particular suburbs.

Flocks of grackles and robins still fly over the city in fair numbers, and sometimes they descend into particular areas for roosting. However, the purple martin has decreased considerably and no longer is seen in the immense flocks which were apparent in the period around the First World War. The decrease in this species, which is considered drastic, may unquestionably be traced to a lack of proper nesting sites in the Louisville area. Few nesting boxes are now erected for their use as compared with the many set out in earlier years.

One of the most colorful and beloved species has all but disappeared from most of its former haunts. The red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), once an inhabitant on every telephone pole along the highways and back-roads, has become an uncommon resident of the beech woods of the parks and heavily wooded tracts off the beaten path.

A series of reasons may be advanced accounting for the decrease of this woodpecker. The creosoting and oil treatment of telephone poles helped to deprive the red-headed woodpecker of one of its choice nesting sites. Then came the pugnacious starling, which gave the woodpecker tremendous competition for the few remaining nesting sites, including those holes drilled by the woodpecker itself. And finally, the modern automobile, with its terrifically high speed, contributed perhaps the most deadly weapon of all to help this bird down the path to near oblivion. The red-headed woodpecker's habit of picking insects off the roadways has led to its decimation. It simply cannot judge or cope with the speed of the traveling car, and, as a result, thousands are smashed on the major highways each year.

While still a noticeable part of the city's bird life, the English sparrow (*Passer domesticus domesticus*) is no longer observed in the business district in numbers comparable with those of twenty-five years ago. The elimination of horse-drawn carriages and wagons coincides with the moving of this species to the more rural regions, where they are still recorded in considerable numbers in the small towns and hamlets. It, too, like the red-headed woodpecker, falls an easy prey to the speeding motor car, and that could have contributed in part to the stabilizing of the population for the past decade.

There has been a definite decrease in the population of the Eastern screech owl (*Otus asio naevius*) in the past forty years. Once its tremulous voice could be heard almost any evening during the spring, summer, and early fall in any part of the city where there were trees. Now, its voice is as uncommon as is the sight of this small bird of prey, and it has become a treat to ornithologists to observe it from time to time.

The exact reason for the decline of this species of owl is not known for certain; however, one of the contributing factors unquestionably was the persecution which man gave to this tiny bird. It fell rather easy prey to those who wished to destroy it. It wasn't a very wary bird and appeared often in well-populated areas, where it became rather tame at times.

Another factor, one which shouldn't be taken too lightly, is the big increase over the years in the barred owl (*Strix varia varia*), which preys on the screech owl. The author has examined many dis-

gorged pellets of the barred owl and has found many which contained the remains of screech owls.

There are, obviously, some other species of birds which have decreased in numbers during the period of the study, but none are as noticeable as those listed.

Falling into the second major category are those species which have increased in numbers of individuals. Included among these are some of those species which are suddenly attracted to the area by the creation of a specialized habitat which did not exist previously. For example, there are many species of water birds which were "stopped" in their migrations by the building of the dam at the Falls of the Ohio in its present form. While many of these species had been recorded often in the area, the new habitat greatly increased their size of flocks. And over the years, the annual increase in the numbers of individuals in this particular area is noticeable. A list of these species would include the American egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*); little blue heron (*Florida caerulea caerulea*); black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*); semipalmated plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*); spotted sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*); greater yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*); lesser yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*); pectoral sandpiper (*Pisobia melanotos*); least sandpiper (*Pisobia minutilla*); semipalmated sandpiper (*Ereunetes pusillus*); herring gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*); ring-billed gull (*Larus delawarensis*); Bonaparte's gull (*Larus philadelphia*); Forster's tern (*Sterna forsteri*); common tern (*Sterna hirundo hirundo*); least tern (*Sterna antillarum antillarum*); and black tern (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*). An interesting change in the population of the black-crowned night heron is the ever-increasing number of individuals which winter here.

Other than these water birds, there are several species which have increased in numbers. In the few remaining swamps, the wood duck (*Aix sponsa*), once on the brink of extinction, has come back incredibly fast. This beautiful bird has become an uncommon breeding bird in the Louisville area. Caperton's Swamp alone, near the Ohio River, produces perhaps a dozen or more broods annually. Many broods in various stages of growth may be recorded here at one time during the late spring and early summer months.

The hooded merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), like the wood duck, has become another species of waterfowl which may be listed as an uncommon breeding bird in the few remaining swamplands around Louisville. Once only a migrant and occasional winter resident, it became evident as a breeding bird in 1944. Caperton's Swamp harbors at least a half dozen broods each spring and summer. As many as four females, with broods ranging from eight to twelve young, may be observed in sight at one time on these waters. There is a very definite pronounced increase in the numbers of this species in the last decade.

One of the finest examples of species which have responded to protection is that afforded by the Northern pileated woodpecker (*Ceophloeus pileatus abieticola*), the gaudy, giant "woodhen." It began on the uphill climb back to normalcy in the early 1920's, but for years after that, it still remained as a denizen only of the deep and unfrequented woods. In 1942, it made its appearance in some sections within the city limits, particularly in the parks. Now it is often re-

corded on bird walks made at almost any time during the year. And it can be classed as an uncommon permanent resident in the Louisville area.

In the fields immediately surrounding the city, the prairie horned lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) has become a very abundant winter resident and a fairly common summer resident. Two decades ago, the discovery of a nest of this species in the Louisville area would have made ornithological history. Today, several nests are found each year whenever a search is made for them. And many pairs of birds, observed perched on the fence posts and along the roadsides, give evidence of the big increase in the number of breeding birds.

During each fall, winter, and spring of the past ten years, the population of the Northern pine siskin (*Spinus pinus pinus*) appears to have increased. The record of a pine siskin, once regarded as an ornithological find here, is found regularly. Several of the recent Christmas Bird Counts record this species. When it first became rather regular in its visits, only a few individuals were seen at one time; however, in recent years, flocks numbering more than one hundred birds have been observed.

Perhaps the most interesting of the categories are those species which have appeared in the area for the first time during these forty years. The contributing factor to this category is the creation of a new kind of habitat. And perhaps the best example is the creation of the Falls of the Ohio, one of the most alluring places for migrating birds in the interior of the United States.

Although the Falls was known to ornithologists in the days of John James Audubon and Alexander Wilson and has since gone through many physical changes due to the construction of dams and canals, it was not until 1927, when the present dam was built, that it took on its present shape, which has been contributory to the addition of new species for the region.

Forming an extensive area of potholes and rocky ledges, studded with sand and gravel bars, it has attracted many varied species which were recorded in the Louisville area for the first time after 1928. Many of these species have repeated in putting in an appearance since then. Among these are the white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*); piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*); American golden plover (*Pluvialis dominica dominica*); black-bellied plover (*Squatarola squatarola*); ruddy turnstone (*Arenaria interpres morinella*); western willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*); American knot (*Calidris canutus rufus*); white-rumped sandpiper (*Pisobia fuscicollis*); Baird's sandpiper (*Pisobia bairdi*); red-backed sandpiper (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*); dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus* sp.); stilt sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*); western sandpiper (*Ereunetes mauri*); buff-breasted sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*); sanderling (*Crocethia alba*); northern phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*); glaucous gull (*Larus hyperboreus*); Iceland gull (*Larus leucopterus*); and Caspian tern (*Hydroprogne caspia imperator*).

Aside from the many species brought to the area by the Falls of the Ohio, there are other species which have appeared on the scene.

The eastern house wren appeared in 1920 and practically replaced the Bewick's wren in all of the territory. The house wren

built up its numbers constantly until 1950 and then seemed to level off. And thus far in 1955, there appears to be some decrease in the numbers. It may be that the Bewick's wren will become re-established in many of its former haunts if the downward trend in house wren numbers gets underway and continues for a period of time.

The most spectacular appearance and rapid build-up in bird populations was that of the imported starling (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*). Louisville had its first starlings in January, 1928, with the appearance of a flock of about fifty individuals. Today, these birds number in the tens of thousands as they congregate in the business district during the winter months. And it has become one of the most abundant of all of the permanent residents, forming formidable competition to the many native cavity-nesting species. There is no real evidence of any reduction in the flocks at the present time, despite shooting efforts during the past winter in the downtown business sections.

Steadily pushing its range northward, the chuck-will's widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*), in its steady march across Kentucky as it extended its range from the southland, reached the Louisville region in early May, 1942. The closest approach to the city had been recorded the year before in June, two miles south of Shepherdsville, Bullitt County, Kentucky, about 30 miles distant. It has become a regular breeding bird in this area and is recorded in good numbers each summer.

The yellow-crowned night heron (*Nyctanassa violacea violacea*) made its initial appearance in the area in the summer of 1948, and several individuals remained until early fall that year. Each spring since, this species has appeared, with as many as eight individuals recorded at one time. No nests as yet have been reported from the Louisville area; however, it is likely that one or more pairs of this species are breeding in the general area, as they frequent the same feeding areas daily and remain until late in the year.

A species which has attracted the attention of ornithologists in recent years because of its shifting of its range and migration routes is the Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). It is probable that this species is now a fairly regular spring migrant through this region. They first appeared in March of 1948, when two birds, a male and a female, were collected from a flock of nine on the edge of Louisville. It was recorded again in the same area on March 19, 1955, when five birds were observed in the same general area.

Two winter species, appearing in or near the Louisville area in the period, are the Eastern evening grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*) and the white-winged crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). The largest invasion of the evening grosbeak took place in the winter of 1951-52, while the white-winged crossbill was recorded by Miss Mabel Slack in the winters of 1937 and 1954. In the case of the crossbills, the attraction seems to be the planting of hemlock trees and other evergreens in Cave Hill Cemetery, and these birds may become regular winter visitants.

It is quite possible that for years, ornithologists working in the Louisville region have been overlooking two species which may have been present. However, it was not until 1946 that the notes of the Henslow's sparrow (*Passerherbulus henslowi*) and the short-billed marsh wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*) revealed their presence in some

numbers. These birds were found that summer in sixteen localities adjacent to Louisville, each time in fields sown in orchard grass. Nests of both species have been found, and the species are now regarded as regular summer residents. The wrens also have wintered sparingly on occasion.

Finally, there is that category of species which have adapted themselves to changes in their environments.

Usually, when species are affected by changes in their special habitats or environments, the inevitable result is a decrease in their numbers. This is evidenced by the decrease in the numbers of the Eastern least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis exilis*) for example. At one time, as many as eleven nests of this species were found during one summer in one swamp. Constant invasion of frog hunters apparently contributed to the desertion of the area by this species.

The king rail (*Rallus elegans elegans*) likewise had a similar experience. It nested in the same area but also disappeared as a nesting bird at the same time as did the least bittern.

These two species, along with the Virginia rail (*Rallus limicola limicola*), sora (*Porzana carolina*), and Florida gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus cachinnans*), have all become scarce in the Louisville region, their decrease coinciding with the constant and progressive draining of all of the suitable habitats for these birds.

Sometimes, however, species of birds are able to adapt themselves to these changes in their habitats. Perhaps the best example of this versatility is that shown by the Eastern red-wing (*Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*). Its favorite nesting site is the cattail swamps. But these have all but disappeared. But the red-wing did not disappear with them. Neither did it diminish in numbers. Rather, it took to nesting in the upland meadows, and now most nests of this species are located in alfalfa and weed fields, often far removed from water.

Another species which has been able to cope with loss of some of its habitat is the prothonotary warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). While not as glaring an example with as radical a change as is presented by the red-wing, it nevertheless is adaptable. Its preferred nesting site is the hollow stub of a willow at the water's edge or in the water. With the present practice by farmers of cutting out much of the vegetation lining the streams and ponds and with the removal of all dead trees, generally those with cavities in them, this warbler was deprived of enough nesting sites to handle the normal population of the species.

On the outskirts of the city, the prothonotary warbler has sought other nesting sites and has taken up its abode in nesting boxes, glass jars in garages and sheds, and in stew pans and pots hanging under the eaves of porches. Some nests are found in beached boats and canoes and in tin cans caught in trees. It is rapidly pushing the wrens in the choice of odd places in which to nest.

There are, obviously, many other changes in urban bird populations around and within the city of Louisville than those recorded in this article. It is the author's belief, however, that most of the important ones and those which are of recognizable proportions have been mentioned.



Constant changes in bird populations will always be taking place; that is one of the things which make bird study so fascinating and is the chief reason why continuous research by bird students and ornithologists is so necessary. It will be interesting to keep abreast of further changes in the Louisville area and to compare them with those which have already taken place.

Since the author has written this article in a popular rather than in a purely scientific style, no effort has been made to cite the literature. Thus no bibliography is needed or desired. The article is a series of impressions and is meant to furnish incentive to those who wish to record similar changes in other areas or to follow those in the Louisville area to another conclusion.

\* \* \* \* \*

Edwards, Ernest P. FINDING BIRDS IN MEXICO. pp. 1-101 and i-xix. Plates I-VII. Octavo, paper bound. 19550. (Published by the author, Amherst, Virginia. Price, \$1.75).

This little book will prove indispensable to any bird watcher visiting Mexico for the first time and will be useful to anyone studying birds south of the Rio Grande. Most of the book is given over to a regional directory for localized bird-finding in Mexico, on the order of Pettingill's A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI and A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI. Each of the major biogeographical regions is briefly described, its common birds listed, and then good localities to visit located and described. Camping spots are precisely located, roads are mapped and described, and tourist accommodations are recommended. A complete list of Mexican bird species is given.

A series of seven plates with extensive captions completes the book and really constitutes one-sixth of a good field guide to the birds of the Republic of Mexico. The first two plates, by Frederick K. Hilton, illustrate 29 distinctively Mexican species. The last five plates, by Edwards, while not so artistic as those by Hilton, accurately portray the field marks of the Black Hawks, Trogons, Swifts, Motmots, Woodpeckers, and Woodcreepers, six of the groups most difficult to unravel in the field for the average bird watcher from the United States. It is a pity that the other five-sixths of a field guide to Mexican birds could not have been included. (We would exclude those species that also occur in the United States and are already well described in field guides for more northern areas.)

As can be seen from the above paragraph, this reviewer believes that there is no book that can claim to be a satisfactory, complete field guide to the interesting avifauna of Old Mexico.—J. DAN WEBSTER, Hanover College.

## FIELD NOTES

### TWO DOVE BROODS IN A SHORT TIME

On May 4, 1955, my nephew, Gerald Cohron, banded two baby Mourning Doves in a nest on my farm, on U. S. 68, seven miles southwest of Bowling Green. Both birds were so mature that they left the nest the next day. On June 8, 1955, there were two mature nestlings in the same nest. Cohron banded one, which left the nest the next day; the other one flew away while he was trying to capture and band it.—CHARLES L. TAYLOR, Head of Agriculture Department, Western State College, Bowling Green.

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### DERBY WEEKEND AT MAMMOTH CAVE

A very successful birding experience came to us on Derby Weekend at Mammoth Cave National Park, May 6-8, 1955. Those participating in this experience were Dr. Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green; and Dr. and Mrs. Hulbert V. Noland, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Martin, and Mr. and Mrs. Yancey Alsheler, all of Louisville. A total of 96 species was recorded. According to Dr. Wilson, author of *BIRDS OF THE MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK*, the highlights of the trip were the hearing of the two species of Cuckoos at one time by him and Mrs. Noland; the finding of the first Yellow-throated Vireo's nest in the park by Mrs. Alsheler; the sight of eight Pine Siskins on May 7 for a late date (found by Mrs. Noland and Mr. Alsheler); and the large number of warblers, both in species and individuals. All told, there were 27 warblers, the best record for all time being 29 species for a weekend.

In addition to the productive areas around the hotel, the amphitheater, and the picnic and camping grounds, many woodland trails were followed early on Saturday and Sunday. The woods resounded with the songs of warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Baltimore Orioles, and other species. Because the foliage was heavy, many more were heard than seen.

On Saturday afternoon, by special arrangement, the party chartered the excursion boat, *MISS GREEN RIVER*, which makes regular trips down Green River from the ferry landing. We went about four miles down, floating part of the time, so that the engine would not drown out the songs of the birds. Again we heard many more than we were able to see. We observed a Prothonotary Warbler enter a nesting hole in a stump which leaned over the river. An approaching thunderstorm made us hurry back up stream, with few additional observations.

Before noon on Sunday, Dr. Wilson had to leave us for his home. On his way out of the park he did some additional birding and added three or four species to the list we had made until that time. The rest of us went across the river and up to the Hickory Cabin Fire-tower. While in that area we observed a pair of Red-tailed Hawks soaring over the wild area to the south of the tower. They flew very high up in the air.

For all of us it was a very delightful weekend. Here is a list of

the species we observed: Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Bob-white, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Rough-winged Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren (nest by Mrs. Altsheler), Catbird, Robin, Wood Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Oven-bird, Louisiana Water-thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Redstart, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Baltimore Oriole, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Pine Siskin, Goldfinch, Towhee, Pine-woods Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow.—KAY (MRS. YANCEY) ALTSHELTER, Louisville.

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#### A BIG SPRING LIST FROM HENDERSON

May 1, 1955; woods, fields, sloughs, Audubon State Park; weather fair and mild; time, 8:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. You will notice that we have included the Alder Flycatcher. Benson and Rhoads watched this one for quite a while and heard the song, with the accent on the middle syllable, quite distinctly. We were amazed at the total warbler count; many of the low edges of the park clearings were just alive with them. Mrs. Manion, curator at the museum at Audubon State Park, said that in the days just before she had seen both the Western Tanager and the Yellow-headed Blackbird. Since our census they have both been reported from Evansville, Indiana, just across the Ohio River from us. Participants in our census were the following: W. P. Rhoads and King Benson in the park; Miss Virginia Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Alves, Mrs. Lora Clark, R. C. Soaper, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Arnett, Mr. Jerry Buckles, Miss Amelia Klutey, and Mrs. Leo Manion.

Here is our list. Those marked with \* were found by Rhoads and Benson inside the park. Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Little Blue Heron, Green Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Baldpate, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture\*, Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk\*, Broad-winged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Bob-white, Killdeer\*, Black-bellied Plover, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellow-legs\*, Lesser Yellow-legs, Least Sandpiper\*, Herring Gull, Common Tern, Mourning Dove\*, Yellow-billed Cuckoo\*, Barn Owl, Screech Owl, Barred Owl\*, Chuck-will's-widow, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift\*, Ruby-throated Hummingbird\*, Belted Kingfisher,

Yellow-shafted Flicker\*, Pileated Woodpecker\*, Red-bellied Woodpecker\*, Red-headed Woodpecker\*, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker\*, Hairy Woodpecker\*, Downy Woodpecker\*, Eastern Kingbird\*, Crested Flycatcher\*, Phoebe\*, Alder Flycatcher\*, Acadian Flycatcher\*, Least Flycatcher\*, Wood Pewee\*, Horned Lark, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow\*, Barn Swallow\*, Purple Martin, Blue Jay\*, Crow\*, Carolina Chickadee\*, Tufted Titmouse\*, White-breasted Nuthatch\*, Brown Creeper\*, House Wren\*, Bewick's Wren\*, Carolina Wren\*, Mockingbird\*, Catbird\*, Brown Thrasher\*, Robin\*, Wood Thrush\*, Hermit Thrush\*, Olive-backed Thrush\*, Grey-cheeked Thrush\*, Veery\*, Bluebird\*, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher\*, Migrant Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo\*, Red-eyed Vireo\*, Philadelphia Vireo\*, Warbling Vireo\*, Black and White Warbler\*, Prothonotary Warbler\*, Worm-eating Warbler\*, Tennessee Warbler\*, Nashville Warbler\*, Yellow Warbler\*, Magnolia Warbler\*, Black-throated Blue Warbler\*, Myrtle Warbler\*, Black-throated Green Warbler\*, Cerulean Warbler\*, Blackburnian Warbler\*, Yellow-throated Warbler\*, Chestnut-sided Warbler\*, Bay-breasted Warbler\*, Oven-bird\*, Northern Water-thrush\*, Louisiana Water-thrush\*, Kentucky Warbler\*, Yellow-throat\*, Yellow-breasted Chat\*, Hooded Warbler\*, Redstart\*, English Sparrow\*, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Red-wing\*, Orchard Oriole\*, Baltimore Oriole\*, Purple Grackle\*, Cowbird\*, Scarlet Tanager\*, Summer Tanager\*, Cardinal\*, Rose-breasted Grosbeak\*, Indigo Bunting\*, Dickcissel, Goldfinch\*, Towhee\*, Grasshopper Sparrow\*, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow\*, Field Sparrow\*, White-crowned Sparrow\*, White-throated Sparrow\*, Swamp Sparrow\*, Song Sparrow. Total, 133 species.—Henderson Audubon Society.

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### BIG SPRING LIST FOR BOWLING GREEN

April 30-May 1, 1955. Early in the afternoon of April 30 Dr. L. Y. Lancaster and I went to his cabin at the Mouth of Gasper River and returned at noon the next day. We took trips along Gasper, in Clifty Creek valley, and along some of the neighboring ridges at sunset and nightfall. In the afternoon of May 1 I visited alone the rapidly-falling Chaney and McElroy Lakes in southern Warren County. The temperature was quite high for that time of year, as high as 80. There were no clouds and wind. The species and approximate numbers follow: Pied-billed Grebe, 4; Green Heron, 1; Black-crowned Night Heron, 2; Canada Goose, 1 (this goose remained alone on the Chaney Lake from March 18 until May 4); Mallard, 2; Gadwell, 4; Baldpate, 4; Blue-winged Teal, 60 plus; Ring-necked Duck, 4; Lesser Scaup, 6; Ruddy Duck, 2; Turkey Vulture, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 6 plus; Coot, 100 to 150; Semipalmated Plover, 6; Killdeer, 15; Wilson's Snipe, 8; Spotted Sandpiper, 1; Solitary Sandpiper, 8; Greater Yellow-legs, 20; Lesser Yellow-legs, 35; Pectoral Sandpiper, 25; Least Sandpiper, 6; Mourning Dove, 30 plus; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 5; Horned Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 2; Chuck-will's-widow, 10 plus; Whip-poor-will, 20; Nighthawk, 10; Chimney Swift, 75; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, ... Yellow-shafted Flicker, 3; Pileated Woodpecker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Eastern Kingbird, 10; Crested Flycatcher, 12; Phoebe, 4; Acadian Flycatcher, 8; Horned Lark, 30 plus; Rough-winged Swallow, 10; Barn Swallow, 8; Purple Martin, 4; Blue Jay, c; Crow, c; Carolina Chickadee, c; Tufted Titmouse, c; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; House

Wren, 1; Bewick's Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 4; Mockingbird, c; Catbird, c; Brown Thrasher, c; Robin, a; Wood Thrush, c-a; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 1; Bluebird, c; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, c; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3; American Pipit, 2; Starling, a; White-eyed Vireo, c; Yellow-throated Vireo, c; Blue-headed Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, c; Warbling Vireo, 2; Black and White Warbler, 10; Prothonotary Warbler, c; Worm-eating Warbler, 8; Tennessee Warbler, c; Yellow Warbler, c; Myrtle Warbler, 4; Black-throated Green Warbler, 2; Cerulean Warbler, c-a; Yellow-throated Warbler, c-a; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 4; Bay-breasted Warbler, 2; Prairie Warbler, 4; Palm Warbler, a; Northern Water-thrush, 4; Louisiana Water-thrush, 8; Kentucky Warbler, c; Yellow-throat, c; Yellow-breasted Chat, 10; Hooded Warbler, 4; English Sparrow, a; Meadowlark, c; Red-wing, c; Orchard Oriole, c; Purple Grackle, c-a; Cowbird, c; Summer Tanager, 10; Cardinal, c-a; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a; Indigo Bunting, c-a; Dickcissel, c-a; Goldfinch, 25; Towhee, 15; Savannah Sparrow, 12; Grasshopper Sparrow, 13; Pine Woods Sparrow, 7; Chipping Sparrow, c; Field Sparrow, c; White-crowned Sparrow, 20 plus; White-throated Sparrow, 20 plus. Total, 113 species. Seen the week before, 16 other species; grand total, 129 species.—L. Y. LANCASTER and GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### BIG SPRING LIST FROM LOUISVILLE

May 8; 4:00 A. M. to 8:30 P. M. Louisville and its environs, including the Ohio River, woodlands, meadow lands, and river. American Egret, Little Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Baldpate, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup Duck, Hooded Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bob-white, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellow-legs, Lesser Yellow-legs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Common Tern, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Prairie Horned Lark, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Water-thrush, Louisiana Water-thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, English Sparrow, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Purple

Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Eastern Goldfinch, Eastern Towhee, Grasshopper Sparrow, Pine-woods Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Total, 127 species.—MR. AND MRS. LEONARD C. BRECHER, HELEN BROWNING, FLOYD C. CARPENTER, JOE CRAFT, TOM C. FULLER, JOHN HALL, ETHEL LOVELL, HARVEY B. LOVELL, ESTHER MASON, BURT L. MONROE, SR., ERIC MILLS, EVELYN SCHNEIDER, BERNICE SHANNON, PAT SHANNON, MABEL SLACK, ANNE STAMM, MR. AND MRS. S. CHARLES THACHER, AND AUDREY WRIGHT (Beckham Bird Club).

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### NOTES ON THE NESTING OF THE GRASSHOPPER SPARROW AT LOUISVILLE

By Anne L. Stamm and Mabel Slack

While the Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) seems fairly common in the Louisville region from April to mid-August in areas where there is considerable dry pasture land, we can find little in the literature regarding its nesting. In fact, Kentucky has few nesting records, and descriptive accounts are lacking.

Audubon (1856) and Alexander Wilson (1811) did not report the species as breeding in Kentucky, for they make no mention of it. Wilson in his account of the Yellow-winged Sparrow says, "This small species is now for the first time introduced to the notice of the public. . . It inhabits the lower part of New York and Pennsylvania; is very numerous on Staten Island, where I first observed it; and occurs also along the sea coast of New Jersey. But though it breeds in each of these places, it does not remain in any of them during the winter." He also states, "I cannot say what extent of range this species has, having never met it in the southern states; though I have no doubt it winters there with others of its tribe. It is the scarcest of all our summer sparrows." Audubon, in referring to the species as the Yellow-winged Bunting, says, "Breeds from Maryland to Connecticut, Columbia River. Rather common migratory." However, both Audubon and Wilson give brief accounts of the nest.

Among the earliest published nesting records of the Grasshopper Sparrow in Kentucky which we have found is that of Beckham (1885), who studied the birds in Nelson County. He says, "A common summer resident. Fresh eggs found May 20th. They build on the ground in the open fields and conceal their nests with more dexterity than any other sparrow I know of."

Dr. L. Otley Pindar, who was an active worker in the latter part of the nineteenth century, says in his "Birds of Fulton County" (1925): "A rather common migrant and possibly a summer habitant."

Wilson (1922) in "Birds of Bowling Green," says, "Common summer resident. More common in the spring migration." In "Birds of Calloway County" (1923) he says, "Common summer resident."

Funkhouser (1925) merely says of the nest "of grass, well con-

cealed on the ground. Eggs: 3-5, white, spotted with reddish." However, he quotes records from Blincoe as follows: "Eggs half incubated May 19, 1921; young birds fed in nest August 14, 1917; fresh eggs July 5, 1921."

Virgil King (1940), formerly with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Kentucky, made observations in Grant County and lists on his breeding bird chart one nest of the Grasshopper Sparrow with 5 eggs on May 29 and the same nest with 4 young and 1 egg on June 10.

In the composite breeding bird list compiled by Wilson (1942) the species seems to be fairly well distributed over the state as a breeding bird. Various observers have recorded the Grasshopper Sparrow as common in the following localities: Paducah, Marion, Bowling Green, Mammoth Cave (prior to 1938), Glasgow, Bardstown, Morehead, and fairly common in Berea, Louisville, and Union County. It is listed as rare in Lexington and Cynthiana.

Figgins (1945) states that "They favor grasslands, and the nest is generally concealed through being arched over, when it resembles a mat of grass. The 3-5 white eggs are spotted with brown, mostly on the larger end." He does not give any nesting records but says that the species breeds in Kentucky but is not abundant.

Patten (1946) lists it as a breeding species in the Berea region.

Barbour (1951), in writing of the birds of Rowan and adjacent counties, says, "A rather rare summer resident . . . We have no nesting records."

It seems to be a difficult species to study since it feeds and nests amid tall grass and often sings while on the ground, which may be one of the reasons for the lack of descriptive material on nests.

Pearson et al (BIRDS OF AMERICA) says that nests are difficult to find. He further states, "To find a Grasshopper Sparrow's nest is a real triumph in field ornithology, one, indeed, which many a trained observer has never accomplished." We concur with him on their being hard to find, for when we located our first nest, it necessitated careful scrutiny of the ground practically on our hands and knees. In the light of the material we have found it desirable to record the data of three nests.

These nests were found while we were obtaining information on the Dickcissel, *Spiza americana*, in the Springdale Road area, between Routes 22 and 42, about ten miles east of Louisville. The first Grasshopper Sparrow's nest was found on May 23, 1948, in an overgrown grassy lane, at the edge of a field of rye. It was fitted into a small depression in the ground at the base of a broad-leaved plantain, with high orchard grass all around. The nest, chiefly of dried grass, was slightly arched and contained five eggs, white, spotted and speckled, mainly at the larger end. The bird was incubating. She did not flush until approached within a foot of the nest. Her coloring blended so perfectly with the dry grass of her nest that she was barely visible. On May 25, the nest was empty, and neither of the birds was seen.

The following spring (1949) a fairly large percentage of land in this same area was used for pasturing cattle, and it was in one of these fields that nest number 2 was found. The nest, of dried grasses and weed stalks, was built at the base of a clump of clover and was

approximately 5 feet from the fence which bordered the meadow. Five eggs were in the nest when we found it on May 26, 1949, and on June 9 there were 5 fairly well developed young birds. Five days later, June 13, the nest was empty but contained fecal sacs.

Nest number 3 was entirely different from the preceding two. It was sunk in a roadside bank, flush with it, and well hidden by overhanging vegetation. We found it on June 8, 1950; it held 5 newly hatched young birds. On June 11 the nest was empty. This site was on the Springdale Road proper and directly opposite the Dulaney property. There is considerable traffic on this highway, but the birds did not seem to be disturbed as the cars passed within a few feet of the nest.

It seems interesting to note that all three nests were near fences and faced the east; two were semi-arched. Nest number 2 was 2.5 inches in inside diameter; outside depth, 2 inches; inside depth, 1.2 inches.

In 1954 Stamm found adult birds carrying food to young but made no attempt to locate nests. Grasshopper Sparrows were observed again in the spring of 1955 in the same area.

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1811. AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY. III:76.



### SOME NESTING WARBLERS FROM ROWAN COUNTY

Barbour (*Ky. Warbler*, 27 (3): 31-39, 1951) listed 15 species of warblers occurring in Rowan County in summer, but recorded nests or young of only eight of them. During the period of June 5-10, 1955, I accumulated additional data on the nesting of three species previously known to nest and on two not previously known to nest. An annotated list of these five species follows. The first two species listed are those not previously known to nest.



Dr. Donald E. Howard pointing out the location of a nest of the Worm-Eating Warbler near Rodburn, Rowan County, Kentucky.

Worm-eating Warbler: On June 3, Dr. Donald E. Howard found a nest of this species containing 5 eggs. The nest was located under

an overhang on the steeply-sloping side of a small stream in dense woodlands. He showed me the nest on June 9. At this time it contained five young birds. An adult was brooding the young when the nest was first shown me, and she (?) allowed me to approach within three feet before leaving the nest. (See outside cover). Her behavior after leaving the nest was rather interesting. Rather than the common "broken wing" behavior, she scurried about over the leaf mold, literally at our very feet, with wings drooping, and quivering them very rapidly all the while.

Blue-winged Warbler: On June 5, I saw an adult of this species carrying food on the outskirts of Morehead, but time did not permit a sufficiently thorough search to find the nest.

Ovenbird: A nest with three eggs was found by Dr. Howard and me near Rodburn on June 9. The nest, under a clump of leaves in dense woodland alongside a path, contained three eggs.

Yellow-breasted Chat: A nest with four young was located in a thicket at Morehead on June 5.

Redstart: A nest of this species was pointed out to me on June 9, by Dr. Howard at Rodburn. The nest, containing one egg, was situated on a horizontal branch of a sweet gum tree, some 30 feet above the ground.—ROGER W. BARBOUR, Department of Zoology, University of Kentucky, Lexington.

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Addition to first note of this issue: Two perfectly-feathered young Doves left the same nest on July 12. (See p. 48.)—Charles L. Taylor, Bowling Green.

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**THE KENTUCKY WARBLER**

Vol. XXXI

NOVEMBER, 1955

No. 4

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**THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

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## NEWS AND VIEWS

### THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL FALL MEETING

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its thirty-second annual fall meeting at Frankfort on October 7-9, 1955. At the first session, on Friday evening, Mrs. F. W. Stamm, the president, welcomed the members and visitors; Mr. Larry Gale, representing the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, explained the work of his department in protecting songbirds, especially the work at Kleber Songbird Sanctuary; Mr. Robert Pierce, also of that department, further developed the theme of the sanctuary; Dr. Harvey Lovell reviewed the study of songbirds and their nesting on forty acres of the sanctuary made by him and Mrs. Stamm in the summers of 1954 and 1955; and Miss Mabel Slack spoke on her experiences in a nature camp at Gothic, Colorado, in the past two summers, showing many colored slides of the picturesque area. After the program a reception was given for the society, in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brecher.

On Saturday morning the society adjourned to the sanctuary and spent the morning in field trips, led by Mrs. Stamm, Dr. Lovell, Mr. Sam Parrent, and Mr. Pierce.

In the afternoon business meeting Miss Helen Browning reported that there had been seventy new members added during the year since our last fall meeting. Mr. Brecher told of the \$800 now in our endowment fund, largely from a small bequest by the late Dr. L. Otley Pindar and the dues from Life Memberships. The officers were re-elected, with two Councillors—W. P. Rhoads, Henderson, and Okey Green, Ashland—to succeed Mrs. J. Kidwell Grannis, Flemingsburg, and Charles Meade, Henderson, whose terms had expired.

The afternoon program consisted of "The Breeding Birds of Clemon's Fork, Breathitt County," by Dr. Roger W. Barbour; and a color film, "The Life History of the Bob-white Quail," furnished by the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

The dinner meeting was presided over by Dr. Gordon Wilson, toastmaster, who introduced visitors, the guests at the speakers table, and some of our members who had come a long way to be at the meeting. Dr. Ernest P. Edwards, of Hanover College, spoke on "Bird Changes Along the Frontier in Mexico," beautifully illustrated with films made by Dr. Edwards himself, who is also one of the Audubon Screen Tour lecturers this year.

On Sunday morning the members who had remained over assembled in front of the Capitol Hotel for their annual pictures. After that they visited the State Game Farm, on U. S. 60, some three miles away.—MRS. VESTINA BAILEY THOMAS, Recording Secretary.

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### RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

1. That we extend our thanks to the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources for their cooperation in making our meeting a success and especially for conducting our field trips to the Kleber Songbird Sanctuary and the State Game Farm.

(Continued on Page 72)

**SOME REMARKS ON THE ECOLOGY OF PREDATION \***

By William M. Clay, Louisville

Ornithologists and other biologists have made surprisingly little effort to discover the meaning of predation. The subject is easily approached with more emotion than objectivity, a fact which leads me to admit that the joy of watching birds can lead one into becoming a bird-worshipper rather than a bird-student.

Once upon a time predation was condemned on moral grounds. Predators were regarded as evil, and man's position as the greatest and most ruthless of all predators was excused by assuming that all things existed for his exclusive use. Although the idea that predation has immoral qualities is now outmoded, it is not entirely abolished, and our language still contains many expressions and fables revealing this ancient contempt. Predation may have no rightful place in human society, but inasmuch as man is the only animal to have evolved an ethical mechanism, however rudimentary, it is not good sense to judge the conduct of other animals by human standards.

One current belief about predation is that it reduces the numbers of more desirable animals. That this idea is not well founded in all cases has been shown by the results of many predator-control programs, by the usual failure of bounty systems on predators to accomplish the desired ends, and by scientific studies on the ecology of predation. In other instances predators do reduce prey species severely and may even threaten them with extermination. The ecological principles of predation are not simple or self-evident.

The notion that predators invariably lessen the abundance of other animals which we may prefer in their stead may result from failure to recognize that in all species save a few, most individuals must die before reaching maturity. This is so because the capacity of a species to reproduce and increase its numbers, if unchecked, will quickly lead to a population larger than its range can support.

A species in which each pair would leave two young to mature and reproduce, and in which the reproductive span lasted ten years, would increase two-fold in one year, 1000-fold in ten years. A species which left ten young per pair per year, if there were no controls and if the adults bred during but a single season, would increase six-fold in one year, ten million-fold in ten years. If the reproductive span lasted ten years, in this time the descendants of a single pair would number more than a hundred million. Despite the absurdity of such excesses, we mourn the death of wild animals!

It is necessary to distinguish between the biological properties of the individual and those of the species. A species is one kind of population, and populations have certain properties not possessed by individuals, such as birth rate, death rate, and density or number of individuals per unit area. (The significance of these properties is discussed in "Principles of Animal Ecology," by Allee and others, 1949).

A point of major importance is the surprising stability of animal populations in comparison with their maximum theoretical variability. Many species do have either cyclic or aperiodic fluctuations in num-

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\* A talk given at a meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society in Louisville, Kentucky, April 15, 1955.

bers, but these fluctuations usually are of the order of two to six-fold and rarely are as great as ten-fold. Such variations are much less than would be permitted by the theoretical maximum rate of increase which, of course, is the "compound-interest" curve.

Approaches to the theoretical maxima do occur sometimes. The starling in America has increased a million-fold from the original six-score (or thereabouts) introduced sixty years ago. From two male and six female pheasants liberated on Protection Island, off the coast of Washington, in 1937 came a population of approximately 2000 in five years. Certain insects may show surprising outbreaks or "plagues" and in two or three years increase their numbers ten thousand-fold.

The human population has a tremendous capacity to increase. That of Japan doubled during the last century, while the white population of the United State has increased 3000-fold during the last three centuries. Even in the ancient history of the Israelites these people increased, according to Moses, from a band of 70 to a multitude of 603,550 fighting men after a stay of 430 years in Egypt. "Thy fathers went down into Egypt with threescore and ten persons; and now the Lord thy God hath made thee as the stars of heaven for multitude" (Deut. X. 22; Numbers I. 45, 46). Lack (1954) points out that even if these figures be questioned, the increase is theoretically possible.

All these examples of rapid rates of increase are exceptions to the general rule of stability in the size of animal populations. The growth form of a population is more like an S-shaped curve. After a species has been greatly reduced in some particular area (as by unusually severe weather), it tends to regain its former numbers. As it does so, the rate of increase is not uniform. First there is a slow increase, then a rapid increase, and finally a decreased rate until the population has levelled off and increases no further. Rarely or never does a population stay at a particular level; oscillations occur with changing conditions. Experiments on protozoa, flour beetles, fruit flies, and other organisms show that the sigmoid curve is a rough but seemingly valid approximation of the growth curve (Allee, et. al., *op. cit.*, p. 301; Andrewartha and Birch, 1954, p. 396).

It was Malthus who first showed the existence of population controls in nature. Malthus's words fell on heedless ears, at a time when the world's human population was rapidly increasing. Several decades later they were restated by Darwin, who formulated the theory of natural selection to account for the automatic regulation of animal numbers in nature. The regulation of domesticated animals is not automatic but is provided by the animal-husbandryman.

While it is obvious that regulation of animal numbers does occur in nature, the mechanism of regulation may be complex and obscure. It is easy to suppose that predators are the main factor, but ecological studies show the existence of several other types of limiting factors, such as food supplies, habitat, competitors, territorialism, and weather, and indicate that only in some instances are predators of extreme importance.

The ultimate limiting factor, if all others be relaxed, is the food supply. Let us consider food chains and "trophic levels."

The most basic trophic level is the **producer** level. This is the role of green plants, to manufacture organic compounds from the

inorganic by the agencies of sunlight and chlorophyll. Here, too, are formed amino acids, the building blocks of proteins and therefore of protoplasm itself.

These substances are essential both to plants and to animals, but animals cannot manufacture them from inorganic resources. They must depend upon plants. Animals which feed upon plants comprise the second trophic level, the herbivore level. Among its diverse members are grasshoppers, quail, cattle, and man.

The third level is that of carnivores, the animals which eat other animals. This is the usual predator level. Some animals are omnivores, as is man, and simultaneously occupy two consumer levels. In some instances there are additional consumer levels. Parasites are always one step higher on the food chain than their host. While many food chains on land are short, as grass-beef-man, they may be longer, as plant-bug-spider-wren-hawk. Long food chains are commonplace in ponds and streams, where many of the producers and first-level consumers are microscopic and each creature in turn is eaten by a larger organism.

Finally there are the decomposers, the bacteria and fungi which break down the organic compounds of plants and animals and return them to the inorganic state. Decomposers are important in the cyclic re-use of such elements as nitrogen, carbon, and oxygen, but they need not be considered further in the light of our present topic.

It is important to note that at each successive level the total quantity of energy is greatly reduced, owing to losses as heat and to other factors. Even plants appear to be inefficient, for in building their own bodies they convert less than one per cent of the radiant energy falling upon them into chemical energy of their body compounds. The conversion rate of plant material into animal flesh varies greatly, but the general order of magnitude is about five per cent. Thus 100 pounds of plant tissue may be converted into approximately five pounds of animal flesh. If passed on to a second consumer level, a predator, the value becomes less than one pound.

It is apparent, then, that the total mass of the producer level is many times that of the herbivore level which it can support, and that the herbivore level must be greater than the predator level. These relationships provide for a type of automatic control. An excessive increase of consumers may so reduce the food supply as to cause a subsequent decline in their own numbers. This is a "feed-back" mechanism which serves to check fluctuations, both of prey and predator.

Natural situations are of such complexity that more than one limiting factor are likely to be in operation simultaneously. Thus the reproductive rate of an expanded population may be limited by the availability of nesting sites or by other factors. Stability in numbers is promoted also by utilizing various food resources. This is true both of herbivores and predators. Note the following reports of varied diets among predators.

Burns (1952) lists 17 species in the food of the Great Horned Owl. The quantity of each item probably varies according to its availability. In the interior of Alaska the Peregrine Falcon has a varied diet, the three main items being gulls (16% of total weight), unidentified passerines (17%), and Alaska Jay (12.5%). Lopinot's (1951) observation

of raccoons eating nestling Great Blue Herons suggests widely varied feeding habits of this predator. The heron is a predator, also.

Occasionally it is difficult to determine which of two combatants is the aggressor. Williams (1951) reports finding a rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta lindheimeri*) coiled about a limp but still uninjured Red-shouldered Hawk. When separated and released, each went its own way.

The intensity of predator action may increase greatly when the prey species becomes excessively abundant. Errington (1937) thinks that quail populations are not appreciably decreased by predators but that they are vulnerable only to the extent that the proper carrying capacity of the range is exceeded. A fall population which can find adequate shelter will survive both weather and predators, whereas any excesses are removed during the critical winter season by predators or other factors. Furthermore, if too many survive the winter, they may exceed the capacity of the breeding territories and be subject to heavy predation when they become restless, quarrelsome, and move into insecure areas. In summer, predation is proportional to saturation of the habitat; if the population is near the saturation point, fewer young reach maturity.

Fichter, Sildman, and Sather (1955) studied the feeding patterns of coyotes in Nebraska with reference to a proposal that the coyote be controlled as part of a pheasant-management program. They concluded that the coyotes relied mainly upon rabbits and small rodents and that pheasants were important food items only in certain areas.

The Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter*) of Europe has been extensively studied and is known to feed upon many small passerines, but Lack (1954) states that the main limiting factor of the passerines seems to be food.

On the other hand, predation (by foxes, horned owls, and hawks) seems to be the main limiting factor in the Ruffed Grouse, and Schuman (1950) estimated that 31.3% of the red salmon spawning population of the Karluk River system on Kodiak Island is destroyed by the Kodiak bear. The sea lamprey after gaining entrance to Lake Huron and Lake Michigan virtually exterminated the lake trout in these waters and now is threatening this important food fish in Lake Superior.

Where the interacting species have had an evolutionary history together, they have evolved adjusting mechanisms such that the prey may get along better with than without the predator. The white-tail deer has a strong tendency for overpopulation, now that wolves and pumas have been removed. Here man must be the substitute predator. Predators are essential in the ecology of the Kaibab deer. From 1907 to 1923 an organized extermination program greatly reduced the number of predators on the Kaibab Plateau, a 700,000-acre area on the north rim of the Grand Canyon. By 1925 the deer population reached 100,000. Extensive overbrowsing followed, with severe and long-lasting damage to the range. Starvation during two winters reduced the herd to about 10,000. It is estimated that the original range was capable of supporting about 30,000 deer, and it is obvious that the predators were keeping the herd at a safe level, well below the carrying capacity of the area.



Trembley (1948) believes that the superior fishing provided by the ponds and lakes in the Pocono Mountain region until a few years ago was due to the abundance of water snakes, mergansers, loons, grebes, herons, otters, mink, foxes, raccoons, and other predators which now have been reduced nearly or quite to the point of extermination. Man is the substitute predator but with different ecological consequences. He takes large fishes while the former predators utilized the young. Now the waters are overcrowded with small, stunted fish. Trembley believes that fishing would be improved by increasing the number of water snakes.

The newer knowledge of predation is accepted in current textbooks on conservation (e. g., Black, 1954). It now is recognized that antivermin campaigns have resulted in disservice to the very sportsmen groups which promoted them. Let the bird-lover note the lesson thus learned and look with tolerant eye upon the blacksnake at the warbler's nest and the hunter who observes bag limits. Moderate predation seldom threatens a healthy species. Animal populations are limited in numbers, and death to the many is grace to the surviving few.

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## FIELD NOTES

### NOTES ON THE NESTING OF THE YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON NEAR CAPERTON SWAMP

On April 16 this year my sons, Lee and Roger, came home from one of their expeditions in the woods announcing that they knew where the herons were nesting. Was I interested? Of course, I was, and we went right where the nest was but discovered the birds gone. Since it was getting dark, I did not wait, for the boys assured me the herons would return, they always did. "In fact," they told me, "they have been nesting here every year since we came to Louisville." (1952). I might add that I had not become serious about birding until last year, and the enthusiasm is just now spreading through the family.

The following day I returned to the nest and identified two Yellow-Crowned Night Herons standing on the limb beside it, plus an immature one on another branch preening. This was the only time I ever saw the immature one.

At this point I called on Catherine Noland for verification and help in observation, for she is more advanced in ornithology than I. Had it not been for her urging and frequent accompaniment, I would not have made so many observations or written these notes.

In all we observed three separate nestings, but only one raised the young. We did not go daily nor even regularly for fear of scaring the birds away, and so our observations leave much to be desired.

In the first nest on April 18 Catherine and I saw one bird sitting on the nest and the mate standing on the limb beside it. Twice more we observed what seemed to be incubation, but on April 28 I found the nest abandoned.

Although trees were now in leaf, Roger discovered two more nests that day. One heron seemed to be incubating, as it did on several subsequent observations. On June 8 this same bird had recently hatched young, but on June 11 the nest was abandoned. What had happened? Had a crow, hawk, or owl, all of which are in those woods, taken the young?

The third nest was the prize, for it was here we were able to observe the complete process, and this one was about a mile from the feeding ground, although only about 300 yards from the nearest house. I can only approximate times, not being able to look into the nest, but incubation was about three weeks, and the time until young left the nest was about three and one-half weeks, beginning April 28 and ending June 14.

What does the nest of a Yellow-Crowned look like? From the ground it looks to be of sticks only, mostly large ones, placed on a horizontal fork near the end of the branch about 40 to 50 feet above the ground and almost directly over a small stream, which dried up later except for heavy rains. The nests were shallow as nests go but deep enough to hide the incubating parent from sight at ground level except for bill and tail. The three nests, although in the same area, were out of sight of each other. One was in a black walnut, one in an English walnut, and one in an elm.

The eggs were a solid color, pale aquamarine, measuring in diameter two inches in length and one and one-half inches in width. Two shells were on the ground directly beneath each of two nests, and by putting together two parts of a shell, I managed to measure one with calipers.

Although the parent heron always observed us, only once was one alarmed enough to fly away, and that was when I stood directly beneath the nest. However, it was back in three minutes incubating. As we would approach, the bird would assume its alarmed pose of standing with neck stretched tall and straight (unless incubating) but would gradually relax until it was all hunched up again.

During incubation we frequently saw one on the nest and the mate standing beside. Catherine Noland records them changing positions as she observed the first nest (which was later abandoned). "On April 20th in the early morning I observed Bird I incubating, a second, Bird II, was two feet away from nest. The incubating bird stood up, preened its feathers for a minute or two, and then settled down, reversing its position, which was horizontal to the limb on which the nest was located.

"During this move a third adult bird (III) flew in and stood on a branch about four feet from the nest, where it remained for a half hour, its presence seemingly ignored by the pair.

"Twelve minutes after Bird I had changed its position, Bird II edged up to it and entered the nest, touched Bird I on the nape, and then crowded it up and out of the nest. Before settling down, Bird II carefully worked the twigs around the inside of the nest with its bill and may also have turned the eggs. Fifteen minutes later Bird I, which had been preening close by, entered the nest directly in front of Bird II. It raised the bird's head with its own and moved under the breast, gently easing its mate up and out of the nest. There was no change during the next 20 minutes of watching."

When the four young hatched in the third nest, the parent continued to sit on the nest for a few days but soon switched to its final position of standing on the edge of the nest. Two of the young were larger than the rest, and one was very small and weak. They were never left alone until about three weeks old.

When the heron were two weeks old, I sat for an hour and watched the feeding process late one afternoon. The young appeared to be clamoring for food with their necks stretched high, bills partly open, and throats vibrating, but no noise was audible where I sat 40 feet away, and the parent sitting with them paid no attention. After 25 minutes the other parent came silently in, landed on the end of the branch, and walked toward the nest. Whenever the two adult birds approached each other, they elevated and spread the yellow crown and plumes until it resembled a fan projecting vertically from the forehead. Then they as quickly relaxed. The parent with the food regurgitated into the bottom of the nest, and the four young picked for themselves. This was repeated twice more and took in all about 15 minutes. I concluded that a large part of this food was crawfish, judging by the remains under the nest on the ground. The feeding over, both parents stood beside the nest about a bird's width apart and seemed to go to sleep. The young settled down, and I stole away.

On windy days when the branch was tossing now high, now low, the parent squatted on the nest and covered the young, although by the time they were three weeks old, it had to spread its wings much like a duck brooding, and then two little heads peeked through. During the rain, however, the young remained uncovered, and the same on a cold day. (This was an exceptionally cold and rainy year.)

Then came the inevitable day when I went to watch and found all the herons gone. I searched through the woods, but they had not stayed nearby, nor did they come back in the evening to roost. Perhaps the parents took them nearer the feeding grounds in Caperton or the Country Club road, but I could not find them. I hope someone will be able to write the end by reporting some immature birds in that area, for at this point I am moving to New York State.

Also since we have observed as many as nine Yellow-Crowned Night Herons feeding at once by the Country Club road, there must be nests in other places, and perhaps a hunt next fall for the telltale twigs high above some stream will reveal them.

—EMILY HALVERSON, Louisville.

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#### NESTING SITE OF LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH AT LAKE CUMBERLAND

On the weekend of May 27-29, 1955, my husband, Yancey, and I were the guests aboard the Cris-Craft Cruiser NANCY HANKS, owned by Nancy and Henry Offutt, Jr., of Louisville, and docked this season on Lake Cumberland. On the afternoon of May 28, as Nancy and I were swimming and floating in one of the small coves that edge one of the many inlets on the south side of Lake Cumberland and not far above Harmon Creek, we observed two small birds flying gaily through the trees above the banks and soon identified them as Louisiana Water-thrushes by the song of the male. They flew back and forth across a narrow limestone rill from which only a trickle of water dripped. The rill itself reached several hundred feet up to the top of a rocky promontory, which is typical of Lake Cumberland. There were many level rocky ledges over which water undoubtedly tumbles, during the rainy season, to the lake below. Most of these ledges were covered with decaying leaves and other organic matter. The sides of the rill were edged with saplings, wildflower plants, and pieces of old limbs which had fallen from nearby deciduous trees.

Nancy suddenly discovered that one of the birds had alighted on one of the ledges of the rill, about 30 feet above the water, and was carefully selecting pieces of wet leaves and carrying them to a spot about five feet above the left edge of the rill. There it disappeared beneath a canopy of wildflower leaves. We both watched it for some time. The male had disappeared in the meantime. We could hear one singing along the bank across the cove, some 200 feet away, but we could not, of course, be sure that it was the male we had seen flying through the woods.

After about an hour the male came back to the nesting area, and the female stopped work and whirled through the trees with him. He sang as they flew. I immediately climbed aboard the NANCY HANKS, dressed, and with the boat hook as an Alpine stock started up the steep embankment. Zigzagging my way and with Nancy's

guidance from the water, I finally reached a spot directly opposite, and not more than six feet away, from what we thought was the nesting area. I did not want to disturb the nest by any rough handling with the boat hook, and I wanted to get away before the bird might return. I thought I had located the exact spot but could not see any real evidence of a nest. I was disappointed, but descended to the boat.

Then Henry made a suggestion that paid off. We would come back to this spot after some fishing and tie up for the night right across the base of the rill. From there Nancy and I could continue to watch and perhaps actually locate and see the nest.

Late in the afternoon we returned, tied up the boat, and again started our observations. There was no more activity at the nesting site, but we did hear and see the birds in the area, and once they flew near the suspected nest as though to see whether everything were undisturbed.

Early the next morning I looked out of my upper berth porthole and saw the two birds flying rapidly to the rocky ledge where we had seen the female before. They both spent a few seconds there; then he left singing his way through the woods, and she started to work. It was soon obvious that she had a definite pattern of work. She would walk, not hop, quickly up and down the ledges, turning over and examining dead, wet, brown leaves. When satisfied, she would take a leaf of her choice in her bill, walk to a mound of dead leaves just below the nesting area, and from there, teetering several times as though to get her balance, take off for a particular spot a little higher up than the area I had searched the day before but on the same west side of the rill. We never saw her fly to the nest from any but the one spot, and she usually teetered exactly three times before the take-off.

The male did not approach the spot for more than an hour, and then he suddenly appeared, and the two were off together in a second. I believe they were gone at least an hour. We saw them across the cove, feeding above the water's edge. At the end of the feeding period he escorted her back to the nest, and the same procedure as before was continued. She seemed very choosy about the leaves she selected. Usually they were very large for such a little bird to carry, but sometimes they were small. Nancy saw her carrying moss at one time and a few sticks, but most of the material seemed to be wet, almost black, leaves.

After breakfast, when we were sure the two had left the nest, I again climbed the embankment, and with the guidance of Nancy, Henry, and Yancey, reached a spot somewhat higher than where I had been the day before—about eight feet above the ridge from which the female always took off from her nest but on the opposite side of the rill. From that vantage point I found the nest, or the beginning of the nest.

It was located under a canopy of dead leaves which rested on some dead twigs stretching between a small redbud sapling and another sapling which appeared to be alive but was leafless. There were about four inches of dead leaves above the nest. All but the side with the opening merged with the surroundings. There were several wild flowers, with the foliage only, growing around the opening. In time they probably would completely conceal the opening, but when I was there, it was entirely visible. It was round and appeared to be

from 2½ to 3½ inches in diameter. I could see directly inside it, as the light at the time was perfect. It was completely globular and very smooth-looking, except for two small rootlets or sticks that were attached to one side. It was as smooth as the inside of an orange skin from which all the pulp and juice had been removed. I believe that we saw the very beginnings of the nest, as there appeared to be no nesting material within the cavity. There was a pathway of leaves leading to the entrance, and we believe that those were the leaves we had seen the female carrying to the area. Perhaps she had also used some of them to add to those covering the top and sides of the nest.

I was particularly interested in finding this nest, as I had searched so diligently during the spring of 1954, when we were at Sleepy Hollow, for the nest of this species. It had eluded me, although the males were singing from the "Bottoms," and before I left in June, I had seen the young. The nest at Lake Cumberland was almost forty feet above the water's edge. I am wondering whether more of these ground warblers nest farther above the water than we suspect.

Unfortunately, I shall never know whether this nest was completed or any young were fledged. I do know that we did not disturb it, as the female was back again several times after I descended and before we left for home about noon.

Also there was a Red-bellied Woodpecker's nest about 100 feet from the rill in an old dead tree by the waterside. Young were being fed. Nancy discovered a Summer Tanager's nest in the crotch of a sapling about 30 feet from the Water-thrush nest. The sapling was almost entirely covered with Virginia Creeper, and there was a canopy of the vine over the nest, which was about 20 feet from the ground. Is it not unusual for a Summer Tanager to nest in a crotch next to the trunk?—KAY ALTSHELTER, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### NEST OF LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH IN BERNHEIM FOREST

On May 22, 1955, the author, with Bob Merkel, Amy Deane, and Mabel Slack, was walking along the road leading to the firetower in Bernheim Forest Reservation in Bullitt County. A pair of Louisiana Water-thrushes (*Seiurus motacilla*) began to fuss at us, and soon we flushed a young bird out of the nest which could fly very little. Bob Merkel caught the bird with ease and then noted the nest in a deep gully along the side of the road. The nest was under the overhanging bank and was rendered conspicuous by a pile of leaves and mud, making a column over a foot high. The nest was perched on top of this column and partly back under the bank. Some extra leaves were hanging from the edge of the nest. I got the impression that some of the nesting materials kept falling down from the too-narrow shelf until the column of material widened the area sufficiently to support the nest. A stalk of Solomon's Seal was in bloom over the nest, and a blackberry briar and some Virginia creeper were hanging down over the area occupied by the nest. The area was shaded by a variety of forest trees.—HARVEY B. LOVELL, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ANOTHER LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH NEST

On June 7, 1942, when Dr. Harvey Lovell and his family were spending a vacation at Dr. L. Y. Lancaster's cabins at the Mouth of Gasper River, Warren County, Dr. Lovell and I found a Louisiana

Water-thrush's nest in a little gorge that lies behind Rockland Baptist Church. The nest was under a mossy bank, within a few inches of the small running stream. We tried to hold the small trees aside so that a good picture of the nest could be made in color, but the place was too dark for a very successful shot. I held two of the very small young in my hand out in the sunlight for the picture that many of our members have seen in some of Dr. Lovell's colored movies. All the time we were trying to photograph the young, the adult birds were teetering along the small stream or flying nervously around us.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

\* \* \* \* \*

### WOOD IBISES AT HICKMAN

On August 3, 1955, while observing a group of waterbirds which were gathered at the lower end of a broad, shallow bayou emptying into the Mississippi River at Hickman, I noticed a flock of nine Wood Ibises (*Mycteria americana*) feeding along the shoreline. By their size, color, and shape of the bill, they were not hard to distinguish from the American Egrets, Great Blue Herons, and immature Little Blue Herons which were feeding with them. The ibises kept pretty much to a group of themselves within the larger gathering. These birds were first sighted at 6:45 P. M. and observed for about twenty minutes. They were not shy, and I was able to advance to a distance from them of about one hundred yards before they flushed. In flight they assumed the characteristic ibis posture, with neck extended, and exhibited the black and white pattern on their wings. They flapped around lazily for several minutes before sailing over to the large rookery on an island opposite the bayou.

On the following evening I returned to the bayou but at first found no birds feeding there. Minutes later, however, a flock of 36 ibises came sailing over the horizon, but they did not land. Instead, they circled the feeding area for about fifteen minutes, finally settling on the trees in the rookery, as they had on the previous evening. They were not all together this time but came over in waves, with approximately nine birds in each group.

On August 6 I returned to the feeding area again, but this time no birds were seen, nor were any more found for the week and a half I was able to search for them after that. The water in the bayou had dropped, and the stream was quite narrow. Apparently this caused them to move on.

The most recent record I was able to find on the Wood Ibis in Kentucky comes from Eugene Cypert, who observed a single bird on July 29 and 31, 1941, at Kentucky Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge (*Kentucky Warbler*, 24:15, January, 1943). A previous record of this bird at Hickman comes from Dr. L. O. Pindar 1887, *Ornithology and Oology* 12:166). Dr. Pindar records a flock of 250 ibises seen on July 15, 1887, at Hickman, and another flock of 50 on August 7 of that same year. The wood ibis has also been observed on the Falls of the Ohio by Burt Monroe (*Auk*, 55:678, 1938). The records given in this last article are for August 12 and 18, 1934.

Apparently, good protection of the nesting grounds is paying off with these birds, and in future years their wanderings into Kentucky might well increase. I also feel that further observations might establish the Wood Ibis as a regular summer visitor to this state.—ROBERT H. STEILBERG, Louisville, Ky.

### MICHIGAN BLUEBIRDS

We vacationed around Saugatuck, Michigan, a land of lakes, dunes, forests, old orchards, and sun-drenched meadows. Blue birds are not common there, but wren boxes and martin boxes are present around nearly every residence. In late July we checked our Bluebird nesting boxes in this area and in twelve boxes found ten Bluebird nests and two of the House Wren. We placed six additional boxes on golf courses, at farmhouses, and at tourist motels. A Bluebird nesting box is like the proverbial grain of mustard seed: after three summers of sowing in Michigan, we are beginning to see results.—W. G. DUNCAN, Louisville, Ky.

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE WOODBURN LAKES—1955 SEASON

Since 1954 went by without so much as a puddle at the two corn-field lakes that I have studied so long, it was a great thrill to have the two lakes up this year from mid-February until late June. The water came up too late to catch the larger migrating hordes of ducks, but I did see the twenty species that I commonly record here. On March 18 I saw sixteen species of ducks in a single afternoon, most of them in one section of the Chaney Lake. On no day did I find more than 1500 to 2000 ducks, far below the numbers of my better years.

The heron group and the shore birds were quite disappointing. Though I recorded all the *Ciconiiformes* except the Least Bittern, there were never any large numbers or spectacular displays as I have had in former seasons. The shore birds just did not appear, in number of species or of individuals. Only fourteen of the twenty-four species that have been recorded on the lakes were here in the spring. No one species, not even the Lesser Yellow-legs, ever went higher than fifty individuals. I was unable to account for this dearth of shore birds, for the water was up well beyond the end of the normal spring migration season, and the Chaney Lake, especially, seemed to have an abundance of plant and water life. In fact, after the last water disappeared, the whole field smelled like a slaughter house from the decaying remains of water life. A large part of the Chaney Lake was not cultivated this year and has grown up in foxtail grass, lady-finger smartweeds, and cocklebur.

All told, I recorded forty-nine species of water birds.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

\* \* \* \* \*

### MISSISSIPPI KITE AT LOUISVILLE

On May 31, 1955, I was in my yard, about 150 yards from Cherokee Park, Louisville, and looked up just in time to get a splendid view of a Mississippi Kite. It was about 4:30 P. M. CDT; the day was clear, with the light in the best direction. The shape and markings were unmistakably those of an adult bird. It was about 500 feet up and flying in a straight line toward the northwest and from the park. Its flight was light and easy, about halfway between sailing and flapping. It was in view only a short time before it was hidden by the surrounding houses and trees and was not seen again.

Two years ago I also saw a bird with similar shape from my home but did not get a clear enough view to be certain. One of my neighbors saw the same bird along about the same time; his description tallied with mine.—FLOYD S. CARPENTER, Louisville.



### WHISTLING SWANS SIGHTED AT DALE HOLLOW LAKE

On the afternoon of September 29, 1929, and immediately after a hard rain, I saw some unusual waterfowl near the Cedar Hill Dock at Dale Hollow Lake. I heard a strange honking note long before the six goose-like birds came into view. They appeared to be much larger than the Canada Goose and the Blue Goose, which I have known for a long time. The wings and neck, especially, seemed longer than those of any goose with which I am familiar. They continued to fly up and down the lake for three quarters of a mile, part of the time in formation, part of the time in scattered order. I believe they were Whistling Swans; if not, I cannot identify them. They appeared to settle down in the water near the dam.—DR. RUSSELL STARR, Glasgow.

\* \* \* \* \*

### OUR NEWEST LIFE MEMBER

Miss Margaret Fowler, now of Washington, D. C., formerly a teacher at Berea College, is our newest Life Member. Since retiring from teaching she has established the Rose and Cardinal Gift Shop in Washington. All of us were glad to see her at our meeting. She feels that her ornithological work while she lived in Kentucky was the best of her many years of studying birds.

\* \* \* \* \*

SAWYER, EDMUND J. BIRD HOUSES, BATHS, AND FEEDING SHELTERS: How to Make and Where to Place Them. Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bulletin No. 1, Fifth Edition, 1955. 50c a copy.

Mr. Sawyer's bulletin, a reworking of his now-classic "Bird Houses," first issued in 1931, is one of the "musts" in the library of any bird student who wants to attract birds around human habitations. It is profusely illustrated with sketches of plans, it has excellent directions about how to attract certain species, and it has a great deal more material on feeding devices and similar ways of attracting birds than the earlier editions had. It would make a very interesting and valuable gift to some younger ornithologist, one who would like to make his hobby seem practical and useful to his associates. It also fits equally well the stable, mature bird student who welcomes any addition to the knowledge of man's place in nature.—G. W.

(Continued from Page 58)

2. That we extend our sympathy to the family of the Reverend J. W. Clotfelter of Paris, Kentucky, who died on September 27. Mr. Clotfelter was for many years an active member of our society and kept up his observations of birds until within a few days of his death.

3. That we send our warmest greeting to Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, of Marion, our oldest member, who is now in poor health. Dr. Frazer has kept up his daily observations of birds since he was a young man, never being too busy between calls or on long country drives to see the birds along the way.—AUDREY WRIGHT, Chairman of Resolutions Committee; DR. CYNTHIA COUNCE and GORDON WILSON, Members.

\* \* \* \* \*

**REPORT OF TREASURER**

Balance on hand, April 15, 1955.....\$370.43

**Receipts:**

Membership dues .....	79.00
One Life Membership .....	50.00
Miscellaneous .....	3.00
Sale of check lists, WARBLERS, Bibliographies .....	4.00
Dividend—Jefferson-Federal .....	11.38
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$517.81</b>

**Disbursements:**

Postage and Envelopes .....	\$ 31.30
Journal .....	1.00
Expense for Spring Meeting .....	7.56
To Selby Smith for Printing May and August WARBLERS .....	236.33
Filing fee to Secretary of State .....	1.00
325 Membership Cards .....	.50
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$277.69</b>

Balance on hand, October 8, 1955.....\$240.69

Note: \$125 of this amount belongs to the Endowment Fund.

—FAN B. TABLER, Treasurer.







# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Vol. XXXII

FEBRUARY, 1956

No. 1



Fig. 1. Photograph of a Section of Clemon's Fork, Looking Upstream, Near The Mouth of Little Millseat

## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

- President.....Anne L. (Mrs. Frederick W.) Stamm, Louisville 5
- Vice-President.....Robert A. Pierce, Frankfort
- Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.....Mrs. William B. Tabler, 6 Glen Hill Road, Louisville 7
- Recording Secretary.....Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Shelbyville

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- W. P. Rhoads, Henderson, 1955-1957
- Okie Green, Ashland, 1955-1957
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- Retiring President.....Dr. Roger W. Barbour, Lexington
- Librarian.....Evelyn J. Schneider, University of Louisville Library
- Curator.....Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Ridge Road, Anchorage
- Editor.....Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green
- Assistant Editors.....Leonard C. Brecher and Roger W. Barbour

Chairmen of Committees:

Helen Browning, Membership; Leonard C. Brecher, Endowment; Rodney Hays, Conservation and Legislation.

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<h2>NEWS AND VIEWS</h2>
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Our good friend and former K. O. S. officer, Dr. Ernest P. Edwards, now of Hanover College, is conducting two bird-watching tours in Mexico: April 30-May 12 and May 21-June 2, 1956. If any of our members are interested in a personally conducted tour of areas that Dr. Edwards knows so well, contact him. We remember Mrs. Edwards as Mabel Thacher, the daughter of our long-time Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. S. Charles ("Ma") Thacher.

\* \* \* \* \*

**NEW CHECK LIST OF KENTUCKY BIRDS**

The Kentucky Ornithological Society has published a new check list of Kentucky Birds. Fourteen additional species have been added to the former list. As before, they have been arranged in A. O. U. order as they occur in Peterson's *Field Guide*. Those who had a part in preparing the revised list were: Harvey B. Lovell, Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Anne L. Stamm, and Fan Tabler. Members wishing to obtain a supply of these 3x5 cards may order from the Secretary, Mrs. Wm. B. Tabler, 6 Glen Hill Road, Louisville 7, Kentucky. They are priced at 15 for 25c, 35 for 50c, 75 for \$1.00, 500 for \$5.50, and 1000 for \$10.00. These cards should be used extensively by our members, for it is a good way of keeping field notes.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Again the Kentucky Ornithological Society is offering awards to the high school student or Junior Academy member submitting the best paper based on original observations of bird study. The papers should be sent to the Secretary, Mrs. Wm. B. Tabler, 6 Glen Hill Road, Louisville 7, Kentucky, by April 1, 1956. Papers will be judged by a

(Continued on Page 23)

**A PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE SUMMER  
BIRDS OF CLEMON'S PARK, BREATHITT COUNTY, KENTUCKY**

by  
**Roger W. Barbour**

From June 12 to July 16, 1955, my wife and I were on the staff of the Robinson Recreation Camp on Clemon's Fork, near Noble, Kentucky (See fig. 2). We were there continuously throughout the period with the exception of five days.

During this time I taught a class in nature study to a total of 48 college students. Mr. Francis Bush, a graduate student in the Zoology Department of the University of Kentucky, served as my assistant. We met with the students three hours a day, six days a week, for five weeks. A part of our studies was devoted to birds, and on many occasions the students pointed out birds to me that might otherwise have been passed unseen. Mr. Bush and I each spent an average of over eight hours a day in field work, making a total of something over 600 hours in the field for the two of us. Most of Mr. Bush's time was devoted to the study of the amphibians and reptiles of the area, but he was of considerable assistance in this particular study. Some of my field time was devoted to vertebrates other than birds, but, even during these other studies, birds were noted and considerable attention devoted to them. Daily records were kept of all but the commonest species.

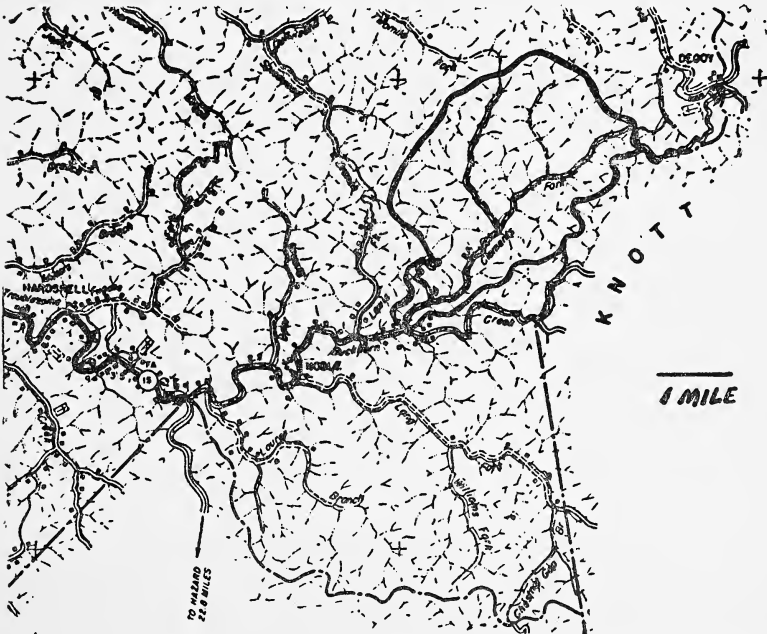


Fig. 2. Map of a section of southeastern Breathitt County, showing the location of Clemon's Fork (misspelled Clement's on map). The area outlined in black is the drainage of the stream.

Robinson Recreation Camp, a University of Kentucky function, consists of a series of well-built, well-equipped log buildings situated near the mouth of Clemon's Fork. It is located within the boundaries of the roughly 15,000 acre Robinson Forest.

This area was thoroughly logged over a number of years ago and then donated to the University. During the few decades of University ownership and management the remaining timber has thrived, and new growth is exceedingly abundant. Now there is considerable mature timber in the forest, and it is being harvested in such a manner as to ensure a continuing yield.

Clemon's Fork, one of the major streams in the forest, flows essentially from northeast to southwest (see fig 1). The entire drainage of the stream, with the exception of a few acres of privately-owned woodland, lies within the Robinson Forest. The stream bed is largely sandstone, but there are a few rather extensive shale beds exposed.

There is a range in elevation of the drainage of some 700 feet, from approximately 800 to 1500 feet.

Other than the residence of a forest employee near the camp, there are no residences in the drainage. A fire tower is located at the summit of a 1500-foot peak near the camp. There is a country road along Clemon's Fork connecting the area with adjacent Knott County, but the road is practically impassable by automobile and is but little travelled.

The drainage of Clemon's Fork is almost completely wooded. There is perhaps a total of 25 acres of grassland (exclusive of the camp site) in the drainage, but these areas are gradually reverting to woodland. There is no cultivated land in the entire drainage. The forest is typical of eastern Kentucky, consisting in most places of a few to several co-dominant species. In a few places there may be found essentially pure stands of a single species. In sheltered areas along the streams one finds occasionally a pure stand of hemlock, and on the lower slopes are a few small areas of essentially pure stands of the tulip tree. A short distance above camp is a small plantation of approximately 20-year-old white pine, with an admixture of a few other species of pine and an occasional larch.

The lower reaches of Clemon's Fork are extensively bordered with shrubs, largely alder. Farther up the stream the woods close in, and alder becomes less abundant, replaced by trees, or at least by tree species.

In most of the few once-cleared fields there is an almost impenetrable tangle of shrub and tree species, well intermixed with numerous herbaceous species.

The lower slopes are essentially covered with a mixture of beech, maple, hemlock, and tulip tree, giving way at higher elevations, or in less sheltered, hence drier areas, to a mixture of species, largely oaks and hickories. In a few spots, usually about the top of the hills, occur sparse stands of pine, in which the yellow pine is largely dominant.

Scattered promiscuously throughout the drainage are several areas, sometimes small, sometimes encompassing as much as 50 or so acres, where for some reason the forest has not adequately repro-



duced itself. These areas support but few scraggly trees, largely oak. They are covered by a dense stand of head-high brush of many species, some shrub, some tree, with numerous herbaceous species in the more open areas. In some such areas, New Jersey tea is an exceedingly abundant shrub.

Essentially, the entire drainage of Clemon's Fork is wooded, with the mixed forest typical of the southern Appalachians. Other than in tree size, the area must be similar to the original forested condition; in any event, the forest of the area is apparently rapidly reverting to its original condition.

There are numerous features of the avian population that are rather striking, although not surprising when one considers the available habitats. The absence of such birds as the English sparrow, starling, grackle, brown thrasher, mockingbird, and robin may well be expected in wooded areas, but it is seldom that we find a wooded area sufficiently extensive to eliminate them. Such a situation exists on Clemon's Fork. The scarcity of the flicker in the area I can understand, but the entire family is poorly represented, not only in species, but particularly in number of individuals.

In the following annotated list, a few species are included for which I have no records on Clemon's Fork. In each case they have been seen nearby, and probably range into the drainage; in any event, such species are clearly indicated.

This list is to be considered preliminary. It is my plan to continue the study for several years. The only excuse for the present report is a simple one; our knowledge of the birds of eastern Kentucky is so sketchy that any accurate report from the area is worthwhile.

#### ANNOTATED LIST OF SPECIES

##### EASTERN GREEN HERON. *Butorides v. virescens*.

On June 14 a single individual was flushed twice from trees along Clemon's Fork, about two miles above the mouth.

##### TURKEY VULTURE. *Cathartes aura*.

Only one turkey vulture was seen during our entire stay. This individual, seen June 15, was soaring high over the camp.

##### SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. *Accipiter striatus velox*.

A single individual was seen, flying after a young crow near camp on July 8.

##### RED-TAILED HAWK. *Buteo jamaicensis*.

At least three red-tailed hawks lived in the immediate vicinity of Clemon's Fork. All three were seen, two soaring together, and the third some half-mile away, on June 14. One or two were rather frequently seen or heard in the valley.

##### RUFFED GROUSE. *Bonasa umbellus*.

A single individual was flushed from the base of a hill on June 12. No others were seen, but tracks were occasionally seen along the roads or paths.

**BOBWHITE QUAIL. *Colinus virginianus*.**

During the week of June 12-18 a pair was often seen or heard about camp. However, after June 18 they were seen no more. A calling male was occasionally heard along Buckhorn Creek near the mouth of Clemon's Fork.

**WILD TURKEY. *Meleagris gallopavo*.**

A few turkeys have been released in the drainage of Clemon's Fork, where they are apparently maintaining themselves and possibly increasing in number. A hen and four half-grown poults were observed in the road on June 16. Tracks were observed at various places throughout the area on numerous occasions.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER. *Actitis macularia*.**

No sandpipers were seen on Clemon's Fork, but a spotted sandpiper was noted on Buckhorn Creek on June 17 about a mile above the mouth of Clemon's Fork.

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. *Coccyzus americanus*.**

This species was frequently heard calling about camp, and one was observed flying across a road on July 17.

**BARRED OWL. *Strix varia*.**

Barred owls were heard regularly about camp throughout our stay. They frequently called during the day, generally between ten and eleven in the morning. A young owl out of the nest was seen and heard near camp on the night of June 15.

**SCREECH OWL. *Otus asio*.**

This species was not noted until the night of July 11, when at least one individual took up residence in the immediate area of camp. It was noted calling every night thereafter for the duration of our stay.

**WHIP-POOR-WILL. *Caprimulgus vociferus*.**

These birds were noted calling abundantly about camp from June 12-18. After this time, the number of calling birds decreased rather gradually until July 10, after which date none were heard calling.

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. *Archilochus colubris*.**

Hummingbirds were frequently seen throughout the Clemon's Fork area, in all habitats, and at all elevations. A nest was found on June 14. It was located on a small beech twig some 20 feet from the ground on the steeply sloping side of a well-wooded hollow.

**CHIMNEY SWIFT. *Chaetura pelagica*.**

Swifts were quite uncommon. My only record in the area is that of a single individual flying high across the valley of Buckhorn, a short distance above the mouth of Clemon's Fork.

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. *Centurus carolinus*.**

My only record is a single individual observed near the fire tower on July 6.

**FLICKER. *Colaptes auratus*.**

It seems unreasonable to state that the flicker is absent from Clemon's Fork. However, my only record from the area is an individual seen at the mouth of Buckhorn, some four miles below the mouth of Clemon's Fork.

**DOWNY WOODPECKER. *Dendrocopus pubescens*.**

A few individuals of this species were present, but nowhere were they at all common. I several times saw a pair about the fire tower, but only rarely saw or heard a downy elsewhere.

**PHOEBE. *Sayornis phoebe*.**

This species was quite common throughout the area. Nearly every extensive rock outcrop supported one or more old nests and a currently nesting pair. One nest, with four eggs, was attached to the side of a rafter in the pavilion at camp. This nest was discovered on June 12; the eggs did not hatch until June 30. Another nest, with five eggs, was found under an overhanging ledge on Buckhorn on June 17.

**ACADIAN FLYCATCHER. *Empidonax vireescens*.**

This was one of the commonest birds of the area. They were calling abundantly until about June 30, after which time the number of calling birds steadily diminished. Only an occasional call was heard by the middle of July.

**WOOD PEWEE. *Contopus virens*.**

Pewees were much less common than the preceding species. They were regularly heard in the pine woods about the fire tower and rarely seen or heard elsewhere.

**PURPLE MARTIN. *Progne subis*.**

No martins nested on Clemon's Fork, despite the presence of an elaborate martin box atop one of the camp buildings. Several occupied boxes were located along Buckhorn Creek, however, and occasionally a foraging bird was seen in the valley of Clemon's Fork.

**CROW. *Corvus brachyrhynchos*.**

There were certainly no more than a half dozen pairs of crows in the whole drainage of Clemon's Fork. Young out of the nest were seen on June 17 and 18 and July 8. A pair of adults was seen carrying food from a picnic area on July 4.

**CAROLINA CHICKADEE. *Parus carolinensis*.**

Chickadees were commonly seen and heard in all habitats throughout the valley of Clemon's Fork.

**TUFTED TITMOUSE. *Parus bicolor*.**

This species was abundant throughout the area.

**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. *Sitta carolinensis*.**

This species was commonly seen and heard, almost always in stands of large timber.

**CAROLINA WREN. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*.**

This species was frequently seen and heard in the area, though largely confined to the valleys. A vacant nest was found under one of the camp buildings.

**CATBIRD. *Dumetella carolinensis*.**

Catbirds were common along Clemon's Fork and its larger tributaries. A nest with three eggs was found on Buckhorn some half mile above the mouth of Clemon's Fork, and an adult was seen carrying food near camp on July 4.

**BROWN THRASHER. *Toxostoma rufum*.**

I am convinced that not one brown thrasher summered on Clemon's Fork. My only record in the general area is an individual seen near Decoy, in Knott County, on June 14.

**WOOD THRUSH. *Hylocichla mustelina*.**

Wood thrushes sang abundantly about camp until about July 1. By the middle of July only an occasional bird was heard, and this almost invariably in the late afternoon or early morning. A nest with one egg and one young was found on July 17. On July 18, a young out of the nest was seen.

**BLUEBIRD. *Sialia sialis*.**

My only record of a bluebird on Clemon's Fork is that of a young of the year that appeared on the camp grounds on July 14.

**ROBIN. *Turdus migratorius*.**

This species was conspicuous by its absence. I have no records on Clemon's Fork, but occasionally one was seen on Buckhorn a few hundred yards above the mouth of Clemon's Fork.

**BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. *Poliotila caerulea*.**

This species was common in dense woods throughout the area.

**WHITE-EYED VIREO. *Vireo griseus*.**

I have but a single record (June 14) of this species on Clemon's Fork. They were fairly frequently seen and heard along the edges of Buckhorn Creek, however.

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO. *Vireo flavifrons*.**

I have three records of this species, all in open woods about the fire tower. On June 14, an adult female was seen feeding a young out of the nest.

**RED-EYED VIREO. *Vireo olivaceus*.**

This was by far the commonest vireo in the area. It was noted singing abundantly until about June 20, when the number of singing birds began to diminish rapidly. They were but rarely heard after July 1. An adult was seen feeding a young out of the nest on June 12. On June 17 a nest with young about ready to fly was found some 40 feet up in a large sycamore at the edge of the creek near the camp.

**BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER. *Mniotilta varia*.**

This species was frequently heard and occasionally seen in dense woods throughout the area. They were particularly common in Boarding House Branch, along the road to the fire tower.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER. *Helminthos vermivorus*.**

A young, recently out of the nest, was seen being fed by two adults on June 15 at an elevation of 1200 feet in open woods near the fire tower. Songs were occasionally heard throughout the area.

**PARULA WARBLER. *Parula americana*.**

The parula was one of the commonest warblers of the area. A female was seen carrying reindeer moss, presumably nesting material, on June 13. No nests were found.

**YELLOW WARBLER. *Dendroica petechia*.**

This bird was abundant along woodland edges in the area. They were seen or heard almost every day during our stay at camp. I am convinced that a pair nested in a large sycamore on the camp grounds, but was never able to find the nest.

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. *Dendroica virens*.**

On June 16 black-throated green warblers were found in small numbers in the pine woods about the fire tower. Frequently thereafter they were observed in the same area, but diligent search failed to reveal a nest. Here, the pine area extended down to an elevation of about 1200 feet, and the warblers were rarely seen below this elevation. However, on July 8 a female was seen carrying food in a plantation of white pine in the valley of Clemon's Fork at an elevation of about 900 feet.

**CERULEAN WARBLER. *Dendroica cerulea*.**

Numerous singing birds were observed throughout the area until about June 20, after which the number of singing birds diminished gradually. In July songs were noted only occasionally, and then early in the morning, late in the afternoon, or immediately after a rain.

**PINE WARBLER. *Dendroica pinus*.**

My record of this species on Clemon's Fork is a singing male at the fire tower on June 15. On June 14 I saw a male in a pine thicket near Decoy, in Knott County.

**PRAIRIE WARBLER. *Dendroica discolor*.**

This species was common in brushy areas throughout the watershed of Clemon's Fork. They were particularly abundant about the fire tower. Young just out of the nest were observed on June 16 in a brushy field near the head of Clemon's Fork.

**OVENBIRD. *Seiurus aurocapillus*.**

Ovenbirds were common in wooded areas throughout the drainage of Clemon's Fork. A nest with four eggs was found June 14 on the ground in a hemlock grove at the edge of a small stream.

**LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH. *Seiurus motacilla*.**

This species was abundant along the larger streams in the area. Young out of the nest were observed at camp on June 12.

**KENTUCKY WARBLER. *Oporornis formosus*.**

The Kentucky warbler was common throughout the area, in essentially all habitats.

**YELLOWTHROAT. *Geothlypis trichas*.**

Almost every swampy or brushy area at the lower elevations on Clemon's Fork had a quota of yellowthroats. A young, barely out of the nest and badly parasitized by a bot-fly larva, was observed along the creek on July 8.

**HOODED WARBLER. *Wilsonia citrina*.**

This species was common inhabitant of brushy areas throughout the drainage of Clemon's Fork. A female was observed carrying food on June 15.

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. *Icteria virens*.**

Chats were common throughout the area, but largely confined to brushy areas and woodland edges.

**REDSTART. *Setophaga ruticilla*.**

Until about June 20 the song of the redstart was one of the commonest songs noted. After this time, the number of singing birds decreased until they were rarely heard after July 1. Redstarts were found in practically all habitats, and at all elevations in the valley. A nest with three eggs was found June 15, some 12 feet from the ground in a large sycamore at the edge of the camp playground (See fig 3).



Fig. 3. A female redstart feeding young near camp.

**ENGLISH SPARROW. *Passer domesticus*.**

Not a single English sparrow was seen in the valley of Clemon's Fork, but they were observed on Buckhorn and at Decoy, in Knott County.

**COWBIRD. *Molothrus ater*.**

No cowbirds were seen on Clemon's Fork, but one individual was seen on Buckhorn about a mile below the mouth of Clemon's.

**SCARLET TANAGER. *Piranga olivacea*.**

The scarlet tanager was but rarely seen or heard. My only records are for June 14, 18, and 20 on a hillside immediately adjacent to camp.

**SUMMER TANAGER. *Piranga rubra*.**

This was a common bird on Clemon's Fork, found throughout the area. On June 13 a male was observed feeding on the fruits of the serviceberry, *Amelanchier*.

**CARDINAL. *Richmondena cardinalis*.**

This species was abundant throughout the area, particularly in brushy areas.

**INDIGO BUNTING.** *Passerina cyanea.*

Almost every brushy area or woodland edge supported from one to several pairs of indigo buntings. They were beyond doubt the most abundant fringillid in the area.

**GOLDFINCH.** *Spinus tristis.*

This species was commonly seen in open areas throughout the drainage of Clemon's Fork. Occasionally one was seen or heard in a well-wooded area, but this was exceptional.

**RED-EYED TOWHEE.** *Pipilo erythrophthalmus.*

Towhees were surprisingly scarce in the valley of Clemon's Fork. A few pairs inhabited the more open areas near the fire tower, and they were occasionally seen or heard elsewhere.

**CHIPPING SPARROW.** *Spizella passerina.*

The best I could determine, there was but a single pair of chipping sparrows on Clemon's Fork. They nested in a large sycamore on the grounds of the camp. They were fairly common in the more open areas along Buckhorn. A young recently out of the nest was seen on June 17 on Buckhorn, a short distance above the mouth of Clemon's Fork.

**FIELD SPARROW.** *Spizella pusilla.*

No field sparrows were observed on Clemon's Fork, but they were seen at Decoy and on Buckhorn below the mouth of Clemon's Fork.

**SONG SPARROW.** *Melospiza melodia.*

A pair of song sparrows resided at the mouth of Clemon's Fork, ranging in part in the valley of Buckhorn. Individuals were not observed anywhere else in the drainage of Clemon's Fork, but they were occasionally seen along the lower reaches of Buckhorn, and one was seen at Decoy on June 14.

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**MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1955-1956**

Our 1955-'56 count is quite good, thanks to some careful work by our members in all parts of the state except the southern end of the mountains. A total of 104 people (not counting duplications because of participation in more than one count) took part this year, finding 133 species. Some unusual species appear on our lists: Greater Scaup Duck, Old-Squaw, Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, Ruffed Grouse, Eastern Turkey, Wilson's Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Saw-whet Owl, Short-eared Owl, Brown Thrasher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Palm Warbler, Common Redpoll, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Oregon Junco, and Lapland Longspur. Several of these have appeared a few times before, but the Common Redpoll, Greater Scaup, Saw-whet Owl, if not one or two more, are new to our census list. The editor wishes to thank again the participants and to request their continued cooperation in this fascinating annual event.

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**KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND VICINITY** (7½ mile radius centering at Laura Lease and extending northward to Kentucky Dam, southward to Rock Castle road and Mulberry Flat Trail, eastward to the Cumberland River, and westward to Kentucky Lake: open water 20%, marsh 5%, fields 60%, woodland 10%, urban 5%).—Dec. 31; 6:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear;

temp. 13 to 40; wind S to SW, 0 to 5 m.p.h., ground and small bodies of still water frozen the early part of the day, thawing before noon. Fourteen observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 37 (27 on foot, 10 by car); total party miles, 200 (20 on foot, 180 by car). We missed some of the ordinary species that we should have got and badly needed two more good bush-beaters who knew land birds. Total, 76 species, 36,196 individuals.—EVELYN BARBIG, HOWARD BARBIG, EUGENE CYPERT (Compiler), MARY LOUISE CYPERT, HUNTER HANCOCK, CHARLES McPHERSON, KENNETH A. MAYNARD, TAYE MAYNARD, TIMOTHY MAYNARD, GERHARD MEGOW, BILLY MITCHELL, GEORGE PEYTON, MACK PRITCHARD, L. D. THOMPSON.

MARION (Woodlands, creek and river banks 50%, open fields and river bottom 50%).—Dec. 25; 6:00 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Clear; temp. 40 to 50. The estimates of the ducks are very conservative; 10,000 to 12,000 would be nearer right. I know that there was the largest flock I have ever seen. They were feeding in the cornfields just before dusk. Total, 51 species, 6676 individuals.—C. L. FRAZER.

MADISONVILLE (W. W. Hancock farm, Clear Creek, Brown and Frostburg Roads; city streets; and four lakes at Madisonville: open fields 20%, deciduous woodlands and thickets 50%, lake shore 30%).—Dec. 26; 7:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Partly cloudy to cloudy; wind NW, 8-12 m.p.h.; temp. 37-38. Total hours, 9; total miles 45 (6 on foot, 39 by car). Total, 42 species, 1780 individuals.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

#### NOTES ON MADISONVILLE MID-WINTER COUNT

Ducks: All waterfowl were recorded on Madisonville's new 400-acre Lake Wood Pewee. In addition to those recorded there was a vast flock too far out for identification.

Brown Thrasher: The Brown Thrasher was seen among crabapple trees at the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge, associating with Towhees and Cardinals.

Other species recorded near the time of the count: Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Red-shouldered Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Bewick's Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and White-crowned Sparrow.

HENDERSON (7½ mile radius centering on Audubon State Park Museum: deciduous woods 28%, sloughs and bottomlands 9%, soybean and corn fields 12%, hills, pastures and fence rows 25%, river and river bank 18%, abandoned fields 8%).—Dec. 26, dawn to dusk. Overcast; temp. 32 to 45; wind NE, 5 to 8 m.p.h.; barometer 30.30 inches and steady; relative humidity 80% to 55%. The season has been very dry; the only water we found was in the lakes and rivers. Total, 75 species, about 71,284 individuals.—WALTER ALVES, KING BENSON, MRS. LORA CLARK, DR. ERNEST P. EDWARDS (Hanover College), JAMES ESCUE, AMELIA KLUTEY, JERRY MCKINNEY, WILLIAM H. RHOADS, W. P. RHOADS (Compiler), VIRGINIA SMITH, R. C. SOAPER, MRS. NAT STANLEY, SR., JAMES STANLEY, HELEN WATSON, MRS. ZANEDA WATSON.



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**NOTES ON HENDERSON MID-WINTER COUNT**

Ducks: The total of individuals is high because of two large concentrations of waterfowl. Marve Bates, of the EVANSVILLE COURIER, Sports Department, told Mrs. Nat Stanley to count ducks by the acre. She said that there were more than ten acres "rafted up" on the Ohio River just in front of her place.

Pine Siskin: The Pine Siskin was found as a very striped brown bird with yellow markings, in a flock of Juncoes.

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OWENSBORO.—Dec. 25; four hours; 16 miles (13 by car, 3 on foot); warm; clear.—JOE FORD. Dec. 26; 33 miles by car, 2 to 3 on foot. Cloudy; strong wind; temp. 33.—A. L. POWELL and KEITH GOUGH. Dec. 31; 25 miles by car, 1 mile on foot; 9:00 A. M. to 12:00 noon. Windy and clear.—A. L. POWELL and JOE FORD. In general, the area was the same one covered last year: Carpenter's Lake, creek bottoms, fields, and woods. Total for the three trips, 47 species, 4909 individuals.

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BOWLING GREEN (Same areas as in previous years)—Dec. 27; 6:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear; ground bare; ponds frozen over; temp. 28 to 40; wind SW, 1-12 m.p.h. Four observers in two parties. About 10 miles on foot, 40 by car. Total, 54 species, 5023 individuals.—L. Y. LANCASTER, CHARLES L. TAYLOR, J. R. WHITMER, and GORDON WILSON (Compiler).

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**NOTES ON BOWLING GREEN MID-WINTER COUNT**

Blackbirds: The total number of individuals exceeded any previous count, 1918-1954. Both the Red-wing and the Purple Grackle were more numerous than on any previous count, with Rusty Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds far above average. Nearly all of these individuals were found in the Chaney Swamp late in the afternoon. Only a single Purple Grackle of these hosts appeared six days later.

Crow: For some reason the Crow population had thinned down greatly within the last two weeks before the count. It cannot be attributed to lack of food, since cornfields still have much waste grain left by the semi-efficient corn pickers.

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MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (First Creek Lake, Houchins Ferry, old CCC Camp 4, Central Area, Silent Grove, Turnhole Bend, Beaver Pond, Joppa Ridge, Union City, Doyle Valley, Chaumont.)—Dec. 17; 6:45 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Partly cloudy; snow in sheltered places; ponds frozen over, river open; temp. 25-40. Four observers in two parties. About 12 miles on foot, 40 by car. More Starlings were recorded than on any previous trip to the park, in any season. They were feeding on the berries of the sumac, in the grown-up old fields near Joppa. Total, 42 species, 1652 individuals.—Park Naturalist RICHARD BURNS, L. Y. LANCASTER, GORDON WILSON (Compiler) and J. WELLINGTON YOUNG.

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GLASGOW (Beaver Creek and its environs, west of Glasgow; Starr, Grinstead, and Winger farms; farming area between Glasgow and Cave City.)—Jan. 1; 8:00 A. M. to 4:45 P. M. Partly cloudy;

temp. 21 to 31. Woodlands and along stream banks 75%, cornfields and pasture lands 25%. We were pleased with the number of species but disappointed with the number of individuals. The starred species were recorded by Dr. Starr on a country call the next day. Total, 48 species, 1371 individuals.—ALICE FURBER, JIM HAYNES, DR. ROBERT MCKINLEY, LILLIAN SIMMONS, DR. RUSSELL STARR (Compiler), and MRS. RUSSELL STARR.

OTTER CREEK PARK, MEADE COUNTY (Same territory as in previous years: deciduous woods 40%, brushy fields 40%, creek and river banks 10%, farmland 10%).—Jan. 1; 8:00 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Clear; temp. 26 to 45; wind 2-5 m.p.h.; ground bare, ponds frozen over. Five observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 14 (12 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles, 35 (15 on foot, 20 by car). Total, 45 species, 987 individuals.—JOSEPH E. CROFT, HARVEY B. LOVELL (Compiler), ERIC MILLS, FREDERICK W. STAMM, ANNE L. STAMM.

LOUISVILLE (1) (Same areas as in previous years).—Dec. 26; 5:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Cloudy in morning, clearing in afternoon; temp. 25 to 42; wind NW, 2-7 m.p.h. Total, 89 species, about 10,300 individuals. Seen during the week: Saw-whet Owl, Palm Warbler, and Fox Sparrow.—MR. AND MRS. YANCEY R. ALTSHELER, LEONARD C. BRECHER, FLOYD CARPENTER, JOSEPH E. CROFT, PAXTON GIBBS, FRANK X. KRULL, ERIC MILLS, HARVEY B. LOVELL, BURT L. MONROE, JR., BURT L. MONROE, SR. (Compiler), MRS. H. V. NOLAND, LOUIS H. PIEPER, MARIE E. PIEPER, WALTER H. SHACKLETON, MR. AND MRS. F. P. SHANNON, MABEL SLACK, MR. AND MRS. FREDERICK W. STAMM, ROBERT STEILBERG, DR. CHARLES STRULL, DR. JAMES WINTER, MARGARET ANN WINTER, AUDREY A. WRIGHT (Beckham Bird Club).

#### NOTES ON LOUISVILLE MID-WINTER COUNT

Shoveller: first count record; 3 drakes.

Greater Scaup: First count record; 3 shot by hunters, 3 others seen.

Old-squaw: 1 watched in harbor at Louisville by Altshelers; remarkable group of 15 on Ohio above Louisville.

Red-breasted Merganser: included 2 drakes.

Wilson's Snipe: 3 found by Stamms.

Common Redpoll: first state record—female collected by Monroe, Jr.; first full report will be in WILSON BULLETIN later.

Oregon Junco: 1 similar to *Junco oregonus montanus* collected several years ago by Monroes; 2 other well-marked birds seen by Stamms; the bird has wintered regularly in recent years in small numbers.

Lapland Longspur: 2 seen and heard by Monroes; associated with Horned Larks.

Saw-whet Owl: seen regularly since October at the home of Frank X. Krull; not seen on count day.

LOUISVILLE (2) (Cave Hill Cemetery, Seneca Park, Ohio River, River Road to Indian Hills, Covered Bridge Road, and to Springdale Road).—Dec. 28; 8:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Fourteen observers, with Mabel Slack and Anne L. Stamm as leaders. Clear early, cloudy later; temp. 30 to 50. Total miles, 33 (30 by car, 3 on foot). Total, 48 species, 2396 individuals.—BUNSEN CLUB of J. M. ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL.

DANVILLE (Most roads in and near Boyle County; farmland, thickets, ponds).—Dec. 26; 6:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Partly cloudy; temp., 31 to 50; very light wind; all ponds and creeks full and open. Six observers in three parties. Total party-hours, 23½ (4 on foot, 19½ by car); total party-miles, 242 (4 on foot, 238 by car). Total, 48 species, 4305 individuals.—FLORENCE DAVIS, JACKSON DAVIS, MARGARET GLORE, SCOTT GLORE, JR. (Compiler), EDNA DRILL HECK, FRANK HECK.

#### NOTES ON DANVILLE MID-WINTER COUNT

Purple Finch: five were found in Danville feeding on an ash tree. These were females, as seen by the color. Five more were found in the county, five or six miles from town, feeding on an ash tree; one of these was a male.

Phoebe: found by a stream in the county. It was feeding in typical Phoebe fashion. A Phoebe was seen by another person in early December, but the exact date is uncertain, as this person was out of town when the count was taken.

Ducks: The large duck count would not have been possible if it had not been for two farmers who have large ponds. They also keep ducks and geese and feed them.

KLEBER SONGBIRD SANCTUARY, OWEN COUNTY (On foot along Elm Branch and Cedar Creek bottoms and adjacent hillsides: cultivated fields 20%, brushy fields 25%, cedar thickets, 5%, pasture 15%, mixed cedar and deciduous trees 15%, deciduous weeds 20%; in car along Ky. 368 from the sanctuary to Elmville).—Dec. 18; 8:45 A. M. to 1:00 P. M., 1:30 to 3:00 P. M. on foot, 3:00 to 3:45 P. M. by car. Dark and cloudy, misty; wet underfoot; wind variable, 0-10 m.p.h.; temp. 31-39. Five observers in two parties. Total hours, 6½, total miles, 14 (8 on foot, 6 by car). Birds unusually hard to find except near cultivated fields. All birds with the exception of Bobwhite, Killdeer, Cedar Waxwing, and Meadowlark were found within the sanctuary. Total, 35 species, 569 individuals.—JOSEPH E. CROFT, HARVEY B. LOVELL, ERIC MILLS, ANNE L. STAMM (Compiler), and FREDERICK W. STAMM.

WILLARD.—Dec. 26; 9:00 A. M. to 3:00 P. M. Snowing a little in the morning; the day ended clear, with the sun shining. About eight miles over creek bottoms, fields, and woodlands. Total, 23 species, 250 individuals.—ERCEL KOZEE.

ASHLAND (from Ashland to Buchanan, west to Naples, north-east to Ashland, covering most of Boyd County).—Dec. 26; 7:00 A. M.

1955-1956  
MID-WINTER  
BIRD COUNT

	Woodlands	Marion	Madisonville	Henderson	Owensboro	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave N. P.	Glasgow	Otter Creek P.	Louisville 1	Louisville 2	Danville	Kleber Sanct.	Willard	Ashland
No. Observers .....	14	1	1	15	3	4	4	6	5	25	14	6	5	1	3
No. Species .....	76	51	42	75	47	54	42	48	45	89	48	48	35	23	41
No. Individuals .....	36196	6676	1780	71284	4909	5023	1652	1371	987	10300	2396	4305	569	250	7324
Horned Grebe .....										5					
Pied-b. Grebe .....	1									3		1			
G. B. Heron .....	1	2		8		*				2					
B-c. N. Heron .....										88	59				
Canada Goose .....	4132	26		1137						231					
Mallard .....	22300	2500	1000	64000	3006	5	70		6	786	30	130			2
Black Duck .....	4300	2500	7	1200	303	5	5			927	75	3			
Gadwall .....	1														
Am. Widgeon .....	129														
Pintail .....	14	2	*	45						19		2			
G-w. Teal .....	26			3						6					
B-w. Teal .....				2											
Shoveller .....										3					
Wood Duck .....	1			17		2	2								
Redhead .....	1				2					20	3				
Ring-n. Duck .....	150		*	6	27					52					
Canvas-back .....	2			3	15					233	65	7			
G. Scaup Duck .....										6					
L. Scaup Duck .....	1	23		8						366	350	1			
Am. Golden-eye .....	3		2	3	3					70	4				
Buffle-head .....				2						9	2				
Old-squaw .....										16	1				
Ruddy Duck .....										12	1	1			
H. Merganser .....	20									32		1			
Am. Merganser .....	6									77					
Red-b. Merganser .....				21						5					
Tur. Vulture .....		3		6	1	1		23		8		14			
B. Vulture .....	3	*		7		1	1	16		14					
Sh.-sh. Hawk .....		2	1			1		1		2					*
Coop. Hawk .....		1		4		3		1	1	7	1	3			
Red-t. Hawk .....	7	3		6	4	2	5	3	2	14		2	2		2
Red-sh. Hawk .....	3	*	*	2	1	1	1		1	3			2		1
Rough-l. Hawk .....			1				1					1			
Bald Eagle .....	13	1		3					1	2	1				
Marsh Hawk .....	1	5		8	4	*		*	1	12		4			
Per. Falcon .....										2					
Osprey .....				1											
Sparrow Hawk .....	4	7	2	23	20	5		3	1	37	2	19	1		15
Ruffed Grouse .....															
Bob-white .....	53	31	15	43	1		1	1	18	11		1	1		25
Turkey .....	1														
Coot .....		13	9							5					
Killdeer .....	5	7		1						16	2	5			
Wil. Snipe .....										3	4				
Her. Gull .....	30	150		127	75					14	20				
R-b. Gull .....	2560				100					168	70				
Bon. Gull .....	2														
M. Dove .....	10	6	60	974	2	166		174	51	58	1	4			12
Sc. Owl .....	1	1		2	1					1					
Hor. Owl .....	1	*		1		1			1	2					
Bar. Owl .....	2	2		2	1	*		1		2					
Saw-whet Owl .....										*					
S-eared Owl .....					10										
B. Kingfisher .....	3	2	*	3	1	2	2	1	2	13	1	4	5		
Y-sh. Flicker .....	35	11	7	21	9	10	10	19	9	64	1	3	9	1	12

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1955-1956	Woodlands	Marion	Madisonville	Henderson	Owensboro	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave N. P.	Glasgow	Otter Creek P.	Louisville 1	Louisville 2	Danville	Kleber Sanct.	Willard	Ashland
	Pil. Woodpecker ..	11	3		4		4	7	2	3	2				1
Red-b. Woodp'ker	20	9	4	15	1	17	7	15	7	39	1	1	4	3	1
Red-h. Woodp'ker	1		6	8	11	3		4		3					1
Yel.-b. Sapsucker	9	*		5		2	3	3	1	1			1		5
Hairy Woodp'ker ..	9	5	1	11	2	3	1	2	1	17	1	4	3	5	6
Downy Woodp'ker	38	14	3	34	5	29	10	18	20	84	3	18	22	8	6
Phoebe .....						*	*	1				1		1	
Horned Lark .....	8	15	8	261	10	33		55	30	165	45				
Blue Jay .....	61	10	17	57	33	24	25	26	15	59	3	4	36	2	25
Crow .....	91	42	7	1855	179	410	22	167	96	588	18	1077	18	6	2000
B-c. Chickadee ..															40
Car. Chickadee ..	72	42	9	34	6	63	29	30	22	244	22	23	34	31	38
Tufted Titmouse ..	58	36	12	29	21	33	8	50	20	175	5	49	36	45	100
W-b. Nuthatch ..	20	2	1	4	1	1	3	1	4	34	5	1		4	2
R-b. Nuthatch ..	2						1			2					
B. Creeper .....	4	*		3		*		1	2	9					1
House Wren .....															4
Winter Wren .....			1	1	4	6	2	1	1	2	2	1		1	*
Bew. Wren .....	1	3	*	5		2		4				1			
Car. Wren .....	45	7	5	9	4	43	7	36	8	60	2	12	17	4	6
Mockingbird .....	28	8	9	14	12	17	7	12	9	79	9	23	7		2
B. Thrasher .....	1		1												
Robin .....	41	11	44	56	3	20	203	97	350	215	10	48	12	28	12
Her. Thrush .....	2		1	1	1	*	15		1						
Bluebird .....	64	19	6	35	20	67	7	28	14	86	5	10	8	7	15
G-c. Kinglet .....	2		*			*	8		7	7	2				
R-c. Kinglet .....										1					
Ced. Waxwing .....		18	19	23		*	4	37	18	18		13	3		100
Log. Shrike .....	2	1	1	2		5		1		5	1	4			
Starling .....	40	300	184	185	605	2064	750	62	2	2950	1600	2053	44		3000
Myrtle Warbler ..	41		2	4		4	16	3	24	1	*		6		2
Palm Warbler .....															
Eng. Sparrow .....	85	200	92	335	106	292	10	93	12	547	11	391	24	6	500
Meadowlark .....	188	27	14	229	125	61		13		55	3	23	1		100
Red-wing .....		24		2		128	51	*		46					400
Rusty B'bird .....						150									100
Pur. Grackle .....	32					460				10					50
Brown-h. Cowbird		400		4		19		*		1					
Cardinal .....	241	32	40	116	42	151	23	47	53	431	25	125	62	32	250
Purple Finch .....	32				3	37	85	5	5	42		10	2		
Common Redpoll ..										1					*
Pine Siskin .....				1						2			4		
Goldfinch .....	50	28	9	27	16	130	8	107	16	109	4	67	20	2	100
E. Towhee .....	39	9	34	6	13	37	7	22	10	34	2	5	13	3	*
Sav. Sparrow .....				3		7	1								
Grass. Sparrow .....				10											
Ves. Sparrow .....				2											12
S-c. Junco .....	603	62	82	105	75	146	160	143	85	334	5	44	90	25	200
Oregon Junco .....										3					
Tree Sparrow .....	1	19	35			35			33	168	10		31		
Chip. Sparrow .....	1			18							1				12
Field Sparrow .....	54		5	13	3	27	4	14	7	28		2	1	25	50
Wh-cr. Sparrow ..	2	14	*	30	5	33		2		28		46	9		
Wh-th. Sparrow ..	161	9	16	2		176	9	75	2	26		21	13		12
Fox Sparrow .....	15			4		3		2		*	1				
Swamp Sparrow ..	125		5	3		17		3	3	19	1		6		
Song Sparrow .....	74		3	5	27	55	3	46	12	141	5	22	22	9	100
Lap. Longspur .....										2					

to 5:00 P. M., EST. Partly cloudy in morning, fair remainder of day; light snow and sleet for first two hours. Temp. 30 to 40; all running water open. The last thirty days have been very cold, with a light snow. Party miles, 120 by car, 15 on foot. Area: 50% deciduous woods, 10% coniferous, 30% open and cultivated fields, 5% brush land along water courses, 5% swamps. Total, 41 species, 7324 individuals. Redpoll, Towhee, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Winter Wren seen in the ten days preceding the count but not on the count itself.—OKIE S. GREEN (Compiler), WALTER W. FORSON, and HENRY J. HUGHES, JR.

#### NOTES ON ASHLAND MID-WINTER COUNT

**Towhee:** There has been a noticeable absence of the Towhee in the Ashland area this winter. None appear on our Christmas count; Green and Forson observed two or three on December 10.

**Meadowlark:** Of interest was the heaviest concentration of Meadowlarks ever seen by any of our three observers. These birds were perched high in trees close to a barn; a conservative estimate is one hundred.

**Cedar Waxwing:** This species is present in great numbers this winter, which is quite unusual.

**Mourning Dove:** Present in greater numbers this season.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** appears to be on the increase.

**Robin:** more common this winter than heretofore.

The large number of hunters in the field on the day of our count often disturbed our birds, especially because of dogs and gun fire.

**Redpoll:** On December 17, about 11:00 A. M., some seven miles north of Carlisle, Nicholas County, on a wooded hill overlooking the Licking River, temperature about 40 and a light snow on the ground, I found a moderately heavy concentration of bird life feeding and flying about. My attention was arrested by the unusual flight pattern of some twenty-five or thirty small birds. Seven of these alighted in a tree some hundred yards away. They were observed through a 6x glass and identified as Redpolls. This added another species to my life list and is the first time that this species has been observed in central or northeastern Kentucky. These birds remained under observation for eight to ten minutes. During the time I moved to within one hundred feet of the tree in which they were perched. They were still in the area on December 18, when three were seen feeding on ivy.—OKIE S. GREEN.

## FIELD NOTES

### EARED GREBE AT LOUISVILLE

While looking for ducks, on Sunday morning, November 27, 1955, in the harbor at Louisville, I noticed a strange bird accompanied by four Pied-billed Grebes. The bird turned out to be the second sight record of the Eared Grebe (*Colymbus nigricollis*) for Kentucky. This was the first time the species had been reported since 1952 (KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXIX (1953), 12. I noticed that it was slightly

smaller than the Pied-billed Grebes. It was in its winter plumage, and the up-turned bill and the spot behind each ear were distinctive. The bird presented a striking contrast to the other grebes. From 11:00 A. M. to noon I watched the birds swim and dive about extremely close to shore, some ten feet. The Eared Grebe often folded its neck and rested its head on its back. About 3:00 P. M. the same day I went back, accompanied by Dr. Harvey Lovell, Joe Croft, and Eric Mills, and again saw the Eared Grebe close to shore. Later I found out that Mr. Burt Monroe had seen the same grebe at 9:00 that morning. He had watched it catch a small fish and swallow it, head first.—HAVEN WILEY, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### NOTES ON THE NESTING OF THE RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

On June 9, 1954, I found a nest of the Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) in Cherokee Park, Louisville. It was placed in a crotch of a large sycamore tree, about two-thirds of the way up, at a height of 45 feet. The nest tree was in an open woodland and 60 feet from a creek. It was clearly visible from a road 110 feet away. When I found the nest, it contained one young bird almost ready to leave. A Red-shoulder was incubating on the same nest on May 8, 1955, and on May 27 Mrs. F. W. Stamm observed two downy young in the nest. The birds were very noisy in the vicinity of the nest, but when disturbed on the nest, they would usually fly away silently.—JOSEPH CROFT, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### LARGE MIGRATION OF BLUE AND SNOW GEESE

On the morning of October 22, 1955, while I was in the old fields in the Silent Grove area of Mammoth Cave National Park, I saw a large flock of Blue and Snow Geese pass not more than 200 feet overhead. The Snow Geese were scattered throughout the flock, an immense V, about one Snow to a dozen Blues. The large V contained about 250 birds and was followed by a small one of some 20. Later the same day, while I was at the camp grounds in the central area of the park, a flock of some 60 Snows and Blues passed over, at about the same height, with only a few Snows in the flock. On the preceding night there had been several flocks over Bowling Green which I had identified as Canada Geese because of the honking, but the equally numerous flocks on the night of October 22 had the sounds of the Blues and Snows. Though I have 26 records for the Blue Goose at Bowling Green or Mammoth Cave, no previous record went beyond 24 individuals, seen on my Christmas Bird Count on January 1, 1955, the only previous record of the species for the park. My only previous record for the Snow Goose was on October 19, 1950—six in a flock of nine Blue Geese at the Chaney Lake. In recent years I have watched for these two species in the Christmas Censuses published in AUDUBON FIELD NOTES and have been astonished to find both in a great many places other than in or near the marsh areas on the Gulf of Mexico. The numerous T. V. A. and other lakes, as well as the game refuges established in the Middle West and South, must be responsible for this increase in the records outside the regular wintering range. Of course, my records for 1955 were only of birds in flight; I do not know where they alighted to feed, but my October, 1950, record was of birds feeding in the cornfields that were still slightly overflowed.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

FROM OUR MICHIGAN MEMBER

THREE RIVERS, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, MICHIGAN.—Jan. 1; 6:50 A. M. to 11:45 A. M., CST. Clear; temp. 26 to 32; wind SE, moderate. Observer alone and on foot, covering 9½ miles. Some of city, woods, fields, some of rivers. Ponds and some of rivers frozen over. No snow except piles that had been swept off walks and drive-ways. Common Mallard, 2; American Golden-eye, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Domestic Pigeon, 3; Mourning Dove, 24; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Prairie Horned Lark, 1; Blue Jay, 34; Crow, 4; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; Tufted Titmouse, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Starling, 36; English Sparrow, 78; Cardinal, 12; Goldfinch, 54; Slate-colored Junco, 46; Tree Sparrow, 40. Total, 21 species, 354 individuals.—OSCAR McKINLEY BRYENS.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE HERMIT THRUSH'S SONG

I wonder how many of our members have ever heard a Hermit Thrush's song. Recently I had the pleasure and regard it as the most beautiful bird music I have ever heard. For twelve years we have had a Hermit Thrush as a winter visitor. I often heard its call notes but never the actual song until December 4, 1955. It was a warm, rainy morning. About 9:00 o'clock I heard the song and raised my window; the bird flew down from a tree and hopped along the ground. Then it flew into another tree and repeated its song—just a few moments. I have seen it several times since then but have never heard any song. Its notes were far prettier than the Hermit Thrush on the Cornell records.—MRS. RAYMOND H. CORNETT, Harlan.

\* \* \* \* \*

SUMMER Tanager HOST TO COWBIRD

On June 14, 1955, while working on a breeding bird population study at Kleber Songbird Sanctuary (Owen County) with Havey B. Lovell and Robert A. Pierce, I found a nest of the Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*); it contained two Cowbird eggs and one host egg. The bird was incubating at the time. The nest, unusually low for this species, was approximately seven and one half feet from the ground and placed near the extremity of a horizontal limb of an elm tree. The tree was near a path and in open woods with cedar and deciduous trees. The area was again visited on June 25; all three eggs had hatched and the three young birds appeared to be several days old. On July 3 the nest was empty. It was interesting to note that Friedman (1929, *The Cowbirds*) refers to the Summer Tanager as "An uncommon host" to the Cowbird. He says, "I have found five records from Illinois, Kentucky, Virginia, and Texas." In referring to Beckham (1883, *Jour. Cincinnati Soc. of Nat. Hist.*) and his study of the bird in Nelson County, I find that he quotes him as saying "The nests occasionally contain eggs of the Cowbird." A nest of this species with two Cowbird eggs (which had been removed) and three host eggs which later "had been robbed" was also reported by Walter and Elizabeth Shackleton at Sleepy Hollow (*Ky War.*, XXVI (1950), 47.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.



### SOME NOTES FROM LOUISVILLE

On September 22, 1955, while Miss Mabel Slack and I were watching for birds in the "chute" between Indian Bank and Six-mile Island, on the Ohio River above Louisville, we saw a flock of some twenty-five geese fly downstream. Though it was 6:30 P. M., there was enough light for us to see the light-and-dark patterns of the birds as they flew 500 to 600 feet overhead. We identified them as Blue Geese but could not hear their notes because of the noise of our motor. On November 20, 1955, at 11:00 A. M., I saw a flock of about 100 Snow and Blue Geese over Cave Hill Cemetery. The light was good, and all the markings were plainly visible. Fortunately, I could also hear well their distinctive notes.

On a few occasions in the late summer and early fall of 1955 I saw from 20 to 50 vultures circling the Indian Hills area, some fifteen miles above Louisville. About one-fourth were Black, the other Turkey Vultures, with an occasional *Buteo* among them.

On January 1, 1956, there were about 1000 ducks on the Ohio River, near the Trimble County bank, opposite Hanover, Indiana. Most of them were Mallards and Black Ducks, with a few Scaups, Canvas-backs, and Golden-eyes. There was very little current in the river; the ducks rested close to the bank, close enough to be shot at by some hunters, but they kept in the same general neighborhood. Though the light was good and binoculars were in constant use, these ducks and a few Scaups about three miles below them were the only ones we saw in some ten miles of water. It may be of interest to note that the flock was over a submerged sandbar shown in the Ohio River plot book and called Cooper's Bar.

Grassy Flats, which is about eighteen miles above Louisville, is a shallow part of the river and a favorite place for ducks. Before the present dam was built, it was covered with only two or three feet of water when the river was low and extended most of the way across the stream. It made a good feeding place for ducks and geese, as it was supposed to have been covered with aquatic plants. Some people claim it was also once a buffalo crossing, but I have nothing definite to prove this claim.—FLOYD S. CARPENTER, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

### CHARLES ALEX VAN ARSDALL, 1925-1954

Charles Alex Van Arsdall was born on September 9, 1925, at Harrodsburg, Kentucky. His father is a physician, as are several of his brothers, and he had planned to return to practice in his home town. He became interested in natural history at an early age. He was an Eagle Scout and assistant scout master while still in high school. He graduated from Harrodsburg High School in 1943 as the valedictorian of his class. He was an active member of the Kentucky Junior Academy of Science, which had a chapter in his school, and through that learned of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. He wrote to me to inquire about the requirements for membership and immediately joined.

After attending Vanderbilt University during the school year 1943-'44, he entered the Navy V-12 program and was assigned to the University of Louisville, where he graduated in 1946, with a very high scholastic average. While in Louisville he became an active member of the Beckham Bird Club and, in spite of his heavy Navy program, attended many of its meetings.

Alex attended Johns Hopkins Medical School from 1946 to 1949 and was graduated with an M. D. in three years under the accelerated program. While there he wrote an essay entitled "A Medical History of the Harrodsburg Springs," which won the William Osler medal in competition with the best medical students of the United States and Canada. This 31-page paper was published in the BULLETIN OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE, July-August, 1949.

After a year's internship at Duke University Hospital, he spent the period from October, 1950, to October, 1952, as a medical officer in the Navy. For a year he was stationed in Korea, where he continued his study of birds and prepared a 3-page paper entitled "Observations on the Birds of the Korean Island of Koji." Upon his return to the states he spent the year 1953 first as assistant resident and then as resident at Duke Hospital. He then became senior assistant resident at Columbia Medical Service, Bellevue Hospital, until his untimely death on July 21, 1954, before he had reached his twenty-ninth birthday.

Alex was a quiet, unassuming person. Although he had plenty of self-confidence, he rarely asserted himself. As a student he worked independently and asked questions only when the point could not be answered from the texts. His grades in my courses were consistently high, and he usually had the highest average in the class, which he made without excessive effort. In June, 1948, he invited me to spend the weekend with him at his cottage on Herrington Lake. We spent two days searching Mercer County for additional data on nesting birds. Alex was always a pleasant companion. He knew his birds well in the field and was careful of his identifications. We were able to add the Yellow Warbler, the Dickcissel, the Lark Sparrow, and the Bachman's Sparrow to his growing list.

Wherever he went, Alex was constantly on the alert for interesting bird records. On July 29, 1947, he wrote: "I spent a week at Herrington Lake at our camp. I found three Louisiana Water-thrushes in a spot where I had never found any before; also a Black and White Warbler for the first time in summer here. This past week was spent on the Kentucky River at Camp Offutt, the summer camp of the Blue Grass Council of the Boy Scouts. I spent a good deal of time instructing the boys in First Aid, Personal Health, and Public Health in addition to time spent in observation." Alex spent the summer of 1948 in the Adirondacks at the New York State Tuberculosis Hospital at Saranac. On July 11 he wrote me: "The territory is new to me here, but Dr. Monroe, the assistant director and a friend of Maurice

Brooks, has taken me out birding a couple of times. The Veery, the Hermit Thrush, the Chestnut-sided Warbler, the Redstart, the Junco, the Purple Finch, the Myrtle Warbler, the Oven-bird, etc., are common here . . . After you visited Harrodsburg in June, I went back to the spot where I found the Bachman's Sparrow and found it at the same place, singing. Also returned late in June and found the Prothonotary Warbler at Kentucky River after watching a couple of hours."

Young Van Arsdall published the following articles on birds:

- 1947. Christmas Bird Count from Harrodsburg. KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXIII, 9-12.
- 1947. Notes on Breeding of Mourning Dove at Harrodsburg. KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXIII, 29-30.
- 1948. Nests of the Cedar Waxwing and House Wren in Central Kentucky. KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXIV, 29-30.
- 1948. Christmas Bird Count from Harrodsburg. KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXIV, 11-13. (Co-author with C. B. Van Arsdall, Sr.)
- 1949. A List of the Breeding Birds of Mercer County, Kentucky. KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXV, 21-29. An annotated list of the 78 species with data on their breeding status.
- 1951. Additional Notes on the Summer Birds of Mercer County. KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXVII, 39.
- 1951. Christmas Bird Count from Harrodsburg. KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXVII, 12-15.

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### NEWS AND VIEWS

(Continued from Page 2)

committee of the K. O. S. The first prize will be a three-year subscription to the "KENTUCKY WARBLER", and a copy of Roger Barton's book, **HOW TO WATCH BIRDS**, has been donated for second prize.

\* \* \* \* \*

### BIRD BOOKS

Help your Society and yourself! If you are interested in current bird books for gifts, or for your own library, won't you order them from the Kentucky Ornithological Society? We can realize a small profit on these sales. Orders should be sent to F. W. Stamm, 2118 Lakeside Drive, Louisville 5, Kentucky.

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### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

This is the time of year (January 1) when business men take stock and also decide what should be done during the year to increase business. Likewise, organizations need to review happenings of the past and project plans for the future. As we look back, not only over

the past year, but since the Society's beginning (1923), we are gratified by the progress which has been made and for the scientific findings which have been recorded in the ornithological literature. It is an inspiration for all of us to keep up this fine work with the hope that each succeeding year we may accomplish even greater objectives.

One of this year's most encouraging aspects is the large number of young people who have joined our society. And to this group we extend a special welcome. We will be hearing from these student members in the near future. We hope, too, that the continued affiliation of the Kentucky Junior Academy of Science with the Kentucky Ornithological Society may be of mutual benefit—and that many of the high school students will try for the awards which we are again offering for the best bird papers.

A state-wide project in which each of us may participate is a breeding bird list for 1956. Let's all start now and resolve to keep extending records; send your earliest and latest nesting dates with data on eggs, young, etc., to Rodney Hays, Department of Zoology, Transylvania College, Lexington, Kentucky. Such a list should prove interesting and valuable, and with your cooperation we shall publish the findings.

This year we will not hold our Spring Meeting in Louisville in connection with the Kentucky Education Association but instead will hold a field study program at Chaney and McElroy Lakes, Bowling Green, on April 14-15. Since this is a new venture, we hope that all who can will come and participate in this migration study. Details will be mailed later, but mark your calendar.

Let us keep in mind that our publication, THE KENTUCKY WARBLER, is our main lifeline and the tie that binds all sections of the state. The Editor, Dr. Gordon Wilson, gives unstintingly of his time to make it a fine journal. He is always glad to receive brief notes of general field interest and appreciates the excellent photographs which he has received which would lend much to making the journal attractive and would add scientific significance to the manuscripts which he has, but limited funds, increased printing costs, etc., prevent us from publishing them. In these days of inflation all scientific organizations are confronted with the same problem of securing funds to meet necessary expenses. It is necessary for us to face these facts, and in order to remedy the situation we invite you to have a part. Some may feel that they can raise their class of membership to that of contributing, by paying the \$5.00 contributing membership fee; some may wish to become life members by paying the \$50.00 life membership fee. Your Executive Board voted at its last meeting that these memberships may be payable in four installments if desired. Others may wish to contribute outright gifts, and remember that such gifts are tax-deductible.

Let's all work together to make the Kentucky Ornithological Society one of the greatest state bird organizations in the country. This can be accomplished by enthusiastic participation on the part of each member's bringing our organization to the attention of the nature-minded people in his community.

If your president or officers may be of help to you in any way, local or state wide, won't you call upon us? As this is the beginning of a new year, may I wish for each of you an interesting and productive year.—ANNE L. STAMM.



# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Vol. XXXII

MAY, 1956

No. 2

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## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Rodney Hays, Lexington, 1954-1956

Amelia Klutey, Henderson, 1956

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### Chairmen of Committees:

Helen Browning, Membership; Leonard C. Brecher, Endowment; Rodney Hays, Conservation and Legislation.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### A CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE FALL PROGRAM

Our 1956 K. O. S. Fall Meeting will be held at Kentucky Dam Village on October 12-14. Any member who is working on a special project which has not yet been published or has colored slides or movies of birds is invited to apply for a place on the program. A committee will assist in selecting the papers, the selection being based on their contribution to ornithology and their timely interest. If you wish to appear on the program, will you please notify the secretary, Mrs. William B. Tabler, 6 Glen Hill Road, Louisville, not later than June 15. Movies or slides should not exceed 25 minutes; papers should not exceed 15 minutes. The committee hopes there will be considerable response to this call and that our members will contribute materially to our fall program.

\* \* \* \* \*

### DR. LOVELL TEACHES ORNITHOLOGY

Dr. Harvey B. Lovell is teaching a course in Ornithology at the University of Louisville. He has a fair-sized class, and much interest is being aroused in the field trips.

\* \* \* \* \*

### NEW CHAPTER ORGANIZED

A new chapter of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was organized at Frankfort on February 24, 1956. Seventeen persons attended the organizational meeting. Mr. James Durrel of the Fish and Wildlife Resources showed a color film on waterfowl, and Mrs. Frederick Stamm, our president, described the work of the society and assisted in the organization. Officers were elected and plans made for the March and April meetings. Mrs. W. P. Ringo, who was instrumental in recruiting interested persons, was elected president; Miss Elizabeth Satterly, secretary; Mrs. George H. Hailey, vice-president, and Mr. Howard P. Jones, chairman of field trips.

Congratulations to our new chapter! May the group have a busy and productive year!

\* \* \* \* \*

### ANOTHER ROLLIN PAINTING

Another beautiful bird painting has been added to the K. O. S. collection. Each December for twelve consecutive years Howard Rollin, of Weldona, Colorado, has presented to the K. O. S. as a Christmas greeting one of his paintings of American birds. The collection now contains the following: Cardinal, Kentucky Warbler, American Redstart, Bobolink, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Pinon Jay, Arizona Pyrrhuloxia, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Bluebird, Downy Woodpecker. Both male and female are shown in all except the three species in which there are no marked differences: Cuckoo, Sapsucker, Pinon Jay. All the paintings have been framed and are loaned to members for a limited period. The exquisite detail in Mr. Rollin's work, the fine coloring and shading, and the portrayal of characteristic perch and habitat lend reality and charm to his paintings. Any one wishing to own an original should write to Mr. Rollin, Route 1, Weldona, Colorado.—EVELYN J. SCHNEIDER, Louisville.

(Continued on Page 39)

## NOTES ON THE ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER

by

Anne L. Stamm, Louisville

The Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*) is a rare transient in Kentucky and one of the warblers of which we have few records. It may have been overlooked to some extent because its appearance is so nondescript. I think it is probably never numerous in Kentucky, because bird students have been on the alert for it but have seen very few. In the past three and one-half years (1952-1955) I have made a special effort to band fall warblers, but of the 150 captured only two were Orange-crowns.

On October 12, 1952, I trapped the first of these. It was with Nashville (*Vermivora ruficapilla*), Tennessee (*Vermivora peregrina*), and Myrtle (*Dendroica coronata*) warblers. In the hand it was easily identified. The concealed crown patch, although small, was present, and there was a suggestion of dusky streaking on the breast. Because of its rarity, it was given to Burt L. Monroe, Sr., for his collection maintained at the University of Louisville, being probably the second preserved specimen for the state. Robert M. Mengel told me that he had seen an unsexed immature bird taken in Rowan County, October 8, 1937 (see *Kentucky Warbler*, 1952:27). He has also confirmed the identity of the present specimen, which is an immature male.

My second Orange-crowned Warbler was trapped late in the afternoon of October 22, 1955. The bird was taken indoors to band. Since it had no streaking on the breast, I made careful notes before releasing it. The upper parts were greenish gray, brightest on the rump. The chin and sides of the neck were grayish, with a faint, whitish gray line over the eye and an indefinite, whitish eye ring. The "veiled" crown patch was rusty orange, concealed by greenish gray feather tips, and there was a faint dark spot in front of the eye. The breast and abdomen were greenish yellow, washed with gray; no hint of streaking was apparent. The under tail-coverts were yellow but not of the same intensity as in the Nashville Warbler. The tail feathers were brown, with a green tinge on the outer webs; legs dark, with a slight yellowish tinge on the hind parts of the tarsi; bottoms of the feet yellow. The upper mandible was a sort of gunmetal shade, while the lower was lighter, especially at the base. In all probability the bird was an immature male, as according to Dwight (1900. "The sequence of plumages and moults of the Passerine birds of New York." *Annals N. Y. Acad. Sci.*, 13, no. 1:73-360, p. 249) young females usually lack the crown patch altogether. Dwight also remarks that the ventral streaking of immatures is "very indistinct."

From comparison of the two Orange-crowns mentioned with 44 Tennessee and 14 Nashville warblers banded recently, I conclude that the Tennessee and Orange-crowned are more like each other than either is like the Nashville. Excellent descriptions of the immature plumages are given by Roberts (1936. "The birds of Minnesota." Vol. 2, pp. 669-670, 684), who states (p. 684): "The young of the Tennessee, Orange-crowned, and Nashville Warblers are easily confused. The under tail-coverts are white in the Tennessee, yellow in the other two; the Nashville is always more yellow below, at least on the breast, while the others are dull yellow, with obscure streaks in the Orange-crowned." The bird I banded had not the slightest suggestion of breast streakings, but all the other markings identified it as an

Orange-crowned. Robert M. Mengel assures me (in letter) that the species is highly variable in this respect and that some specimens examined by him are virtually devoid of streakings.

A tabulation of the differences noted among the three obscurely plumaged *Vermivoras* studied may be of use to banders or to anyone finding a dead specimen in the fall. It is doubtful if identification of the Orange-crowned should be attempted in the field at this season, except, perhaps, under the most ideal of conditions.

1. The yellow underparts of the Nashville are deeper in color, almost a reddish hue (gamboge). The underparts of the Orange-crowned are more greenish yellow, somewhat akin to sulphur yellow. These parts in the Tennessee are clearer in color (less dusky), never streaked.

2. The crown patch is reddish, or chestnut brown in the Nashville, tawny-orange in the Orange-crowned. In the latter the red is well hidden and restricted to the bases of the feathers, so that it is doubtful whether it could be seen in the field.

3. The under tail-coverts of the Nashville and the Orange-crowned are yellow, whereas those of the Tennessee are normally white, but in immature Tennessees the white may sometimes show a considerable yellowish tinge. In the last the paler underparts are dependable.

4. There is a more decided contrast between the hood and the yellow breast in the Nashville than in the Orange-crowned.

5. The Nashville has a pronounced white eye ring, this area being grayer and less noticeable in the Orange-crowned.

6. As a general rule, the Tennessee has a more greenish appearance than the other two, and its upper parts are a brighter green.

7. The tail of the Orange-crowned is longer than that of the Tennessee.

8. In the immature Orange-crowned the superciliary stripe is faint and grayish white; it is pronounced and yellow in the immature Tennessee, and there is a faint dusky streak through the eye.

9. Legs and feet slaty gray in the Tennessee, blackish in the Orange-crowned, and usually horn color in the Nashville.

I am indebted to Robert M. Mengel, University of Kansas, for his helpful suggestions and a critical reading of this paper.

December 1, 1955.

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## BIRDS IN AUDUBON STATE PARK

by

W. P. Rhoads and King Benson, Henderson

This title may sound something like "Water in the Pacific Ocean" or "Sand in the Sahara Desert," but nevertheless this is our topic. Audubon State Park is located two and a half miles north of Henderson, Kentucky, and some eight miles south of Evansville, Indiana, on U. S. Highways 41 and 641 and just south of the Audubon Memorial Highway bridge over the Ohio River. The park area itself consists of 477.7 acres of rolling land and steep hills that make up a larger section of Henderson County known locally as the Wolf Hills. The park is located at the extreme western end of this range of hills that extends nearly due east for slightly more than five miles up the river from this western terminus.



The Ohio River at Evansville maintains a normal pool stage of nine feet from a zero point of 328 feet above sea level, or 337 feet mean elevation. The flood of 1937 reached a gauge reading of 54.5 feet or 382.5 feet elevation. The lowest part of the park area is the Wildlife Lake, with an elevation of 390 feet above sea level, and the highest elevation is 567 feet at Firetower Hill. (The tower was removed several years ago.) This elevation is exceeded only by the Hartung Hill, at the extreme eastern end of the range, with an elevation of 588 feet.

To the north of the park area is a narrow flood plain, with an elevation of from 360 to 375 feet and averaging one mile in width. This territory is in cultivation except for some sloughs, which, of course, remain with their native flora of shrubs and trees, characteristic of lowlands. It is in this floodplain that the Green River empties into the broad Ohio.

To the west of the park area lies the wide river bottoms of the Horseshoe Bend of the Ohio, with Evansville located at the toe of the bend and the Audubon Memorial Bridge at the eastern heel.

The park area represents, for the most part, forests of the more common hardwoods, which have been closely and carelessly cut over as often as enough timber has grown to make the venture profitable. Some 50 to 60 acres had been cleared in the wider valleys and on the less precipitous hillsides and used for cropland, meadows, and pastures. Most of this latter acreage was badly eroded when taken over by the park service. Both of the lakes are included in these areas. Since the establishment of the park these cleared areas not used for lakes, parking lots, cabins, and buildings have been allowed to revert to forest areas unassisted, and it is in these remaining areas that we have been most successful in our searches for members of the sparrow family.

It has been a great source of interest to us to watch the changes that nature has wrought as these areas, which were surrounded on all sides by the edges of the woodlands, have been left solely in her care. First, the weeds and grasses held sway for a year or two, and then the blackberries, sumacs, and honeysuckle reigned unmolested for five or six years. Now the small trees of the more prolific seed producers and disbursters are making their claim for territory and a place in the sun by overshadowing the shrubs and weeds that try to keep up with them in the upward reach for sunlight and space.

In re-examining our old checklists, we find them only for the Christmas Bird Counts, which indicate both species and individuals, and the Spring Counts, which list only the species. These have been combined with counts from other nearby areas and published in both THE KENTUCKY WARBLER and AUDUBON FIELD NOTES, since 1950.

In 1955 the State Park Service of Kentucky published a very complete brochure, NATURE STUDY AT AUDUBON STATE PARK, HENDERSON, KENTUCKY, which was compiled and edited by Mr. Benson, Park Naturalist, and Miss Amelia Klutey, Assistant Curator at the museum, with some help from Mr. Rhoads. It is subtitled "A manual for the visitor who wants to enjoy nature here as did the great naturalist John James Audubon." The section on birds is divided into three parts: "1, Birds which spend the winter here; 2, Migrating birds; 3, Nesting birds." The lists which follow are the combined results of many of us of the Henderson Audubon Society over the period of years since the park was established.

## WINTER RESIDENTS

Grebe, Pied-billed	Crow	Warbler, Myrtle
Heron, Great Blue	Chickadee, Carolina	Sparrow, English
Bob-white	Titmouse, Tufted	Meadowlark
Killdeer	Nuthatch, White-breasted	Cowbird
Woodcock	Nuthatch, Red-breasted	Cardinal
Dove, Mourning	Creepers, Brown	Siskin, Pine
Owl, Screech	Wren, Winter	Towhee, Eastern
Owl, Barred	Wren, Bewick's	Sparrow, Savannah
Kingfisher, Belted	Wren, Carolina	Sparrow, Vesper (rare)
Flicker, Yellow-shafted	Mockingbird	Junco, Slate-colored
Woodpecker, Pileated	Robin	Sparrow, Tree
Woodpecker, Red-bellied	Thrush, Hermit	Sparrow, Field
Woodpecker, Red-headed	Bluebird	Sparrow, White-crowned
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied	Kinglet, Golden-crowned	Sparrow, White-throated
Woodpecker, Hairy	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned	Sparrow, Fox
Woodpecker, Downy	Waxwing, Cedar	Sparrow, Swamp
Lark, Horned	Shrike, Loggerhead	Sparrow, Song
Jay, Blue	Starling	

## MIGRANTS (Spring) Passing Through Audubon Park

Goose, Canada	Swallow, Cliff	Warbler, Bay-breasted
Mallard	Wren, Long-billed Marsh	Warbler, Black-poll
Duck, Black	Wren, Short-billed Marsh	Warbler, Pine
Baldpate	Thrush, Olive-backed	Warbler, Prairie
Pintail	Thrush, Gray-cheeked	Warbler, Palm
Teal, Green-winged	Veery	Water-thrush, Northern
Teal, Blue-winged	Vireo, Blue-headed	Warbler, Connecticut
Shoveller	Vireo, Philadelphia	Warbler, Mourning
Redhead	Warbler, Golden-winged	Warbler, Hooded
Merganser, Red-breasted	Warbler, Blue-winged	Warbler, Wilson's
Snipe, Wilson's	Warbler, Tennessee	Warbler, Canada
Plover, Upland	Warbler, Nashville	Bobolink
Sandpiper, Spotted	Warbler, Parula	Grosbeak, Rose-breasted
Sandpiper, Solitary	Warbler, Magnolia	Sparrow, Henslow's
Yellow-legs, Greater	Warbler, Cape May	Sparrow, Vesper
Yellow-legs, Lesser	Warbler, Black-th. Blue	Sparrow, Lark
Flycatcher, Least	Warbler, Black-th. Green	Sparrow, Pine-woods
Swallow, Tree	Warbler, Blackburnian	Sparrow, Lincoln's
Swallow, Bank	Warbler, Chestnut-sided	

## NESTING SPECIES

Vulture, Turkey	Flycatcher, Alder	Warbler, Worm-eating
Hawk, Sharp-sh.	Pewee, Wood	Warbler, Yellow
Hawk, Cooper's	Swallow, Rough-w.	Warbler, Cerulean
Hawk, Red-tailed	Jay, Blue	Warbler, Yellow-th.
Hawk, Red-should.	Crow	Oven-bird
Hawk, Sparrow	Chickadee, Car.	Water-thrush, La.
Bob-white	Titmouse, Tufted	Warbler, Kentucky
Killdeer	Nuthatch, White-br.	Yellow-throat
Woodcock	Wren, House	Chat, Yellow-br.
Dove, Mourning	Wren, Bewick's	Redstart
Cuckoo, Yellow-billed	Wren, Car.	Sparrow, English
Owl, Screech	Mockingbird	Meadowlark
Owl, Barred	Catbird	Red-wing
Chuck-will's-widow	Thrasher, Brown	Oriole, Orchard
Whip-poor-will	Robin	Oriole, Baltimore
Swift, Chimney	Thrush, Wood	Cowbird
Hummingbird, Ruby-th.	Bluebird	Tanager, Scarlet
Kingfisher, Belted	Gnatcatcher, Blue-gr.	Tanager, Summer
Flicker, Yellow-sh.	Waxwing, Cedar	Cardinal
Woodpecker, Pil.	Shrike, Loggerhead	Bunting, Indigo
Woodpecker, Red-bellied	Starling	Dickcissel
Woodpecker, Red-headed	Vireo, White-eyed	Goldfinch
Woodpecker, Hairy	Vireo, Yellow-thr.	Towhee, Eastern
Woodpecker, Downy	Vireo, Red-eyed	Sparrow, Grasshopper
Kingbird, Eastern	Vireo, Warbling	Sparrow, Chipping
Flycatcher, Crested	Warbler, B. and W.	Sparrow, Field
Phoebe	Warbler, Proth.	Sparrow, Song
Flycatcher, Acadian		

Quite a number of incidents and observation have been previously published in the WARBLER, either as field notes or as comments on the counts. We feel that this bibliography is not complete, but nearly so. KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXX, 6, 8-9, 50-51; XXXI, 11, 14-15, 49-50; XXXII, 12-13, and 16-17; XXV, 78; XXVII, 14, 27, and 63; XXVIII, cover picture, 29; XXIX, 8, 29, 45.

## FIELD NOTES

### INDIGO BUNTING IN WINTER AT OWENSBORO

Captain Bob Beaty, assistant chief, Owensboro Fire Department, found a small bird floundering in the snow and water of a Fourth Street gutter on January 21, 1956, and gave it a refuge in a box before a radiator in the Central Fire Station. Mrs. Shultz Riggs, Jr., of Owensboro, took the bird to her home until it was able to fly. She had thought it was a Bluebird until she held it in her hand; she was very much surprised to find it to be an Indigo Bunting. The bird was photographed by the Owensboro Messenger and Inquirer photographer; the picture and the item given above appeared in that newspaper on January 25.—MARGARET SUTTON, Owensboro.

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### COMMON REDPOLL IN KENTUCKY

On December 26, 1955, accompanied by Burt L. Monroe, Sr., I was taking part in the Christmas Bird Count at Harmony Village, about six miles north of Prospect, Oldham County, Kentucky. A female Common Redpoll (*Acanthis linaria*—*A. flammea*) flew into a weedy field at Harmony Village. The bird was alone and was promptly collected. It is now deposited in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology collection and has been identified by Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne as *A. l. linaria*—*A. f. flammea*. This is the first known occurrence of the Redpoll in Kentucky, substantiated by a specimen.—BURT L. MONROE, JR., Anchorage.

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### A LATE DATE FOR THE SCARLET Tanager

On October 15, 1955, some of the members of the Louisville Chapter (Beckham Bird Club) were on a field trip in the Jefferson County Forest area. Here, on the top of Holzclaw Hill, they were rewarded with a sight of a Scarlet Tanager. The bird was in company with a Tennessee Warbler, but such winter species as the Brown Creeper, the Myrtle Warbler, and the Slate-colored Junco were in nearby trees. It seems well to record this as a late date, since records in the Louisville area indicate that the Scarlet Tanager is normally not seen after September.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

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### WATCHING BIRDS ON THE FALLS OF THE OHIO

In the course of building up my list of birds seen and identified, I noticed that very few shorebirds were on that list. I decided that the best way to add shorebirds to it was to make frequent field trips to the Falls of the Ohio during the autumn migration season. The results have been very satisfying, for not only shorebirds, but many other waterbirds, stop to feed in the potholes during their migrations.

In the past two years I have seen about twenty species of shorebirds on the Falls. I start my field trips in late July and continue until late October. During these three months it is interesting to note how the numbers as well as the species change. By late July, considerable numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers have arrived, along with some of the small 'peep' sandpipers. The concentration continues to build up through August and reaches a peak in early September. By October the numbers have dropped greatly, and there are few shorebirds to be seen in the last days of the month, although the plovers stay rather late.

I have seen four species of plovers in the area: Semi-palmated, Black-bellied, and Golden Plovers, and the ever-present Killdeer. The plovers seem more wary than many of the sandpipers and will seldom permit a very close approach.

One of the most interesting birds I have seen on the Falls is the Ruddy Turnstone. I saw it on a field trip of the Beckham Bird Club, when it suddenly flew up immediately in front of us. Its flight pattern was quite striking, with boldly-marked black and white wings.

I have seen many other interesting species: Stilt Sandpiper, Dowitcher, Baird's Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Wilson's Phalarope. Of all the sandpipers I have seen, I consider the rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper my favorite, not so much because of its rarity but rather because of its beautiful plumage. I have seen it only twice, both times during September. The Wilson's Phalarope was a very interesting bird, seen in early September, 1955, on a field trip with the Beckham Bird Club. On one occasion it alighted within twenty yards of us, providing an excellent opportunity to study its markings.

Shorebirds are not the sole reward of observations on the Falls. Particularly noticeable are the herons and egrets. Because of their beautiful white plumage, the American and Snowy Egrets, and the immature Little Blue Heron are especially striking. The American Egrets are very conspicuous until mid-October, whereas the Snowy Egret is merely an occasional visitor.

The terns are another group of waterbirds which frequent the Falls. I have seen the Caspian and Least Terns only once. In late August, 1955, I had an excellent view of four Least Terns in flight and at rest on a sandbar. Their small size and black-tipped yellow bills were quite distinctive. The Black Tern is much commoner than the other terns on the Falls. I have observed them in flocks as large as forty.

These observations are only a few of the more interesting ones I have made on the Falls. Doubtless there are many other birds to be seen there during migration. The government's plans to alter the canal system at Louisville call for the flooding of this area. This will be quite unfortunate from a bird watcher's point of view, but I look forward to making further observations of the birds visiting the Falls in the meantime.—JOSEPH CROFT, Louisville.

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### THIRTY-THIRD SPRING MEETING AT BOWLING GREEN

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its thirty-third Spring Meeting April 13-15 at Lost River Motel, Bowling Green, Kentucky, with sixty-four in attendance. On Friday evening Mrs. F. W. Stamm, the president, held an informal reception in her apartment.

On Saturday morning the members, led by Dr. Gordon Wilson, Dr. L. Y. Lancaster, and Dr. Harvey B. Lovell spent the day near Chaney and McElroy Lakes, observing the numerous waterbirds and shorebirds. At noon, a picnic lunch at McElroy Lake was a welcome intermission.

The Kentucky Museum at Western State College was open as a courtesy to the Society for those who did not wish to spend the afternoon afield.

The dinner meeting, held at Ferrell's Restaurant, was presided over by Mrs. Stamm, who introduced the distinguished guests and the members attending, by localities. During the short business which followed, the minutes as published in the *Kentucky Warbler* were approved; also the Treasurer's report. The Secretary was requested by the president to summarize the principal actions of the Executive Board at its meeting in Frankfort on October 7. At this meeting the Board decided to hold its Spring Meeting outside the Louisville area; that Dr. Lovell investigate the cost of reproducing by an off-set process, out-of-print issues of the *Kentucky Warbler*; that a four-year index of the *Warbler* be published in the November, 1956, issue; that extra copies of the *Kentucky Warbler* be sold at the current subscription price but single issues only be sold at subscription price plus 10%; that the Society buy the plates for the check list; that life memberships of \$50.00 may be paid in four equal annual installments; that the Society apply to the Federal Government for tax exemption as a scientific organization; that the Treasurer be authorized to purchase paid-up shares in a federally-insured Building and Loan Association as funds from life memberships become available; that a high school award of three-year subscription to the *Kentucky Warbler* be given annually to the student who presents the best paper on original bird study. At their meeting (Bowling Green, April 14), the Executive Board accepted with regret the resignation of Robert A. Pierce, as Vice-President, and elected Hunter Hancock, Murray, to fill his unexpired term. Miss Amelia Klutey, Henderson, was elected Councillor to fill the unexpired term as of Mr. Hancock as Councillor. The reappointments of Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Curator; Miss Evelyn Schneider, Librarian; and Dr. Gordon Wilson, Editor of the *Kentucky Warbler*, were approved. Kentucky Dam Village was selected as the place for the fall meeting, October 12-14.

Mrs. Stamm announced the winners for the best papers on bird study: first, Joseph Croft, Louisville; second, Lorna Chandler, Kirksville.

Dr. Wilson then gave an interesting explanation of the geological reasons for the appearance each spring of the "swallow ponds," Chaney and McElroy Lakes, which cover for a few months up to one thousand acres of low-lying farm land. Dr. L. Y. Lancaster, Professor of Biology, Western State College, explained the different bird areas at the mouth of Gasper River, in preparation for the field trip for the next day. In conclusion, Dr. Harvey Lovell showed a color film, "Sunrise Serenade," furnished by the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

On Sunday, Dr. and Mrs. Lancaster welcomed us to their summer home, built near Sally's Rock at the mouth of the Gasper River, where an all-day field trip, led by Dr. Wilson, concluded the Spring Meeting; 122 species of birds were recorded for the two days afield, the highest record so early in the season for the Bowling Green area.

The Society is deeply appreciative of the hospitality extended by Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilson and Dr. and Mrs. L. Y. Lancaster; and of the ceaseless work of Mrs. F. W. Stamm in making this well-planned informal meeting one to be long remembered.

The members and guests attending are as follows: ANCHORAGE: Mr. and Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Mrs. John Ellington, S. Roger Ellington, Charlotte Ellington; BOWLING GREEN: Marjorie Clagett, Mrs. Virginia E. Garrett, Mr. and Mrs. L. Y. Lancaster, Gordon Wilson; BROOKS: Amy Deane; CINCINNATI, OHIO: Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bunnell; GALLATIN, TENNESSEE: Mr. and Mrs. Scott, son, and daughter; GLASGOW: Dr. Robert McKinley, Dr. and Mrs. Russell Starr, Lillian Simmons, Alice Furber, Jimmie Haynes; HENDERSON: Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Rhoads, William H. Rhoads, Amelia Klutey, Mrs. Nat Stanley, Virginia Smith; HOPKINSVILLE: Ollie Mae Williams; HORSE CAVE: Sam D. Steward; LEXINGTON: Roger W. Barbour; LOUISVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Helen Browning, Floyd S. Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey B. Lovell, Eric Mills, Louis H. Pieper, Marie Pieper, Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Shannon, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Evelyn J. Schneider, Mabel Slack, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Tabler, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Wetherell, Haven Wiley, Roderick Summers; MURRAY: Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Hancock; NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: Albert F. Ganier, Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey, Jennie Riggs, John Ogden, Dan Schreiber, Keith White, Ruth Castles; SHELBYVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas.— VESTINA BAILEY THOMAS, Recording Secretary.

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**K. O. S. IN THE NEWS**

In his column, "The Sportsman," in the Sunday COURIER-JOURNAL for April 29, 1956, Burt L. Monroe had a long article on our lakes and our recent field day there: "Disappearing Lakes, with Birds and Fish, Attracting Scientists." The article reviews some of the fascinating history of the lakes and the water birds that have been recorded there through the years. It mentions, especially, the highlight of our field trip, the finding of the flock of Blue and Snow Geese, which so many of our group had hoped to see.

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**KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Treasurer's Report April 14, 1956**

Balance on hand October 8, 1955 .....	\$ 240.12
Receipts:	
Registrations and Dinners at Fall Meeting.....	231.75
Membership Dues to Date .....	395.00
Dividend—Jefferson-Federal .....	11.38
Profit on Sale of Books and Stationery .....	26.63
Sale of Check Lists .....	30.00
Contributions .....	5.00
Paid Toward Life Memberships .....	75.00
Sale of Warblers .....	.25
 Total Receipts .....	 \$1,015.63

## Disbursements:

Paid Out at Fall Meeting (Dinners, Speaker, Other Expenses).....	\$ 205.38
Bank Tax .....	.24
Printing Check Lists .....	62.50
Miscellaneous .....	2.00
Printing Warblers (November and February).....	284.84
Stamps and Envelopes .....	31.49
Jefferson-Federal Savings Account .....	150.00
Dues to Kentucky Conservation Council .....	2.00
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Total Disbursements .....	\$ 738.45
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Balance .....	\$ 277.18

In our Endowment Fund we have seven \$100.00 shares of Jefferson-Federal Building and Loan Association.

—FAN B. TABLER, Treasurer

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**ORNITHOLOGICAL JOURNALS  
IN THE  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE LIBRARY**

Title, Date Established, Publisher	Volumes in Library
ATLANTIC NATURALIST, March, 1950..... Audubon Society of the District of Columbia (Supersedes <b>The Wood Thrush</b> )	Complete file
AUDUBON FIELD NOTES, 1947 .....	Complete file
National Audubon Society	
AUDUBON MAGAZINE, 1941 .....	Complete file
National Audubon Society (Supersedes <b>Bird Lore</b> )	
THE AUK, 1884.....	Vol. 1, 1884; 4, 1887; 7, 1890
American Ornithologists Union (Preceded by <b>Nuttall Ornithological Club Bulletin</b> )	
BIRD LORE, 1899-1940.....	Vol. 3, 1901; 5, 1903; 42, 1940
National Audubon Society (Continued as <b>Audubon Magazine</b> )	
CASSINIA, 1890.....	Nos. 27-28, 1927-1950
Delaware Valley Ornithological Club	
THE CHAT, 1937.....	Vol. 11, 1947
Carolina Bird Club	

- THE CONDOR, 1899.....Vol. 4, 1902  
Cooper Ornithological Club
- THE FLICKER, 1929.....Vol. 9, No. 2, April 1937  
Minnesota Ornithologists Union
- FLORIDA NATURALIST, 1927.....Vol. 16, 1942  
Florida Audubon Society
- FLYING FEATHERS, 1950-1954.....Complete file  
Grant Cook Bird Club, Youngstown, Ohio  
(Continued as **The Ohio Cardinal**)
- INDIANA AUDUBON BULLETIN, 1920-1930.....1921, 1924-1930  
Indiana Audubon Society  
(Continued as **Indiana Audubon Society Year Book**)
- INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY YEAR BOOK,  
1931-1949 .....Complete file  
Indiana Audubon Society  
(Continued as **Indiana Audubon Quarterly**)
- INDIANA AUDUBON QUARTERLY, 1950.....Complete file  
Indiana Audubon Society
- IOWA BIRD LIFE, 1931 .....Complete file  
Iowa Ornithological Union
- JACK PINE WARBLER, 1923 .....Vol. 14, 1936  
Michigan Audubon Society
- THE KENTUCKY WARBLER, 1925 .....Complete file  
Kentucky Ornithological Society
- THE KINGBIRD, 1950 .....Complete file  
Federation of New York State Bird Clubs
- MAINE AUDUBON SOCIETY BULLETIN, 1945 .....Complete file  
Maine Audubon Society
- MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY  
BULLETIN, 1917 .....Vol. 24, 1940  
Massachusetts Audubon Society
- THE MIGRANT, 1930 .....Vol. 2, 1931  
Tennessee Ornithological Society
- NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW, 1933 .....Complete file  
Nebraska Ornithological Union
- NEW HAMPSHIRE BIRD NEWS, 1948 .....Vol. 2, July 1949  
Audubon Society of New Hampshire
- NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB BULLETIN,  
1876-1883.....Vol. 5, 1880 Index, Vols. 1-8  
Nuttall Ornithological Club  
(Superseded by **The Auk**)



- THE OHIO CARDINAL, 1955.....Complete file  
Grant Cook Bird Club, Youngstown, Ohio  
(Supersedes **Flying Feathers**)
- THE OOLOGIST, 1884-1941.....Vols. 19-24, 1902-1907
- THE ORIOLE, 1936 .....Complete file  
Georgia Ornithological Society
- THE OWL, 1949.....Vol. 1-4, 1949-Dec. 1952  
Ridgewood, N. J., Audubon Society
- PASSENGER PIGEON, 1939 .....Vol. 2, 1940  
Wisconsin Society for Ornithology
- THE RAVEN, 1930 .....Vol. 20, 1949  
Virginia Society of Ornithology
- THE REDSTART, 1933 .....Vol. 12, 1945  
Brooks Bird Club, West Virginia
- SNOWY EGRET, 1926 .....Vol. 6, 1931  
Humphrey Olsen, Perkinston, Mississippi
- SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES, 1949.....Complete file  
South Dakota Ornithologists Union
- WILSON BULLETIN, 1889 .....Vol. 12, 1900  
Wilson Ornithological Society
- THE WOOD THRUSH, 1946-1950.....Complete file  
Audubon Society of the District of Columbia  
(Continued as **Atlantic Naturalist**)
- ZOO LIFE, 1946 .....Complete file  
Zoological Society of London

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#### URGENT NEED FOR BANDING MOURNING DOVES

The Fish and Wildlife Service is faced with a lack of specific information needed in its management planning to assure adequate protection of the Mourning Dove. The only remedy to this situation will be a great increase in dove banding definitely associated with nesting areas over the entire breeding range. The most effective procedure appears to be to organize the banding of dove nestlings on a large scale. To achieve this much additional help is needed. Although only persons with banding permits may actually place the bands on these birds, all who are interested may be of great assistance in finding nests and reporting the presence of nestlings. Such organizations as sportsmen's groups, garden clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, or school classes may find this an interesting project.

Persons over 18 years of age, who are able to recognize Mourning Doves, and who are interested in obtaining a banding permit of their own and in keeping the necessary records themselves, may apply to the Bird Banding Office, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland. Individuals or organizations interested in helping find nests but not in the responsibility of actually placing the bands and keeping the records according to prescribed form are encouraged to assist licensed banders with this essential "nest scouting."

Doves start nesting early in the spring and continue until late summer or early fall and it is desirable to band examples of all broods throughout this long season. Dove nests are usually found from 6 to 10 feet high in trees or large bushes, but in prairie or open country will frequently be on the ground. They are best found by watching a pair of birds until one goes to the nest.

Nestlings may be banded at any age but in cases of either very small or very well developed nestlings special precautions should be taken. If the foot is still too small to keep the size 3A dove band from slipping off, a piece of elastic adhesive tape wrapped around the leg, band and all, will hold the band in place until the foot has grown sufficiently. The adhesive will eventually come off and not handicap the bird. "Dalzoflex" elastic adhesive tape will be supplied to banders by the Bird Banding Office on request. If the nestlings are nearly ready to leave the nest they may jump out after being replaced. If this happens, or the birds act as though they might, both hands placed over the nestlings, keeping them quiet and in the dark for several minutes will usually prevent premature jumping from nests.

Adult doves banded in June or July, may be considered as representative of the breeding area and will supplement nestling bandings. Additional suggestions on methods of trapping doves at that season are available.

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Laurel, Maryland

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### RECORDS OF THE YELLOW-BELLIED AND OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS

Two of the flycatchers rarely reported in Kentucky are the Yellow-bellied and the Olive-sided. An May 15, 1954, I heard and saw the Yellow-bellied many times at the Old Kentucky Home State Park at Bardstown. The preceding summer, while on a visit at Duluth, Minnesota, I was in daily contact with this species for more than a week and learned its distinctive call note and its rather erratic behavior patterns. It was easy to find it near the parking place of the park at Bardstown, where I followed it around a large part of the time I rested there on my way home from a spring speaking trip.

Exactly a week later, May 22, 1954, again on my way home from a speaking engagement, I stopped very early in the morning at North Fork Creek on Ky. 65 in southern Breckinridge County. From the bridge itself I saw and heard quite often the Olive-sided Flycatcher. Since it was in the tops of the trees along the stream, it was fairly close to me on the bridge; I could watch it easily and observe its markings, its flitting, and its notes. The only other time I ever saw this species definitely was somewhere around 1918, when one flew down a chimney and was caught by a friend of mine as it fluttered in a cooking stove. I held it in my hand and studied it thoroughly before I released it. I have often wondered whether both these species are

not much more numerous than we suspect; they have to go by here to get north of us; why do we not see them more often?—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE BLUE GROSBEAK IN SUMMER IN HOPKINS COUNTY

On June 15, 1955, while hiking along the banks of Clear Creek, at a spot about three miles southwest of Madisonville, I came upon an adult Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*). As the bird sang from a high perch in a tulip tree, I noted the light-colored, heavy beak, a light shade in comparison with the blue of the head and body, and studied the leisurely song, which was suggestive of that of the Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*). The bird flew presently to a sycamore, then to another tulip tree, all high perches but in good light. It lingered at the third perch and was studied at my leisure. Finally it flew to a fourth perch, a dead stub jutting out from a maple, and considerably lower than the other perches. At that height I noted the brown wing bars and the dark area at the base of the bill. The bird was noticeably larger than the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). At the time of my departure, after at least fifteen minutes of observation, the bird was still engaged in song. Although the trees and bushes near water, as found here, are said to be typical habitats for this species, and indicated a possibility of breeding activities, I was unable to locate the bird further during subsequent trips to the area.—JAMES WILLIAM HANCOCK, Madisonville.

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### NEWS AND VIEWS

(Continued from Page 26)

#### K. O. S. HIGH SCHOOL AWARD

The Kentucky Ornithological Society Award, to a high school student writing the best paper on birds based on original observations was given to Joseph Croft of Louisville. He is fourteen years old and a freshman at St. Xavier High School. His paper, "Watching Birds on the Falls of the Ohio," appears in this issue. The prize is a three-year subscription to THE KENTUCKY WARBLER.

The second-best paper was written by Lorna Chandler of Kirksville. Her essay, "Migration of Birds," appeared in the JUNIOR SCIENCE BULLETIN (XXI,1). She was given a copy of Roger Burton's HOW TO WATCH BIRDS. The prize was donated by Mrs. Anne L. Stamm. Winners were announced at the meeting of the Junior Academy of Science at Richmond, Kentucky, on April 7, 1956, and also at the meeting of the K. O. S. at Bowling Green on April 14.

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#### LOSS OF A FAITHFUL MEMBER

Mr. Otto K. Dietrich, a member of our society since 1944, died in St. Anthony Hospital, Louisville, December 5, 1955, at the age of seventy-eight. He was interested in all phases of natural history and took an active part in club activities of the Louisville chapter and of the state group, until recent years, when his health prevented attendance at meetings. When the Louisville chapter launched a Blue-bird project, he assisted in erecting many of the nest boxes in Cherokee Park. He had been the treasurer of the Louisville Audubon Screen Tours for many years. His kindness will remain a cherished memory to all who knew him.

### ANOTHER LIFE MEMBER GONE

Major Victor K. Dodge, one of the pioneer bird students of our state, died at Lexington on February 29 at the age of eighty-three. Although a very active man in business and military life, he had been a nature observer for many, many years. He was the leading spirit in the Lexington Audubon Society, he served as president of the K. O. S., and he greatly enjoyed the birds of his extensive Woodford County estate. His military title came from his long connection with the National Guard, in which he was active for many years, especially in rifle training. He was also one of the pioneer automobile manufacturers, producing his first machine in 1909. His leading business connection was with the Lafayette Hotel and the Lafayette-Phoenix Garage. Major Dodge was a gracious gentleman who found in ornithology an appealing hobby in his busy life.

\* \* \* \* \*

### AUDUBON CAMP

Hunt Hill Sanctuary, near Rice Lake and Spooner, Wisconsin, will be the scene again of a great summer camp conducted by the Audubon Society. It was first conducted last year, with great success. There will be five sessions of two weeks each, the first one beginning on June 17. This is the only Audubon Camp in the Middle West and is easily accessible. The cost for each session is only \$95 person. If you are interested, write National Audubon Society, Camp Department, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, New York.

\* \* \* \* \*

### WEST VIRGINIA FORAY

A camp called the Annual Foray, conducted by the Brooks Bird Club of West Virginia, will be held at Camp Caesar, Webster Springs, West Virginia, from June 9 to June 17, with a total cost of only \$34. If you can manage a vacation at that time, write Camp Caesar, in care of the Brooks Bird Club, for reservations.

\* \* \* \* \*

### A NEW LIFE MEMBER

Miss Helen Gill, of Lancaster, Kentucky, is a new Life Member. She writes: "From my earliest childhood I have loved birds and observed them, have kept food and water for them. My observations have been in my own yard. Until the time I joined the K. O. S., I never had the opportunity to go birding on field trips, for I had no one to go with me. My association with all of you who know so much about birds has been a wonderful experience for me."

Welcome to our growing group of Life Members, Miss Gill. We hope that both you and we will have hundreds of opportunities to study birds, close at hand or in extended field trips.

\* \* \* \* \*

### OUR PRESIDENT HONORED

On February 10, 1956, our president, Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm, was honored by the Beckham Bird Club by being given the annual award of the society for constructive contributions to ornithology. The speaker on this occasion was Professor Frederick Loetscher, of Centre College, his topic being "Mexican Birds."

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# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Vol. XXXII

AUGUST, 1956

No. 3

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## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

President.....	Anne L. (Mrs. Frederick W.) Stamm, Louisville 5
Vice-President.....	Hunter Hancock, Murray
Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.....	Mrs. William B. Tabler, 6 Glen Hill Road, Louisville 7
Recording Secretary .....	Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Shelbyville

Councillors:

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Okie Green, Ashland, 1955-1957  
Rodney Hays, Lexington, 1954-1956  
Amelia Klutey, Henderson, 1956

Retiring President.....	Dr. Roger W. Barbour, Lexington
Librarian.....	Evelyn J. Schneider, University of Louisville Library
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Editor.....	Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green
Assistant Editors.....	Leonard C. Brecher and Roger W. Barbour

Chairmen of Committees:

Helen Browning, Membership; Leonard C. Brecher, Endowment; Rodney Hays, Conservation and Legislation.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### OUR FALL MEETING

The annual fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will take place on October 12-14, 1956, at Kentucky Dam Village. Begin now to make your plans to reserve these days for part of your vacation period and enjoy the good program that is being planned, the bird walks along the lakes, the fellowship, and a visit to this already-famous vacation park with its 1000 acres within a stone's throw of Kentucky Lake. Cottage and lodge rooms are being reserved for our group. Announcements with full details of program, reservation information, etc., will be mailed to members well in advance of the meeting. We hope you will plan to be there and participate in this state-wide meeting.—ANNE L. STAMM, President, K. O. S.

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### TOM WALLACE HONORED

Tom Wallace, editor emeritus of the LOUISVILLE TIMES and honorary member of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, has been signally honored by having a chair of conservation at the University of Louisville named for him. Mr. Wallace has been deeply interested in all phases of conservation and a dynamic force in this movement throughout Kentucky and in the nation as a whole. He has gained national recognition for his efforts in promoting conservation. He attended the organizational meeting of the Louisville chapter of the K. O. S. (Beckham Bird Club) on January 11, 1935. He was named an honorary member of the K. O. S. at the fall meeting at Madisonville, in 1951. Dr. William M. Clay, also a member of our society, and newly elected head of the biology department at the University of Louisville, will serve on the advisory committee to set up the expanded program in conservation and select the holder of the Tom Wallace Chair of Conservation. The society extends the best wishes and congratulations to Mr. Wallace.

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### OUR MEMBERSHIP LIST

For the first time since August, 1953, we are issuing a list of our members. It is an excellent one, the largest the society has ever had. And it is gratifying to see how well our members stay with us. There will be some mistakes, no doubt, in spite of the great care spent on the list by our secretary, Mrs. William B. Tabler. She and the editor will appreciate your reporting any errors, which will be corrected, gladly, in our next issue.

## NOTES ON THE BARN SWALLOW

by

Fan Boswell Tabler

It was May 29, 1955, when we first noticed the Barn Swallows (*hirundo rustica erythrogaster*) flying around our place. The next day they began to circle in and out of a small portico at the front of the house, obviously interested in a nesting site. Occasionally one would come to rest on the light fixture. The third day, May 31, they began to build on the light.

Our house, which had been completed just the fall before, is situated on a rather large lot in a section that until recently was farmland. The original farmhouse, with all of its outbuildings, is only about a quarter of a mile from us, hidden by trees and the fall of the land. At the front of our house is this small entrance porch, measuring only 6 by 14 feet. It is enclosed on three sides by brick walls of the house.

If I watched the Swallows from one of the uncurtained leaded windows on either side of the front door, the birds became excited and flew away. Contrary to all I have read about Barn Swallows, our two were a nervous pair; we had to be very careful not to be seen by them. A small window of the powder room, opening on this porch, afforded me an excellent vantage point. As the window is hung with white organdy cafe curtains, I could peep out without being seen.

The light fixture, where the Swallows chose to build their nest, is located in the center of the porch ceiling. It is 8 inches square, the outer edge 6 inches from the ceiling. This 8-inch square is not a plain surface. It slopes up on the four sides at a little less than a 45° angle to a flat surface 3 inches square, out of which comes a pipe attaching the fixture to the ceiling. It was on one of these small sloping surfaces that the Barn Swallows started building.

Working with grasses held together with pellets of mud, the first thing they did was to build up the low side of the nest caused by the sloping light fixture. When this was even with the opposite side, the nest continued upward in perfect horizontal circles of grasses and mud. I was very eager to see them collect the mud and grasses and to learn if both parents were doing the work. I went out and sat in the front yard about 50 feet away, where I could watch their every movement. They immediately stopped all activity; perched on the edge of the roof together; and, cocking their heads on one side, watched me. I tried several times watching them, with the same results. If I stayed very long to see if I could out-stay them, they would simply disappear. But if I went near the nest, they were back immediately, circling and twittering excitedly. I even tried hiding behind the beech tree. I had to be satisfied with reading about the swallows. Both parents do the building, the female doing most of the molding. The work is all done with the bill and the inside moulding done with the female's body. None of the work is done with the feet, as swallows have short legs and weak feet, fitted only for perching. All of a Barn Swallow's food is collected on the wing.

For three days they worked constantly, but on the fourth day they rested all afternoon. As far as I could determine, they did not come near the nest; then next morning they were busy again bringing in grasses and mud. By the sixth day the nest measured 3½ inches on the deep side. The top was 2½ inches from the ceiling. This proved to

be the finished measurements. From then on the work must have been all on the inside. They worked all the seventh day. On the eighth day at one time I saw both swallows come into the nest. The female worked around inside the nest while the male perched on the edge. Then both flew away together.

The ninth day, which was June 8, I noticed one of the swallows sitting on the nest about 3:30 P. M. When I looked again at 3:55, she was gone. At 6:45, when I examined the nest, I found it well-lined with feathers and containing one egg. Therefore it took the swallows eight days to build their nest, and the female laid her first egg the very next day after the nest was finished. The nest was only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep. The outer edge at the top measured  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches across, the wall  $\frac{3}{8}$  inches thick, and the inside of nest at the rim  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

The swallow laid an egg in the nest every day until there were 5. As the nest was only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches from the ceiling, the only way I could see into the nest was to climb on a ladder and hold a mirror against the ceiling directly over the nest. From the time the first egg was laid, the swallows were at the nest quite a bit, with one of them sitting on the nest at short intervals. The first eggs received considerable incubation before the fourth and fifth were laid. After the third egg was laid, continuous incubation began. Both parents helped with the incubation, but the female did most. During the whole incubation period the male roosted at night on one of the off corners of the light fixture. There were a few nights when we checked that he was not there.

On June 24, when I examined the nest at 2:00 P. M. none of the eggs had hatched, but next day from the activity of the swallows I was fairly certain there were young in the nest. At 3:00 P. M., when the nest was unoccupied, I examined it and found three young swallows. This was exactly 15 days after the third egg was laid. The next evening about 7 o'clock. I looked into the nest and counted four little birds. The parents saw me at the nest and became very excited. The difference between when there were eggs in the nest and when there were young was very noticeable. They flew in so close to me that I was uncomfortable and climbed down as soon as possible. It seemed as though they would attack me. After I was away from the nest, they circled around and around before alighting on the nest.

That morning the temperature had been 58° at 7 o'clock, quite cool. The parents came in singly with food every minute or two. One would feed the young and then settle on the nest until the other parent flew in; then the first would slip out. It was a smooth system of feeding the young and keeping them warm. The sixth day I saw little heads come up above the side of the nest when a parent would come in with food.

July 3, the eighth day, I checked feeding time from 6:59 to 7:30 A. M. and found the intervals were from 30 seconds to one minute. On this day I heard faint chirping from the nest. Two days later the nestlings began to move about in the nest quite a bit, and on the twelfth day began preening their feathers. The fourteenth day they began to stand on the edge of the nest and walk around quite a bit. It was then that I noticed that they turned around and voided their droppings over the side of the nest.

July 10 the birds had been standing around when I climbed up to look into the nest. They immediately crouched down. There were 5. Not until those first little swallows were two weeks old did I see five



little Barn Swallows. I don't know how one kept hidden every time I checked the nest.

July 11, the sixteenth day, a c t i v i t y really began—preening, stretching, and fluttering wings. The first time I saw one of the young ones flutter his wings I thought he was about to fall out of the nest. He hung on the outside of the nest and fluttered his wings as though he were trying to regain his balance. At this time they had just about attained their full growth. The feeding, once every minute or oftener, continued.

The next day feeding slowed to once every 2 minutes or so. As the birds stood lined up on the rim of the nest, it was easy to see in what order they were fed. The parent fed the one that seemed most eager for it—the one that opened his mouth the widest or was the most “pushy.” At one time I saw one little fellow who had been standing on the side of the nest closest to the back wall of the porch walk across the nest and push in between two of the other swallows that seemed to be receiving all the food. One thing I noticed was that after one swallow was fed several times, he would turn around with his back to the incoming parents, or go over to the other side of the nest, or just lie down in the nest. He was out of the way of the hungry ones that way.

At 6:30 A. M. of the eighteenth day there were only two swallows in the nest; they had got out without my seeing them go. At 4:30 in the afternoon one was back; at 7:30 they were all in the nest. The next day, July 14, there were 3 swallows in the nest at 6:30 A. M. Some time during the day these left without my seeing one of them leave. July 15 just before dusk a storm blew up; no rain, just wind. One little swallow returned to the nest for a while and then left. We did not see them about the nest again, but often in early morning or late afternoon they were circling around feeding or sitting on the electric wires, with other swallows. About the end of August we realized we were seeing them no more. They had left for Central or South America.

We left the nest intact to see if they would return the next year. They did. It was the morning of March 31 when we saw the first one. The next day two were circling about. Then we did not see them for several days. April 15 we saw them showing interest in their last year's nest. April 23 we noticed that at night they roosted, one perched on one side of the nest, the other one the opposite side. On the 25th they began to repair the nest. The next day it looked as though they had added another half inch to the rim. On May 6 there was one egg in the nest. The next morning, when I looked out, there lay the little female on the concrete floor directly under the nest. There was no evidence of what had caused her death. All day the male flew around alone, spending much time just sitting on the edge of the nest looking forlorn. By late afternoon there were two Swallows flying around, and after dark two Swallows were at the nest, one sitting in the nest. The male swallow had lost no time finding a mate. Early next morning I marked the one egg in the nest with an ink spot.

That day, May 8, the swallows were busy about the nest. When I checked at 3:30, there seemed to be a new lining of grasses in the nest, but no egg that I could see. I was curious to learn whether it had been removed or covered over. I would have to wait to see; I could not disturb the nest now. They worked around the nest for about a week, the female shaping the inside. By May 15 the nest was lined with feathers. On May 20 there were five eggs in the nest (the first evidently laid May 16) and incubation had begun.

On the night of May 29 some friends were leaving our house about 12 o'clock. My husband turned on the front porch light. We had noticed that it did not seem to disturb the birds, as the light was cast down by the shade on which rested the nest. On this night instead of the male being perched on the corner of the light fixture he was sitting down in the nest side by side with his mate. In my excitement I spoke too loudly; both birds flew out into the night. As a big bright moon was coming up, we felt they would soon return. Early next morning we checked, and the female was sitting on her nest.

On June 3 the first of the swallows hatched. On June 21, eighteen days later, two of the swallows had left the nest before I checked them at 8 o'clock. Three were perched on the edge of the nest. I went out on the porch and walked around to the side where the birds were sitting to see if they would crouch down into the nest as they usually did. Instead, they took off. When a friend had banded the birds at the age of 11 days, we had noticed one was much smaller than the others. At first his flight was so uncertain I doubted whether he could make it, but he succeeded. I walked into the yard to watch but did not remain, as both parents made short, swift, angry passes at my head. None of them ever returned to the nest, as far as I know.

Four days later I felt sure none was going to return; therefore I pulled out the feathers and grasses lining the nest to see if the one egg was there. It was not. Evidently the second mate had removed it. I did not bother to replace the grasses in the nest, but I returned the handful of feathers into the nest. The Barn Swallows continued to fly about the neighborhood, and on June 29 the two parents began to busy themselves about the nest again. They did not bother to do much, however, for when next I looked at the nest, on July 1, the feathers had been only slightly straightened, and there was one egg in the nest. This time an egg was laid only every other day, because when I looked again, which was July 3, there were only 2 eggs in the nest and on July 5. three. When next I had an opportunity to examine the nest, it was July 8, and I found only 4 eggs in the nest. Apparently that is all she is going to lay because today, July 10, there are still only 4 eggs in the nest. She laid the first of these eggs ten days after the other brood left the nest.

We shall leave the nest to see what happens next year.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### WILSON PHALAROPES AT LOUISVILLE

On April 26, 1956, at 2:00 P. M., three female Wilson Phalaropes (*Steganopus tricolor*) were observed feeding in shallow water near the Louisville Country Club Road. They were with Pectoral Sandpipers and Lesser Yellow-legs and were quite conspicuous in their beautiful spring plumage. They fed continuously, walking—never swimming—around in the low water, apparently unaware of traffic and observers. They stayed in the area until 6:35 P. M., when, according to Roderick Sommers, the three suddenly took off without any visible cause for alarm.—CATHERINE HOPE NOLAND, Louisville.

## FIELD NOTES

### SOME FINE "BIG SPRING LISTS"

HENDERSON, May 6; 7:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Audubon Park, Green and Ohio River bottoms. Clear and warm. Total, 146 species. We feel sure that we found the Bell's Vireo, which we have recorded before but have been questioned about. Warblers were everywhere. The Bobolink was reported on May 8. Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Green Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Gadwall, Baldpate, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup Duck, Hooded Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Bob-white, Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellow-legs, Lesser Yellow-legs, Dowitcher, Sanderling, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Screech Owl, Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Night Hawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Oven-bird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Redstart, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Goldfinch, Eastern Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.—KING BENSON, W. P. RHOADS, MRS. NAT STANLEY, LORA CLARK, VIRGINIA SMITH, R. C. SOAPER.

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BOWLING GREEN, April 14, 15; all day 4-14; to 1:00 P. M. on 4-15. McElroy and Chaney Farms; Mouth of Gasper area. Raw, misty weather on April 14, with a heavy rain at night; rainy on April 15. Sixty-two K. O. S. members participated. Total, 102 species on first day, 18 new ones added on second morning. Horned Grebe, 4; Pied-billed Grebe, 5; Great Blue Heron, 1; American Egret, 1; Green Heron, 1; Black-crowned Night Heron, 2; Snow Goose, 5-8; Blue Goose, 45-50;

Mallard, 20-30; Black Duck, 4; Gadwall, 8-10; Baldpate, 50-60; Pintail, 4; Green-winged Teal, 8-10; Blue-winged Teal, 100; Shoveller, 75-100; Wood Duck, 12-15; Redhead, 8-10; Ring-necked Duck, 100; Lesser Scaup Duck, 50; American Golden-eye, 4-6; Buffle-head, 2-3; Ruddy Duck, 4-6; American Merganser, 1; Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Sparrow Hawk, Bob-white, Sora, Coot, 800-1000; Killdeer, 8-10; Wilson's Snipe, 4-6; Spotted Sandpiper, 1; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Greater Yellowlegs, 15-20; Lesser Yellowlegs, 20-30; Pectoral Sandpiper, 8; Least Sandpiper, 1; Dowitcher, 3; Ring-billed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, 7; Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Palm Warbler, Louisiana Water-thrush, Yellow-throat, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Purple Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Eastern Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Pine Woods Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

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MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK, May 5-6. Most of the south side of the park. Clear on May 5; threatening on May 6. Wilson alone on May 5; all six observers together on May 6. Total species, 100. This constitutes the largest number of species ever recorded at one weekend in the park. Also the 30 species of warblers broke all previous records for a weekend find. The species checked—were recorded outside the park area, making a grand total of 105. Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Bob-white, Virginia Rail, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow—, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo—, Black and White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm War-

bler, Oven-bird, Northern Water-thrush, Louisiana Water-thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Canada Warbler, Pedstart, English Sparrow, Bobolink-, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Orchard Oriole, Purple Grackle-, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel-, Goldfinch, Eastern Towhee, Pine Woods Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow.—DR. and MRS. RUSSELL STARR, DR. ROBERT MCKINLEY, LILLIAN SIMMONS, MRS. JAMES GILLENWATER, and GORDON WILSON.

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DANVILLE, May 5; 6:30 A. M. to 8:30 P. M. Boyle County; weather clear and moderate. The Loetschers and the Glores have made it a rule to spend Derby Day birding, but we have never had a day like this one. Our past count was 95. Total, 108 species. Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Gadwall, Baldpate, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Lesser Scaup Duck, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bob-white, Coot, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellow-legs, Mourning Dove, Screech Owl, Whip-poor-will, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Veery, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Brewster's Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Oven-bird, Northern Water-thrush, Louisiana Water-thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Redstart, English Sparrow, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Purple Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Goldfinch, Eastern Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.—DR. and MRS. FRED W. LOETSCHER, JR., and MR. and MRS. SCOTT GLORE, JR.

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#### AN UNUSUALLY LOW NEST OF THE LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

On May 16, 1956, while driving back from Paris, Kentucky, and about six miles from Georgetown, I was rather surprised to see a Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) along the roadside. I had driven this road for the past twenty years and had never seen a shrike here before. I stopped the car, looked around, and found a nest of this species. It was settled rather carefully in a tangle of wild grape vines which grew along the fence. I was further surprised to find it at such a low elevation. By actual measurement it was 46 inches above the ground. It was not well concealed. Five almost-fledged young birds filled the nest. As I approached the nest, the parent birds flew toward me and perched only a few feet away from the nest; they snapped their bills all the time I remained close to the young. This reminded me of the noisy mannerism of young Barred Owls.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

### CLIFF SWALLOWS AT KENTUCKY DAM

While I was attending the spring meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Science at Kentucky Dam Village, I was attracted by the great number of swallows flying over the dam. On approaching them, I found them to be Cliff Swallows. On the west side of the lock wall, at the upper gate, seemingly behind this gate, there were from 15 to 20 nests of this species.—L. Y. LANCASTER, Bowling Green.

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### YOUNG KILLDEER

While returning from the annual spring meeting at Bowling Green on April 15, 1956, Dr. and Mrs. Lovell, Eric Mills, and I stopped for a while just off U. S. 62. Mills and I immediately spotted a pair of Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus vociferus*). We could see that they were very much annoyed by our presence. Both birds tried to lead us away from their young by going into their "broken-wing" act. They would crouch down, spread their rufous tails, and flutter their wings. By now we were convinced there was a nest somewhere near. We both hid, hoping that the female would return to the nest. She did so, while the male tried again to distract us. We walked over to the place where the female had settled down and found three young Killdeers. There was no apparent nest, and the young lay on the gravel near the edge of a driveway. The protective coloring of the young was so perfect that we had to look hard even to see them. They crouched down and did not move a feather, even when we stroked them up and down. The young were evidently only one or two days old and were fully feathered. They had peculiar little thread-like tails and dark red-orange down on their flanks, but other than this they looked amazingly like the adult birds.—HAVEN WILEY, Louisville.

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 Wiley, Dr. Richard H., 210 Pleasantview Avenue, Louisville 6.  
 Wilhoite, Mrs. J. W., Versailles Road, Frankfort.  
 Williams, Ollie Mae, Bethel College, Hopkinsville.  
 Williams, Mrs. W. L. Jr., 2500 Valletta Road, Louisville 5.  
 †Wilson, Dr. Gordon, 1434 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green.  
 Winstandley, Frances, 815 Vincennes Street, New Albany, Indiana.  
 Winstandley, Virginia, 815 Vincennes Street, New Albany, Indiana.  
 Winter, Margaret A., 125 Wiltshire Avenue, Louisville 7.  
 Wolke, Fred, 107 Esplanade Avenue, Louisville 14.  
 †Wright, Audrey, 1312 Hepburn Avenue, Louisville 4.  
 Wunz, Gerald A., 123 Sarah Avenue, Hopkinsville.  
 Yates, Mrs. H. C., 4012 St. Germaine Court, Louisville 7.  
 Young, James Boswell, 514 Dover Road, Louisville 6.

#### COLLEGES, CLUBS, ETC.

- Centre College, Biology Library, Danville.  
 Eastern Kentucky State College, Richmond.  
 Georgetown College, Cooke Memorial Library, Georgetown.  
 Michigan State University, Library, East Lansing, Michigan.  
 Morehead State College, Johnson Camden Library, Morehead.  
 Murray State College, Library, Murray.  
 Ohio State University, Library, Columbus 10, Ohio.  
 Purdue University, Library, Lafayette, Indiana.  
 Sue Bennett College, Library, London.  
 University of Illinois, Library, Urbana, Illinois.  
 University of Kentucky, Library, Lexington.  
 Western Kentucky State College, Library, Bowling Green.  
 American Museum of Natural History, Library, 79th Street and Central Park West, New York, New York.  
 Beechmont Garden Club, % Iroquois Library, 6th and Woodlawn, Louisville 14.  
 Fish and Wildlife Service, Bird Banding Office, Dept. of the Interior Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland.  
 Library Extension Division, Dept. of Library and Archives, Frankfort.  
 Louisville Free Public Library, 301 Library Place, Louisville 3.  
 New York State Library, Albany 1, New York.  
 United States Dept. of the Interior, Central Library, Washington 25, D. C.

### CHUKAR PARTRIDGES NEAR MADISONVILLE

On Sunday, April 22, 1956, I identified two Chukar Partridges along the Earlington-Richland Road. These were my first, but Brasher C. Bacon later informed me that a number of birds had been released in this area. The two seen were quite gentle and easily observed.—JAMES W. HANCOCK, Madisonville.

\* \* \* \* \*

### DOVE'S NEST IN BASKET

The Henderson GLEANER for March 31, 1956, carried a picture of an unusual nest of the Mourning Dove, in a basket, somewhat like a sewing basket, placed on the limb of a pear tree in the orchard of Miss Virginia Smith, at Zion, Henderson County. This basket has been a popular place for dove nests for the past three years.

\* \* \* \* \*

### OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER IN JESSAMINE COUNTY

Dear Dr. Wilson:

I have just been reading the May issue of the WARBLER and noted with interest your remarks on the Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers. On May 20, 1956, Miss Alice Moran, a member and past president of the Audubon Society of Kentucky, and I were observing birds at Indian Falls, in Jessamine County. We watched for some time and identified an Olive-sided Flycatcher in the top of a dead tree. It was the first time for each of us to identify positively this species.—MARY HAGGARD BURNS, Lexington, July 5, 1956.

\* \* \* \* \*

### YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHERS AT BOWLING GREEN

On May 15, 1956, I saw at close range in my yard two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers. They were actively getting their food in true Flycatcher fashion, returning to the same perch after each foray. The same two or two more appeared in the same place the next day. On both occasions they constantly uttered while on the perches and sometimes while in the air their distinctive "killick" note. This is my first record for the species in the Bowling Green area, though I have seen it elsewhere in the state. (KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXXII, 38).—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

\* \* \* \* \*

### FOLK NAMES OF BIRDS

Mr. W. L. McAtee, now in retirement at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, after a long career with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, is producing some valuable articles on folklore and its connections with biology. One of his articles, "Folk Names of Georgia Birds," appeared in the March, 1955, issue of THE ORIOLE, the official publication of the Georgia Ornithological Society. Some years ago several of us of the K. O. S. contributed to him the names that we had heard for Kentucky birds. It will be pleasing to our membership to know that Mr. McAtee is now preparing a similar article on "Folk Names of Kentucky Birds," which will appear in a forthcoming issue of the KENTUCKY WARBLER.—The Editor.

# THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Vol. XXXII

NOVEMBER, 1956

No. 4

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## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

President.....	Anne L. (Mrs. Frederick W.) Stamm, Louisville 5
Vice-President.....	Hunter Hancock, Murray
Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.....	Mrs. William B. Tabler, 6 Glen Hill Road, Louisville 7
Recording Secretary .....	Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Shelbyville

### Councillors:

W. P. Rhoads, Henderson, 1955-1957  
Okie Green, Ashland, 1955-1957  
Rodney Hays, Lexington, 1954-1956  
Amelia Klutey, Henderson, 1956



Retiring President.....	Dr. Roger W. Barbour, Lexington
Librarian.....	Evelyn J. Schneider, University of Louisville Library
Curator.....	Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Ridge Road, Anchorage
Editor.....	Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green
Assistant Editors.....	Leonard C. Brecher and Roger W. Barbour

### Chairmen of Committees:

Helen Browning, Membership; Leonard C. Brecher, Endowment; Rodney Hays, Conservation and Legislation.

JAN 16 1957

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### DR. FRAZER DIES

Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, who has been known so long as the "grand old man of the Kentucky Ornithological Society," died on October 22, 1956, after several years of poor health; he was eighty-six years old. Though very busy as a country doctor for more than a half century, he took time to see birds and to talk conservation before clubs and schools. He served as president of our society, he became one of our first life members, and he loved our annual meetings. Tall, immaculately dressed, distinguished in appearance, he was a familiar figure in our meetings and in all groups of nature-lovers. Outdoor life was to him life itself; he loved his farm and his places of observation in Crittenden and adjoining counties. It was one of the treats of some of us ornithologists to go with him on calls in his wide area of practice and to watch the respect in which he was held by rich and poor, country and town people alike. Later the WARBLER will publish a more extended article about this great friend of wild life.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mrs. William B. Tabler, our corresponding secretary-treasurer, is at present Chairman of Birds of the Garden Club of Kentucky. At the club's recent annual meeting in Lexington Mrs. Tabler conducted a workshop, the subject being "Birds, with Emphasis on Sanctuaries."

\* \* \* \* \*

Excellent reports are coming from our Frankfort Chapter, the Frankfort Bird Club. Members are enjoying their meetings, and in July the group held a picnic supper at the Game Farm. After supper they studied bird skins from the collection of Ralph Penn. Mrs. W. P. Ringo is the able president of the chapter, and our society wishes her every success in her activities.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our immediate past vice-president, Robert A. Pierce, who moved to Iowa, is combining business with college work: he is attending Iowa State College three days a week. He has been the recent chairman of the Conservation Committee of the Wilson Ornithological Society. In the September issue of the WILSON BULLETIN he reported on the work of the committee accomplished during the last two years.

\* \* \* \* \*

Burt L. Monroe, Jr., has an article in the September, 1956, issue of the WILSON BULLETIN on "Observations of Elegant Terns at San Diego, California." The K. O. S. is proud of the many records he has established for the state of Florida, also. Our congratulations!

\* \* \* \* \*

### MRS. FREDERICK W. STAMM, LIFE MEMBER

Anne L. Stamm has long been interested in birds, and during the last ten or fifteen years ornithological research has become the most important activity of her busy life. Among her many interests has been bird banding, which she began as an assistant to Mrs. Dorothy Hobson

Luther. Later she obtained a banding permit and has been especially successful in trapping fall warblers, including a couple of the rare Orange-crowned.

Mrs. Stamm has devoted much time to the breeding habits of birds and has been very successful in finding the nests of such species as the Warbling Vireo, the Grasshopper Sparrow, the Dickcissel, and the Cedar Waxwing. She has kept careful notes on the breeding habits of the House Wrens in her yard over a period of years and through banding has learned how long wrens stay mated. She is directing a five-year breeding-bird study at Kleber Songbird Sanctuary, the results of which are being published in AUDUBON FIELD NOTES.

She has taken part in a large number of Christmas Bird Counts in Louisville and Otter Creek Park, which have been published in the KENTUCKY WARBLER and in AUDUBON FIELD NOTES.

She has unselfishly devoted a great deal of her time to advancing the work of the bird clubs of Kentucky. She has been an active member of the Audubon Screen Tour Committee since its inception and usually meets the visiting speakers. She has held many offices, including the presidency of the Beckham Bird Club twice and was recently elected for her third year as president of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. She has helped to organize a chapter of the society at Frankfort and revived the chapter at Paris. She also gives many talks to garden clubs and other groups and leads many field trips. She has been most generous with her time in helping new members, young and old, in their quest for bird lore.

She has published over twenty-five papers on birds in the KENTUCKY WARBLER and one in AUK, describing her observations and discoveries in Kentucky. In recognition of her brilliant work the Beckham Bird Club last year bestowed its annual award upon her for her "constructive contribution to Kentucky Ornithology."

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE WOODBURN LAKES—1951-1956

by

Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green

My most recent summary of the wet-weather lakes near Woodburn, "The Woodburn Lakes Since 1939," appeared in the February, 1951, issue of THE KENTUCKY WARBLER. With the exception of 1954, when no water appeared, these seasons, 1951-56, have been better than average in number of species recorded and among the best in number of individuals. In the five seasons I have taken 121 field trips to one or both farms when the lakes were present, besides some 20 when there was no water. And more than half of the group of people who have observed the lakes with me since 1927 have visited the lakes in these five excellent seasons, that is, more than 80 of the slightly more than 150 observers whose names I have kept with my records.

**Table I—Earliest and Latest  
Dates of Lakes**

1951—January 1-June 1
1952—January 1-May 24
1953—March 7-July 1
1955—February 19-June 25
1956—February 10-June 3

**Table II—Number of Water  
Species Recorded**

1951.....	54
1952.....	52
1953.....	53
1955.....	52
1956.....	58
Total for Period .....	71

Table III—Kinds of Water Species Recorded

	1951	1952	1953	1955	1956
Loon-Grebes .....	3	3	3	4	2
Cormorants .....	1				
Hérons .....	6	6	8	6	8
Geese-Ducks .....	20	21	20	22	23
Rails-Coots .....	1	3	3	1	2
Shorebirds .....	14	17	16	13	17
Gulls-Terns .....	5	2	2	1	5

The early rising of the lakes each season except 1953 accounts for the large records of geese and ducks. The late date of the disappearance of the water, in general, shows why there were a fairly large number of shorebirds. However, in 1955 the number of individual shorebirds was astonishingly small, even though a fairly large number of species appeared.

The season of 1956 was, in most ways, the best of the five. The 58 species recorded set a record second only to 1950, when the lakes remained through the summer and into November. That year brought 60 water species, among the number being several that I had never previously seen in the fall migration. One of the reasons why 1956 has been good is that I have had many trained eyes to help me. Almost 60 K. O. S. members visited the lakes on April 14, 1956; smaller numbers have been with me on several other trips. Besides, the lakes, especially the McElroy Lake, were easily accessible just at the time when the ducks and geese were at their best; the water was not so high that fence rows and trees came between us and the birds.

In these five seasons only one new species for the lakes has been added, the Knot. Two birds of this species were seen several times at close range on May 16, 1956, in a flock of some thirty Black-bellied Plovers. The Glossy Ibis was recorded for a second time on the lakes on May 12, 1956, the only previous record being for April 21, 1945. On January 20, 1952, our party, consisting of Dr. Russell Starr, Mrs. Mary Clyde Nuckols, Miss Alice Furber—all of Glasgow—and me, watched for some time two Canada Geese of a smaller race, probably the Lesser Canada Goose, as they seemed larger than the Hutchins Goose is described. Fortunately, we had a normal-sized honker with the two to make comparisons. On several previous occasions I had thought I was seeing some smaller Canada Geese, but I was never sure, because of intervening cornstalks and brush.

Several memorable experiences came in 1956, especially those that had to do with seeing Snow and Blue Geese. Ever since 1933 I have recorded a few Blue Geese on one or both lakes, never more than a dozen or so at a time. The Snow Goose was recorded only once before this year: on October 19, 1950, there were six of this species with



nine Blue Geese on the Chaney Lake for just the one day. The two species appeared at the McElroy Lake on March 8, 1956, with 5-10 Snow Geese and some 75-90 Blue Geese. I was glad that their arrival in the pastures near the barns coincided with the visit of Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, and Miss Marjorie Clagett. I had been at the lake for some time on this bright, calm late-afternoon trip, exulting in the fine views of nearly all the species of ducks that visit the lakes. This afternoon was one of the few of the season when there wasn't a strong wind or a heavy fog. Just as I was turning back to my car to drive home, I saw the big flock of geese circle over the lake and land in the pasture. I was cautiously approaching them when the other observers arrived and shared with me the strange thrill of walking close to nearly a hundred of these formerly rare birds, rare, that is, in our state. Some of the immature Snow Geese looked like something strange and new to us until we had had time to read about them in the larger bird books. On March 10 I visited the same place and was able to count 126 geese before they flew toward the Chaney Lake. There seemed to be 15-25 Snows among the Blues. They did not appear again until April 14, the day the K. O. S. members were so eagerly expecting them. This time there were 5-8 Snows and 45-50 Blues. They may have remained on the lakes or in the fields beyond April 14, but I did not see them again.

Two late-spring field trips stand out because of the unusualness of my finds. On May 12, 1956, I waded out into the mud at the McElroy Farm and was literally surrounded by shorebirds, most of them in good numbers. Eleven species were recorded in the two and a half hours I spent in the mud. The largest were of the Semipalmated Plover, the Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs, the Least Sandpiper, and the Semipalmated Sandpiper. Most of the ducks had gone by this time, but some other species made up for their loss: American Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, and Glossy Ibis. The puddles were astir with tadpoles and other wriggling water life; the herons and their allies were having a field day. The Glossy Ibis fed near me, circled overhead several times, uttered its quaint squawk, and showed no fear of me. There were hundreds of shorebirds in the air or running along the edges of the muddy water, now down to seventy-five acres.

Four days later, on May 16, 1956, in the same muddy fields, now down to fifty acres, I found thirteen species of shorebirds. Meanwhile the Black-bellied Plovers had arrived in big numbers, and the Knot was with them. Some thirty Dowitchers, recorded first for the season on our April 14 field day, fed very near me as I toiled through the deep, smelly mud. The Black Tern had also arrived in good numbers. But the most memorable feature of the day was the sight of more swallows than I had ever seen before in my area. All five species were present, with more Cliff Swallows than I had ever seen before in one day, anywhere. This swallow group reminded me of the great flocks that I have seen a few times at Reelfoot Lake. By May 20, only four days afterwards, there were no swallows left except the few pairs of Barn Swallows that nest in the barns on the farm.

The twenty-five field trips to the lakes this year have been among the best in the more than forty years that I have studied this area. Each year I fear a return of some of the bleak years that I have had, when there would be only a small body of water and not more than twenty species of water birds. Maybe this fear drove me to go oftener and stay longer.

## FIELD NOTES

### TUFTED TITMICE PLANT SUNFLOWER SEEDS

For several years we have practiced year-round feeding of song birds. During the late summer and the fall the bountiful supply of natural food makes this unnecessary, but we believe it keeps us on good terms with many interesting species and individuals. One feeder box is close against a window where we can enjoy the bird antics while sipping our morning coffee. On October 12, 1956, several Tufted Titmice were feeding early in the morning when we noticed them carrying away sunflower seeds only to return almost at once for more. Knowing from observation that it takes several moments to open the seed, we felt that the birds were not eating them. Taking a station where they could be observed, we saw that the seeds were carried first to the lower branches of shrubs. From there the birds quickly dropped to the ground and pushed the seeds deeply into the sod. No well-defined area was used for this, as each seed was placed in a different spot. We have not seen the birds attempting to recover any of their loot. Our theory is that this is a manifestation of the well-known hoarding instinct that many creatures display in periods of plenty. Instead of being a waste, as one might suppose, it is merely a part of the intricate economy of nature whereby forest trees are planted by rodents and other living agencies. Now we know that the Titmouse may unwittingly sow the seeds of favorite food plants.—HELEN and PAUL OWEN, Frankfort.

\* \* \* \* \*

### NEST OF THE YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON IN THE LEXINGTON AREA

On July 22, 1956, a single nest of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*), with four young, was observed by Eugene E. Simpson, a K. O. S. member, Wickliffe Johnson, and me. The nest was located about thirty-five feet up in an oak tree on the Preston Johnson Farm, five miles north of Lexington. This horse farm is adjacent to the Bryan Station Spring property and contains about twenty-five acres of woods. The nest-tree was about an eighth of a mile from a dammed-up stream, where undoubtedly the parent birds fed. Simpson and I visited the area again on July 27 and found three young in the nest and one young standing on a limb above and to the right of the nest. An adult bird was observed on each trip. It is believed that this is the first breeding record for this species in the Lexington area.—AL H. MAYFIELD, Lexington.

\* \* \* \* \*

### OBSERVATIONS ON THE NESTING OF A NIGHTHAWK

Every one knows that each species of bird has its own special nesting habitat, but one species that we seldom have an opportunity to observe nesting is the Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), which frequently chooses a gravel roof for its nesting site.

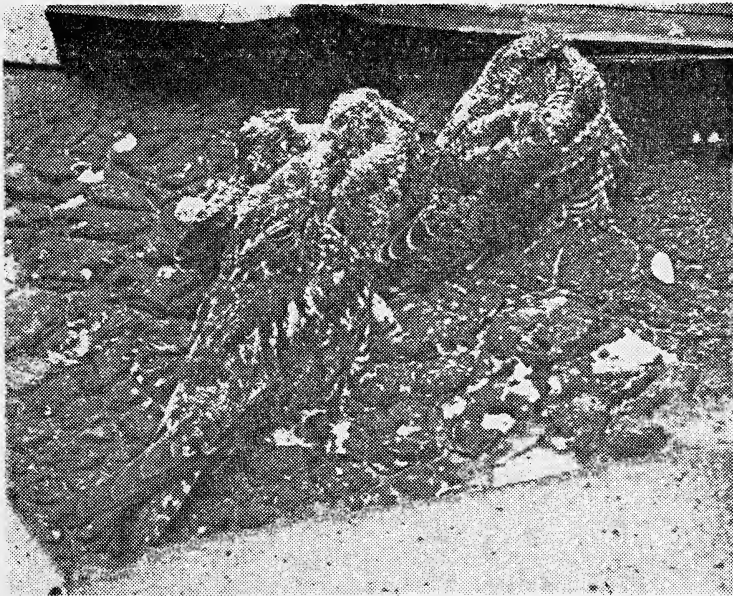
On the morning of May 24, 1956, the secretary of the Legal Section of the Kentucky Department of Highways in Frankfort telephoned to say that a rather strange-looking bird was sitting within

reaching distance near the window on the flat gravel roof. It was mottled gray, black, and tawny, with wings that seemed too long and eyes too oval for most accepted standards. Stiff bristles encircled its mouth, which seemed like a miniature cavern. The clattering of the window shade caused the bird to fly several feet, thus revealing one dull-white egg. It was evenly marked with small, irregular-shaped blotches of grayish-brown that were the same color as the bird and the roof.

At eight o'clock the next morning, May 25, there was a second egg. Both eggs were beside a part of a broken plank. So as not to disturb the bird, the shade in the office remained closed. The female, distinguished by a more buffy appearance than the male, did all the incubating.

On the morning of June 11 the female was still incubating the eggs, but at three o'clock in the afternoon the male was seen standing over the young. He was making a sound similar to the song of an old Leghorn hen, "cur-cur-cur," with his throat puffing in and out at each tone. From this time on the male seemed to assume authority. The incubation period covered 18 days, although a detailed account of a study cited by Bent covered a period of 19 days.

On June 13 the fluffy, down-covered young, which now seemed to be about three times the size of the egg, had been moved to the shady side of a skylight. On June 22 the entire family had disappeared, probably moving to an area not visible from our office. Then on June 28 they all returned to the original nesting site, in the full sun, sleeping in a tight little group.



Two adult Nighthawks and their two downy young  
on a Frankfort roof, June, 1956

The aid of Mr. John Dunlap, official photographer of the Kentucky Highway Department, was enlisted. When he opened the office window and placed the camera near the birds, they were not much disturbed and were soon back at the nest site. The accompanying cut shows the two adults and two downy young, as they appeared on that date. The family was in evidence on the roof until July 2, after which they were no longer noticeable.

In the case cited by Bent above (A. C. Bent, LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN CUCKOOS, GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS, AND THEIR ALLIES, United States National Museum Bulletin 179, pp. 217-221, 1940), the female stayed with the young until it was thirty days old; then she forsook it except at feeding time. The young bird took longer and longer flights each day but returned always to the roof until August 15 when it left with other Nighthawks on the southward migration.—MRS. MARGARET W. RINGO, Frankfort.

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### OLIVE-SIDED AND YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHERS AT MAMMOTH CAVE

This seems to be the year for Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in Kentucky. On September 27 I found a single Yellow-bellied Flycatcher behind the post office at Mammoth Cave. It perched a number of times in bright light and showed every distinctive characteristic of the species. On October 6, up near my private camping area at the Maintenance Garage, I saw repeatedly two Olive-sided Flycatchers for more than an hour. They were perched on high, bare limbs of an oak tree and made forays for insects again and again, always returning to their favorite perches. They, too, were in bright light the whole time I watched them from only a few yards away.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

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### MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL FALL MEETING

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its thirty-third annual fall meeting at Kentucky Dam Village State Park on October 12-14, 1956, with seventy-five in attendance. On Friday evening, October 12, our president, Mrs. F. W. Stamm, after welcoming the members and guests to the first session of the convention, introduced Mr. James W. Hancock, of Madisonville, who gave an interesting talk on "The Swainson's Warbler in Hopkins and Webster Counties." Dr. Hunter Hancock outlined the field trips for the next day, supplying each member with a field map and a field log. The meeting assumed an international air when Professor Gerhard Megow, of the Foreign Language Department of Murray State College, gave us a glimpse of Germany's birds and wild life with "Concert in the Pond" and "Nimrod with the Camera," two films, translating for us the explanations. The evening program was concluded by Mr. R. C. Soaper's showing of two color films—"The Lower Soures Refuge" and "Know Your Hawks"—sponsored by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

On Saturday morning the society enjoyed two field trips in the Kentucky Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, "between the rivers." One was to Hematite Lake and was led by Dr. L. Y. Lancaster and Dr. Hunter Hancock; the other was to Honker Lake and was led by Gordon Wilson and Mr. Sedgwick Watson, assistant refuge manager.



the founders of our society, and Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, our oldest living member. Both were prevented by illness from attending our meeting.

After a brief intermission Mr. Howard M. Barbig, Memphis, thrilled us with his motion pictures of "The Birds of Reelfoot Lake and the Duck River Heronry."

At the executive board meeting which followed it was agreed to investigate reprinting back issues of the KENTUCKY WARBLER by photo copy method and report at the April meeting. The board decided to hold the spring meeting at Bowling Green, or at Mammoth Cave National Park if the Woodburn Lakes failed to appear. Mrs. Stamm appointed Dr. Wilson to confer with her in investigating places for the 1957 fall meeting, to be decided on at the spring meeting in 1957.

The annual dinner was held on Saturday night in the auditorium of the Village Theater, with 71 in attendance. Mrs. Stamm, after welcoming the members and guests and introducing the officers and councillors, read messages from Brasher C. Bacon, Madisonville, and Robert A. Pierce, of Des Moines, Iowa. Dr. Harvey I. Fisher of the University of Southern Illinois, former editor of the AUK, made the address of the evening, "Some Experimental Studies on the Ways Pigeons Land." His scholarly handling of the subject, aided by his sense of humor, afforded the society a very pleasant half hour. Two bird paintings in water color by Thomas Smith of Pewee Valley were on display during the evening.

The convention was concluded Sunday morning with an interesting field trip around the Village. Though birds were not so plentiful as at other meetings, the fall coloring and beautiful weather made this well-planned meeting a great success. All told, the species listed in the two days of field trips numbered 90.

The seventy-five members and guests who attended were as follows: **KENTUCKY: Anchorage:** Mr. and Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Sr.; **Ashland:** Mr. and Mrs. Okie S. Green; **Bowling Green:** Dr. L. Y. Lancaster, Dr. Gordon Wilson; **Corydon:** Maralea Arnett, Malcolm Arnett; **Frankfort:** Mrs. W. P. Ringo; **Glasgow:** Mrs. Mary Clyde Nuckols; **Henderson:** Amelia Klutey, Mrs. Fred Klutey, Louise Reuter, Katherine Reuter, Charles Meade, Edwin Sells, W. P. Rhoads, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Soaper, Edna Vogel, Helen Vogel; **Hopkinsville:** Ollie Mae Williams; **Lancaster:** Helen Gill, Martha Gill; **Lexington:** Mr. and Mrs. Al H. Mayfield, Agnes McDowell; **Louisville:** Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Floyd S. Carpenter, Carlyle Chamberlain, Joseph Croft, Amy Deane, Mrs. F. P. Shannon, Roderic Sommers, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Strull, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Summerfield, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Tabler, Haven Wiley, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Wiley, Frank Wiley; **Madisonville:** Mr. and Mrs. James W. Hancock, Brenda Hancock, Maurice Gordon Hancock; **Murray:** Dr. and Mrs. Hunter Hancock, Professor and Mrs. Gerhard Megow; **Princeton:** Mrs. Carl Beasley, Dr. Cynthia Counce, Mrs. Clarence Neighbors; **Reed:** Mrs. Nat Stanley; **Shelbyville:** Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas; **West Paducah:** C. R. Jones; **TENNESSEE: Nashville:** Albert F. Ganier; **Memphis:** Mr. and Mrs. Howard Barbig, Tommy Barbig; **ILLINOIS: Carbondale:** Dr. and Mrs. Harvey I. Fisher, James Fisher, Dr. and Mrs. William Lewis; **MISSOURI: Kansas City:** Mr. and Mrs. J. Rossacker; **LOUISIANA:** Mr. and Mrs. John DeLime (formerly of Murray, Kentucky.)

—VESTINA BAILEY THOMAS, Recording Secretary.

### TREASURER'S REPORT, OCTOBER 13, 1956

Balance on hand, April 14, 1956.....\$ 277.18

Receipts:

Dinner reservations, spring meeting .....	85.05
Membership dues .....	92.50
Sale of check lists .....	9.50
Sale of WARBLERS .....	32.40
Gift from Beckham Bird Club, Louisville .....	50.00
Dividend, Jefferson-Federal Savings .....	11.38
Miscellaneous .....	1.05
Second payment on life membership .....	25.00
Profit on books .....	1.50

TOTAL .....\$ 589.56

Disbursements:

Dinners at spring meeting .....	\$ 89.10
Printing May and August WARBLERS .....	337.16
Postage and envelopes .....	35.10
Miscellaneous .....	3.69
Filing fee for corporation .....	1.00
Life membership fees deposited in savings acct. ..	75.00

TOTAL .....\$ 541.05

Balance on hand, October 13, 1956 .....\$ 48.51

In our endowment fund we have seven \$100 shares in Jefferson-Federal Building and Loan Association. There is also a savings account of \$226.63 at Jefferson-Federal, of which \$1.63 is interest and should be added to our checking account, making our true balance \$50.14.

—FAN B. TABLER, Treasurer.

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### BIRDS RECORDED ON OUR FIELD TRIPS

Since the 90 species recorded on our field trips in the Woodlands and around Kentucky Dam Village represent the largest list ever made by our society at a fall meeting, it seems logical that the list should be published in this issue, along with the minutes of our very successful meeting. The large number of water species was due to the lake and to the feeding marshes of the refuge. The number of individuals was not large, even though we saw so many species. Here is a list to make history: Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Baldpate, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Bald

Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bob-white, Ring-necked Pheasant, Turkey, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Lesser Yellow-legs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Red-backed Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Robin, Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Philadelphia Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Palm Warbler, Oven-bird, Connecticut Warbler, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Purple Grackle, Cowbird, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Pine Siskin, Goldfinch, Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

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Because of lack of space, it has been thought advisable to omit the names of participants in Christmas Bird Counts and Big Spring Lists. These can be found under the place names in the issues concerned. Also the names of species in such counts, unless accompanied by notes, do not appear in this index.

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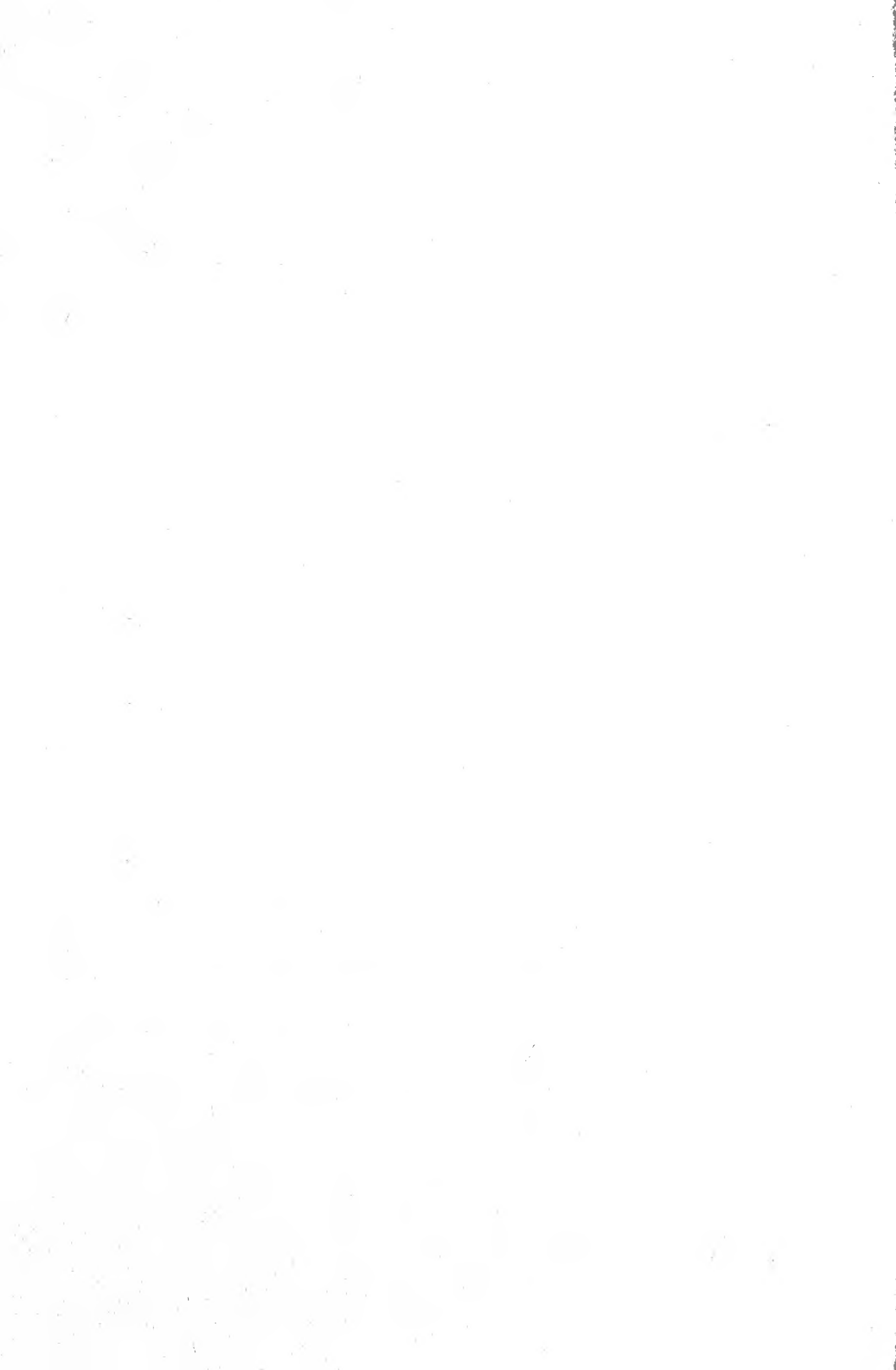
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1927 Birds

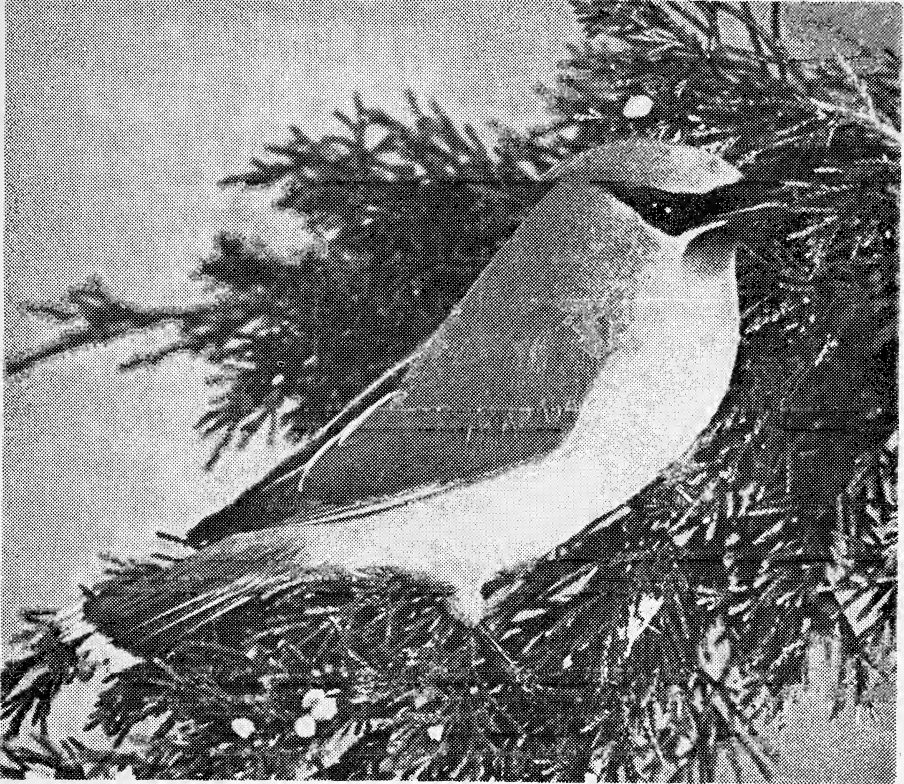
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FEBRUARY, 1957

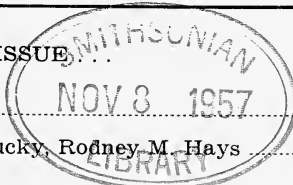
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Cedar Waxwing, photograph by H. Harold Davis, **Courier-Journal** Photographer

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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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NEWS AND VIEWS

NEW CHAPTER TO BE AT ASHLAND

Our Mr. Okie S. Green announces that everything is now ready to start an East Kentucky chapter of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. We welcome the new regional club and hope that it will bring much satisfaction to the members and to our parent organization.

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A CHRISTMAS CASUALTY

Bert (A. L.) Powell, of Maceo, had great plans for his Christmas Bird Count in the Owensboro region. Christmas Eve was very rainy and windy; the count had to be called off. The only other available days found Mr. Powell sick with old-fashioned influenza. We extend our sympathy to him, for a similar attack prevented the editor from attending the fall meeting at Marion, away back in the history of our

(Continued on Page 16)

**COOPERATIVE BREEDING BIRD LIST FOR KENTUCKY, 1956**

Rodney M. Hays, Transylvania College

**INTRODUCTION.** This, the second cooperative breeding bird list compiled by the members of the K. O. S., is not as inclusive as the one published by Dr. Land for 1951 in *The Kentucky Warbler*. There is no claim that this list is a complete list nor even that it approaches that status. Many birds, long known to breed in Kentucky, are not included only because they were not observed by a contributor during 1956.

Many ornithologists have contributed to this study. In particular, I should like to thank Mrs. Anne L. Stamm, whose assistance has been invaluable. Others, to whom I owe a great debt, are given credit in the appropriate places.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.** Nest with a half-grown young, Lexington, Fayette Co., July 22 (Mayfield).

**WOOD DUCK.** Two broods of eight young each observed in Caperton's Swamp, Louisville, Jefferson Co., from May 5 to June 17 (Croft). Two broods, same area (and perhaps same young) all through May (A. L. Stamm).

**HOODED MERGANSER.** Female with nine young in Caperton's Swamp, Louisville, Jefferson Co., on May 5 (Croft). Same brood observed on May 10 (A. L. Stamm).

**TURKEY VULTURE.** Two downy young about three weeks old, Kleber Song Bird Sanctuary, Owen Co., on June 12 (Mullannix) (F. W. and A. L. Stamm).

**RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.** Nest with bird incubating, fifty feet up in sycamore tree, observed while on Beckham Bird Club field trip to Shepherdsville, Bullitt Co., on April 8. Nest with two downy young forty-five to fifty feet up in sycamore tree in Cherokee Park on April 27 and 28 (Stamm and Croft). Bird was noted incubating the first week of April. Nest discovered in March, thirty feet up in an oak at Kingfisher Lake, Daviess County; four young successfully raised (Powell).

**RUFFED GROUSE.** Thirty-eight nests studied in McCreary and Pulaski Counties. Earliest known laying date was April 15, and latest known laying date was May 12 (Hardy).

**KILLDEER.** Three eggs on top of asparagus row in a small depression, Jeffersontown, Jefferson Co., May 3 (Frank and Mary Krull). Nest on rocky waste area in Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Jefferson Co., with four eggs, March 17 (Slack). A nest with four eggs in grassy area, Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Jefferson Co., on April 8 (Slack).

**MOURNING DOVE.** Parent bird incubating, Jeffersontown, Jefferson Co., April 28 (Frank and Mary Krull). Observed feeding of two young, Jeffersontown, Jefferson Co., September 15 (Frank and Mary Krull). One egg in nest on April 5; nest deserted on April 9, Louisville, Jefferson Co., (Croft).

**YELLOW-BILLED COOKOO.** Nest with two eggs built on the overlapping limbs of two young elm trees, Madisonville, Hopkins Co., August 21 (Hancock). Nest with four eggs and bird incubating, Kleber Bird Sanctuary, Owen Co., May 20 (Stamm).

**HORNED OWL.** Downy young out of nest, Iroquois Park, Louisville, Jefferson Co., April 22, an adult bird nearby (Croft and members of Beckham Bird Club).

**BARRED OWL.** Two young out of nest and two adults nearby in Cherokee Park, Louisville, Jefferson Co., April 28 (Croft and Stamm).

**CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW.** Nest with eggs, Junior Sportsman Camp on Kentucky Lake, May 21 (Fuller).

**NIGHTHAWK.** Nest on a gravel roof with two eggs in Frankfort, Franklin Co., May 25 (Ringo).

**YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER.** Young out of nest but not able to fly, St. Matthews, Jefferson Co., June 30 (Stamm).

**DOWNY WOODPECKER.** Five young out of nest, Owen Co., May 20 (Stamm and Lovell). Nest with one young nearly ready to leave and another young nearby, Seneca Park, Louisville, Jefferson Co., May 23 (Croft).

**KINGBIRD.** Nest located in sycamore tree at intersection of Eastern Parkway and Shelby in Louisville, Jefferson Co. The nest was near the end of a branch overhanging the street, at a height of a little above the telephone poles. Nest observed from June 11 to June 18. On June 29, an adult and young observed feeding about two city blocks south of nest (Shannon). Two young out of nest in Washington County, June 24 (Croft). One young out of nest in Nelson Co. on June 24 (Croft). Fledging, August 13, two miles east of Jeffersontown on Rt. 155, Jefferson Co. (Stamm).

**CRESTED FLYCATCHER.** Parents feeding young, Owen Co., June 26 (Stamm).

**PHOEBE.** Nest in culvert with three newly hatched young, Owen Co., June 4 (Stamm).

**WOOD PEWEE.** A young out of nest fed by parent at Caperton's Swamp, Louisville, Jefferson Co., August 25 (Edwards, Sommers, and Shannon).

**HORNED LARK.** Three eggs in nest found May 15, Jefferson-town, Jefferson Co. (Frank and Mary Krull).

**BANK SWALLOW.** Parent birds feeding young, on upper half of Twelve Mile Island (east of Louisville on Ohio river), June 28 (Slack).

**BARN SWALLOW.** Nest with one egg, located on top of porch light, Louisville, Jefferson Co., May 6 (Tabler). Another nest, or second brood, with one egg found on July 1, Louisville, Jefferson Co. (Tabler).

**CLIFF SWALLOW.** Fifteen or twenty nests at Kentucky Dam Village, Marshall Co., on the lock wall (west side), discovered on May 5 (Lancaster).

**PURPLE MARTIN.** Nesting in Martin house, Kleber Bird Sanctuary, Owen Co., during May and June (Lovell and Stamm).

**BLUE JAY.** Nest in cedar with three eggs, Kleber Bird Sanctuary, Owen Co., May 5 (Stamm). Fledgings being fed by parent birds, Louisville, Jefferson Co., August 11 (Stamm).

**CROW.** Nest in elm with young, Cherokee Park, Louisville, Jefferson Co., May 6 (Stamm).

**TUFTED TITMOUSE.** Nest with five young located in post hole at edge of Jefferson Co. Forest near Bullitt Co. line (Slack and F. W. Stamm).

**HOUSE WREN.** Nest in a bird box twelve feet up in an apricot tree in a back yard on S. Seminary Street, Madisonville, Hopkins Co. Young calling, June 20 (Hancock). Nest with six newly-hatched young in yard at Lakeside Drive, Louisville, Jefferson Co., May 25 (Stamm).

**BEWICK'S WREN.** Nest containing young found near the museum of Bernheim Forest, Bullitt Co., May 19 (Beckham Bird Club members).

**CAROLINA WREN.** Nest in garage with four eggs, Holzclaw Hill, borders Jefferson Co. Forest, June 2 (Deane). Nest in mail box, five eggs, edge of Jefferson Co. Forest near Bullitt Co. line, June 2 (Stamm). Nest on mowing machine with four eggs, Owen County (Stamm.)

**MOCKINGBIRD.** Nest located in young Chinese elm, about ten feet from the ground. Incubation observed from July 25 to July 28, when the parent was discovered imprisoned in basement. On release the bird paid a visit to nest but deserted it permanently afterwards, Louisville, Jefferson Co. (Shannon). Nest in cedar tree containing young, Fern Creek, Jefferson Co., first observed July 19; young left nest on July 29 (Stamm). Nest in cedar fifteen feet up with three eggs in mid-June, Prospect, Jefferson Co. (Croft). Nest with two young observed April 28, Louisville, Jefferson Co. (Frank and Mary Krull). Nest in holly tree with young, Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Jefferson Co., observed on June 8 (Stamm).

**CATBIRD.** Young catbirds out of nest and still being fed by the parents, Louisville, Jefferson Co., September 7 (Stamm). Nest seven feet up in cedar with four eggs, Kleber Bird Sanctuary, Owen Co., May 20 (Lovell).

**ROBIN.** Nest on top of brush pile with four young almost fledged, off Lime Kiln Road, Louisville, Jefferson Co., May 6 (Stamm and Tabler). Nest on edge of porch pillar with four fully feathered young, April 19, Broadmeade and Trevillian, Louisville, Jefferson County (Stamm). Nest with four eggs; another with first incubating, Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Jefferson Co., April 17 (Slack). Nest atop a brick column under front porch with one egg each day on April 3, 4, and 5, hatched on April 20, birds left nest on May 2, Vermont Avenue, Louisville, Jefferson Co. (Niemeier).

WOOD THRUSH. Nest with one egg of host and one egg of Cowbird, Bernheim Forest, May 19 (Beckham Bird Club members).

BLUEBIRD. Four young in box, June 15. All four birds finally killed by sparrows, Jeffersontown, Jefferson Co. (Frank and Mary Krull). Nest with four eggs in gourd, Girl Scout Camp, Shepherdsville, Bullitt Co., April 8 (Beckham Bird Club members). Female carrying nesting material on June 26, Owen Co. (Stamm).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. Pair building nest, Iroquois Park, Louisville, Jefferson Co. (Beckham Bird Club members). Nest being built thirty feet up in an oak tree on May 5; bird incubating on May 20, Kleber Bird Sanctuary, Owen Co. (Stamm).

CEDAR WAXWING. Nest in tree on bank of Fern Creek, Jefferson Co., too high to investigate but appearance of incubation, August 28 (Stamm). Fledging observed with parent on August 13, two miles east of Jeffersontown, on Rt. 155, Jefferson Co. (Stamm).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE. Nest with five young almost fledged near Georgetown, Scott Co., May 16 (Stamm). Nest with tiny young located about twelve feet up in tree along roadside on Springdale Road, Jefferson Co., April 30 (Stamm).

STARLING. Parent birds feeding young in cavity of sycamore tree in Cherokee Park, Louisville, Jefferson Co., May 26 (Stamm).

RED-EYED VIREO. Nest with one host egg and two fledging Cowbirds, June 12, Owen Co. (Stamm).

WARBLING VIREO. Bird sitting on nest and incubating believed started; the nest was about forty feet up in a hackberry along the edge of a new subdivision off Limekiln Lane, Jefferson Co., May 5 (Stamm).

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER. Nest with four newly-hatched young at Bernheim Forest, Bullitt Co., May 19 (Stamm and Slack).

PRAIRIE WARBLER. Nest on May 20 with one host egg and one Cowbird egg; it contained one young Cowbird, June 4, Kleber Bird Sanctuary, Owen Co. (Stamm).

LOUISIANA WATER THRUSH. Parent bird with food in bill at Bernheim Forest, Bullitt Co., May 19 (Stamm).

KENTUCKY WARBLER. One young out of nest at Caperton's Swamp, Louisville, Jefferson Co., June 21 (Croft).

YELLOW-THROAT. Adult parent bird with food in bill, much distressed, Owen Co., June 26 (Stamm).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. Nest with four eggs, Louisville, Jefferson Co., May 20 (Lovell). Two newly hatched young in blackberry patch but nest placed in coralberry, Owen Co. (Stamm).

ENGLISH SPARROW. Nest under eaves of house at Lakeside Drive, Louisville, Jefferson Co., with three eggs, May 29 (Stamm).

MEADOW LARK. Four eggs, May 15—all four young raised, Jeffersontown, Jefferson Co. (Frank and Mary Krull).

**ORCHARD ORIOLE.** Building nest in very top of dogwood, May 6. This nest abandoned. June 1, discovered new nest about fifty feet high in scarlet oak. June 15, four very young orioles found at bottom of tree. Three dead, one young bird raised, Jeffersontown, Jefferson Co. (Frank and Mary Krull). Nest found about sixty feet up in large sycamore at Kleber Bird Sanctuary, Owen Co., on June 4. On June 26 the parents were feeding the young (A. L. Stamm).

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE.** One young out of nest being fed by female in the yard at Louisville, Jefferson Co., June 15 (Stamm).

**PURPLE GRACKLE.** Birds carrying nesting material to evergreen tree, Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Jefferson Co., April 1 (Stamm). Bird incubating and nest placed twenty feet up in a maple at Fairview Beach, Louisville, Jefferson Co., April 28 (Stamm and Slack).

**SUMMER TANAGER.** Building nest on June 12; three eggs in nest on June 26, Kleber Bird Sanctuary, Owen Co. (F. W. Stamm). One young out of nest, Marion Co., June 24 (Croft).

**CARDINAL.** Nest in cedar tree about four feet from ground. Two young already hatched May 19. Jeffersontown, Jefferson Co. (Frank and Mary Krull). Nest with three eggs built in rose bush in yard at Ferndale Road, Fern Creek, Jefferson Co., April 25 (Stamm). In privet about nine feet up with bird incubating in yard, Louisville, Jefferson Co., July 29 (Stamm).

**INDIGO BUNTING.** Nest with two eggs, bird incubating and nest, located in grapevine, at edge of Jefferson Co. Forest near Bullitt Co. line, June 2 (Beckham Bird Club members). Nest discovered with one Cowbird egg, Louisville, Jefferson Co., May 20 (Lovell). Nest with one young, Kleber Bird Sanctuary, Owen Co., June 26 (Stamm).

**DICKCISSEL.** Nest with two eggs and two newly hatched young in fence row, Brownsboro Road, Jefferson Co., June 14 (Stamm).

**TOWHEE.** Nest with three eggs on the ground in the Elk Creek area, Madisonville, Hopkins Co., fairly well concealed by common cinquefoil, June 10 (Hancock). Nest with three eggs, Bernheim Forest, Bullitt Co., May 19 (Hornemann and members of Beckham Bird Club).

**CHIPPING SPARROW.** Nest with three eggs, Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson Co., June 30 (Croft).

**FIELD SPARROW.** Nest three and one-half feet up in a persimmon sapling, with three young, Madisonville, Hopkins Co., August 18 (Hancock). In shrub six inches off ground, nest had three eggs and one Cowbird egg, Jeffersontown, Jefferson Co., May 1 (Frank and Mary Krull). Nest with four eggs and one of the Cowbird at Kleber Bird Sanctuary, Owen Co., May 20 (Stamm). Nest with three eggs, Jefferson Co., forest edge, June 2 (Stamm). Four newly-hatched young, Owen Co., July 22 (Stamm).

**SONG SPARROW.** Nest located in arbor vitae at front doorway, a little less than five feet from ground. On May 30, three eggs found but incubation had not started. On May 31, incubation had started. Two young in nest on June 12. On June 23 the two young left nest and two eggs remained, Louisville, Jefferson Co. (Shannon). Birds were carrying food to young in a nest in a small shrub at lower end of Seneca Park, Louisville, Jefferson Co., May 6 (Stamm).

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1956-1957	Woodlands 1	Woodlands 2	Marion	Henderson	Madisonville	Sorgho	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave N.P.	Glasgow	Louisville	Otter Creek	Danville	Frankfort	Kleber Sanct.	Willard	Ashland
Com. Loon .....		*														
Hor. Grebe .....					2											
Pied-b. Grebe ....	8	4			2					1		2				
D.-c. Cormorant ..										1						
G. B. Heron .....	1		17	1								1				
B.-c. N. Heron ..										39						
Can. Goose .....	4000	4800	44	100						95	23	29	47			20
Snow Goose .....	*	3														
Blue Goose .....	*	7												9		
Mallard .....	26000	27500	12000	63000	600		12	2		226	14	260	160			
Black Duck .....	4000	3000	4000	5000			22	2		184		18	12			
Gadwall .....	25	8								2		3				
A. Widgeon .....	1000	216										16				
Pintail .....				16	3		2			6				4		
G.-w. Teal .....	6	2		5						2		5				
B.-w. Teal .....		2												7		
Shoveller .....		1														
Wood Duck .....	*	3	7	4						8						
Redhead .....		9								1						
Ring-n. Duck ....	*		4	1	6					30						
Canvas-back .....		25		4	60					45		4				
L. Scaup Duck ..			9	3						126		2				
Am. Golden-eye ..										2						
Buffle-head .....	14	12								3		1				
Old-Squaw .....										2						
Ruddy Duck .....	6	8		2	3					4		4				
H. Merganser .....	5	6	2							1		3				
Am. Merganser ..	10	70								*						
R.-b. Merganser ..		9			2											
T. Vulture .....			8	2			*	4	10	4		9				2
B. Vulture .....								13	5	6						
Sh.-sh. Hawk .....			2						1	*				2		1
Cooper's Hawk ..			1	1			*			1	1	1	1			1
Red-t. Hawk .....	6	7	3			1	1	1	4	11		4	3	6		2
Harlan's Hawk ..										*						
Red-sho. Hawk ..	1	2			5		3	4		12	1					1
Rough-l. Hawk ..				1				2	1	*			1	1		
Gol. Eagle .....		1														
Bald Eagle .....	13	6								*						
Marsh Hawk .....	1		5	1	1	1	1			8	1			1		
Per. Falcon .....				1						*						
Spar. Hawk .....	5	1	4	6	9	1	2		6	48		21	8			3
Ruffed Grouse ..																
Bob-white .....	30	19	34	15	6		10	14	2	13	18		22	27	9	50
R.-n. Pheasant ..		*											4			
Chukar .....													6			
Turkey .....	*	*														
Sora .....													1			
Coot .....	*		9		350					2		8				
Killdeer .....	56	7	3	14	7		2		6	8	3	15	7	5		15
W. Snipe .....		*							1							
Least S'piper .....					?											
Herring Gull .....	3	1	16							9						
R.-b. Gull .....		250			*					38						
M. Dove .....	44	28	8	175	117	11	91	19	289	229	5	69	62	1		
Barn Owl .....										2						
Screech Owl .....			1							3			2			
Horned Owl .....		1		3				*		3						3
Barred Owl .....	1		2	1	1	2	1	3	2	2	1					



MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1956-1957	Woodlands 1	Woodlands 2	Marion	Henderson	Madisonville	Sorgho	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave N.P.	Glasgow	Louisville	Otter Creek	Danville	Frankfort	Kleber Sanct.	Willard	Ashland
	Sh.-eared Owl ....										2					
B. Kingfisher ....	1		3	8	1	1	2	4		5		5		1		6
Y.-sh. Flicker ....	28	16	4	7	15	19	30	35	21	25	30	6	6	5	5	1
Pil. Woodpecker ..	5	3	3	8	1		11	15	12	2	4	2				5
R.-b. W'dpecker ..	9	44	5	3	7	17	22	28	18	34	17	5	10	8		4
R.-h. W'dpecker ..	2	2		3			3		2	*						1
Y.-b. Sapsucker ..	2	4		2			9	20	5	3	4			1		
Ha. W'dpecker ..	6	8	4	15	3	7	5	2	1	7	5	4	5	1	4	12
Do. W'dpecker ..	55	24	14	18	8	4	29	23	29	70	19	28	20	22	5	12
Phoebe .....							3	7	1	1		1		2		1
Horned Lark .....	1		22		5	40	160	15	40	35	3	35				
Blue Jay .....	64	36	14	34	14	13	43	92	42	68	17	14	14	8		20
Crow .....	61	38	39	2500	7	35	192	92	185	443	34	290	966	19	11	2000
B.-c. Chickadee ..																6
Car. Chickadee ..	91	53	17	56	17	13	72	142	46	136	63	96	75	44	19	50
T. Titmouse .....	32	34	28	34	8	22	54	28	49	174	55	73	47	66	24	100
W.-b. Nuthatch ..	6	14	2	4	4		2	10	2	23	11	2		2		6
R.-b. Nuthatch ..				2						*						
B. Creeper .....		2					*	2			6			2		2
Winter Wren .....		1	2				4	9	2	2		2		2	1	20
Bew. Wren .....			5	1	1		3	1	3			4	4			
Car. Wren .....	11	68	11	4	19	6	52	39	58	60	39	75	16	28	7	24
Mockingbird .....	2	3	9	28	8	5	32	9	30	96	7	48	25	5		2
Catbird .....				1							1					
B. Thrasher .....	1									4		3				
Robin .....	1	33	7	1000	51	1	64	88	6	14	18	7	14	1		2
Her. Thrush .....	1			2	1		8	14	1		4				1	
O.-b. Thrush .....																2
Bluebird .....	36	35	26	12	23	18	74	67	56	52	39	25	18	9	8	24
G.-c. Kinglet .....		2		1			2	13	3	12	5		6	4		12
R.-c. Kinglet .....										1		1				
Ced. Waxwing .....	36	8	16			7	142	93	3	3	19					
Log. Shrike .....	1			3	2		2		2	4		3				
Starling .....	50	61	300	4000	34	106	317	3	403	5600	20	3940	947	10	80	500
Myrtle Warbler ..	16	31			12		3	65	8	3	16	2	4	20		
Palm Warbler .....								1		5						
Eng. Sparrow .....	10	10	400	135	94	85	282	4	136	507	21	310	575	20	12	500
E. Meadowlark ..	135	250	16	131	55	30	74	1	112	242	26	177	56	1		6
W. Meadowlark ..										3						
Red-wing .....	1	100	60		7		*	24	1	277			1			50
Rusty Bl'kbird ..					25		8			48				2		
Pur. Grackle .....	3			2200	*		25			1060		626				50
Brewer's B'bird ..										*						
Br.-h. Cowbird ..		1	150	27						433	14	15		2		1
Cardinal .....	140	103	44	51	56	37	167	101	176	505	57	182	153	64	19	50
Pur. Finch .....	1						2	42	5	3	17					
Goldfinch .....	150	95	32	5	15	16	207	65	194	121	44	9	13	36	2	50
E. Towhee .....	32	56	7	13	15	36	35	27	32	85	31	13	17	22		24
Sav. Sparrow .....	1	4						1	2	3						
LeConte's Spar.	2															
Vesper Sparrow ..			4						1	1						2
S.-c. Junco .....	653	478	350	65	31	30	97	226	238	525	288	349	141	508	77	100
Oregon Junco .....										2						
Tree Sparrow .....	2		9		4	5	8	1		157	25		1	21		1
Chip. Sparrow .....											1	6				
Field Sparrow .....	6	1	5	43	29		24	31	38	19	73	26	6	33		50
Harris's Spar.										2						
W.-cr. Sparrow ..	2		19	49	*	15	93		98	114	3	92	79	16		6
W.-th. Sparrow ..	32	125	11	11	18		236	81	182	107	27	83	31	24	5	24

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1956-1957	Woodlands 1	Woodlands 2	Marion	Henderson	Madisonville	Sorgho	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave N.P.	Glasgow	Louisville	Otter Creek	Danville	Frankfort	Kleber Sanct.	Willard	Ashland
Fox Sparrow.....	4	1		5	3		11	6	11	10	1			22		1
Lincoln's Spar. ...				6	3		36	1	60	50	14		9	3		
Swamp Spar. ....		2														
Song Spar. ....	5	27		9	17	23	33	41	47	218	37	75	36	38	6	50
Lapl. Longspur..							1			2						
Observers .....	10	5	1	9	1	1	3	17	11	27	5	9	8	6	1	6
Species .....	63	66	53	62	52	29	55	53	54	90	48	58	48	40	22	48
Individuals .....	36932	37781	17823	78756	1788	606	2835	1633	2690	17862	1182	7110	3655	1110	301	3873

## OUR 1956 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Here is our summary of the 1956 bird counts, a very good survey of representative parts of the state, especially the western and central. It is to be regretted that there are not some more from the mountain area and the Bluegrass. A total of 123 species, 115 observers (not subtracting the several names that appear on two or more counts), and more than 216,000 individuals should make all of us glad. We have been parts of a great outdoor survey. Several of these counts will also appear in AUDUBON FIELD NOTES in the April, 1957, issue. Though the editor has written cards to thank each group that participated, let him again thank you participants, individually and as groups, for continuing this effective way of arousing local interest in ornithology. The editor himself has now had part in 55 counts, with 37 of the 39 Bowling Green counts being the largest single item in this sum. There is no other community effort of our society that compares with this in bringing seasonal thrills to us all. Plan now, while you remember the good and bad sides of your 1956 count, to make 1957 even better.

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS National Wildlife Refuge (same vicinity as in 1955 with the omission of Sugar Bay, Pisgah Beach, and Kentucky Dam Village areas; open water 15%, marsh 5%, fields 60%, woodlands 20%).—Dec. 27; 6:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Clear; temp. 31 to 60; wind S to SW, 0-5 m. p. h.; small bodies of still water frozen early, thawing by 9:00 A. M. Ten observers in 5 parties (2 in morning, 3 in afternoon). Total party-hours, 24 (19 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles, 46 (16 on foot, 30 by car). Morning parties: 1. Rockcastle Road, Cumberland River, Empire Road—Megows, Crain, Thompson. Four miles on foot, 3 by car. 2. Headquarters, Duncan Range, Hematite Lake—Sledd, Thursten, Putnam, Hancock. Four miles on foot. Afternoon parties: 1. Around Hematite Lake, Headquarters—Hancock, Sledd, Thursten. Three miles on foot, 4 by car. 2. Headquarters, Honker Lake, Headquarters—Crain, Putnam, Watson. Four miles on foot. 3. Back Mail Route—Megow and Thompson. One mile on foot, 13 by car. Total, 63 species, about 36,932 individuals. Seen during the official count period: Ring-necked Duck, Snow Goose, Blue Goose, Coot.—NORMAN CRAIN, CHRISTINE HANCOCK, HUNTER M. HANCOCK (compiler), GERHARDT MEGOW, GERLINDA MEGOW, LOREN S. PUTNAM, WILLIAM T. SLEDD, L. D. THOMPSON, RUBE L. THURSTEN, JR., SEDGWICK WATSON.

### NOTES ON WOODLANDS COUNT

The report of Mr Sedgwick Watson, assistant refuge manager, on the day before the count contained the following: Canada Goose, 4,000; Snow Goose, 5; Blue Goose, 10; Mallard, 26,000; Black Duck,

6,000; Gadwall, 200; American Widgeon, 2,000; Green-winged Teal, 400; Wood Duck, 300; Ring-necked Duck, 200; Coot, 400. This was on the official record of the Fish and Wildlife Service based on the "block" system used on the refuge. These figures are not included on the figures above.

No actual Turkeys were seen, but tracks and "scratch areas" were very much in evidence.

**KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE** (same general area covered in 1955: 7½-mile radius centering at Laura Lease, extending northward to Kentucky Dam, southward to Rock Castle Road and Mulberry Flat Trail, eastward to Cumberland River, westward to Kentucky Lake; open water, 20%; marsh, 5%; fields, 60%; woodlands, 15%).—Dec. 31; 6:30 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Clear to partly cloudy; temp. 32 to 46; wind S, 0-5 m. p. h. Five observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 18 (10 on foot, 8 by car); total party-miles 82 (12 on foot, 70 by car). Total species, 66; individuals, about 37,781. Seen in area on preceding day: Common Loon, Wilson's Snipe, Ring-necked Pheasant.—EVELYN BARBIG, HOWARD BARBIG, HUNTER HANCOCK (compiler), WILLIAM T. SLEDD, SEDGWICK WATSON.

**MARION** (Open fields, brush, and roads one mile north of Marion; river bottoms and banks and Hurricane Creek 5 miles from Cave-in Rock and Return).—Dec. 25; 5:00 A. M. to 6:00 P. M. Mostly clear; temp. 30-45. Total, 53 species, about 17,823 individuals.—CHASTAIN L. FRAZER.

#### NOTES ON MARION COUNT

The 17 Great Blue Herons reported on the count were feeding in the cornfields where I had seen 35 on November 22. What they were eating I could not determine; the place was some hundred yards from water and just dry stalk land. Also on November 22 I saw 17 Rough-legged Hawks soaring a mile below Cave-in Rock. They were sailing over the bottoms, apparently in migration, and were the most of this species I have ever recorded at one time.

**HENDERSON** (same area as the one covered in many recent years).—Dec. 26; dawn-to-dusk coverage. The Bald Eagle had been seen in the territory but could not be found on the count day. The large duck population was due to two large concentrations that "raft up" on the Ohio River in the daytime. Our Starlings are very numerous, and so far there seem to be no predators. The Purple Grackles are two large flocks that are apparently finding enough food and protection to meet their needs. Most of the Robins were in the honey-suckle thickets in Audubon State Park. Total, 62 species, about 78,756 individuals.—WALTER H. ALVES, KING BENSON, AMELIA KLUTEY, JERRY McKINNEY, MRS. R. E. PARSONS, W. P. RHOADS (compiler), B. C. SHELTON, MRS. NAT STANLEY, SR., FRANK SAUERHEBER.

**MADISONVILLE** (W. W. Hancock Farm, Clear Creek, Pleasant View Lake, City Lakes Nos. 1 and 4, Lake Pewee, Brown and Frostburg Roads. Open fields 20%, deciduous woodlands and thickets 50%,

lake shore 30%).—Dec. 30; 7:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Mostly clear; wind SE, 8-12 m. p. h.; temp. 32 to 51. Total hours, 10; total miles, 41 (5 on foot, 36 by car). Total, 52 species, about 1,788 individuals. Evidently a mild autumn and early winter caused the lingering of more waterfowl than usual. Most of the waterfowl were at Lake Pewee (our new 400-acre lake), but the Horned Grebes were recorded at Pleasant View Lake. I was unable to approach the small, brown-backed sandpiper closely enough to be sure of the color of the legs but did hear the "kreet, kreet" call uttered in flight. The Red-breasted Mergansers, both females, were seen at close range while I was concealed in a thicket. Other species recorded near the time of the count: Ring-billed Gull, Purple Grackle, and White-crowned Sparrow.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

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SORGHO, DAVIESS COUNTY.—Dec. 29; four hours afield. Wooded area and fields, roadside ditches on Ford farm, mostly wooded creek bottom. Total, 29 species, 606 individuals.—JOE FORD.

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BOWLING GREEN (Area covered in most of the thirty-nine counts, 1918-1956).—Dec. 22; 6:15 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Cloudy, very gray, just after a heavy night rain; temp. 46 to 52; no wind. Three observers in two parties. Total, 55 species, about 2833 individuals. The number of Crows recorded was one of the smallest in the many years of Christmas Counts here. Only two weeks before the count there were easily 4,000 Crows to be seen daily in the Woodburn area alone. At Christmas there was still much waste corn in the fields, and the winter had been mild. Just why Crows were so scarce is not easy to guess. There is a heavy crop of Red Haw fruits this winter; each tree was alive with Cedar Waxwings. The Lapland Longspur was in a flock of Horned Larks at the Lacy Stahl Farm, just at the edge of the Chaney Marsh. This is the first Christmas record of the species, though there are several other winter records.—L. Y. LANCASTER, CHARLES L. TAYLOR, and GORDON WILSON (compiler).

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MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (nearly all of the park south of Green River and also the Temple Hill area north of the river).—Dec. 16; 6:45 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Partly cloudy; no wind; fog very dense in lowlands in early morning; temp. 38-52. Seventeen observers in four parties. The Palm Warbler was a first Christmas park record, though it appears on some Bowling Green counts of other years. The species is the best record for the twelve counts in the park; twenty species appear in greater numbers than ever before, and thirteen species were recorded in greater numbers than they appeared in any other Kentucky Christmas Count for 1956: Black Vulture, Barred Owl, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Phoebe, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Myrtle Warbler, and Purple Finch. Total, 53 species, about 1,633 individuals.—ROBERT BROWN, RICHARD BURNS, MRS. JAMES GILLENWATER, CLEO HOGAN, JAMES HAYNES, GRANVILLE LILES, JERRY LILES, RAY NELSON, MRS. MARY CLYDE NUCKOLS, RAY SCOTT, LILLIAN SIMMONS, DR. RUSSELL STARR, MRS. RUSSELL STARR, RICHARD STOKES, FRANK WILKINS, GORDON WILSON (compiler), J. WELLINGTON YOUNG.

GLASGOW (Beaver Creek, west and southwest of Glasgow: open fields 15%, stream banks 45%, thickets 20%, open woods 20%).—Dec. 30; 6:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Eleven observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 20. Total party-miles, 76 (16 on foot, 60 by car). Partly cloudy to clear; wind W, 0-15 m. p. h.; temp. 25-49. Total, 54 species, about 2,690 individuals.—ALICE FURBER, MRS. JAMES GILLENWATER, JAMES HAYNES, CLEO HOGAN, CLEO HOGAN, JR., DR. ROBERT MCKINNEY, LILLIAN SIMMONS, DR. RUSSELL STARR (compiler), MRS. RUSSELL STARR, GORDON WILSON, CHARLES WININGER.

LOUISVILLE (Same area and coverage as last year).—Dec. 23; 5:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Cloudy, clearing in afternoon; temp. 40 to 56; wind W-NW, 2-7 m. p. h.; all water open. Twenty-seven observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 69 (48 on foot, 21 by car); total party-miles, 108 (20 on foot, 88 by car). Gadwalls and Old-Squaws by Brecher and Altshelers; Barn Owls and Oregon Juncos by Shackleton and Fuller; Western Meadowlarks by Monroes, specimen taken on December 25; Harris's Sparrows by Krulls and Monroes, both immature and widely separated, one being present for two weeks prior to count; Lincoln's Sparrow by Mrs. Stamm, Croft, and Wiley. First count record for Gadwall, Barn Owl, Western Meadowlark, and Harris's Sparrow. Largest numbers ever recorded on a count for Wood Duck, Brown Thrasher, Palm Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Savannah Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow. Seen during week of count: American Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Harlan's Hawk (Monroes), Rough-legged Hawk, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Brewer's Blackbird (Krulls). Total, 90 species, about 17,862 individuals.—MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM M. ABLE, MR. AND MRS. YANCEY ALTSHELER, LEONARD C. BRECHER, JOSEPH E. CROFT, THOMAS C. FULLER, FRANK X. KRULL, SR. and JR., DR. AND MRS. HARVEY B. LOVELL, BURT L. MONROE, SR. (compiler), BURT L. MONROE, JR., MRS. H. V. NOLAND, LOUIS H. PIEPER, MARIE E. PIEPER, EVELYN J. SCHNEIDER, WALTER H. SHACKLETON, MR. AND MRS. FRANCIS P. SHANNON, MABEL SLACK, ANNE L. STAMM, FREDERICK W. STAMM, MRS. WILLIAM B. TABLER, HAVEN WILEY, VIRGINIA WINDSTANLEY, AUDREY A. WRIGHT (Beckham Bird Club).

OTTER CREEK PARK (Ohio River, park, adjacent farmlands; river 10%, mature weeds 20%, brushy fields 40%, open meadows and farmlands 30%).—Jan. 5; 8:00 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Clear, some cloudiness in afternoon, traces of snow on ground, ponds frozen; temp. 28 to 38; wind slight. Five observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 15 (11 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 35 (14 on foot, 21 by car). Total, 48 species, about 1,182 individuals. The Catbird was seen by all observers in a honey-suckle thicket; the Chipping Sparrow was found by Croft, verified by the others.—JOSEPH CROFT, HARVEY B. LOVELL, ANNE L. STAMM, FREDERICK W. STAMM, RODERIC SOMMERS.

DANVILLE (roads in and near county; farmlands, thickets, streams, and parks).—Dec. 22. Clear in morning, cloudy in afternoon; no wind; ponds and streams full and open. Nine observers in 5 parties;

total party-hours, 34 (14 on foot, 20 by car); total party-miles, 243 (13 on foot, 230 by car). Mr. Cheek, who has his master's degree in ornithology from the University of Kentucky, saw the Sora and the Chipping Sparrows. Thousands of blackbirds, including Purple Grackles, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Red-wings, and Rusty Blackbirds had been roosting in the Glore trees as late as December 16 but were gone by the day of the count. Total, 58 species, about 7,110 individuals.—JOHN CHEEK, FLORENCE DAVIS, JACKSON DAVIS, MARGARET GLORE, SCOTT GLORE, JR., EDNA DRILL HECK (compiler), FRANK HECK, DOROTHY BELLE HILL, and LeROY ULLRICH.

FRANKFORT.—Dec. 30; 7:00 A. M. to 4:45 P. M. Clear; wind light; temp. 35 to 45. Our survey consisted of individual counts made by the Frankfort Bird Club members in and about Frankfort. One count was made at the State Experimental Game Farm on U. S. 60 west of Frankfort, with most other counts made east of the city. The habitat included mixed cedar and deciduous woods, brushy hillsides, pastures, weedy fence rows, cultivated fields, and Elkhorn Creek bottoms. The Ring-necked Pheasants and Chukars were seen on the State Game Farm. These have been released and now forage for themselves in the vicinity. Pheasants have also been seen ten and twelve miles from the farm in Franklin County. Total, 48 species, about 3,655 individuals.—ELIZABETH SATTERLY, J. W. PRUETT, PAUL OWEN, BOWEN CARTER, MRS. ARTHUR KAY, MRS. M. C. DARNELL, MRS. W. P. RINGO, HOWARD JONES (compiler).

KLEBER SONG BIRD SANCTUARY, OWEN COUNTY (7-mile radius, including the sanctuary and adjacent farmlands; deciduous woods 10%, brushy fields 40%, farmland 40%, creek banks 10%).—Dec. 29; 7:30 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Cloudy, with light snow; wind 5-13 m. p. h.; half inch of snow on ground but creeks open; temp. 25 to 34. Six observers in three parties in morning, together in car most of afternoon. Total party-hours, 20 (16 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 31 (10 on foot, 21 by car). Total, 40 species, 1,110 individuals.—FREDERICK W. STAMM, ANNE L. STAMM, JOE CROFT, HARVEY B. LOVELL, ELIZABETH SATTERLY, MRS. MARGARET RINGO.

WILLARD (about seven miles over creek bottom, fields, and woodland areas).—Dec. 28; 9:00 A. M. to 3:00 P. M. Cloudy and mild. Total, 22 species, 301 individuals.—ERCEL KOZEE.

ASHLAND, EAST KENTUCKY (Ashland and over all of Boyd County; Big Creek area in eastern Pike County).—Dec. 29; 7:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Bitter cold; snow for preceding 24 hours and during entire day; temp. 20 to 30; wind SW to NE, 15 to 20 m. p. h.; many water courses running full; smaller areas of water frozen over. Area covered: deciduous woodland 50%, coniferous woods 20%, swamps 5%, cultivated fields 15%, along streams 5%, old fields 5%. Six observers. Total party-miles, 150 (80 by car, 70 on foot). Total, 48 species, 3,873 individuals.—OKIE S. GREEN (compiler), WALTER FORSON, HENRY H. HUGHES, JR., GEORGE CURRY, RUFUS M. REED, JOHN A. CHEEK.

## NOTES ON ASHLAND COUNT

For the first time we have succeeded in widening our horizon as far as an eastern Kentucky bird census is concerned, thanks to Rufus Reed, of Lovely, and John A. Cheek, of Pikeville, both staunch K. O. members and members of our soon-to-be East Kentucky Chapter of the society. Our 1956 list is our largest to date. There is a marked increase in Ruffed Grouse numbers in eastern Kentucky. Messrs. Reed and Cheek report about 50 in one group. The Bob-white has about vanished from the area. Cold, rainy spring weather, extending even into early summer, as well as indiscriminate slaughter by hunters, accounts for this loss. Mourning Doves are very scarce. The Cardinal, the Eastern Towhee, and the Carolina Chickadee seem to be more abundant. Reed and Cheek were very fortunate in sighting the Horned Owl, as the species has been much maligned and almost exterminated in this area. The year 1956 has been a good season for us in the mountains.—OKIE S. GREEN.

\* \* \* \* \*

## A FALL RECORD OF THE SANDHILL CRANE

One of the interesting fall-migration records is that of the Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). Eleven of these large birds were seen flying over our yard on November 8, 1956. Luckily, a predicted frost caused me to gather the green tomatoes in our garden; otherwise, I would not have had this rich experience. This species is very rare in this locality, even in spring. I consulted with Burt L. Monroe, Sr., who concurs with me that, as far as we know, this is our only fall record—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

## SOME FALL MIGRATION NOTES FROM BOWLING GREEN

Besides the Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers reported in the November, 1956, issue, I have recorded several interesting birds in the fall and winter. At the northwestern edge of the city is an abandoned rock quarry of some seven acres that has attracted several species, especially since there has been no rising of the Woodburn Lakes this fall and winter. A Horned Grebe on December 10, 1956, was my first fall or winter record of the species, though I have several records for the lakes in spring. On December 15, 1956, I saw a flock of 50-60 Blue Geese flying very low over the upper reaches of the McElroy depression, very dry at that time. I would like to believe them a remnant of the Blue and Snow Geese flocks that so many of us saw last spring. Again at Grider's Pond on November 23, 1956, I saw for a long time more than 20 Ring-billed Gulls resting at the pond. At the same place I recorded my first Forster's Terns for Bowling Green on December 1, 1956, although I have seen the species several times on the Great Lakes. Four individuals of this species remained a whole day there, almost tame, and revealing in the bright light their distinctive winter markings. Another first for me as an observer here was a Short-eared Owl feeding on the ground in the Chaney Swamp on December 1, 1956. I followed it for some time, flushing it again and again.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

(Continued from Page 2)

society, the only time our group ever had the pleasure of being in Dr. Frazer's own territory with him as a guide.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### MORE BIRD-WATCHING TOURS IN MEXICO

Dr. Ernest P. (Buck) Edwards is leading some more tours to Mexico this spring. There will be two ten-day tours on March 11 to March 20 and April 29 to May 8. One thirteen-day tour will be taken from May 13 to May 25. Again, if you are interested in going into this ornithological paradise with such a good guide, contact Dr. Edwards at 112 University Place, Norman, Oklahoma, or call him at JEfferson 4-7043, Norman.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### SUMMER FIELD STUDIES IN ORNITHOLOGY AND BIOLOGY

The University of Michigan Biological Station will conduct two courses and a research program in ornithology in the summer of 1957 at its permanent camp on Douglas Lake in northern Michigan. This work will be led by the eminent ornithologist Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. In addition, fifteen other courses and research on many aspects of field and fresh-water biology, under the guidance of a faculty of sixteen other prominent biologists, will be conducted. Approximately thirty grants-in-aid of \$100 to \$300 each will be selectively awarded, and twenty-five self-help jobs will be available. For full information, address Biological Station, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### JOE FORD HONORED

The Daviess County Game and Fish Association gave its second annual "Outstanding Sportsman" award to our K. O. S. member Joe Ford for outstanding work in wild life preservation within the organization and outside it. Ford is curator of the Owensboro Public Museum, takes the annual Wilson's Snipe census for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and has banded more Mourning Doves than any one else in Kentucky. He also belongs to many other societies of scientific and archaeological leanings. Congratulations, Joe!

\* \* \* \* \*

#### OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT

The 1956 gift of Mr. Howard Rollin to the K. O. S. is a charming painting of a pair of Cedar Waxwings and a Bohemian Waxwing, perched on cedar boughs against a clear blue sky. With his usual skillful handling, Mr. Rollin has brought out the differences between these two sleek, fawn-colored species: the white wingbar, the chestnut undertail, and the gray belly of the Bohemian; the white undertail coverts and yellow abdomen of the smaller Cedar Waxwings. This is the thirteenth original painting Mr. Rollin has presented to the K. O. S. He will gladly accept orders for any species desired. His address is Route 1, Weldona, Colorado.

—K. O. S. Librarian, Evelyn J. Schneider.



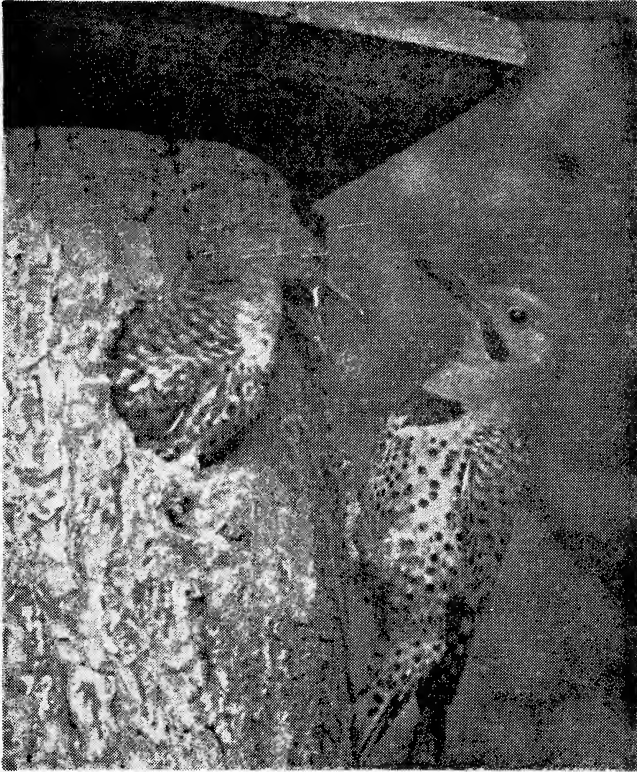
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Birds

# The Kentucky Warbler

Vol. XXXIII

MAY, 1957

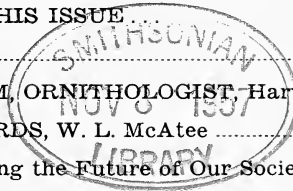
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Flickers at Nesting Box, Photograph by Mabel Slack

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## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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 Assistant Editors.....Leonard C. Brecher, Field Notes; Harvey B. Lovell, Notes on Ornithologists

### Chairmen of Committees:

Helen Browning, Membership; Leonard C. Brecher, Endowment; Rodney Hays, Conservation and Legislation.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### MR. CHEEK IS NEW LIFE MEMBER

John Adamson Cheek, our newest Life Member, was born in Danville, Kentucky, on October 7, 1915. He was graduated from Danville High School in 1933 and did his undergraduate work at Centre College, graduating there in 1937. He has done graduate work at Cornell Medical College, the University of Chicago, and at the University of Kentucky. He was granted the Master of Science degree by the University of Kentucky in 1952, his master's thesis being "Birds of the Danville, Kentucky, Area: A Study of Summer Populations." Mr. Cheek is now on the staff of the biology department of Pikeville College, Pikeville, Kentucky. Welcome, John, to our rapidly growing list of Life Members!

### DR. BARBOUR TO ORIENT

Dr. Roger W. Barbour, of the University of Kentucky, long one of our members, has been appointed to a professorship at the University of Indonesia, at Bandung, Java, for a two-year tenure. He and his family will sail from New York on July 12 for Europe for a brief stay at Heidelberg, Germany, and then on to his far-away destination. While in the Far East, he will teach Histology and Comparative Anatomy. He laughingly says that he hopes to do three things on this trip: learn how to lecture in the language of the country, shoot a tiger, and shoot an elephant. Good luck on all three counts, Roger!

**CHARLES WICKLIFFE BECKHAM, ORNITHOLOGIST \***

By Harvey B. Lovell

Charles Wickliffe Beckham was the first native Kentuckian to achieve a national reputation as an ornithologist. His collections were in part deposited in the U. S. National Museum and in part given to the Louisville City Museum. Many of his birds were mounted by James S. Speed and exhibited at Central Park, the Boy Scout Camp, and in the City Museum. In recent years the bird students in Louisville named their bird club in his honor and his brother presented to the club a collection of his bird books.

Beckham was born at his mother's ancestral home Wickliffe, near Bardstown on August 1, 1856, and died of tuberculosis June 8, 1888. His mother was the daughter of Governor Charles C. Wickliffe of Kentucky, and his father was a lawyer and later a member of the Kentucky General Assembly. His uncle was governor of Louisiana, and later his own brother, J. C. W. Beckham, became governor of Kentucky.

Young Charles was born into an atmosphere of prosperity and success. He seems to have developed a large measure of self-confidence at an early age, as shown by the promptness with which he published his ornithological findings, a valuable trait in one whose life was destined to be so short.

He was educated at a private school in Bardstown and when only sixteen years old attended the University of Virginia for the year 1872-73. While there he took courses in "mathematics, applied mathematics, natural philosophy, mineralogy, and geology" according to a letter from the librarian at the University.

Next the young man worked under Professor Shaler in the Kentucky Geology Survey for two years. When Shaler moved to Harvard University to accept a professorship, Beckham accompanied him and spent a year in scientific studies. Such was his scientific education.

Because of the political influence of his family, no doubt, the Honorable J. Proctor Knott of Kentucky appointed young Beckham clerk of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives at Washington, where he remained four years, from 1876 to 1880. During the years 1879 and 1880 he attended Columbian Law School, now affiliated with George Washington University in Washington, D. C. The registrar writes that Beckham "Did not receive a degree here, but was classified as a Junior in the Law School."

At about the age of twenty, the young man began to keep notes on birds and to collect specimens around his home at Bardstown in Nelson County, at least during the time Congress was not in session. We do not know how he got his first interest in birds or how he learned to make bird skins, but he must have had some training, as his skins are very well made. The earliest published record of a bird collected by Beckham was April 23, 1877. This was a Bachman's Sparrow, a note on which was published in the *Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History* in 1881, a society which he must have joined a year or two before.

However, Beckham's first publication appeared in *Forest and Stream* in 1880, in which he described the capture of two Coots. He again wrote about these two birds in the July 14, 1881, issue of the

\* Contribution No. 4 (New Series) of the Department of Biology of the University of Louisville.

same journal in an article entitled "Two Tame Coots." He had kept them during the winter in a basement room, feeding them chiefly on corn bread. Later they were given the run of the yard and remained there "as tame as chickens."

In April, 1881, Beckham made a trip to Florida and while there collected a "Black-throated Bunting (*Spiza americana*)" at Fernandina. He published this in the *Nuttall Bulletin* (1882c) and described his find as follows: "While walking along the fence row of an old field looking for Shrikes and Ground Doves, I heard the familiar note of the well-dressed Bunting in a small field near the fence. He was immediately secured, but although I searched diligently for others, none were found." This was the first Florida record for this species.

What Beckham did from 1880 to 1882, other than study birds, is a mystery, as there is no record of his having a job during that time. He collected birds at Bardstown off and on during these three years and published several articles on birds. Dr. Landon, editor of the *Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History*, quotes from a letter written by Beckham which described the collection of a Mockingbird on January 25, 1882. He evidently considered the winter occurrence of a Mockingbird noteworthy at that time. In the spring of 1882 young Beckham recorded the arrival of birds at Bardstown from March 3 to April 10 and noted that many species arrived earlier than usual. This was promptly published in the above-mentioned *Journal* (1882a).

Beckham was in Bardstown on April 10, 1882, and in Louisiana on the 15th of the same month. He must have left Kentucky on the 11th or 12th and arrived at his uncle's home at Bayou Sara on the 14th, for he writes that he was in the field all day on the 15th. He described his uncle's estate, "Wyoming," as "a place possessing peculiar agreeable ornithological associations on account of its former owner, Gen. Dawson, having entertained Audubon as his guest for several months." Beckham hunted birds intensively for five days from April 15 to April 19, inclusive, and he recorded that "A great deal of ground was canvassed in that time. A good many birds were shot but few were preserved, as taxidermy was necessarily subordinated to field-work." His results were promptly published in the *Nuttall Bulletin* (1882b) and compared with lists made in Louisiana by Dr. Landon and Mr. Hay. Clutches of eggs were collected by Beckham for many species, including the Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cardinal, and Kingfisher. He displayed considerable familiarity with southern trees and described many of the habitats in which the birds were collected. He was accompanied during these five days by a young man from his uncle's estate, Robert Wederstraudt, of whom he spoke highly, as "a young man whose unusually close and accurate observations of birds and bird life rendered his help particularly valuable. Many of the following notes are credited to him entirely." These were chiefly notes on game birds. Altogether, 86 species were reported from the area.

Beckham published his first comprehensive paper on Kentucky birds in the *Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History* for July, 1883. The article consisted of an annotated list of 167 species based on five years of field work. This paper was reviewed in the *Nuttall Bulletin* by the editor, J. A. Allen, who wrote, "This list is well printed and evidently carefully prepared." However, Dr. Allen criticized the way in which Beckham referred to the arrival and departure of the transients, pointing out that it was not clear from Beckham's statements whether they remained in Kentucky in the summer or migrated farther north.

Beckham spent most of the year 1883 in Pueblo, Colorado, where he continued the study and collection of birds while engaged in "mercantile pursuits." He wrote that most of his collecting was done in the spring. This resulted in a five-page paper in the second volume of the *Auk* (1885b), containing information on 91 species. The two-year interval between the research and the publication of the data was much longer than Beckham usually needed to assemble his facts, but there was a reason as discussed below.

A great event occurred in the life of the young man in 1884. He became an assistant in the Department of Birds at the National Museum in Washington. Here was his opportunity to become trained in ornithology under Robert Ridgway, one of America's top ornithologists, and to work with one of the largest and most rapidly growing collections of bird skins. The young man applied himself diligently to his work and appeared to have found his niche in life at last. In the **Report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1884** appears the following comment. "Mr. C. W. Beckham, until July 1, assisted Captain Bendire in the arrangement and cataloging of the oological collection and after that date rendered efficient aid in preparation of the New Orleans exhibit." Captain Bendire had just recently presented his extensive egg collection to the museum and personally assisted in the arrangement and cataloging of the famous collection. Beckham had the splendid opportunity of working both with Captain Bendire and with Dr. Stejneger, the latter just beginning his long career with the National Museum.

Beckham continued with the work of the museum in 1885, as shown by the following statement in the Report for that year: "The invoicing of specimens in the reserve or study series (skins only) by Mr. C. W. Beckham, has been completed through the first series (or type series) and through the Turdidae, Sylviidae... and part of the Mniotiltidae, of the second series, the total number of specimens invoiced being 2,655. This work, which has included the writing and typing on each specimen of a new standard museum label, with all the data and the name according to the most modern nomenclature and a special red label on every type specimen, has been done by Mr. Beckham during intervals between his regular routine work, such as cataloging collections received, etc., and represents a very large amount of labor."

The rapidly developing ornithologist must have learned a great deal about birds from this extensive program of labeling over 2500 specimens, including the type series. Later Dr. Ridgway wrote, "Mr. Beckham proved an intelligent and able assistant, while his gentle, genial, and unassuming manners, and gentlemanly deportment won for him the genuine regard of his associates."

Beckham continued his work in the museum, but in the next **Report** the exact nature of this work is not indicated. However, it can be assumed he continued the gigantic task of cataloging and relabeling all the bird skins. In the **Smithsonian Report of 1885**, Dr. Ridgway writes; "The curator desires to acknowledge the valuable services performed by the assistants who have been appointed or assigned to his department, Dr. Leonard Stejneger, assistant curator, Mr. C. W. Beckham and Mr. Hugh M. Smith, who have performed their respective duties with their usual efficiency and faithfulness."

Young Beckham found time for some local collecting while working at the National Museum. On September 6, 1884, he collected a Western Sandpiper at Virginia Beach, Virginia, a note on which he

published in the *Auk* (1885e). A few months later he took a White-winged Junco in Howard County, Maryland, on February 1, 1885.

In 1885 his paper on central Kentucky birds was reissued in a greatly expanded form by the **Kentucky Geological Survey**. In addition to giving a very interesting and useful picture of bird life in central United States 75 years ago, it gives us an opportunity to analyze Beckham's style of writing when not restricted by the requirements of a scientific journal. The paper contains many amusing anecdotes as well as much local folklore about birds. A few quotations will furnish an idea of the style and content.

In regard to the Chat, he writes: "If birds were not known to be temperance folks, the Chat would be accused of alcoholism, for this would be a very logical explanation of his absurd squawking and clown-like gyrations in midair when the nuptial ecstasy is upon it."

Referring to the use of the colloquial name "Ortolan" for the Cedar Waxwing, he notes that this name is applied to four other birds. "It is suggested that those who contend for a vernacular nomenclature, instead of a Latin and Greek one, put this in their pipes and smoke it."

He recognizes the crow as a most intelligent bird and writes, "He has no friends, and apparently does not want any, for he increases and multiplies in the face of the most unrelenting persecution. He knows the range of every gun in his bailiwick and in him the farmer's unsightly 'scarecrow' excites no emotions save those of derision and contempt."

He goes even further afield in his comments on the Blue Jay, for which he apparently had a low opinion: "The popular belief that he is in league with the devil and visits his sulphurous majesty every Friday to report to him and consult upon mundane affairs, is aptly supported by his wicked disposition and general cussedness."

This paper was also issued in book form and was apparently intended for popular consumption, especially in Kentucky, where no comprehensive bird study had appeared before. In his other writings Mr. Beckham is more reserved and usually purely factual.

It was apparently at this time that Beckham, now 29 years old, was stricken with tuberculosis, too often a deadly disease in the 19th century. In an effort to regain his health, he devoted the next year almost entirely to field work in ornithology. He spent the summer at Bardstown, as shown by several published articles based on collections made there. On June 21, he collected a Summer Tanager and described its first plumage, hitherto unknown, in the *Auk* (1886). On July 16, he took a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Bardstown, an unusual summer record (*Auk*, 1886). On September 13 he discovered a Philadelphia Vireo caught in a cobweb (not published until 1888a). He also wrote a letter to the editor of the *Auk* about "The scarcity of adult birds in autumn" which was published in 1877, in which he states that between September 1 and November 22 of this year (1886) he had collected 376 bird skins, 258 during the month of October in Colorado and the remainder in Kentucky, and that 348 of these were birds of the year, as shown by their partly ossified skulls. This letter is signed "Bardstown, Ky., Nov. 23, 1886."

On October 4, 1886, Beckham returned to Pueblo, Colorado, where he remained a full month and spent all but four of the thirty-one days in the field. He mentions that he had no difficulty shooting Hairy Woodpeckers (*Dryobates villosus harrisi*) with a .22 calibre cane gun, the first mention he makes as to the type of gun used in collecting.

He also refers to a "dust storm" and comments that "The birds did not like these cold dust storms any better than the unfeathered bipeds, for during their prevalence, it seemed impossible to find one anywhere." His original list was increased from 91 to 112, and additional notes on 29 specimens were included.

After a short stay in Bardstown, Beckham next traveled to southern Texas, where he spent the latter half of December, 1886, and the first three months of 1887 collecting birds. He worked around San Antonio, Leon Springs, Beeville, and Corpus Christi. This covered a stretch of country seventy miles long, extending from the northwest to the southeast. Most of the skins prepared on this trip were sent to the National Museum. In the annual report for 1888, p. 146, it is stated that the museum received 218 specimens, comprising 48 species, from southwestern Texas and adds this comment: "This is an extremely interesting collection, which both on account of its excellent preparation and extensive series of many of the rarer birds hitherto represented in the museum by a few specimens only, may be regarded as one of the most valuable accessions received of late (gift)."

On his way home, Mr. Beckham stopped at his uncle's estate at Bayou Sara in Louisiana, where he collected from April 1 to April 28, 1887. He mentions that the vegetation was very well advanced on the date of his arrival. "A great deal of time was spent collecting in the densely wooded ravines, . . . localities almost entirely neglected during my former visit. It was here that Swainson's Warbler most abounded." On April 17 he found a nest of a Hooded Warbler, which seven days later contained four eggs. Grackles destroyed five acres of corn the previous winter for a Mr. Bowman, who poisoned several thousand of them with arsenic, "but unfortunately a good many Carolina Doves were killed along with the Grackles." In regard to the European House Sparrow, he regrets that "These pests have recently gained a foothold in Bayou Sara, but are not very numerous." Altogether he added 27 species to his previous list.

After this year spent almost entirely in the open air in four states Beckham apparently felt better, for, according to Ridgway: "For a few months he resumed his labors in Washington," presumably in the office of Mr. Pollock, a patent solicitor. He evidently spent some time in the National Museum identifying his Texas collection, for in his article (1888c) he refers several times to specimens examined. In regard to his collection of the Florida Blue Jay he writes (p. 668); "Upon comparing my bird with typical examples of Doctor Coues' new Florida race in the U. S. National Museum, I find it to agree perfectly with them." Again, in his discussion of the Western Lark Sparrow, he writes (p. 674): "Upon comparing these with the series in the U. S. National Museum, I find that but two of the birds are typical *grammacus*, both of which were taken at San Antonio, while the remaining five are easily referable to the paler western form."

"Again attacked by illness, he went to Louisiana and spent the winter with his uncle, Governor R. C. Wickliffe, near St. Francisville. Growing worse, he returned with his mother to Bardstown, where he died, after extreme suffering. All that friends and relatives and medical skill could do were of no avail. He died without an enemy and was followed to the grave by the tears and tender regrets of all who ever knew him," wrote Dr. Ridgway (1888).

On June 8, 1888, Charles Wickliffe Beckham, not quite thirty-two years old, was lost to American ornithology. His Texas paper, by far

his most outstanding contribution, was published posthumously. His friend Dr. Ridgway published a short biography of his assistant in the *Auk* (1888) and a briefer one in the *Smithsonian Report* for 1888. References to his bird skins in the National Museum have continued to appear in print down to the present day. A brief biography of Beckham with special reference to his Kentucky work appeared in the *History and Bibliography of Kentucky Ornithology* in 1949 (Lovell and Slack).

Beckham's writings reveal that he had a broad background in science from which to draw. Many of his papers referred to the geological formations of the regions in which he collected. Although he worked before the modern concepts of ecology had been formulated, he showed in most of his papers a real interest in the habitats frequented by the birds. In his Texas paper (1888c) he included a long list of the trees, shrubs, and vines, and throughout his paper he referred to many local plants in which he had collected an interesting bird. He correlated the distribution of land birds with the presence of streams and ponds, and he even discussed the possible effects of the heavy dews as partially alleviating the severe drought in the region.

Beckham's two years as a full-time assistant in the U. S. National Museum, working with some of the leading ornithologists of the period, clearly broadened his knowledge of taxonomy. This is clearly shown in his final paper from Texas (1888c), in which he identified all his birds to subspecies and often discussed the intergradation between subspecies and even distinct species. For example, he wrote concerning the Juncoes (p. 677): "I also obtained several of these 'very puzzling examples,' plainly indicating intergradation between *hyemalis* and *oreganus*, *oreganus* and *shufeldti*, or *hyemalis* and *shufeldti* . . . This mixing of the geographical races which my material illustrates is by far the most interesting fact in connection with my observations in Texas that has come to my knowledge, although this occurrence of intermediate forms is just what was to have been expected." Beckham indicated in several places that he had made his identifications to subspecies by comparing his skins with the series in the National Museum.

Beckham's interest in birds covered nearly every phase of ornithology. He described a new plumage in the Summer Tanager (1886b) and changes in the plumage of the Yellow-throat (1886a). He was interested in bird anatomy and used it to show that there are a high proportion of young birds in autumn populations (1887a), and he also recorded a tumor on the bill of a Savannah Sparrow (1882b). He collected a good many clutches of eggs but seemed to have escaped the mania for egg-collecting which afflicted so many ornithologists of the period. His knowledge of the distribution of birds was extensive, for on several trips to areas not usually visited by him, he recorded the collection of species beyond their usual range, as, for example, a White-winged Junco in Maryland (1885c).

In many of his publications Beckham revealed a keen interest in bird behavior. He recorded wing-flashing in the Mockingbird (1882b) and the habit of Swainson's Warbler of pausing to throw back its head and pour forth his curious melody, "a habit so far as I have read, not noted by previous observers (1887c)." He had a good ear for songs and used it occasionally to find unusual species of birds.

He referred to evolution several times in his papers and clearly believed in the concept of the changing species. For example, when



discussing the intergrading of the plumages of two species of Bob-white in Texas, he wrote "Whether this black in the white throat-patch is a case of 'development' or merely the persistence of an ancestral type, cannot with our present lights be determined." After observing a Kingbird, with the red crest erected catch a bee he comments, "The bright crest of flycatchers perhaps has been evolved for the special purpose above mentioned," that is, catching insects. In his disparaging comments on the English Sparrow, however, Beckham seemed to have missed the point when he remarked, "There must be something wrong about a theory—'survival of the fittest'—that lets this bird live—what are they fit for anyway?"

One looks in vain for any expression of opinion on conservation of birds by Beckham. He described raids on a Robin roost in Fredericksburg, nine miles from Bardstown, where as many as 8000 Robins were killed in a single night and sold in the market at ten cents a dozen. He wrote of the growing scarcity of the Passenger Pigeon and stated, "There was an enormous flight of them here about 15 years ago." He also wrote that Wild Turkey is "said to still occur sparingly in the western part of the county," but nowhere does he make any suggestions for the growing need for their protection.

Beckham's publications are filled with humorous comments and clichés, both of which were typical of ornithological writings of the last century. Some of these have already been quoted; here is another: when discussing the case of the Philadelphia Vireo caught in a spider's web, he wrote, "I think it improbable that the wily Arachnid deliberately attempts the capture of such large game, and in the particular instance it was doubtless as much surprised as the cockney sportsman in 'Punch' who fired at a hare and killed a calf" (1888a).

Although Beckham's college experiences were rather brief, he often used very erudite expressions and liberally sprinkled Latin idioms throughout his papers. In discussing the presence of a snake-skin in the nest of the Crested Flycatcher, he queried, "Whether or not they act upon the idea that 'the hair of a dog is good for his bite,' which is merely a homely rendition of the homeopathic canon of 'similia similibus curantur,' and put the skins in to keep snakes out, I leave for the determination of some of our ornithological quidnuncs."

Had Beckham lived a normal life span, it seems very probable that his name would stand in the forefront in the ranks of American ornithologists.

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**Annotated Bibliography of the Writings of  
CHARLES WICKLIFFE BECKHAM**

1880. The Capture of Two Coots. *Forest and Stream*, 25: 307. (Not seen).
- 1881a. Two Tame Coots. *Forest and Stream*, 16: 473 (July 14).
- 1881b. *Peucaea aestivalis illinoiensis*, Ridgway. *Jour. Cinn. Soc. of Nat. Hist.*, 5: 93. One specimen of the Pinewoods Sparrow taken at Bardstown, April 28, 1877.
- 1882a. Spring Arrivals at Bardstown, Ky. *Jour. Cinn. Soc. of Natural Hist.*, 5: 93. From March 3 to April 10 recorded the unusually early arrival of 12 species.

- 1882b. Short Notes on the Birds of Bayou Sara, Louisiana. **Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club**, 7: 159-165. From April 15 to 19th he collected birds and published a list of 86 species.
- 1882c. The Black-throated Bunting in Florida. **Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club**, 7: 250. Collected the Dickcissel on April 22, 1881, in a state where it had not been reported before.
1883. A List of the Birds of Bardstown, Nelson County, Kentucky. **Jour. Cinn. Soc. of Nat. Hist.**, 6: 136-147. An annotated list of 167 species based on 5 years of collecting and observation.
- 1885a. List of the Birds of Nelson County, Kentucky. **Ky. Geological Survey**, Sept. pp. 1-58. Issued in book form also. A greatly expanded account of the birds of his home county.
- 1885b. Notes on Some of the Birds of Pueblo, Colorado. **Auk**, 2: 139-144. A list of 91 species made while engaged in mercantile pursuits.
- 1885c. A White-winged Junco in Maryland. **Auk**, 2: 306. Collected in Howard Co., Maryland, Feb. 1.
- 1885d. Remarks on the Plumage of *Regulus calendula*. **Proc. U. S. National Museum**, 8: 623-628. Proves that the females do not have the crown patch and that some young males in autumn do.
- 1885e. The Western Semi-palmated Sandpiper on the Coast of Virginia, **Auk**, 2: 110. Collected a Western Sandpiper on Sept. 6, 1884.
- 1886a. Changes in the Plumage of *Geothlypis trichas*. **Auk**, 3: 279-281. Young males molt directly into adult plumage and never again resemble the females.
- 1886b. First Plumage of the Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). **Auk**, 3: 487. Described by Beckham for the first time.
- 1886c. The Red-breasted Nuthatch in Kentucky in Summer. **Auk**, 3: 489. Collected on July 16 at Bardstown.
- 1887a. Scarcity of Adult Birds in Autumn. **Auk**, 4: 79. A letter to the editor in which he reported that most of the birds collected by him were immature, as determined by unossified skulls.
- 1887b. Additional Notes on the Birds of Pueblo County, Colorado. **Auk**, 4: 120-125. Spent Oct. 4 to Nov. 4 collecting and increased his previous list to 112 and included notes on 29 species previously reported.
- 1887c. Additions to the Avifauna of Bayou Sara, La. **Auk**, 4: 299-316. Collected from April 1 to April 28 and increased his previous list to 113.
- 1888a. A Philadelphia Vireo and a Cobweb. **Auk**, 5: 115. A live bird was discovered caught by one wing.
- 1888b. Occurrence of the Florida Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata florincola*) in Southwestern Texas. **Auk**, 5: 112. After comparing his bird with the type specimen in the National Museum, he concluded that it belonged to the Florida race.
- 1888c. Observations on the Birds of Southwestern Texas. **Proceedings U. S. National Museum**, 10: 633-698.

## FOLK NAMES OF KENTUCKY BIRDS

By W. L. McAtee, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

The terms here presented are extracted from the folk-name section of a large manuscript on "American Bird Names: Their Histories and Meanings," which now seems unlikely to be published as a whole. Many of the names are labelled "general," "universal," or the like, and these adjectives are to be interpreted in relation to the ranges of the birds concerned. Names not so labelled have been definitely attributed to Kentucky. Anyone wishing to pursue the records further may do so at the Fuertes Museum and Library at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, where the card catalogues and other material, accumulated over a period of forty years, are deposited.

Incorporated in the present paper are apparent folk names, which, with numerous bookish ones, are in a manuscript on "Local Bird Nomenclature," submitted to the Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy (later the Biological Survey) of the United States Department of Agriculture in 1890 by Dr. L. Otley Pindar, then of Hickman, Fulton County, Kentucky. These are starred in the following article.

### SYSTEMATIC LIST

**COMMON LOON.** **Hell-diver** (rather general. This name refers to the bird's almost supernatural diving ability); **loon** (rather general. The conventional explanation is that this word is derived from the Scandinavian *lom*, "lame", the bird being very awkward on foot. An additional suggestion is that the appellation may be sonic, a common call sounding like "ah-loo"); **walloon**, **warloon** (probably from its cries).

**PIED-BILLED GREBE.** **Dabchick** (general, the bird that dabs, daps, or dives); **devil-diver** (a tribute to its great diving ability); **didapper** (general, a shortening for **dive-dapper**, **dipper**, or **diver**); **dipper** (general); **hell-diver** (same note as on **devil-diver**); **water-witch** (general. This refers to the bird's uncanny ability to submerge beneath water without leaving a trace).

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.** **Nigger goose** (universal, in allusion to its black color and goose-like appearance, especially when in flight in the V-formation so closely associated with the common CANADA GOOSE); **shag** (general, in reference to its shaggy crest); **water-turkey** (a water bird of somewhat turkey-like form).

**GREAT BLUE HERON.** **Blue crane**, **crane** (general; herons are often miscalled cranes).

**AMERICAN EGRET.** **Piglin\***; **white crane\*** (general).

**GREEN HERON.** **Fly-up-the-creek** (general); **Indian hen** (a sizable bird facetiously referred to as poultry of the Indians); **po' Joe** (Names of this pattern are widespread for herons in the Southeast; they seem to be traceable to **pojo**, meaning heron in the Gullah dialect, a name imported with slaves from western Africa).

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.** **Qua-bird**, **quawk**, **quok**, **squawk** (general, in reference to a common cry of the species).

**AMERICAN BITTERN.** **Bull-of-the-woods** (its peculiar notes being likened to the bawling of a bull, a rather strained comparison);

**Indian hen** (See under GREEN HERON); **stake-driver** (general, because the bird's notes suggest resonant pounding); **thunder-pump** (general, the notes simulating sounds made by an old-fashioned suction pump, but hardly so loud as thunder).

**WOOD IBIS.** **Gourdhead** (general, from the shape of the bare head and beak, the latter being the neck of the gourd); **white stork** (This is our only representative of the stork family).

**WHISTLING SWAN.** **White crane** (by very erroneous transfer); **wild swan** (general).

**CANADA GOOSE.** **Honker** (universal, from its cries dropping through the air by day or night from birds often not themselves visible); **wild goose** (universal).

**MALLARD.** **Gray duck, gray mallard** (rather general); **green-head\*** (universal; the head and neck of the adult male are iridescent green); **mallard** (universal).

**BLACK DUCK.** This name is in general use, though the prevailing color of the bird is dusky or blackish-brown; **blackjack\*** (familiar name for a dark-colored creature); **black mallard\*** (general; it is a close relative of the COMMON or GRAY MALLARD).

**PINTAIL.** **Gray duck** (in rather general use; sometimes refers only to the female); **pintail, sprig, sprigtail\*** (general, alluding to the long, pointed tail of the male).

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL.** **Blue-wing** (general; the wing-coverts and, in male, the adjacent feathers, are blue); **teal** (general).

**BALDPATE.** This name, in general use, refers to the white-topped head of the male; **widgeon** (general).

**WOOD DUCK.** **Acorn duck** (familiar name for its feeding on acorns: **summer duck\***; **tree duck** (from its nesting in cavities of trees); **whistler** (from its squealing notes); **wood duck** (general).

**RING-NECKED DUCK.** **Blackjack** (familiar name for any large dark-colored creature); **blackneck**; **ringbill, ringbill blackhead, ringbill duck** (from the pale crossband near the front end of the bill).

**GREATER SCAUP.** **Big blackhead** (the head and neck of the adult male are black, with greenish reflections); **big bluebill, bluebill\*** (rather general; the bill is dull blue in both sexes).

**LESSER SCAUP.** **Bluebill, little bluebill** (general; see preceding note).

**COMMON GOLDEN-EYE.** **Goldeneye** (general; the iris is yellow); **whistler** (general, from the sound made by the wings in flight); **whistle-wing** (rather general; same note).

**BUFFLEHEAD.** **Butterball\*** (general, from its sometimes being excessively fat); **dipper** (general, for its being a good diver); **widgeon** (This is a rather general-purpose name for the smaller ducks).

**OLD SQUAW.** This name, in rather general use, refers to the garrulity of the species; **pie duck** (that is, with strongly contrasting colors).

**SCOTERS.** Any of these birds would be of almost accidental occurrence in Kentucky; however, the name **nigger duck**, from their largely black coloration, has been reported.

**RUDDY DUCK.** **Butterball** (general, from its being at times very

fat); **stiff-tail** (rather general; the tail feathers are unusually stiff); **stiffy**.

**HOODED MERGANSER.** **Fish-duck** (general); **little merganser**; **sawbill** (general; the bill is provided with prominent serrations); **sheldrake** (rather general; this name means **pie-drake**, that is, one with strongly contrasting colors).

**COMMON MERGANSER.** **Fish duck** (general); **goosander** (general, an old name meaning **goose-duck**, probably, that is, a large one); **sawbill** (general); **sheldrake** (general). For notes on this and the following species, see under **HOODED MERGANSER**.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.** **Fish duck\*** (general); **jack, sawbill, sheldrake\*** (general).

**TURKEY VULTURE.** **Buzzard** (general, from resemblance on the wing, to the soaring hawks known as **buzzards** in England); **carrion-crow** (crow from its black color, **carrion** from its food).

**BLACK VULTURE.** **Black buzzard, black-headed buzzard, buzzard, carrion-crow** (all general).

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.** **Bluetail** (The adult male is dark bluish-gray above); **chicken hawk** (This hawk is too small to kill any but small chickens, which are better protected by enclosures than by killing the hawks); **pigeon hawk** (rather general, perhaps from its size; perhaps as a carryover from **PASSENGER PIGEON** days when several species of hawks attended the great flocks of pigeons as predators or camp-followers); **quail hawk** (Quail remains were found in only 4 of 944 stomachs examined by the U. S. Biological Survey).

**COOPER'S HAWK.** **Bluetail** (See under preceding species); **chicken hawk** (general; remains of poultry were found in 32 of 261 stomachs studied by the Biological Survey); **hen hawk**.

**RED-TAILED HAWK.** **Chicken hawk, hen hawk** (general; remains of domestic fowls were found in 60 of 754 stomachs, or in about 1 in each 12); **redtail** (rather general; the tail of adults is chestnut above and shows that color predominantly when light shines through); **squirrel hawk** (tree squirrels were found in 80 of 754 stomachs).

**RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.** **Chicken hawk, hen hawk** (general; less applicable to this species than to the preceding; traces of poultry were found in only 8 of 391 stomachs); **squirrel hawk** (squirrel tally: 9 to 391).

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK.** The names **chicken hawk\*** and **hen hawk\*** are likely to be given to any large hawk, but as applied to this species, they are mistakes. No remains of poultry, whatever, were found in 145 stomachs examined.

**BALD EAGLE.** This name is rather general; it alludes to the white head of adults, which, however, is not bald. **Brown eagle** (the young); **gray eagle** (rather general; also for birds in immature plumage); **white-headed eagle** (rather general).

**MARSH HAWK.** **Harrier, marsh harrier\*** (one that harries or ravages); **marsh hawk** (general; characteristic is its patrolling of marshes and meadows); **meadow hawk**; **mouse hawk** (general, a well-deserved name; mice were identified in 211 of 601 stomachs); **rabbit hawk** (Rabbits are large prey for this species, occurring once in about 10 meals); **swamp hawk\*** ("swamp" meaning "marsh").

**OSPREY.** **Fish eagle** (rather general); **fish hawk** (general; the bird preys largely upon fishes); **osprey** (general; a British name, with

continental analogues, traceable to the Latin name, *ossifragus*, for this cosmopolitan bird).

**PEREGRINE FALCON.** Duck hawk (rather general; remains of ducks were found in 9 of 57 stomachs examined by the Biological Survey).

**SPARROW HAWK.** This name is general; sparrows are eaten, though not extensively; a better name, based on food habits, would be grasshopper hawk; mouse hawk\*.

**RUFFED GROUSE.** Kentucky pheasant, native pheasant (to distinguish it from the introduced ring-necked pheasant); partridge (by transfer from the European gray partridge, which, however, it little resembles. Partridge is a more northern and eastern term; pheasant, a mountain and southern name for the ruffed grouse); pheasant (as being of the size class of the European pheasant, whose name it rather generally bore before the introduction of that bird).

**PRAIRIE CHICKEN.** Barren hen (This bird, like the brush-inhabiting heath hen of the Atlantic States, may have been of a distinct, but as yet not recognized, race); prairie chicken, often shortened to chicken (bearing in mind the preceding remark, this general term may have been applied to the Kentucky birds); prairie hen (same note).

**BOB-WHITE.** This rather general name is in imitation of the bird's common call. Partridge\* (The American game bird nearest in size to the European gray partridge; this name is prevalent throughout the Southeastern States); quail\* (formerly a northeastern, now a general term).

**COMMON PHEASANT.** English pheasant (Part of the stock was imported from England); pheasant, ring-neck, ring-neck pheasant (general; in most of the mixed American stock, the male has a white collar).

**WILD TURKEY.** Gobbler (The adult male; general; from its call); turkey, turkey gobbler, wild turkey (general. A variety of explanations for this name have been offered, among which the most satisfactory is that the bird named itself, a common call sounding like "turk, turk, turk").

**WHOOPING CRANE.** Gourdhead\* (The head is partially bare); white crane\* (general, in its time; the bird is now nearly extinct).

**SANDHILL CRANE.** This name and brown crane, in rather general use, may have been heard in Kentucky in more favored days; the bird now seldom visits the state.

**AMERICAN COOT.** Chicken-footed duck (The bird has the habits but not the structure of a duck, contrasting notably in the separated, though lobate, toes); coot (general); mud hen (universal; the somewhat hen-like bird of muddy situations); sea hen, water chicken, water guinea, water guinea-hen\*, water hen (All of these names suggest a rather poultry-like bird that frequents water).

**KILLDEER.** This name, from a common call, is universal.

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.** Bullhead (that is, bighead).

**AMERICAN WOODCOCK.** Woodcock (general; a striking bird of woodlands); wood snipe.

**WILSON'S SNIPE.** English snipe (general east of the Mississippi River; in such names the term "English" implies a superior kind); jacksnipe (universal, meaning small snipe; by transfer from Great Britain, where the name distinguishes an ally of our bird from the common snipe of Europe); snipe (universal).

**UPLAND PLOVER.** *Field plover* (rather general; as the standard name also implies, this bird frequents uplands more than is customary with shore birds); *upland plover* (rather general).

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER.** *Peet-weet* (general, in imitation of the bird's common call); *sand snipe*; *teeter* (general); *teeter snipe*; *teeter-tail* (general); *tip-up* (universal. The last four names allude to the bird's constant bobbing movements).

**GREATER YELLOW-LEGS.** *Big yellowleg* (general); *tell-tale* (rather general, because its wariness and shrill cries give all wildlife a notice of the presence of intruders); *yellow-leg* (general).

**LESSER YELLOW-LEGS.** *Little yellowleg*, *yellowleg* (general).

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER.** *Grass snipe* (general; the bird frequents sippy grassland); *jacksnipe* (general) meaning "small-sized"; this name is more frequently applied to *WILSON'S SNIPE* (see above).

**HERRING GULL.** *Sea gull\** (general; any gull would probably be so called in Kentucky).

**COMMON PIGEON.** *Blue rock*, *dove*, *pigeon*, and *street pigeon* are names rather generally used. This first one is short for *blue rock pigeon*, a British name for the bird, alluding to its color and to its nesting in rocky places.

**MOURNING DOVE.** *Dove* (general); *turtle dove* (general; "turtle" traces to the apparently sonic Latin term *turtur*, a name for the common European dove); *wood dove*.

**PASSENGER PIGEON.** *Pigeon* and *wild pigeon* were general for this now-extinct bird.

**NORTH AMERICAN PARAKEET.** Also extirpated; common names were *parrot* and *wild parrot*.

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.** *Chow-chow\** (sonic); *phantom bird\** (It slips elusively through the greenery); *rain crow\** (universal; the bird is thought to be most clamorous before a rain, it is, however, not at all crow-like); *spirit bird\** (see note on *phantom bird*); *weather-bird*, *weather-vane* (See note on *rain crow*).

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO.** This bird is scarcely distinguished by lay observers, and doubtless shares any and all names applied to the preceding species.

**BARN OWL.** *Asiatic Owl* (Such names are meant to signalize distinctive species and have no implication as to country of origin; this bird, in fact, is almost cosmopolitan); *barn owl* (rather general, from nesting in barn lofts); *monkey-faced owl* (general; the heart-shaped facial disk being likened to that of a monkey); *seal-skin bird* (from the sleek texture of its plumage).

**SCREECH OWL.** *Little gray owl\**; *rat owl\**; *red owl\** (The bird has two color phases of plumage, red and gray); *screech owl* (general; the bird may rarely screech, but the note most often heard is a soft, tremulous whistle, which to my ears is a musical and welcome sound); *scrinch owl*, *scrooch owl*, *squinch owl* (These three names appear to be corruptions of *screech owl*, but the last may refer to the birds' keeping the eyes "squinted," or closed, in daylight).

**GREAT HORNED OWL.** *Cat owl* (general; two theories account for this name; the tufts of feathers on each side of the crown, resembling ears, suggest a cat-head-like silhouette; its silent approach to

prey is likened to that of a stealthy cat); **hog-owl** (perhaps a corruption of "horn" owl); **hoo owl**, **hoot owl\*** (general; the last two names allude to its common, hooting calls).

**SNOWY OWL.** **White owl** (general).

**BARRED OWL.** **Hoo owl**; **hoot owl** (general; see note on these names under **GREAT HORNED OWL**); **laughing owl** (in reference to the "who are you?" heard as "ha-aw-ah," part of its cry); **muley owl** (that is, without crown tufts or "horns," and thus like a muley cow); **night owl**.

**CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW.** **Dutch whip-poor-will** (as a whip-poor-will with a different, or Dutch, accent).

**WHIP-POOR-WILL.** **Bull-bat** (through confusion with the **NIGHTHAWK**; see below; **whip-poor-will** (in imitation of its cry, which is usually frequently repeated).

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK.** **Bull-bat\*** (from the sound made while dropping through the air with wings in a V-formation, which is likened to the bawling of a bull; "bat" as a nocturnal bird); **eve-jar** (In England a related bird, but more like the **WHIP-POOR-WILL**, is called **eve-jar** or **night-jar** from a "churring" sound it makes); **goat-sucker** (This term and analogues in several European languages for a bird of this family reflect a superstition inspired by their large mouths. The observation on which it seems to rest is of some of the birds feeding about livestock and jumping up to catch insects from the bodies of the animals); **haunt bird** (Any nocturnal bird is likely to have superstitions connected with it); **nighthawk**, from its nocturnal and expert flight).

**CHIMNEY SWIFT.** **Chimney swallow\*** (general; its form and expert flight cause it to be confused with swallows, with which, however, it is not closely related; it nests and roosts in chimneys); **chimney sweep** (general; from its frequenting chimneys, using a once-familiar name for human cleaners of chimneys); **chimney sweepers\***.

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.** **Hummingbird** (general; in allusion to the sound made by the buzzing wings).

**BELTED KINGFISHER.** **Kingfisher** (general; as an accomplished fisher).

**YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER.** **Dutchman's quall** (by reason of the quondam fondness of German hunters of Frankfort, Kentucky, for adding it to their game bags. S. M. Stagg, 1936); **flicker** (general; in imitation of its notes); **high-holer** (It may be assumed that this name alludes to the choice by the bird of a high situation for its nest; however, nests are often low. To philologists these names seem adapted from some of those for the **Green Woodpecker**, the European species that is more like our flicker. British folk names **high-hoe** and **high-hole** refer to the laughing notes of that species); **yellow-hammer** (universal. A British name for the **yellow bunting** that has been transferred to a variety of birds having yellow in their plumage).

**FILEATED WOODPECKER.** **Betty bird** (a familiar pet name); **cock-of-the-woods** (general; as a conspicuous woodland bird); **good god** (general; without going into lengthy explanation, it may be said that this term is a corruption of the well-distributed name **logcock**. See my article in **AMERICAN SPEECH**, XXVI (May, 1951), 90-95); **Indian hen** (A wild "hen" or large bird, with some reference, perhaps, to its cackling calls: **logcock\*** (general; as a striking bird frequenting trees); **lord god** (general; a corruption of the preceding name); **wood-**



**chuck\*** (general); **wood hen** (These two names mean large or conspicuous bird of the woodland).

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.** **Checkerback** (The back is black and white crossbanded, but not checkered); **sapsucker** (a general name for woodpeckers; only one species occurring in Kentucky is a true sapsucker).

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.** **Redhead** (general; the head, neck, and upper breast of adults of both sexes are bright crimson); **red-white-and-blue bird** (Its colors include large patches of red, white, and blue-black); **white-back** (The rump and upper tail-coverts are white; **white-coat** (Enough of the plumage is white to suggest a coat of that color).

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.** **Sapsucker\*** (general; this is the only Eastern woodpecker that excavates pits in bark and revisits them to drink sap; it is responsible for the conspicuous rings of punctures seen on a variety of trees).

**HAIRY WOODPECKER.** **Big sapsucker\***; **devil's almanac** (perhaps from its black and white markings suggesting a printed page); **great gray-backed sapsucker\***; **sapsucker\*** (general; see note under **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER**); **wood-knocker\*** (that is, one that knocks on wood, a woodpecker).

**DOWNY WOODPECKER.** **Dominecker** (from its speckled coloration suggesting that of the Dominique chicken); **little sapsucker\***, **sapsucker\*** (general; see above).

**IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER.** **Ivory-billed woodcock** (a conspicuous woodland bird with pale-yellowish bill); **peacock woodpecker** (in allusion to its crest and striking coloration).

**EASTERN KINGBIRD.** **Bee bird**, **bee martin\*** (general; from its feeding on honey bees); **kingbird** (rather general; in allusion to its dominating habit of driving other, and often larger, birds away from its nesting territory).

**EASTERN PHOEBE.** **Barn pewee** (It sometimes nests on beams in barns; "pewee" is sonic); **bridge bird\*** (It often nests on beams or abutments of bridges); **moss bird\***, **moss pewee** (from using that material in constructing its nest); **pewee\*** (general); **pewit flycatcher\***; **phoebe**, **phoebe bird** (rather general; the last four names are imitative of its common call); **preacher bird\*** (first term probably sonic; Cf. "phoebe"); **spider bird** (perhaps from feeding on spiders, which it does to a moderate extent).

**EASTERN WOOD PEWEE.** **Moss pewee** (mosses used in the construction of its nest; "pewee" sonic).

**BANK SWALLOW.** **Bank martin\***; **bank swallow\*** (general; it nests in burrows in banks); **bee martin\*** (It feeds little, if at all, on bees); **sand martin\*** (general); **sand swallow\*** (rather general; note on **bank martin** applies).

**BARN SWALLOW.** **Barn flycatcher** (It habitually nests in barns and feeds upon insects); **barn swallow** (apparently general); **fork-tailed swallow\***.

**PURPLE MARTIN.** **Big martin\***; **black martin\*** (The feathers are tipped with steel-blue, overlying black and sooty-gray); **house martin\*** (from its nesting in houses erected for it by man); **large martin** (It is the largest of the swallows occurring in Kentucky); **martin\*** (rather general).

**BLUE JAY.** Jay, jay bird\*. All three names are rather general; the upper parts are largely blue; "jay" is sonic.

**COMMON CROW.** Crow (universal).

**CAROLINA CHICKADEE.** Chickadee (general; sonic); **crickadock\***, **crickadoo\*** (apparently basically sonic: **tomtit\*** (See note under **TUFTED TITMOUSE** below).

**TUFTED TITMOUSE.** Peter bird ("peter" in imitation of a common call); **peter-peter**; **Stephen bluehead** (A Negro familiar or "pet" name; the color of its slate-gray, not blue); **tiptop\*** (It has a topknot and frequents tops of trees); **tomtit\*** (general; a familiar name plus an abbreviation for **titmouse**. This name is applied to various small birds both in this country and in Great Britain); **winter king\*** (perhaps from its being more noticeable in winter and having a crest, or "crown").

**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.** Creeper\* (It spends much time clambering over trees); **sapsucker\*** (general, because deemed a kind of woodpecker, but even for them, the term "sapsucker," except for one species, is a misnomer); **tree creeper\***.

**BROWN CREEPER.** Winter creeper\* (because it occurs in winter and seeks its living creeping over the trunks of trees).

**WINTER WREN.** Wood wren\*.

**BEWICK'S WREN.** Barn wren (from nesting about barns; **house wren** (It occupies houses provided by man).

**MOCKINGBIRD.** Universal; it refers to its power of mimicry.

**CATBIRD.** Again a universal name; it refers to its cat-like scolding note.

**BROWN THRASHER.** Brown mockingbird (The plumage is reddish-brown to cinnamon-rufous; the species is an occasional, though expert, imitator of the notes of other birds); **brown thrush\*** (general; from its thrush-like pattern of coloration); **fox-colored mockingbird\***; **fox-colored thrush\***; **French mockingbird\*** (to distinguish it from the true **MOCKINGBIRD**); **thrasher** (spelled also "thresher" and "thrusher"; the last two terms are used in England for the **song thrush**; so the name of our bird appears to be a transfer from that species. Suggestions are made that the term "thrasher" alludes to the birds "rooting" among fallen leaves, or to its beating insects preparatory to swallowing them, but the deviation from "thrasher—thrush" seems preferable).

**AMERICAN ROBIN.** Robin\* (universal, by transfer from a similarly confiding European bird of the same family, which is also dusky above and ruddy below).

**WOOD THRUSH.** Hood-a-lang (sonic); **corn-planting bird** (from its song, being noticeable at corn-planting time); **pee-o-weep** (sonic); **song thrush\***; **Virginia nightingale** (Likening it to Europe's most noted bird songster is a tribute to its song, which is often given from dusk to dark); **wheedledge** (sonic); **wood thrush**.

**EASTERN BLUEBIRD.** Bluebird\* general; the male is largely blue above).

**BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.** Moss bird\* (The nest looks as if it were made of moss).

**CEDAR WAXWING.** *Cedarbird\** (general; from frequenting cedars (*Juniperus*) and feeding on their modified cones or "berries"); *cherry bird\** (It consumes cherries, sometimes to a destructive extent); *paroquet\** (After the disappearance of the true *paroquet*, this name may have been inherited by this similarly flocking species with touches of bright color); *rice bird\** (This name may allude to wax-like tips of the secondary wing feathers); *service bird* (as feeding on service, or June-berries (*Amelanchier*)); *waxwing\**.

**SOUTHERN SHRIKE.** *Butcherbird* (general; it hangs its prey on thorns, other sharp objects, or in crotches, for storage or preparatory to rending it).

**BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.** *Tree creeper\** (It spends much of its time clambering over the bark of trees).

**YELLOW WARBLER.** *Mustard bird* (The plumage is largely yellow); *summer yellowbird\** (general); *wild canary* (general; from its largely yellow coloration); *yellow bird\**.

**OVEN-BIRD.** *Ground wren; oven-bird* (rather general; in shape, the arched-over nest suggests an outdoor oven; it is not, however, made of clay).

**LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH.** *Branch babbler* (As "babbler" is a rare word in American use, it may represent in this name a mishearing of "bobber," which would be fitting for this constantly-tail-pumping bird; "branch" alludes to its small-stream habitat); *branch bird; teeterer* (from its bobbing movements).

**MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.** *Black-faced yellow bird\*; bush bird\**.

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.** *French mockingbird* (as a distinctive kind of variety-singer; it does not, however, rival the true *MOCKINGBIRD* in the art of mimicry); *Kentucky mockingbird; mockingbird; plow bird* (from its song attracting attention at plowing time; also perhaps because its disjointed utterances may sound like commands to horses); *strawberry bird*.

**ENGLISH SPARROW.** That name and *sparrow*, alone, are universal; much of the original stock of this introduced species was imported from England; it belongs to the *weaver-bird*, rather than to the *sparrow*, alliance.

**BOBOLINK.** *Army-worm bird\** (as feeding on that pest); *bobolink* (general; sonic); *rice bird* (a name transferred from the South Atlantic States, where in the rice-growing era this bird was a serious pest); *skunk blackbird\** (from the black and white coloration of the male).

**EASTERN MEADOWLARK.** *Field lark\** (Despite its several "lark" names, this bird is no lark); *marsh quail\** (In older days the bird was hunted much as the *QUAIL* or *BOB-WHITE* now is); *meadow lark* (general); *meadow starling\** (various birds of this family are miscalled starlings); *old-field lark\**.

**RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.** *Orange-winged blackbird\** (There is a large red and buff patch on the bend of the wing of the male); *redwing, red-winged blackbird* (general); *swamp blackbird\** (general; "swamp" means marsh).

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE.** *Baltimore bird\** (Its colors are those of the coat of arms of Lord Baltimore, proprietor of the Province of Maryland); *firebird\*, flamer* (about half of the plumage of the adult

male varies from "cadmium yellow to intense orange or almost flame scarlet" (Ridgway, BIRDS OF NORTH AND MIDDLE AMERICA, 1902); **golden oriole\***; **golden robin\*** (rather general; as a familiar bird distinguished, by the color just described, from the common ROBIN); **haignest\*** (rather general; the nest is suspended); **oriole\***.

**PURPLE GRACKLE.** **Blackbird\***; **crow blackbird\*** (universal; "crow" from its large size); **green-headed blackbird\*** (Much of the iridescence of the plumage is greenish).

**BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD.** **Cowbird**, **cow blackbird\*** (general; from its associating with cattle); **cow bunting\***; **cowpen bird\***; **lazy bird\*** (from foisting its young upon other birds to rear).

**SCARLET TANAGER.** **Black-winged redbird\*** (rather general); **British bird** (Its general scarlet color suggesting the old-time uniform of the British soldier); **dogwood-winter bird** (An unseasonable cold spell at the time the dogwood is in bloom is called **dogwood winter**; the spring migration of this species may be pronounced, in some years, at that time); **firebird\*** (See note on **redbird**); **pocket bird\*** (The black wings, contrasting with the scarlet body of the male, suggest pockets); **redbird\*** (rather general; the plumage of the male is chiefly scarlet).

**SUMMER TANAGER.** **Bee bird\***; **bee-catcher** (from its feeding on honeybees); **redbird** (rather general. The plumage of the male is dull red to vermilion); **summer redbird\*** (rather general; to distinguish it from the **CARDINAL** or **winter redbird**).

**CARDINAL.** This name is now probably general, having been learned from books and other print; in allusion to its vermilion-red coloration, including crest or "beret"; a distinctive part of the vestiture of a Cardinal, or member of the Pope's council, is red); **cedar redbird** (from nesting in red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*); **Kentucky cardinal** (James Lane Allen's novel of that name popularized this appellation); **redbird\*** (universal; because of the plumage).

**INDIGO BUNTING.** **Indigo bird** (general; the plumage of the male is mostly iridescent bluish); **summer bluebird\***.

**PURPLE FINCH.** **Linnet\***.

**PINE SISKIN.** **Linnet\***.

**AMERICAN GOLDFINCH.** **Goldfinch** (probably rather general; the general color of the breeding male is canary-yellow); **lettuce bird\*** (rather general; from its feeding on the seeds of lettuce); **seedeater\***; **thistle bird\*** (universal; this bird feeds on thistle seeds and lines its nest with thistle down); **tweet\*** (sonic); **wild canary** (universal; in allusion to the largely yellow coloration of the breeding male and its copious song); **yellowbird\*** (universal); **yellow finch**.

**EASTERN TOWHEE.** **Bull-finch\*** (that is, a large finch); **chewink** (general; sonic); **ground robin\*** (general; its black and cinnamon coloration suggests that of the common ROBIN); **jewee**, **joree\*** (sonic); **marsh robin\*** (Swamp would be better; as a wet, wooded tract, not a grassland, would be more like the bird's preferred habitat); **towhee** (general; sonic).

**VESPER SPARROW.** **Ground sparrow**.

**SLATE-COLORED JUNCO.** **Black snowbird\*** (general; the prevailing color is slaty, and the bird occurs at the snowy season); **rain bird\*** (from being especially active preceding rainstorms); **snowbird** (general).

**TREE SPARROW.** Winter chip-bird\* (from its resemblance to the summer chip-bird, or CHIPPING SPARROW).

**CHIPPING SPARROW.** Chippy\* (general; its call is a "chip," and its song a succession of similar notes); chipsney\*; hair bird\* (general; it lines its nest with animal hair); house sparrow (from its living about the houses of man); twit sparrow\*; yard sparrow.

**FIELD SPARROW.** Bush bird\*; bush sparrow\*.

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.** Stripe-headed sparrow.

**WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.** Ground sparrow.

**FOX SPARROW.** Big sparrow\*.

**SONG SPARROW.** Ground sparrow\*; song sparrow (general; the bird is a melodious songster); sparrow\*.

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(Editor's note: This contribution by Mr. McAtee, so long active in the Bureau of Fish and Wildlife and now in retirement at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, has permanent interest to all ornithologists and has an especial interest to Kentuckians because of its scholarly form and because of its utilizing the collections made so long ago by Dr. L. Otley Pindar, who was to become one of the Founders of the Kentucky Ornithological Society).

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#### A CHAT WITH OUR MEMBERS CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF OUR SOCIETY

**Leonard C. Brecher, Chairman, Endowment Fund Committee**

Yes, it is taken for granted that you are interested in the K. O. S., but what about your interest in the financial stability of our Society? Your Endowment Committee would like to point up ways and means to make this interest more concrete and effective.

One of the best safeguards against unforeseen adverse circumstances is to maintain an adequate endowment fund. Such a fund is being accumulated at interest and may be augmented either by life membership payments, outright gifts from interested members, or bequests upon death.

Perhaps the easiest way for most of us to help is to subscribe for a life membership at fifty dollars, which may be paid at one time or in four annual installments of \$12.50 each. Payment of this sum should not be a hardship on anyone who is deeply interested in continuing the ornithological progress of our state. It should be especially attractive to all persons who are able to pay now and who would thus free themselves from membership dues in later life after retirement. From this aspect alone, the life membership arrangement is a bargain.

Another method which may be more applicable to our mature members is to provide a suitable sum in your will. Many of you have devoted years to bird study; so what better way is there to perpetuate your interest than to see your attorney and provide for a bequest? Do it now before it is too late.

Or, perhaps, some may be interested in providing a grant for study of some problem or establishing lands and funds for a sanctuary. And it may well be that some of you know persons of means whom you

can interest in such gifts. Our Society is incorporated as a non-profit scientific and educational organization, and gifts to our endowment fund are tax exempt.

We are counting on you to help establish the K. O. S. in financial security so that your Society may grow in its value to you personally and to the state. The income from our invested funds could be used to enlarge **The Kentucky Warbler**, as it is through this publication that information on our birds is made available to you and to other research workers throughout our land. It is important that our **Warbler** be maintained adequately, for to many of us it brings news of our friends quarterly from all portions of our state. Moreover, other projects and services of interest to you could be initiated if the proper funds were available.

Is this to be just another report from the Endowment Committee? Well, it depends on you. Let's transmute our intentions into action!

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### ANNUAL MEETING APRIL, 1957

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its thirty-fourth annual Spring Meeting at Bowling Green, Kentucky, April 12-14, 1957, with headquarters at Lost River Motel. This was the second field-study program held in this area, designed primarily to observe the migrating waterbirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds frequenting McElroy and Chaney Lakes.

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm were hosts at an informal gathering Friday evening in their cottage. Interesting slides of people and places concerning the Kentucky Ornithological Society were shown by Miss Evelyn Schneider.

On Saturday the members, led by Dr. Gordon Wilson, Dr. L. Y. Lancaster, and Leonard C. Brecher, spent the day on the shores of Chaney and McElroy Lakes, where 102 species of birds were observed. Lunch, picnic style, was eaten in the field.

The dinner meeting, held at Ferrell's Restaurant Saturday night, was presided over by the president, Mrs. Stamm. After the introduction of the guests and members by localities, a short business session was held. The minutes, as printed in the **Kentucky Warbler** were approved. The Recording Secretary gave the following summary of the principal actions of the Executive Board at its meeting preceding the dinner:

1. The Board agreed that before taking definite action concerning the reproducing of out-of-print issues of the **Kentucky Warbler** the secretary would ascertain the number of issues desired by persons requesting back issues and report at the fall meeting.
2. It was the desire of the entire Board to honor Dr. Gordon Wilson, in appreciation of his long service to the Society. For that purpose it was voted that a scholarship in Kentucky Ornithology be established honoring Dr. Wilson, and that a committee be appointed to activate such a scholarship.
3. Cumberland Falls was selected as the place for the Fall Meeting; the date October 11-13, 1957.
4. The president reported that the Society applied for and received from the U. S. Treasury Department exemption from Federal income tax as an organization. Therefore, contributions made to the Society are deductible by the donors in computing their taxable income as outlined by the Federal laws.

5. It was reported that "the vote, taken by mail regarding the deletion of Section B, Article II, of the By-Laws was almost unanimous in favor of the deletion."

At the conclusion of the business meeting Dr. Gordon Wilson read a paper, "Some Ornithological Oddities at the Lakes near Woodburn," in which he gave an intimate glimpse of his bird records covering a period of forty years at Chaney and McElroy Lakes.

Mrs. F. W. Stamm then showed slides of an unusually large blackbird roost in Jefferson County which she and Dr. H. B. Lovell observed during the months of March and April, explaining the behavior patterns of this flock estimated at 500,000 in number.

Two interesting movies were shown: "Marsh and Shorebirds"—courtesy of the Michigan Conservation Department; and "The Wood Duck," courtesy of Mr. R. C. Soaper, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Resources.

On Sunday morning, the members went to the summer home of Dr. and Mrs. L. Y. Lancaster on Gasper River, where field trips were led by Dr. Wilson and Dr. Lancaster. Seven other species of birds were added, making a total of 109 species for the two days.

The cold weather during our meeting was unable to detract from our enjoyment of the "swallow ponds," or diminish the pride we felt in our own speakers, Mrs. Stamm and Dr. Wilson.—VESTINA BAILEY THOMAS, Recording Secretary.

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#### TREASURER'S REPORT APRIL 13, 1957

Balance on hand October 13, 1956 .....	\$ 48.51
<b>Receipts:</b>	
Receipts from Fall Meeting .....	52.00
Membership dues to date .....	477.00
Check lists, Bibliographies, Indexes .....	7.00
Miscellaneous receipts .....	18.75
Profit on books, calendars .....	6.10
Dividend on Jefferson-Federal .....	11.38
Refund from Selby Smith .....	21.90
Two Life Memberships .....	100.00
Total .....	\$ 742.64
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Expenses of Fall Meeting .....	\$ 30.00
Postcards, stamps, envelopes .....	34.60
Deposited in savings account (Life Memb.) .....	100.00
Cost of printing Warblers .....	126.95
Address labels .....	6.50
Mimeographing expenses .....	4.11
Dues to Ky. Conservation Council .....	2.00
Total .....	\$ 304.16
Balance .....	\$ 438.48

In our Endowment Fund we have seven \$100.00 shares of Jefferson-Federal Building and Loan Association. Also \$329.90 in Savings Account at Jefferson-Federal, of which \$3.27, being interest, should go into our checking account, making our true balance \$441.75.

—FAN B. TABLER, Treasurer.

## ATTENDANCE AT SPRING MEETING

Members and guests in attendance at our spring meeting, Bowling Green, April 12-14, 1957:

**BOWLING GREEN:** Marjorie Claggett, Mrs. R. Kenney, Dr. and Mrs. L. Y. Lancaster, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Long, Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Pace, Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Riley, Dan Russell, Loyce Spencer, Mrs. Will Thomas, Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilson.

**DANVILLE:** Mrs. J. Cheek.

**FRANKFORT:** Mrs. W. P. Ringo, Elizabeth Satterlee.

**GLASGOW:** Mrs. James Gillenwater, Jim Haynes, Dr. Robert McKinley, Lillian Simmons, Dr. and Mrs. Russell Starr.

**HENDERSON:** Amelia Klutey, Louise Reuter, Katherine Reuter, W. P. Rhoads, Captain R. C. Soaper.

**HORSE CAVE:** Reverend Sam Steward.

**LOUISVILLE:** Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Helen E. Browning, Floyd S. Carpenter, Carlisle Chamberlain, Jim Craddock, Joseph Croft, Marion Gilliam, Mrs. Charles Horner, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mitchell, Dr. Adrian Pollock, Evelyn J. Schneider, Beatrice Short, Mabel Slack, Roderic Sommers, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Thompson, Haven Wiley, Audrey Wright.

**MURRAY:** Dr. and Mrs. Hunter Hancock, Hunter M. Hancock.

**PIKEVILLE:** John A. Cheek.

**SCOTTSVILLE:** Mr. and Mrs. Crow.

**SHELBYVILLE:** Mr. and Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas.

**STAMPING GROUND:** Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jones.

**VALLEY STATION:** Mr. and Mrs. Donald Summerfield.

**VERSAILLES:** Mrs. Roe Read Adams.

**CINCINNATI, OHIO:** Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bunnell.

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE:** Mrs. Leon DeBrehun, Albert F. Ganier, Jennie Riggs, Ruth White.

## FIELD NOTES

### 1956 FALL MIGRATION DATA FROM THE LOUISVILLE AREA

The migrants of the past summer and fall arrived here mostly on schedule, but some records are of especial interest. Weather conditions may have played a part in some of these finds. September was unusually cool, and several cold fronts were apparent: one was on September 8-9, another on September 18-20, and a third on September 24-26. Generally, October was very mild although there was a slight cold front on October 7-8 and again the latter part of the month. November was hot, rainy, snowy, and freezing; temperatures ranged from a summer-like 77 on November 3 to a frosty 18 degrees on November 23 and 24. Rain totalling 1.51 inches fell on six days during the month. We had 1.2 inches on November 23. The big drop in temperature came on November 8 and 9, when the thermometer hit 36 and 29, respectively. This period brought in ducks and geese; at least ten flocks were seen. Catherine Hope Noland and Joseph Croft



reported 25-40 Wood Ducks in the Caperton Swamp area on November 3. Ducks seemed to be here in smaller numbers than in previous years. However, a few Old-Squaws made their appearance in November.

Two immature Yellow-crowned Night Herons remained in Seneca Park until October 12 (J. C.) They had been observed weekly since early September by the writer and Croft. This is a late record.

Hawk migration was noticeable on September 24 and 25 and again on November 8.

Eleven Sandhill Cranes were noted on November 8 flying over Lakeside Drive.

Shore bird migration on the Falls of the Ohio was nil. Perhaps this was due to the high water. However, it may be worthy of mention that as many as 29 Caspian Terns were seen on September 15 by Leonard Brecher, Bernice Shannon, Roderic Sommers, and the writer.

A late record for this locality is that of an Olive-sided Flycatcher in Seneca Park on September 2 (A. L. S. and J. C.)

Blue Jay migration was noticeable: on October 6, a flock of 15, and on October 7 there was a steady stream of 165 birds within a matter of minutes. These birds were flying over our neighbor's yard and in a southwesterly direction.

Burt L. Monroe, Sr., reported a good flight of Gray-cheeked Thrushes. Large flocks of Robins began appearing in yards on September 6 and remained through October 28. A Veery on September 29, in the Caperton Swamp area by Roderic Sommers, is our only fall record.

Members of the Beckham Bird Club found hundreds of Cedar Waxwings in Bernheim Forest on September 23.

A good flight of Philadelphia Vireos was reported by Burt L. Monroe, Sr. He found nine in his yard between September 19 and September 23.

Warblers did not seem to come in waves, but fair numbers were found coming through on September 21 and 23; the Tennessees were predominant. Twenty Redstarts were seen in Seneca Park on September 8 (J. C.)

Since a species seldom seen in the fall is the Bobolink, it was a pleasant surprise when the writer and Croft found 40 of these birds on September 2, feeding on weed seeds in a meadow. We approached within a few yards of them.

Two Brewer's Blackbirds fed around my banding traps on September 17, and as many as five birds came for several days.

Large flocks of Brown-headed Cowbirds were found in numerous places, but particularly in Seneca Park, where on October 4 there were approximately 2200. On October 5 there were 5000. They came in flocks of 25, 50, 100, etc., and flew to trees and some to the ground, making it an easy matter to count numbers.

White-throated Sparrows were very common on October 11-21. A Lincoln Sparrow on September 29, by Roderic Sommers, is our earliest fall record. On the same date he observed 25 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in the Caperton Swamp area.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

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#### AN EARLY DATE FOR THE AMERICAN EGRET

On February 10, 1957, while driving along Route No. 64, four miles north of Vine Grove, in Meade County, Kentucky, I saw an American

Egret (*Casmerodius albus*). The bird was standing erect and still by the edge of a farm pond about an acre and a half large and wooded on two sides. There was only the one individual, and it has not been seen again, as of February 26, 1957. Whether this bird has actually wintered here, far north of its usual wintering range, or is only a very early "wanderer," I cannot say.

For some years now these birds have been extending their range noticeably, and it is not unreasonable to expect that they might soon nest here, following the pattern of the Yellow-Crowned Night Heron. As far as I know, this February 10th date marks the early (or late) date for this area. Since the water of the Ohio River was high and swift at this time, it could be that the bird was forced from it to higher ground. The winter in this part of the state has been mild so far, which might have contributed something to this bird's being here.

Although this was a sight record only, the bird was observed from about 40 yards distance. Having seen this species many times before, I am convinced that this identification is correct.—ROBERT H. STEILBERG, Elizabethtown.

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### BROAD-WINGED HAWKS MIGRATING OVER JEFFERSON COUNTY FOREST

On Sept. 24, 1956, I went to Jefferson County Forest to look for migrating hawks and particularly with the hope of finding flights of Broad-winged Hawks, *Buteo platypterus*. I went to a spot where the elevation is approximately 888 feet, and where it was possible to look over a considerable part of the forested area. This location is south of Louisville and a short distance from the Bullitt County line.

Weather conditions seemed favorable for hawk flights: the temperature had dropped fourteen degrees from the low of the preceding day; the wind was coming from the northeast at a velocity of 13 miles per hour at 2:00 P. M., and had decreased to eight miles an hour at 3:00 P. M. The afternoon was fairly bright, yet thin clouds obscured the sun somewhat, and a "ring" encircled it, giving a rather hazy appearance to the valley below.

I reached the area at 1:45 P. M. Surprisingly enough, five minutes later I saw the first hawk. It went by so rapidly that positive identification was impossible. At 2:00 P. M. I spotted a Broad-winged; fifteen minutes later a Cooper's Hawk, *Accipiter cooperi*. A flock of sixteen Broad-winged Hawks came into view at 2:25 P. M. and kept milling around as they moved southward. A Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus*, followed this group; five minutes later six Broad-winged; then a Cooper's; two hawks unidentified as to family; and at 3:45 P. M. a flock of twenty-six Broad-winged Hawks passed over. This went on and on, and the hawks seemed to sail by in an effortless fashion, all following the same general course. Many flew at high elevations, but, as a rule, most Broad-wings flew at a lower level, soaring in a circular pattern that carried them in a southerly direction. I stopped watching at 4:30 P. M., and during the two hours and forty-five minutes, I had seen ninety-six hawks!

That evening I called some friends familiar with identifying birds of prey and asked if they could help observe on the following day. Unfortunately, it was during the week and impossible for them to assist.

The next morning, September 25, I arrived at the Forest at 11:30 A. M. and watched until 3:30 P. M. The wind was eight miles per hour and in the same direction as the previous day.

The hawks began appearing at 11:40, this time so high that on many occasions it was difficult to identify them as to family, and undoubtedly some escaped observation. The greater part of the time the hawks came singly and were not as numerous as on the 24th. Their flight was in a more southeasterly direction than the preceding day, when they flew directly south. Judging the direction from which they approached the forest, it is likely that they passed over the city of Louisville. During the four-hour period, 49 hawks were seen, thus making a total of 145 for the six hours and forty-five minutes of observation for both days; of this number 97 were Broad-wings. Other species recorded were: Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 8; Red-tailed Hawk, 10; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 2; unidentified accipiters, 8; unidentified *buteos*, 9; and unidentified as to family, 6.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### OKEECHOBEE FIELD TRIP

Nearly everyone who is interested in wildlife has heard or read about Lake Okeechobee in southern Florida and the abundance of water birds which regularly congregate there. It is the second largest fresh-water lake lying wholly within the boundaries of the United States. Its area is approximately 730 square miles. The surface of the lake is only about fifteen feet above sea level, and its maximum depth is said to be only about fourteen feet. Because of this extreme shallowness it is a natural paradise for wading birds and other aquatic feeders, such as the beautiful and once plentiful Everglade Kite.

During our previous trips to Florida we had skirted the edge of this large lake several times on our way to Hollywood, some sixty miles to the southeast, just catching tempting glimpses here and there. April, 1956, was going to be different. I decided to plan a special trip to this ornithological mecca.

I left Hollywood late in the afternoon on April 22. The sky was overcast with smoke coming from a raging grass fire in the "glades." The smoke was very thick in places along the highway and extended all the way to the lake. Things looked rather bad for a successful field trip.

That evening I met a veteran guide, Ed Doane, at Johnson's fishing camp in Clewiston. He agreed to take me out the following morning.

At 6:00 A. M. we departed for Turner's Cove in Observation Island, which lies about six miles out in the lake. Ed said that this was the most likely spot for seeing the "Snail Hawk," adding that he never failed to see it there and had even found the nests. Our equipment consisted of a 16-foot outboard runabout, a 15-HP motor, for getting there fast, and a 3-HP motor for the last mile, where the water would be too shallow for the larger motor; this would save a lot of poling.

A slight breeze came up from the northwest and cleared away most of the haze. By the time we reached the island, the sun was bright, and through the entrance to Turner's Cove we could see a huge glittering concentration of birds. The fire had evidently caused

an unusually large number of birds to take refuge there. As we neared the island, the first bird that I could distinguish was an adult Everglade Kite perched on a snag. We approached cautiously to about 50 yards before the bird flew. Later we saw two more Kites, which were either females or juveniles, the two being nearly indistinguishable in the field.

After dragging the boat across several bars, we were finally forced to abandon it and wade the last quarter of a mile to the entrance of the cove. We were amazed to see a concentration of over 2000 individuals, which stretched out for several hundred yards to our right and left. From our location I was able to identify 35 species.

We watched the Kites flying slowly over the area, occasionally hovering like a Kestrel and then suddenly darting down after a snail, which they would carry in their feet to the nearest snag. Around the base of each feeding roost was a collection of shells.

Within the flock of wading birds I quickly noticed the pale pink of the Roseate Spoonbill. There were nine of them in all, and, according to Mr. Allen Brookfield of the National Audubon Society, it was "quite remarkable" to find them at Lake Okeechobee. A flock of about 200 White Pelicans put on a show for us, circling and landing several times. Black Skimmers, various ducks, and herons wheeled overhead, sometimes very close and seemingly unafraid or even curious.

Returning to Clewiston, we passed a large mud flat which was literally swarming with Limpkins—80 by actual count. All around Clewiston where cattle were grazing in the fields the Cattle Egret may be seen. This spectacular addition to our American checklist is rapidly adapting itself to our country and extending its range northward. According to Burt Monroe, Sr., there is a good possibility of this bird's appearing in Kentucky in the near future. Clewiston is also well known for its small colony of Smooth-billed Anis. However, a diligent search of the surrounding cane fields proved fruitless. Here is a list of the 36 species seen on April 23, 1956. The star indicates an estimate: White Pelican, 200\*; Double-crested Cormorant, 25; Anhinga, 1; Great Blue Heron, 50\*; American Egret, 1000\*; Snowy Egret, 100\*; Cattle Egret, 25; Louisiana Heron, 30; Little Blue Heron, 200\*; Green Heron, 40\*; Wood Ibis, 30; Glossy Ibis, 40\*; White Ibis, 30\*; Roseate Spoonbill, 9; Blue-winged Teal, 2; Florida Duck, 20; Lesser Scaup Duck, 50\*; Turkey Vulture, 30; Everglade Kite, 3; Marsh Hawk, 2; Osprey, 2; Limpkin, 150; Florida Gallinule, 2; Coot, 500\*; Lesser Yellow-legs, 5; Black-necked Stilt, 20; Ring-billed Gull, 100\*; Common Tern, 28; Least Tern, 25; Black Skimmer, 50\*; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Rough-winged Swallow, 50\*; Fish Crow, 50\*; Mockingbird 20; Red-wing, abundant; Boat-tailed Grackle, abundant.—THOMAS P. SMITH, Louisville.

#### WALTER SHACKLETON DEAD

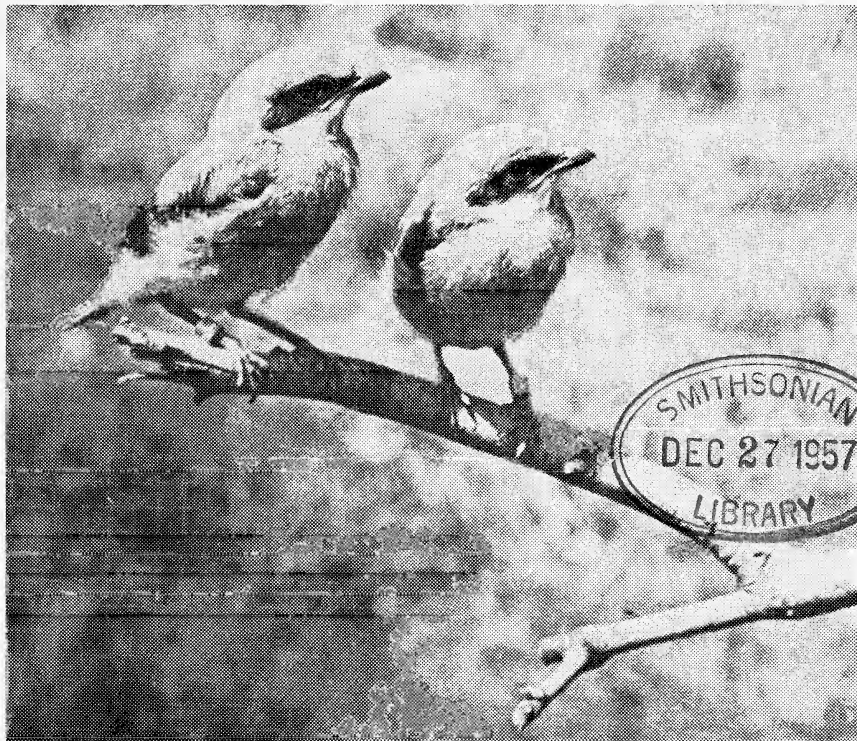
It is with the deepest regret that we report the death of Walter H. Shackleton on February 9, 1957. Only a week prior to his death he had returned from a lecture tour on the West Coast. He loved the out-of-doors and especially the beautiful wooded surroundings of his home in Sleepy Hollow, where he photographed all natural history subjects. He toured this country as well as Canada as a lecturer with the National Audubon Society's Screen Tours, showing his excellent color films on the wild life of Kentucky. He became a Life Member of our society and also contributed many notes about birds to the KENTUCKY WARBLER.

# The Kentucky Warbler

Vol. XXXIII

AUGUST, 1957

No. 3



Two Young Loggerhead Shrikes, Photograph by Mabel Slack

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## NEWS AND VIEWS

### OUR 1957 FALL MEETING

Our Fall Meeting will be held the weekend of October 11-13, 1957, at beautiful Cumberland Falls State Park. We have not been to this area since 1953; and all of us remember the large attendance and the good time we had. Won't you plan now to spend part of your vacation in the Cumberland National Forest and enjoy the opportunity it affords to observe the fall migrants in eastern Kentucky, as well as renewing acquaintances with fellow ornithologists? Program plans at the present writing (July 15) are not complete, but we assure you it will be well worth your time to spend this period with K. O. S. members. We have had word from some members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society that they are looking forward to the meeting. Full particulars will be mailed well in advance. REMEMBER THE DATE and join us there won't you?

—Anne L. Stamm, President K. O. S.

\* \* \* \* \*

### NATIONAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE

The National Science Institute conducted an eight-weeks summer course at Murray State College this year. Among our K. O. S. people there was Mabel Slack, science teacher at Atherton, Louisville. On July 10 and 11 the Institute visited Mammoth Cave National Park for underground and above-ground explorations. On the evening of July 10 our editor gave his lecture on "Ecological Changes in Mammoth Cave National Park, 1938-1957."

## A BLACKBIRD ROOST IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

By Anne L. Stamm and Harvey B. Lovell

The winter of 1956-57 was unusually mild, and large numbers of blackbirds wintered in northern Kentucky. On December 5, the senior author noticed 3 to 4 thousand Purple Grackles feeding in a swampy area on Newberg Road, and on December 12, she estimated 10,000 blackbirds in the Jeffersontown area. Frank Krull, who lives in a rural area about six miles southeast of Louisville, also recorded thousands of blackbirds during the month of December. On the Christmas bird count made on December 23, numerous flocks of blackbirds were reported, the most ever recorded on a winter count in this area. It was not until February 23, 1957, that the roost was discovered in a grove of scrub pine trees by the senior author and Frederick W. Stamm, although the people living in the valley where this phenomenon occurred were, of course, aware of the presence of the roost.

The roost proper was located in a grove of scrub pines ten miles southeast of Louisville in the vicinity of Farmer's Lane. The site is not quite one-tenth of a mile from heavily traveled Bardstown Road. The roost covered an area approximately 400 yards on the south, 217 yards on the west, 352 yards on the east, and 350 yards on the north. The roost is in a valley with gentle hills all around it. On two sides of the area numerous families live within a short distance of the roost.

On March 5, Lovell accompanied the Stamms to the area. Many thousands of birds had already reached the outer areas, and several groves of trees near the roost were being used as rallying centers before the birds entered the roost proper. Several of these groves were in the yards of home owners in the neighborhood. It was noted that the earlier flocks were largely Red-wings, with numerous Cowbirds and Grackles sprinkled through the flocks. Then as daylight waned, several flocks of Starlings flew directly to the roost. The largest groups came at 5:00 P. M., and by 5:30 nearly all the birds had entered the roost proper.

On March 8, we visited the area earlier in the afternoon. We went to the south side and observed the birds as they began to arrive. Some flew to the open meadows and fed in the fields for awhile, and others flew to the leafless deciduous trees, completely covering the branches. By actual count some trees held as many as 500 birds. As it grew darker, the birds in the fields began to move to the roost, and as they flew up from the ground, they formed a huge cloud resembling a tornado funnel, and the beating of their wings created a sound like the surf pounding on the shore.

The junior author entered the roost and fired four times into the flocks to sample the roost. Sixteen birds were obtained as follows: 3 Rusty Blackbirds (*Euphagus carolinus*), 3 Red-wings (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), 6 Purple Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*), 1 Cowbird (*Molothus ater*), and 3 Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). That evening we estimated that at least 500,000 birds were using the roost. As we walked through the center of the roost after dark, thousands of birds noisily shifted from tree to tree over our heads. By flashing a powerful flashlight ahead of us, we were able to accelerate this shifting and to reduce the amount of excrement that fell on us. We were unable to get close enough to catch any of the birds by hand, as has been described for other roosts.

The roost consisted of about 90% blackbirds and about 10% Starlings, with only a few Robins observed. Red-wings made up the

largest group, nearly 60%, with Rusty Blackbirds, Cowbirds, Grackles, and Starlings following in that order.

During our observations several behavior patterns were observed. First, each evening the birds flew towards the roost along definite routes in a well-established pattern. Small flocks kept joining together until the main flocks attained great size as they finally entered the roost. Second, the birds had four main flight lines: one from the northwest, one from the northeast, one from the southeast, and one from the west. It was also noticed that minor flight lines converged with larger ones as the flocks neared the final roosting area. Third, the birds had pre-roosting areas in various groups of deciduous trees surrounding the roost. These they used for as long as forty-five minutes, not leaving them until it was almost dark. Fourth, Red-wings were the first to arrive, often accompanied by a few Rusty Blackbirds, and the last to arrive were the Starlings. Fifth, by following some of the flocks it was learned that some of the larger mixed flocks flew as far away as 20 to 25 miles to feed.

On March 12, a day visit was made to study the roosting area. As one walked into the roost, the smell of ammonia was almost overpowering. One could easily tell where the greatest concentration occurred by the depth of the bird dung that covered the ground, which in some places exceeded two inches, and by the extent of the white ornamentation covering the trees. The heaviest concentration was in this central area, where the trees, shrubs, and vines were thickest, and here considerable undigested corn was found among the droppings. Numerous dead birds were scattered about, usually in an advanced state of disintegration. A surprising number still showed the red shoulder epaulet of the male Red-wing.

Other visits were made on March 21, 27, 28, 30, and April 6. On March 21, we estimated about 312,000 birds; on March 27, about 200,000; on March 30 the number had declined to 150,000; and on April 6 only 75,000 birds returned to the roost. On the last date there was no pre-roosting in fringe areas. An early-morning visit was made, and it was noted that the birds departed in the same manner, many using the roosts in the fringe areas, breaking up into smaller and smaller groups before they finally dispersed.

This is apparently the first year this grove has been used as a roost. Local residents, one of whom had lived in the area for 47 years, told us that he had never witnessed "anything like it" before. The site is evidently an old pasture which has been allowed to grow up, and the vegetation has just reached the proper size to attract winter roosting birds. Apparently the area was used in early winter by wintering blackbirds but was not particularly noticed by the local residents until the spring hordes of migrants built up the population. Mr. Horack, whose yard meets the entrance of the roost, said he had not thought much about the birds until the latter part of February, when they happened to land in his yard, blackening it with their great numbers. Bird droppings covered the roofs, and if the gutters were not turned off, the water in the cisterns, which are much used in the area was ruined. Clothes hung out-of-doors could not be left until late afternoon without being completely spattered, and cars not kept in garages were coated with whitewash. Some of the residents, in attempting to dissipate the roost, shot into the flocks and killed a considerable number. Other residents, objecting to the slaughter, called a conservation officer, who stopped the shooting, since most of the species are on the protected list. Only the Starlings are not protected, and it was impossible to distinguish these in the gathering dusk.



Winter blackbird roosts in northern Kentucky are not common. Beckham (1885) reported a roost nine miles from Bardstown, which was composed chiefly of Robins, thousands of which were killed for food. McAtee (1926) published a map showing blackbird roosts in the Eastern United States, which showed two roosts in Kentucky, but he did not tell exactly where they were located or where he got the information. John Loefer and John Patten in 1941 described a blackbird roost along the Kentucky River fifteen miles from Lexington, containing mostly Grackles, Cowbirds, and Starlings. In 1946, Lovell and Kirkpatrick described a winter roost at Fort Knox, containing mostly Robins and Starlings, with some Grackles and Cowbirds. Here in Louisville we are familiar with Starling roosts in the center of the city, where the birds roost on cornices or ledges on hotels, stores, and the Federal Building. In the fall Starlings often roost in the suburbs in trees, especially oak trees which hold their leaves.

It will be interesting to see if the present roosting site on Bardstown Road is used again next winter, since it seems to have a variety of desirable features.

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#### BIG SPRING LISTS

MADISONVILLE (Clear Creek, Richland Pond, four lakes at Madisonville, and the Brown and Frostburg Roads: open fields, 30%; deciduous woodlands and thickets, 50%; lake shores, 20%.)—May 5; 5:00-11:00 A. M.; 12:00-8:00 P. M. Fairly strong wind, NW; temp. 41-65. Total hours, 14; total miles, 69 (6 on foot, 63 by car). Total, 90 species, about 2505 individuals. The starred forms were found near the time of the count. The wind, apparently, prevented my finding several more species, to equal some of my previous counts. The 24 Black-bellied Plovers, recorded after the count, were in a partially flooded field by the side of the Brown Road.—James W. Hancock.

\* \* \* \* \*

HENDERSON (Henderson County).—May 5; 6:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Clear; temp. 37-63; barometer 30.2, steady; wind N, 5-8 m. p. h. Twenty observers of our group. We had a real help from the Audubon Society of Decatur, Illinois, forty of whom were in the cabins and nearby motels. We served as guides for several parties of them in the park on the count date. Total, 132 species.—W. P. Rhoads, compiler.

\* \* \* \* \*

BOWLING GREEN (McElroy-Chaney Lakes, Ford Spring area)—May 10-11; at lakes on first afternoon, 3:30 to 6:00 P. M.; at Ford's

Spring on second afternoon, 5:30-dark. Partly cloudy; just after a light rain on May 10. Both lakes falling fast; only mud puddles at McElroy's. At McElroy's I found a female Wood Duck and 7 downy young in one of the remaining pools. At Ford's Spring I recorded the Alder Flycatcher described elsewhere in this issue. Fatigue prevented my getting out for a longer time. Total for two afternoons, 97.—Gordon Wilson.

\* \* \* \*

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (Beaver Pond, Doyle Valley, Trails, Ugly Creek).—May 5; 7:00 A. M. to 8:00 P. M. The Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks were unusually abundant; at least fifteen of the two. Nests were found of the following species: Mourning Dove, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Wood Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Redstart, and Chipping Sparrow. Miring up in the sand at Ugly Creek had some compensations, for we added several new species to our list and were serenaded by a great Whip-poor-will concert before the rangers pulled us out of the sand. Also seven deer were sighted during the day. Total, 93 species.—Alice Furber, Jim Haynes, Cleo Hogan, Jr., Lillian Simmons, Dr. Russell Starr (compiler), Mrs. Russell Starr.

\* \* \* \*

LOUISVILLE (Louisville and its environs, including the Ohio River, woodlands, meadow lands, and Caperton's Swamp).—May 5; 5:00 A. M. to 8:30 P. M. Total, 131 species.—Leonard C. Brecher, Helen Browning, Floyd S. Carpenter, Helen Cole, Marie Cole, James Craddock, Joe Croft, Amy Deane, David Hadden, Frank Krull, Harvey B. Lovell, Mrs. John McChord, Burt L. Monroe, Sr. (compiler), Louis Pieper, Marie Pieper, Bernice Shannon, Francis Shannon, Mabel Slack, Roderic Sommers, Anne Stamm, Haven Wiley, Audrey Wright.

\* \* \* \*

DANVILLE (BOYLE COUNTY).—May 11; 11:00 A. M. to 8:30 P. M. Warm, almost no wind. We took a count on May 4, which netted us only 78 species because of the cold, windy weather, though we stayed out from 6:30 A. M. to 8:30 P. M. The starred species refer to ones recorded May 4 but not on May 11. Both counts have some strange blank spots, such as no Kinglets. The year has been a most unusual one in our area, with many of these oddities of birds' being absent. Total for May 11, 93 species; total for both counts, 107.—F. W. Loetscher, Scott Glore, Jr.

\* \* \* \*

KLEBER SONGBIRD SANCTUARY (Owen County)—May 11-12. Clear and warm on May 12. More warblers were seen on the second day. Of the 80 species listed only four were found outside the sanctuary, and they were in adjacent areas and are marked with an asterisk.—F. W. and Anne L. Stamm.

\* \* \* \*

PIGEON ROOST (At the head of Pigeon Roost Fork of Wolf Creek, 10,000 acres of uninhabited timberland).—May 4 and 5. Total species, 81. (See elsewhere in this issue a more detailed account of this escape into the wilds of the mountains.)—Rufus Reed, John Cheek, Walter Forson, Okie S. Green (compiler), Robert Chapman.

## BIG SPRING LISTS

M—Madisonville, H—Henderson, B—Bowling Green, MC—Mammoth Cave,

L—Louisville, D—Danville, K—Kleber, P—Pigeon Roost.

\*—Recorded NEAR Count Period

- Common Loon—M\*, D\*  
 P-b. Grebe—M, H, MC, D  
 D-c. Cormorant—H, L  
 G. B. Heron—H, B, L  
 Am. Egret—H, B, L  
 L. B. Heron—H, MC  
 Green Heron—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K  
 B-c. N. Heron—M, L  
 Y-c. N. Heron—B\*, L  
 Am. Bittern—M  
 Mallard—H, B, L, D\*  
 Black Duck—H, B  
 Gadwall—D  
 Am. Widgeon—H, L, D  
 Pintail—D  
 G-w. Teal—B  
 B-w. Teal—M, H, B, L, D  
 Shoveller—H  
 Wood Duck—H, B, L  
 Redhead—D  
 Ring-n. Duck—B\*  
 L. Scaup Duck—M, H, D\*  
 H. Merganser—L  
 T. Vulture—H, MC, L, D, K, P  
 B. Vulture—H, MC, L  
 Sh-sh. Hawk—H  
 Cooper's Hawk—H, L, K, P  
 Red-t. Hawk—H, MC, L, P  
 Red-sh. Hawk—M\*, H, MC, L, K  
 B-w. Hawk—MC, P  
 Osprey—M, H  
 Sp. Hawk—M, B, MC, L, D  
 R. Grouse—P  
 Bob-White—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Vir. Rail—H  
 Coot—M, H, B, L, D  
 Sem. Plover—H, B, L  
 Killdeer—M, H, B, L, D, K  
 Bl-b. Plover—M\*, B  
 W. Snipe—H, B, L  
 Sp. Sandpiper—M, H, B, L, D, K\*  
 Sol. Sandpiper—H, B, L, D  
 Gr. Yellow-legs—H, B, L  
 L. Yellow-legs—H, B, L, D\*, K\*  
 Pec. Sandpiper—B, L  
 L. Sandpiper—H, B, L  
 Stilt Sandpiper—B\*  
 Sem. Sandpiper—B\*  
 Herring Gull—L  
 R-b. Gull—M, B\*, L  
 Bon. Gull—B\*, L  
 Forster's Tern—L  
 Black Tern—B\*, L  
 M. Dove—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K  
 Y-b. Cuckoo—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Bl-billed Cuckoo—MC, D  
 Screech Owl—M\*, D, P  
 Horned Owl—H, L  
 Barred Owl—H, B, L, P  
 Chuck-w-Widow—M, B, L, K\*  
 Whip-poor-will—B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Nighthawk—M, H, B, L, D, K  
 Chimney Swift—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 R-t. Hummingbird—M\*, H, B\*, MC, L,  
 D\*, K, P  
 B. Kingfisher—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Y-s. Flicker—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Pil. Woodpecker—M, H, MC, L, D, P  
 Red-b. Woodpecker—M, H, B, MC, L,  
 D, K  
 Red-h. Woodpecker—B, L, P  
 Y-b. Sapsucker—H, MC, L  
 H. Woodpecker—M, H, B, MC, D, K  
 D. Woodpecker—M, H, MC, L, D, K, P  
 E. Kingbird—M, H, B, L, D, K, P  
 Cr. Flycatcher—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K  
 Phoebe—M, H, B\*, MC, L, D, K  
 Ac. Flycatcher—M\*, H, B, MC, D, K, P  
 Alder Flycatcher—H, B  
 L. Flycatcher—H, D, P  
 Wood Pewee—M, H, B, L, K, P  
 O-s. Flycatcher—H  
 Horned Lark—M, H, B, L, D  
 Tr. Swallow—B, P  
 Bank Swallow—B, L, D\*  
 R-w. Swallow—M\*, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Barn Swallow—M, H, B, L, D, K, P  
 Cliff Swallow—B\*, L, D  
 Pur. Martin—M, H, B, L, D, K, P  
 Blue Jay—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P

- Crow—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Car. Chickadee—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 T. Titmouse—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 W-b. Nuthatch—M\*, H, MC, L, D, P  
 B. Creeper—MC, P  
 House Wren—M\*, H, B, L, D, K  
 B. Wren—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K  
 C. Wren—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 S-b. M. Wren—MC  
 Mockingbird—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Catbird—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Br. Thrasher—M, H, B, MC, L, D, P  
 Robin—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 W. Thrush—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Her. Thrush—H, L  
 O-b. Thrush—M, H, B, L, D, K  
 G-c. Thrush—M\*, H, B\*, MC, L  
 Veery—H, B\*, D  
 Bluebird—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 B-g. Gnatcatcher—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 G-c. Kinglet—H  
 R-c. Kinglet—M, L, K  
 Am. Pipit—B  
 C. Waxwing—M, H, MC, L, D  
 L. Shrike—H, MC, L  
 Starling—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 W-e. Vireo—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Y-t. Vireo—M, B, MC, L, D  
 B-h. Vireo—B\*  
 R-e. Vireo—M, H, B\*, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Phil. Vireo—H  
 War. Vireo—M, H, B, L, D, P  
 B. and W. Warbler—M, H, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Pro. Warbler—M, H, B\*, MC, L, D  
 W-e. Warbler—H, MC, P  
 G-w. Warbler—H, B\*, MC, P  
 B-w. Warbler—H, MC, L, K, P  
 Brewster's Warbler—P  
 Tenn. Warbler—M, H, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Nashville Warbler—M, H, MC, L, K  
 Par. Warbler—MC, L, P  
 Yel. Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Mag. Warbler—M\*, H, MC, L, D, P  
 Cape M. Warbler—H, B\*, L, D\*  
 B-t. B. Warbler—H  
 Myr. Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L, D\*, P  
 B-t. G. Warbler—M, MC, L, K  
 P Cer. Warbler—M, H, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Bl'bur. Warbler—MC, D, K  
 Y-t. Warbler—M, H, MC, L, D  
 Ch.-s. Warbler—M\*, H, B\*, K  
 Bay-b. Warbler—H, D, K  
 Bl-poll Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K  
 Prairie Warbler—M, B, MC, D, K, P  
 Palm Warbler—M, H, B, L, D\*  
 Oven-bird—M, H, MC, D\*  
 N. Wat-thrush—H, L  
 La. Wat-thrush—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Ky. Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Yel-throat—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Y-b. Chat—M, H, B\*, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Hooded Warbler—M, H, MC, L, P  
 Wilson's Warbler—B\*  
 Canada Warbler—MC, L, D, P  
 Redstart—M, H, MC, D\*, P  
 Eng. Sparrow—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Bob-o-link—B\*, L  
 Meadowlark—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Red-wing—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 O. Oriole—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K  
 B. Oriole—M, H, B\*, L, P  
 Rusty B'bird—P  
 P. Grackle—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Cowbird—M, H, B\*, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Sc. Tanager—M, H, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Sum. Tanager—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Cardinal—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 R-b. Grosbeak—M, B\*, MC, L, D  
 Ind. Bunting—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Dickcissel—H, B, L, D  
 Goldfinch—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 E. Towhee—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Sav. Sparrow—B\*, L, D\*  
 Grass. Sparrow—H, B, MC, L, D, K\*  
 P-w. Sparrow—B, K  
 S-c. Junco—H  
 Tree Sparrow—P  
 Chip. Sparrow—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Field Sparrow—M, H, B, MC, L, D, K, P  
 Wh-cr. Sparrow—M\*, H, B\*, MC, L, D\*, K, P  
 Wh-th. Sparrow—M, H, B, MC, L, D  
 Swamp Sparrow—M, H, L  
 Song Sparrow—M\*, H, L, D, K, P

## BIRDS RECORDED AT OUR SPRING OUTING AT BOWLING GREEN

April 13-14, 1957

Since the other Big Spring Lists are from early May, the editor felt that it would hardly be fair to include this list, made two weeks earlier, in the regular tabulation. Some of our members, also, wanted a complete list of our finds at our K. O. S. spring outing. The water species were counted, the others merely listed by species; starred forms were added on the second day, at Dr. Lancaster's cabins. Horned Grebe, 3; Pied-billed Grebe, 10-12; Great Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 3; Black-crowned Night Heron, 3; American Bittern, 1; Mallard, 6-8; Black Duck, 20-30; Gadwall, 4; Baldpate, 30-40; Green-winged Teal, 20-30; Blue-winged Teal, 75-100; Shoveller, 20-30; Ring-necked Duck, 20-30; Greater Scaup Duck, 2; Lesser Scaup Duck, 20; Buffle-head, 6; Ruddy Duck, 6; American Merganser, 1; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Turkey Vulture; Black Vulture\*; Cooper's Hawk; Red-tailed Hawk; Red-shouldered Hawk; Broad-winged Hawk\*; Marsh Hawk; Osprey; Duck Hawk; Sparrow Hawk; Sora, 2; Coot, 75-100; Killdeer, 8-12; Wilson's Snipe, 6-8; Upland Plover, 7; Solitary Sandpiper, 4; Greater Yellow-legs, 8-10; Lesser Yellow-legs, 12-15; Pectoral Sandpiper, 1; Barred Owl\*, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet\*, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow-throated Vireo, Myrtle Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Palm Warbler, Oven-bird, Louisiana Water-thrush, Yellow-throat\*, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Cardinal, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Eastern Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Pine-woods Sparrow\*, Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Total for the two days, 109 species. Approximately 70 members of the K. O. S. participated in these field trips.

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### WING HAVEN

By Kay Altscheler

Our home, at 2326 Dundee Road, Louisville 5, has been christened **Wing Haven**. In planning and planting Wing Haven we considered the four basic needs of all birds: water, food, cover, and nesting sites. All birds want fresh, shallow, dripping water. We keep our bird bath dripping fresh water at all times, winter and summer. Trees, shrubs, ground covers, and flowers were selected to provide two or three of the above requirements. If not too unattractive, we allow flowers and shrubbery to go to seed to help feed our birds. We also tolerate some weeds, such as Pokeweed, because the birds like them. Many birds appreciate the thickets we are developing along the road and around the work area. We use only mild controls on many harmful insects, because we know that some birds require them for food. We have

owned Wing Haven a little more than two years. The rock wall was not built until early last spring. Most of the planting was done after its completion. As we add to our planting and it matures, we are sure that our bird population will continue to increase. We have already recorded the following birds at Wing Haven (the starred species were seen flying overhead): Great Blue Heron\*, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk\*, Sparrow Hawk, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Sreech Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift\*, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Oven-bird, Louisiana Water-thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, Redstart, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Baltimore Oriole, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Goldfinch, Eastern Towhee, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

#### PLANTING FOR BIRDS

With the exception of large trees, most of the planting of Wing Haven has been done within the past two years. In the interest of brevity only common names of families are given. TREES: apple, apricot, beech, birch, cedar, cherry, crabapple, dogwood, elm, hackberry, hemlock, holly, locust, maple, mulberry, oak, osage orange, pear, pine, plum, sycamore, walnut. SHRUBS: abelia, American olive, barberry, buckthorn, bush honeysuckle (4 species), butterfly bush, chokecherry, cotoneaster (2 species), deutzia, dogwood (2 species), elderberry, euonymus (4 species), forsythia, holly (5 species), Japanese quince, jet bead, juniper—spreading (5 species), multiflora rose, nandina, privet (2 species), spice bush, spirea (3 species), stranvesia, viburnum (7 species). GROUND COVERS AND VINES. (There are many wild flowers whose seeds the birds enjoy and whose foliage serves as cover throughout the summer): ajuga, apple mint, bittersweet, clematis, coral bell, day lilies, English thyme, euonymus (3 species), ferns, forget-me-not, ginger, honeysuckle, hosta, ivy, jasmine, morning glory, myrtle, pachysandra, phlox (3 species), ranunculus, sedum (5 species), strawberry begonia. FERNS (The following ferns have been purchased. There are some which have been brought in from the woods and have not yet been identified): ebony spleenwort, walking fern, toothed woodfern, purple cliff brake, common polypody, Christmas fern, narrow-leaved spleenwort, maidenhair fern, lady fern, bladder fern, hay-scented fern, goldie's shield fern,

sensitive fern, cinnamon fern, royal fern, interrupted fern, ostrich fern, and bracken fern.

(Editor's note: On June 4 the garden at Wing Haven was shown on the Wellesley College Annual Garden Tour as a "bird-lover's garden." This article by Mrs. Altsheler represents some of the papers given to each visitor at that time.)

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## A BIRDING TRIP TO PIGEON ROOST

By Okie S. Green

Snow was on the ground, the Christmas season was just over, the long pull until spring was just ahead. Migration season seemed a long way off. Reading and study occupied most of my spare time. In the midst of this came a letter from my good friend, birdman and poet Rufus Reed, of Lovely, Martin County, Kentucky. The "Riley of the Foothills," always the eager and jubilant naturalist, no matter what the weather, wrote about a wonderful region in his native county, at the head of Pigeon Roost Fork of Wolf Creek, 10,000 acres of uninhabited timber land, which he desired "us boys" from Ashland to visit with him and John Cheek, of Pikeville, another K. O. S. member, in the spring, saying it was "a birders' paradise, etc., etc." After discussion with Walter Forson and Henry Hughes, we accepted and set a tentative date early in May to visit and study the area Rufus had spoken of.

During the ensuing months we studied maps of the territory and found that Pigeon Roost Fork of Wolf Creek, with its tributaries, covered a large area in Martin County and that it drained rather steep mountain land. If there are those who are further interested, the Varney Quadrangle Sheet available from the A. & I. D. Board at Frankfort, at 25c a copy, will give a complete description of the whole area. We found that the area involved is some fifteen miles from Inez, county seat of Martin County, and closely adjoins Pike County. The elevation above sea level ranges upward from 800 feet, more or less, to approximately 1500 feet. This much we were able to deduce from a map inspection.

After further correspondence with Rufus, 8:30 A. M. on May 4, 1957, found our party at his home, in Lovely, Kentucky, ready for a two-day trip into the region. We planned to camp overnight at the mouth of Crooked Gourdneck, a branch of Hobbs Fork of Pigeon Roost, a place Rufus told us was completely wild and remote and offered good, safe water. It would be necessary to back-pack in, as there were no roads, only foot trails, and they mostly in the creek; therefore, we were prepared. Our party consisted of Rufus M. Reed, Lovely; John A. Cheek, Pikeville; Walter Forson, Ashland; Okie S. Green, Ashland; and Robert Chapman, a nature enthusiast of Lovely.

Loading into Rufus's pick-up truck, camping gear, binoculars, and all, we soon had driven as far as possible. "Saddling up," we took off into what proved to be one of the most interesting wilderness areas we had ever visited in twenty-five years of outdoor activity all over North America. Streams as clear as crystal, cold as ice, and absolutely pure and unpolluted were everywhere. Wooded hills reaching to an azure sky, needle-carpeted vales, a mixture of conifers and hard and soft woods, carpets of wildflowers, among which flame azaleas stood in myriads of locations, mountain meadows, rushing waterfalls, no human inhabitants, and birds, 81 species identified! (See "Big Spring Lists" in this issue.)

A few comments on our finds would not be out of place. Ruffed Grouse were heard drumming high in the mountains near Gourneck; this sounded like distant thunder. Reed called the Whip-poor-will a bird of mystery; one approached our camp early Saturday night and sat on a branch in full view fifteen yards away. The cluck in the call was very audible. Another came within ten feet of Forson, as he lay in his sleeping bag, and picked up bread crumbs from the ground. We discovered the nest of a Belted Kingfisher in the creek bank of Hobbs Fork. The Acadian and Least Flycatchers were very numerous; these two species taxed our collective resources to identify. We found a nest of a Carolina Chickadee five feet from the ground in an old white oak snag. The Golden-winged Warbler was seen with the Blue-winged and was very common. The highlight of our trip, a once-in-a-lifetime experience, was the finding of a Brewster's Warbler. This rare hybrid was observed for some ten minutes at a range of 150 feet, with 7x and 8x glasses. All identifying marks were very carefully noted. It was feeding in two or three large trees in bright sunlight. Many Blue-wings and Golden-wings were around, fitting the "overlapping range" account in the bird books. The streams were almost lined with Louisiana Water-thrushes; we found a nest in the bank of a creek, four feet above the water, 20 feet from the Chickadee nest mentioned earlier. All of us agreed that the Kentucky Warbler was the most abundant bird in the area; many were seen and heard; they were nesting everywhere. We found a nest of the Scarlet Tanager in ironweed overhanging Hobbs Fork, about eight feet above water. Reed nominates the male of this species as the most beautiful bird in the woods. The Tree Sparrow, quite late in its stay as a winter resident, was seen by Reed and Forson on Hobbs Creek. These comments are merely a brief account of our two-day trip into one of the wildest places in Kentucky.

## FIELD NOTES

### A LATE WINTER RECORD OF AMERICAN SCOTERS ON THE OHIO RIVER AT LOUISVILLE

On February 17, 1957, during the course of a morning birding trip, I made a short stop along the Ohio River near the foot of 8th Street. This particular vantage point had proved to be my most productive spot for observing wintering ducks in the Louisville area. Although I could find no more than six species of ducks on this particular morning, the 11:00 A. M. sun provided excellent light for identifying individual birds in the raft of ducks at midstream. My first impression at noting two smaller birds in a group of about 100 Black Ducks (*Anas rubripes*) proved to be correct; within 5 minutes they had flown from the water, circled toward the Louisville side of the river at the Portland Canal, and worked their way upstream to land directly in front of me. There was no doubt in my mind now that the birds in my 20x telescope, and only 200 feet away, were American Scoters (*Oidemia nigra*). The birds were both young males, which I was able to study for a full 10 minutes. Several competent observers were notified that same day of the record, but repeated checks on succeeding days proved futile; as far as I know, young Haven Wiley was the only other person to observe these birds; he had identified them as scoters from some distance only one hour before my arrival. I was aware of the fact that any of the scoters are comparatively rare



in this vicinity, but it amazed me to find out one well-established record of this species in Kentucky. Jacob P. Doughty of Louisville collected two female birds on the Ohio River, on November 9, 1938, near Carrollton, Kentucky. (AUK, LX, 282, Monroe and Mengel).

My personal knowledge of the three species of scoters stems from experiences with them in 20 winters of birding along the New England Coast.

—RODERICK W. SOMMERS, Louisville.

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### A SIGHT RECORD OF A HARRIS'S SPARROW AT JEFFERSONTOWN

On Sunday, December 9, 1956, about 2:30 P. M., I started for a short hike and walked back through the nursery that adjoins the back of our home, which is located in eastern Jefferson County, about 10 miles from downtown Louisville. It was a chilly afternoon, with an overcast sky, and the temperature about 40 degrees. The ground was very soft from a recent thaw and a few days of rain. While walking the first one hundred yards or more, I observed a great number of White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) and Slate colored Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*), which were feeding everywhere along the ground. While scanning the ground with my binoculars watching this activity, I came upon a Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*), not more than 60 feet in front of me, just out from a very large yew. This shrub is part of a natural fence row and separates the nursery from a corn field. The bird continued to feed for about five minutes in the spot first seen, paying no attention to my presence. Then, while I was trying to advance slowly toward the bird, it flew to the top of a multiflora rose bush. It then flew down to the corn field side of the fence row and fed just out from it, picking up corn from the field. Every time it was approached too closely, it would fly into the top of the fence row. After watching it for possibly twenty minutes, I lost it in the dense center of the natural fence.

The bird, very unusual for Louisville was in immature plumage but was readily recognizable as a Harris's Sparrow. A very conspicuous white throat, pink bill, and prominent black markings, roughly "T" shaped, on the chest, identified it immediately. It was not the least bit timid and would not fly until you came almost upon it.

The following Sunday, December 16, the same area was covered from 1:30-4:40 P. M., and it was not until 4:30, on my way back to the house that the bird was seen. It had been flushed with 10 to 12 White-crowned Sparrows from a yew. As I moved away from this tree a short distance, the birds immediately returned to it. The Harris's Sparrow sat a few moments at the very top before it went to the inside for its night's roost. It was again easily identifiable.

On the Christmas bird count, December 23, I saw the Harris's Sparrow along with White-crowned Sparrows again about 4:00 P. M., near the yew that seemed to be serving as its roost. This yew was about 150 feet from the one under which it was first observed. This was the last time the bird was seen, although this same area was covered weekly all during January and February.

—FRANK X. KRULL, Jeffersontown.

### WINTERING BROWN THRASHERS

On November 22, 1956, while on a short field trip in the area around our home, I saw a Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) in a fence row of multiflora rose. This fence row divides a nursery from a large corn field and is located in eastern Jefferson County. On weekend field trips thereafter I seldom failed to see the Brown Thrasher; and on December 16 and 23 I saw, at one time, three thrashers along this same fence row. Although from November 22 until the last weekend in February they usually were found near this particular spot, I also saw them many times in areas at least a quarter of a mile away. During January and most of February they came frequently in the morning to our back porch and ate the toasted bread which we put out for them. During most of this time at least one of these thrashers roosted in a large dense yew, just off the back porch. Often returning from the field in late afternoon, I would see one and sometimes two going to roost in a large spruce tree in the nursery, about 300 feet from the back of the house.

Along about the first of March I began to miss the thrashers, and although several trips were made in the area, I could not find them in the places they had frequented during the winter.

I have worked the area adjoining my home very often during the past three winters; but the past one is the first, I am sure, that provided winter sanctuary for not one but at least three of these birds.

—FRANK X. KRULL, Jeffersontown.

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### TWO NEW MIGRANTS AT BOWLING GREEN

The spring migration of 1957 brought two new migrants for me. I am sure that one of them has often been in the area before, but I was not skilled enough in its strange notes to be aware that I was hearing it. The other one was not strictly new but merely new for me in the field. On February 14 on the Chaney Farm, near the large stock barn, I heard a note that I learned to know quite well in 1952, when I camped for two weeks across the plains and mountains to the mouth of the Columbia River, the call of the Western Meadowlark. I soon located the bird as it fed in an old corn field and watched it for fifteen minutes. Though I returned to the same place on six or eight other trips, I was never able to flush it or hear it. This is the species that is a second record for this area but the first for me: Robert Mengel collected a single specimen of this bird on the same farm on May 4, 1949. The other find was the recognition of the fitz-bew call note of the Alder Flycatcher. On May 11, 1957, at Ford's Spring, a wooded, damp area in Warren County, I finally isolated the note and had the good fortune to have an Acadian Flycatcher calling at the same time. I suspect that I have often heard this note before but have mistaken it for a modified Acadian or Least Flycatcher note.

N, Bowling Green.

Ky Warbler 33(3) 58, 1957

### SONG SPARROWS USE NEST OF PREVIOUS SEASON

In 1957 a pair of Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*) successfully reared a brood of three young in a nest that had been used by Song Sparrows in 1956. This nest was located in an arbor vitae, at a point 54 inches from the ground. However, the arbor vitae is located alongside the front entrance of my home, so that the nest was just 30 inches

above the top step. It was a well-concealed nest. After the young had left in 1956, I removed one egg that had not hatched, but otherwise left the nest undisturbed. It seemed in good shape this spring. I first noticed that the nest was being refurbished on April 9, 1957, when I saw a strip of bark sticking out from the shrub. It was several days before I knew that Song Sparrows were preparing to use this nest again. Two eggs had been laid by April 12th, when we left the city for a vacation trip. Three young were raised. They left the nest on Sunday, May 5th, before seven o'clock in the morning.

None of the Song Sparrows in the 1956 nesting had been banded, so that there was no way to determine whether there was a relationship between the Sparrows of the 1956 nesting and those of the 1957 nesting.

I allowed the nest to remain for a time after this second nesting to see if it might be used again this season. It had not been by the end of June, and I removed it to examine it. The very lowest portion of the nest was quite rotten and fell to pieces as I handled it. But it was still a good nest. Apparently, very little had been done to refurbish it for use this year. Strips of bark taken from the junipers growing nearby and a piece of string I had put out this year for Robins had been woven around the outer rim. The cup was still firm and in good condition. It was oval in shape and measured roughly two and three-eighths inches by three inches and was about one and five-eighths inches deep in the center. There seemed to be two linings. First, there was a lining of short, fine but tough, sisal-like fibers, all of about the same length. Underneath this, there was a lining of fine grasses. The sisal-like fibers could have come from an old, rotting, cocoa-mat that has been at our back door for the past five years.

I have not located any report in the literature of Song Sparrows' re-using the nest of a previous season. Mrs. Nice (1943. "Studies in the Life History of the Song Sparrow, II." *Transactions of the Linnaean Society of New York*, 6: 210) cites three instances of Eastern Song Sparrows using the same nest twice in a season, and one instance where a pair raised four broods in one season in the same nest. She believes that in these cases the territory possessed one outstandingly attractive nesting site. A search of *The Auk* and *The Wilson Bulletin* from 1943 to date has not added any further information. The present record is probably the only one of a Song Sparrow using the nest from a previous season. I can offer no reason as to why the nest was reused, since there is plenty of similar shrubbery in the neighborhood.

—BERNICE B. SHANNON, Louisville.

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### WOODBURN LAKES, SEASON OF 1957

Heavy rains in January brought up both the Chaney and McElroy Lakes before the end of the month. By February 2 there were 175 acres of water at the McElroy Farm, about 100 acres at the Chaney Farm. Neither lake got up to the normal high levels, though the Chaney Lake, often slightly falling in late March, rose two feet higher than it had been in March. Both lakes lasted down until after June 1.

The season was good, though not unusual. Forty-nine species of water birds placed the spring season among the good years, though somewhat below the 54 species of several seasons. February and

March were duck months, with twenty species visiting the lakes. There were only a few days when as many as 2000 ducks were to be found on the two lakes. Mallards, Pintails, Blue-winged Teal, and Ring-necks were the species most numerous. The only geese recorded were ten Blue Geese at Chaney's on March 2 only. The Pied-billed and Horned Grebes were rather obvious; at Chaney's many of the K. O. S. observers on April 13 were able to get excellent views of the Horned, a treat to several of them, since the species is not so widely known as the Pied-billed. The herons were never numerous, twelve Black-crowned Night Herons being the highest record for a species. Though Coots were on hand, as usual, not more than 500 appeared on one lake, as compared with acres of some seasons. On April 10 I found two Soras at Chaney's. One waded from one grass tuft to another and practically disappeared beneath the water, the first time I ever saw this happen. This species was seen again by most of the K. O. S. observers on April 13. The King Rail was flushed twice at the McElroy Farm on May 31. As has been true for several recent years, the shore-birds have been far below some of the years I have studied the lakes. The only one to be seen in flocks of 50 to 60 was the Pectoral. Aside from the nearly 70 people who shared the lakes with me on April 13, I have had as companions on some of my trips Dr. L. Y. Lancaster and Mr. Millard Gipson of the Western faculty and Dr. and Mrs. Russell Starr of Glasgow.

The water species recorded, with their first and last dates are the following: Horned Grebe, March 24-April 20; Pied-billed Grebe, February 14-April 25; Great Blue Heron, March 17-May 31; American Egret, May 1 to 10; Green Heron, April 13 to end of lakes; Black-crowned Night Heron, March 21-May 31; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, April 25-May 4; American Bittern, April 13 only; Blue Goose, March 2 only; Mallard, February 2-May 19; Black Duck, February 2-May 10; Gadwall, February 2-April 13; Baldpate, February 14-April 25; Pintail, February 2-April 10; Green-winged Teal, February 14-May 10; Blue-winged Teal, March 17-May 25; Shoveller, February 16-May 1; Wood Duck, April 10-May 19 (1 female and 7 downy young at McElroy's on May 10, 1 female and 3 slightly larger young at Chaney's on May 19); Redhead, March 2-April 6; Ring-necked Duck, February 2-May 31 (2 males and 1 crippled female, May 31); Canvas-back, February 22-March 13; Greater Scaup Duck, April 13 only (one at Grider's Limestone Lake as early as February 2); Lesser Scaup Duck, February 2-May 31 (1 crippled female on May 31 at Chaney's); American Golden-eye, February 22 only; Buffle-head, March 1-April 13; Ruddy Duck, April 13 only (often on Grider's Limestone Lake); Hooded Merganser, March 9-30; American Merganser, February 22-April 13; Red-breasted Merganser, March 21-April 13; King Rail, May 31 only; Sora, April 10-13; Coot, February 16-May 31; Semipalmated Plover, April 25-May 19; Black-bellied Plover, May 10 only; Wilson's Snipe, February 16-May 10; Upland Plover, April 13; Spotted Sandpiper, May 1-19; Solitary Sandpiper, March 24-May 19; Willet, March 23 only; Greater Yellow-legs, March 21-May 10; Lesser Yellow-legs, March 29-May 19; Pectoral Sandpiper, March 23-May 10; Least Sandpiper, April 6-May 19; Stilt Sandpiper, May 4 only; Semipalmated Sandpiper, May 4 only; Ring-billed Gull, May 4 only; Bonaparte's Gull, May 4 only; Black Tern, May 1-4. (For a complete list of birds recorded by the K. O. S. on April 13, see "Big Spring Lists.")

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K-13

# The Kentucky Warbler

Vol. XXXIII

NOVEMBER, 1957

No. 4



Some of the 87 K. O. S. Members and Guests who attended the Fall Meeting at Cumberland Falls State Park

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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

- President... Anne L. (Mrs. Frederick W.) Stamm, Louisville 5
Vice-President... Hunter Hancock, Murray
Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer... Mrs. William B. Tabler, 6 Glen Hill Road, Louisville 7
Recording Secretary... Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Shelbyville
Councillors:

- W. P. Rhoads, Henderson, 1955-1957
Okie Green, Ashland, 1955-1957
John A. Cheek, Jr., Pikeville, 1956-1958
Amelia Klutey, Henderson, 1956-1958

- Retiring President... Dr. Roger W. Barbour, Lexington
Librarian... Evelyn J. Schneider, University of Louisville Library
Curator... Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Ridge Road, Anchorage
Editor... Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green
Assistant Editors... Leonard C. Brecher, Field Notes; Harvey B. Lovell, Notes on Ornithologists

Chairmen of Committees:

- Helen Browning, Membership; Leonard C. Brecher, Endowment; Rodney Hays, Conservation and Legislation.

NEWS AND VIEWS

A SLIGHT APOLOGY

This issue is somewhat later than our issues usually are. There are a number of reasons: (1) the editor was "under the weather" for several weeks and was unable to attend the fall meeting; however, the numerous get-well cards received almost overbalanced the pain from sinusitis; this is a recognition of all those cheerful messages; (2) our retiring president, Mrs. Stamm, joined the ranks of fashionable people who have had Asiatic influenza and was unable to send in some material, most of this issue; (3) some of the notes promised came in late, but here they are. Anyway, this issue should reach you in the month of November. One of our exchanges, dated September, 1956, arrived in March, 1957; maybe we are not so late after all.

\* \* \* \* \*

A SUGGESTION

Mr. Rufus M. Reed writes: "We had one magnificent migration of Broad-winged Hawks (Buteo platypterus) in our vicinity on October 12, 1957, but I wasn't privileged to see it, as I was away. But my observers reported a flock of over a hundred of these birds circling high over the vicinity of Lovely, Martin County, Kentucky, on that date. They reported that the hawks circled for a while and then took a course southward towards the head of Wolf Creek." (Editor's note: This date seems unusually late for such a large number of Broad-wings. At Bowling Green, in forty-one successive seasons the latest dates on which even a single Broad-wing has been recorded are October 2, 1956, and October 11, 1952.)

### OUR NEW "PATCH"

The Kentucky Ornithological Society has had an attractive sleeve patch for field jackets made. This "patch" has an embroidered Kentucky Warbler and the letters "K. O. S." on a light blue twill and is washable. Every member will want one for his field jacket. The price is \$1.25 for one, provided we can get orders for 100. Please send in your order promptly to our treasurer, F. W. Stamm, 2118 Lakeside Drive, Louisville 5, Kentucky. Of course, we all should have one.

\* \* \* \* \*

### MR. MITCHELL DEAD

We regret to announce the death on August 21, 1957, of Howard C. Mitchell. He died rather suddenly while visiting his daughter in Denver, Colorado. Although he had not been well for the past few years, illness did not prevent him from attending K. O. S. meetings. He was one of our valued members upon whom we could always depend. Mr. Mitchell was a very active business man, but he found time to observe birds and greatly enjoyed his hobby of ornithology.

\* \* \* \* \*

### MRS. CHARLES HORNER IS NEW LIFE MEMBER

Mrs. Charles Horner of Louisville is our newest Life Member. She is a native Kentuckian and spent the greater portion of her girlhood in the country, where she says she "just took birds for granted." However, in the past three years she has become vitally interested in ornithology and finds much pleasure in studying the birds around Louisville and at Nantucket Island, where she spends the summers. The "trigger" that set off this new interest was the sight of a Great Blue Heron as it stalked amid the brackish waters on the island. Suddenly Mrs. Horner thought how wonderful it would be to know the names of the different species of birds. She then joined the K. O. S. through its Louisville Chapter, the Beckham Bird Club, where she is an active member. She enjoys participating in the summer bird walks at Nantucket, where trips are led by Edith Folger Andrews, an authority on birds in that area. Mrs. Horner is also a member of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. We welcome Mrs. Horner to our growing list of Life Members. May her interest in birds continue to expand.

\* \* \* \* \*

### DR. CLAY HONORED

Dr. William M. Clay, head of the department of biology of the University of Louisville, has been elected president of the Kentucky Academy of Science for the coming year. Congratulations! Dr. Clay, one of our members, has spoken to our society on a number of occasions. He has also contributed several articles to THE KENTUCKY WARBLER.

### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Again the editor urges our members to send in a Christmas Bird Count. Organize as many parties as you have capable leaders and cover as much territory as you can. Be sure to limit your count to one day, but add in a supplementary list all species seen near the time of the count. Send in your count as soon as possible, for the tabulation of counts will start on January 15, 1958. It would save much trouble if you would put your figures on one of our Check List cards and attach it to a sheet of paper that gives all the details. Please add, also, any notes or interesting comments on your finds on the count or recently.

\* \* \* \* \*

### NIGHTHAWKS AT MURRAY

By Mabel Slack, Louisville

The summer of 1957 was spent at Murray State College, Murray, Kentucky, from June 10 to August 3. During that time I found the Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) very numerous in the vicinity of the school buildings of the campus. They were so evident that at any time of the day they could be seen and at night heard. In fact, they were so numerous that I could not begin to count numbers.

I made arrangements to investigate the roofs which were gravel-topped and accessible and on June 22 made the ascent up a ladder to the roof of Wells Hall to search for eggs or young. None were found; but I noticed from this vantage point the roofs that were flat-topped and graveled: the Science Building, the Training School, and Wells Hall. I was told by Mrs. Brown, house mother at Wells Hall, that a half-grown Nighthawk was found on the ground early in June and was returned to the roof by one of the students. As I found the Training School and Wells Hall inaccessible, I visited the Science Building, where an elevator took me all the way. On this roof of two levels the late Miss Grace Wyatt had studied the Nighthawks and had taken pictures of them several years ago. I could not find any on the roof at the time, but the custodian said that on several mornings when he arrived around 6:30 one had been sitting there and had flown as he approached. A student helper informed me that he had found a half-grown one on the ground near this building on June 4 and had carried it back to the roof. I had previously talked to Mr. B. Tillman, meteorologist at the college, who had told me that there were no Nighthawks nesting on the Auditorium roof, where his weather instruments were stationed. I did not look further at this time, believing that it was too late for the nesting of this species.

In the third week of July Mr. Tillman informed me that there was a Nighthawk nesting on the roof of the Auditorium. On July 18, after much difficulty in climbing to the roof, I found the bird in the south-





**Nighthawk's Nest at Murray State College, July 18, 1957**  
**Photograph by Mabel Slack**

west corner, incubating two eggs. The bird flew as I approached, and the two eggs, even though scuffed, showed up very light against the tarred roof. The nest was about a foot from the railing and the same distance from a five-foot wall and, therefore, had protection on two sides. I photographed the eggs, which were in the shadow of the wall, while the female sat on a ledge of the roof nearby and the male "boomed" at me from above, several times just missing my head. I had no further opportunity to visit the roof, but Mr. Tillman said that on July 28 the bird was still on the nest. This is believed to be a late nesting date. Other records of the nesting of this bird include two eggs on May 25, 1956 (KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXXII, 63, by Ringo) and young in early June, 1939 (KENTUCKY WARBLER, XVIII, 15, by Slack). Judging from the number of Nighthawks in this area, this would be a perfect place to make a nesting study of this bird.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL FALL MEETING**

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its thirty-fourth annual fall meeting October 11-13, 1957, at Dupont Lodge, Cumberland Falls State Park. On Friday evening Mrs. F. W. Stamm, the president, after welcoming the members and guests to the first meeting of the convention, introduced Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, who gave an illustrated address on "Birds of Cumberland National Forest and Black Mountain." Dr. Hunter Hancock introduced Mr. Frederick C. Hardy of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources, who gave slides and data concerning the status of the Ruffed Grouse in the Cumberland Mountains. Mr. Albert F. Ganier spoke on his bird observations on the Cumberland Plateau of Tennessee.

On Saturday morning the members made field trips under the leadership of Mr. Burt L. Monroe, Sr., and Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, co-chairmen, assisted by Mr. Albert F. Ganier and Mr. Howard Jones.

In the afternoon business meeting the minutes of the spring meeting, as published in the KENTUCKY WARBLER, were approved. Mrs. William B. Tabler gave the treasurer's report, which was approved. The recording secretary summarized the actions of the Executive Board taken at their meeting on Friday evening:

1. The board agreed that the registration fee should be applied to any person attending all or any part of the conference.
2. In order to encourage the purchasing of ornithological books through the society, the board voted to continue giving members the 10% discount on such purchases.
3. The board selected a washable twill emblem with the K. O. S. monogram on a blue shield, designating membership in the society. This emblem, priced at \$1.25, was on display at the registration desk, where paid orders were taken to determine the number of emblems to be ordered.
4. It was also voted to accept an invitation to join the Nature Conservancy organization.
5. Mrs. Stamm announced that the society had published a leaflet explaining the functions and purposes of the society, this leaflet to be used primarily for information for prospective members. Miss Evelyn Schneider and Mrs. Stamm were co-chairmen of this project.
6. Mrs. Stamm also announced that a paper on bird flight, written by Herbert Taylor, Atherton High School, Louisville, had been selected by the judges as the winning manuscript of those presented by the members of the Junior Academy of Science. This award entitles the winner to a three-year subscription to the KENTUCKY WARBLER.

On account of lack of time the board adjourned to reconvene on Saturday afternoon prior to the business meeting. At that time Miss Schneider reported on the requests for back numbers of the KENTUCKY WARBLER, saying that approximately thirty issues would need to be reproduced. After some discussion, including the suggestion that Miss Schneider write to early members asking for these issues, Mr. Hancock moved that Mrs. Stamm be empowered to have the needed issues reproduced by a new dry process, as needed, provided that this could be done at a reasonable cost. One member of long standing, Mr. Ganier, told the society that he was willing his collection of KENTUCKY WARBLERS to the society. Dawson Springs was selected as the place for the 1958 fall meeting.

Mrs. Stamm then asked for reports from committees. A motion to accept the report of Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, chairman of the committee to establish a scholarship honoring Dr. Gordon Wilson was tabled until the spring meeting so that more time could be given for formulating plans for such a far-reaching project. Mr. Leonard C. Brecher, chairman of the endowment fund, reported the addition of three Life Members during the past year. Mrs. Tabler, in the absence of Miss Helen Browning, chairman of the membership committee, read Miss Browning's report. The society has 302 members, including the 23 Life Members, 255 active members, and 24 new members. There are 19 libraries that subscribe for our journal. The society has lost five members by death. Mr. F. W. Stamm reported a profit of \$21.43 from the sale of books. Miss Schneider, librarian, reported that Mr. Howard Rollin has now contributed, as Christmas presents, thirteen of his bird paintings, which have been framed by the Beckham Bird Club. Regional reports were given as follows: Henderson, Miss Klutey; Frankfort, Mrs. Ringo; Louisville area, Mr. Shannon; Lexington, Mr. Simpson; Ashland, Mr. Green (report read by Mr. Hancock).

The nominating committee, composed of Dr. Wilson, Mr. Rhoads, Miss Browning, and Miss Slack, presented the following names for election:

President.....	Dr. Hunter Hancock, Murray
Vice-President.....	Miss Amelia Klutey, Henderson
Corresponding Sec'y and Treas.....	Mr. F. W. Stamm, Louisville
Recording Secretary.....	Mr. Howard Jones, Frankfort

Councillors:

Mr. Al Mayfield, Lexington.....	1957-'59
Miss Evelyn Schneider.....	1957-'59
Dr. Russell Starr, Glasgow.....	1957-'58

The secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for this slate.

After a brief intermission, Mr. John Cheek, presiding, introduced a motion picture, "Know Your Hawks," shown through the courtesy of Mr. Robert C. Soaper, United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

The annual dinner was held Saturday night in the Banquet Room, with 86 in attendance. Mrs. Stamm, after welcoming the members and guests, introduced the officers, councillors, and distinguished guests. She read notes from Mr. Brasher Bacon and Mr. Okie Green and told of a telephone call from Dr. Gordon Wilson, expressing regret at not being able to attend the conference. Miss Schneider introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr. Karl Maslowski, Audubon Screen Tour lecturer, who gave a very artistic film called "Waterway Wildlife."

The convention concluded with a Sunday morning field trip.

—Vestina Bailey Thomas, Recording Secretary.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand April 13, 1957.....\$ 438.48

Receipts:

Dinner reservations at spring meeting.....	\$ 107.25
Membership dues to date.....	73.50
Check lists sold.....	8.50
Profit on book sales.....	5.29
Back issues of WARBLER sold.....	10.00
One Life Membership.....	50.00
Dividend on Jefferson-Federal.....	12.25
<b>Total receipts.....</b>	<b>\$ 705.27</b>

Disbursements:

Dinners at spring meeting.....	\$ 102.50
Postage .....	18.95
Deposited in savings account (Life Memberships).....	50.00
Cost of printing May and August issues of WARBLER....	310.92
Filing fee for corporation.....	1.00
Bank tax.....	.37
<b>Total disbursements.....</b>	<b>\$ 483.74</b>
Balance on hand.....	\$ 221.53
In our Endowment Fund we have seven shares (\$100 each) of Jefferson-Federal Building and Loan Association.....	\$ 700.00
In our Savings Account at Jefferson-Federal (our Life Mem- berships and interest).....	\$ 385.08
<b>Total assets .....</b>	<b>\$1,306.61</b>

—Fan B. Tabler, Treasurer.

\* \* \* \* \*

### ATTENDANCE AT MEETING, OCTOBER 11-13, 1957

**KENTUCKY: Anchorage:** Mr. and Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Sr.; **Brooks:** Amy Deane; **Bowling Green:** Mrs. Paul L. Garrett, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Pace; **Cynthiana:** Eugenia Lair; **Danville:** Mr. and Mrs. Scott Glore, Jr.; **Frankfort:** Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jones, Elizabeth Satterly, Mrs. W. P. Ringo; **Flemingsburg:** Mrs. J. Kidwell Grannis; **Glasgow:** Mrs. James Gillenwater, Mary Clyde Nuckols, Lillian Simmons, Mrs. Russell Starr; **Henderson:** Matt Brown, Lillian Hoffman, Amelia Klutey, Charles Meade, E. W. Selle, Virginia Smith; **Lancaster:** Helen Gill, Martha Gill; **Louisville:** Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Floyd Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Chamberlain and Martha, Mrs. Charles Hardwick, Dr. and Mrs. Harvey B. Lovell, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Patterson, Dorothy

Peil, Henry Pieper, Louis Pieper, Marie Pieper, Kent Previette, Mrs. H. C. Mitchell, Evelyn J. Schneider, Mrs. C. E. Schindler, Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Shannon, Mabel Slack, Roderic Sommers, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Tabler, Audrey Wright, George Wolke; **Lexington:** Mrs. G. L. Burns, Barbara Burns, John Burns, Margaret Combs, Anna Heaton, Dr. and Mrs. George Gregory, Mr. and Mrs. Al Mayfield, Mrs. Robert Meyers, Jr., A. C. Reece, Virginia Reece, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Simpson, Conley Webster; **Murray:** Hunter Hancock; **Owensboro:** Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Powell; **Pikeville:** John Cheek; **Reed:** Mrs. Nat Stanley; **Shelbyville:** Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas.

**NEW YORK:** Charles Eldredge.

**INDIANA:** **Evansville:** Mrs. James C. Bower; **Lynnville:** Mrs. Isabella Thiry.

**TENNESSEE:** **Nashville:** Albert F. Ganier; **Knoxville:** Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Garlinghouse, Elizabeth O'Kelley, Onea Rogers, Mrs. E. Overton.

**OHIO:** Karl Maslowski.

\* \* \* \* \*

## FIELD NOTES

**WILLETS AT LAKE CUMBERLAND.**—On a trip to Lake Cumberland at Derby Day weekend in 1956 we saw five Willets. We had views of them feeding along a sandy shore and also flying in formation close to the water. In addition to Yancy (my husband) and me, the following people also identified them: Dr. and Mrs. H. V. Noland, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Martin, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McChord, and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Thompson, Jr. All of us are members of the Beckham Bird Club.—Kay Altsheler, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

**HORNED OWL ROUTS BLACKBIRDS.**—In my back yard there are twenty or more large, tall trees. About the 20th of July, 1957, I noticed thousands of blackbirds gathering in these trees about sunset. Their chatter was very noisy, and I was much disturbed over their presence. Probably two or three weeks later I heard the Blue Jays, Robins, and other birds creating quite a noise. This was early, about 6:00 A. M. I went out into the back yard to investigate the cause. I suddenly saw a large owl fly away; he was so large that I concluded that he was a Horned Owl. No blackbirds have returned since then. I would gladly give this owl board and lodging in my trees in exchange for the noisy, pesky blackbirds.—Dr. Cynthia Counce, Princeton.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ROBIN RAISES THREE BROODS IN SAME NEST IN SAME SEASON.**—During the summer of 1956, a pair of Robins (*Turdus migratorius*), raised three broods of young in a nest located on the gutter pipe, under the eaves, of my neighbor's house on Eastview Avenue. Although the birds were not banded, I could easily identify one of the pair, the female, as she had a white or "bald spot" on top of her head. While I had observed her raising the first and second

broods, I did not keep notes until I again noticed her back on the nest on July 19. This was exactly ten days after the last nestling of the second clutch had left the nest. On July 25, Carlyle Chamberlain came over, climbed up to the nest, and found it contained three eggs. On the 27th, the female was seen to leave the nest occasionally to feed; so apparently the eggs had not hatched. However, on the 31st, the adults were busy feeding young. In one hour of observation the parents brought food to the nest sixteen times. The nestlings remained until August 14. It seems to me a bit unusual for a Robin to raise three broods in one season.—Beatrice Short, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

**SOME NOTES FROM PIKE AND MARTIN COUNTIES.**—On October 18, 1957, at 3:00 P. M., while I was on top of a high ridge, doing civil engineering work with my crew, we suddenly heard the strange, nasal honks of wild geese. We dropped everything and ran to where we could find an opening in the trees. Then we sighted them. There were over one hundred Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*). I immediately turned the telescope of my transit due south, and they were flying a direct course south by the transit. They were flying about 300 feet above the tops of the highest ridge. This is near Little Blackberry Fork of Pond Creek, Pike County.

Two days later, in the same vicinity we again heard the cries of the geese; this time a flock of 200 birds were flying about one thousand feet above the hills.

Here at Lovely (Martin County), where I live, I had heard the geese as early as the first week in October. They had come down during a fog on Wolf Creek, three miles south of Lovely.—Rufus M. Reed, Lovely, Kentucky.

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#### NEST OF THE BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER IN BERNHEIM FOREST

While we know the Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) is a summer resident and breeds in Kentucky, very few nests of this species are found. At least, we can not find much in the literature. Therefore, we believe it would be of interest to describe the nest which we found on May 19, 1956, at Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County, Kentucky. This was while we were on a scheduled field trip of the Beckham Bird Club (Louisville Chapter).

The nest was discovered as we walked along Rice Orchard Road, which is east of the fire tower. Here the road winds through a heavily-wooded area with many deciduous trees at the road's edge; many of the trees have dead branches with large cavities where woodpeckers and owls may nest. As we paused along the path, we noticed a male Black and White Warbler with food in its bill; the bird was "creeping" down the trunk of a large beech tree. Occasionally it flew to a small sapling and back again to the beech. This went on for some time before the bird flew to the ground and actually betrayed the nest. The warbler's approach was by means of working down the trunk of the beech tree, then flying to the sapling mentioned above (which was not more than an inch in circumference), and down to the ground. It was interesting to us that as the male flew to the nest, the female, apparently brooding the young, left immediately and flew to the same beech trunk. This exchange of places was done rapidly and caused

some of the observers to believe it to be the same bird. However, by a careful study of the ground it was noted that now there were two birds: one on the beech tree and one on the ground feeding the young, thus revealing its nest. All of this took place as we watched only ten feet away.

The nest, about three feet from the path, was tucked near the top of a small bank and fairly close to the base of the sapling. It was seven feet from the large beech, flush with the ground, and hidden among the dead leaves. It was made of dried grasses and leaves; the inner lining seemed to contain tiny bits of moss and finer grass. In this well-camouflaged nest were four newly-hatched young.

Other birds noted in the immediate vicinity were Red-bellied Woodpecker, Wood Pewee, Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, and Summer Tanager.—Anne L. Stamm and Mabel Slack, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### A ROBIN ROOST IN 1881

In FOREST AND STREAM, for February 24, 1881, page 70, occurred the following paragraph:

“ROBIN ROOST.—A Glasgow, Kentucky, paper has this report of a robin roost in that vicinity which is very like the one reported in this journal last week: (A cedar thicket of about 60 acres furnishes the birds a lodging place. About sundown every morning constant streams from every direction pour into the grove, and almost obscure the heavens in their flight. Night finds almost every bush in the thicket bending with its red-breasted load. For the past few weeks lovers of sport for miles around have visited the place, and every night the thicket is illuminated with the torches of men with clubs and sacks gathering the feathery harvest. Mr. Smith has killed over 2000, and hundreds are carried away every night, but they don't seem to decrease. There are millions of them. Large quantities of them have been cooked in town. They are very fat and make, when cooked, a dish good enough for anybody.)”

Robins were esteemed as food in the nineteenth century, and every roost that was discovered quickly became the nightly haunt of every “lover of sport” who could spare the time to raid it. But the Robins are such prolific birds that there is no evidence that their numbers were seriously reduced by this winter hunting. Unlike the Passenger Pigeon, which nested in great colonies and laid only one egg per year, the Robin was and is a solitary nester, has broods of 3 to 5 at a time, and breeds at least twice each season. During the breeding season there appear to have been no organized attempts to collect them for food, except perhaps in a few local instances. Luckily for the Robins, the small size of their breasts made it unprofitable to expend shot and shell to collect them one at a time.—Harvey B. Lovell, University of Louisville.

### WHAT DO PURPLE FINCHES EAT?

Scott Glore, Jr., in reporting his Christmas Bird Count from Danville for 1956, mentioned noticing Purple Finches feeding on the seeds of the ash tree. That set me thinking. All of the fall and early winter after the Purple Finches had arrived that year, I saw these birds feeding daily on the ash seeds on the trees in my own yard. Late in the season, after nearly all of the seeds had fallen off, making almost a carpet on the ground, the birds were always in evidence. Even when a light snow came on January 25, 1956, the birds were in the usual places, picking up the seeds in the snow. So far as I can now remember, this season was the first one I had ever noticed this type of feeding. Thanks, Mr. Glore, for opening up a new field of observation.—Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.

\* \* \* \* \*

### MORE WILD BIRDS IN CITY

From time to time I have reported finding wild "woods" birds in my own yard. Just behind my lot is a bushy area that seems very attractive to migrating woods warblers and other species rarely seen outside their habitats. On May 17, 1954, I saw in my yard the following species: Kentucky Warbler, Veery, Connecticut Warbler, and Ovenbird. Nearly every year at least one Ovenbird visits me and sometimes gives me a strange woodland thrill as it sedately walks up and down my driveway. The Connecticut Warbler paid one visit before the one here mentioned, but this was the first record of the Kentucky Warbler inside the city. The Veery makes the bushy area its temporary home every spring on its way north and sometimes remains until near the end of May, often being the last land-bird migrant recorded.—Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.

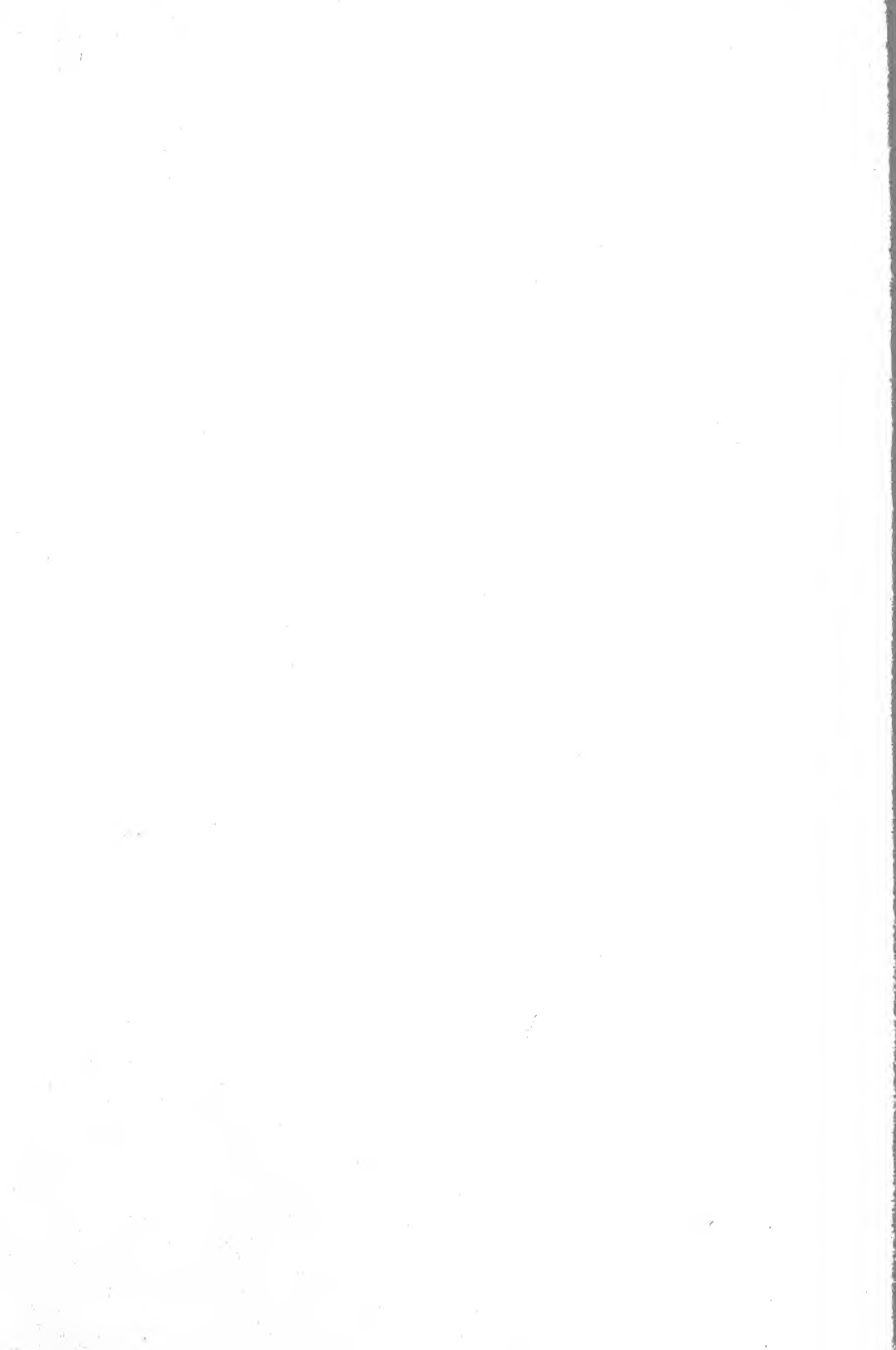
\* \* \* \* \*

### ANOTHER STRANGE BIRD NOTE

Many years ago I was intrigued by the strange night notes of some bird that often passed over the Mouth of Gasper when I would be visiting Dr. L. Y. Lancaster there and would even pass over the city of Bowling Green, at almost any time after early spring. I wrote to several bird students in Kentucky and elsewhere and got little help, for no one seemed to have heard my strange bird. Then, later, as recorded in a WARBLER note, I found it to be the Woodcock. Ever since then I have regularly heard this species and rejoiced that I had finally broken its code. But then another strange note appeared, as long ago as September 2, 1950, when, in a thicket at the McElroy Farm, where I had gone with Dr. Lancaster to help seine for semi-blind fish in the "craters" there, a rich melody appeared. I left off seining and gave chase, but a very heavy thundershower prevented my getting a satisfactory view of the bird. The song reminded me of that of the Cardinal, with Purple Finch variations. Since I have never heard the Blue Grosbeak sing, I wonder whether it might not have been that species. If any of you K. O. S. readers can help me locate my strange species, I would appreciate it greatly.—Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.







K97  
B1793

Division of Birds

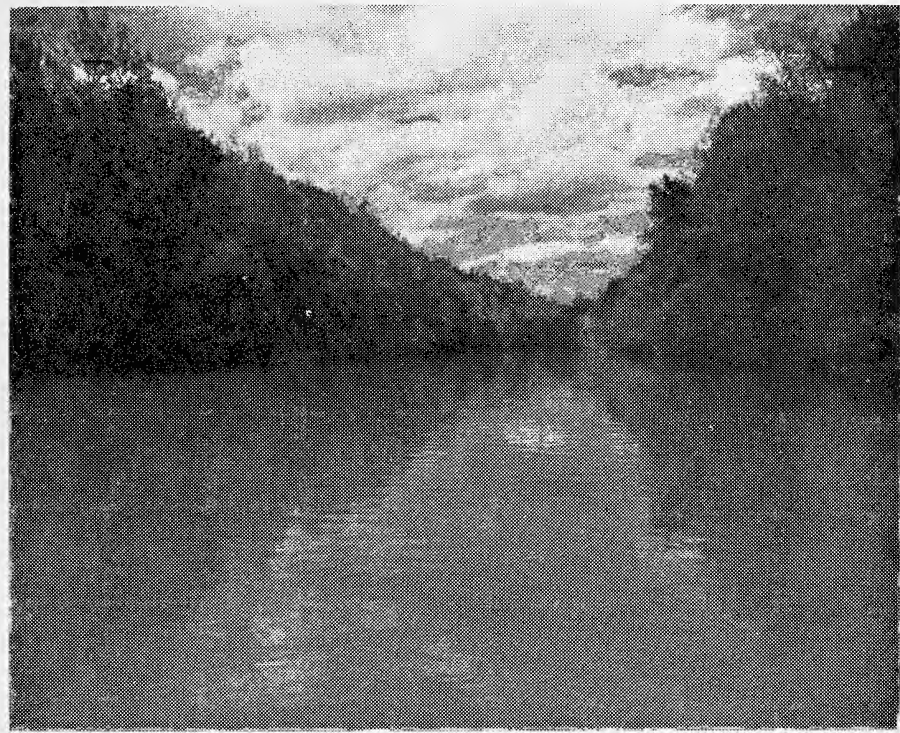
1-13

# The Kentucky Warbler

Vol XXXIV

FEBRUARY, 1958

No. 1



A View of Green River, which flows through Mammoth Cave National Park.  
Photograph Courtesy National Park Service



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NEWS AND VIEWS

HAVEN WILEY IN ENGLAND

One of our youngest members, Haven Wiley of Louisville, is having a wonderful time this fall and winter seeing new birds in England, France, and Italy. He writes, "We are now on the Rhone delta, the Camargue, and I am seeing many new birds, including flamingoes, the Tawny Pipit, Short-toed Lark, kite, Honey Buzzard, Egyptian Vulture. Whiskered Tern, and this afternoon I saw two Arctic Skuas (Jaegers) on the Mediterranean." Haven's father, Dr. Richard Wiley, also a K. O. S. member, has a National Science Foundation Senior Post-doctoral Fellowship at the Imperial College in London. The Wiley family will return home next summer. Congratulations to all of them on their thrilling new experiences!

\* \* \* \* \*

ANOTHER PAINTING FOR K. O. S.

Our good friend Howard Rollin sent to the K. O. S. for Christmas another of his fine paintings, a pair of Bobolinks, strikingly handsome and life-like. As always in his work, Mr. Rollin has achieved a mastery of detail, both in form and color. After it has been framed, the painting, 12 by 9 inches, will be available for loan, along with his previous gifts. Orders for paintings may be sent to Mr. Rollin, Route 1, Weldona, Colorado.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHECK LISTS OF KENTUCKY BIRDS

Persons wishing to secure check lists of Kentucky birds for the keeping of accurate records, always desirable, may obtain these cards for the following prices—15 for 25c, 35 for 50c, 75 for a dollar—plus postage, by writing our treasurer, Mr. F. W. Stamm, 2118 Lakeside Drive, Louisville 5.

**BIRD CHANGES IN MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK, 1950-57**

By Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green

In the May, 1950, issue of THE KENTUCKY WARBLER (XXVI, 17-24) I summarized the changes in bird life in Mammoth Cave National Park through the first twelve years of my study there, 1938-49. I also gave an account of the geological and ecological conditions and outlined, briefly, the history of the acquirement of the land from the owners and the establishment of the park. Now, after eight more years of study, years that have seen many changes, I want to bring the study up to date and round out twenty years of observation there.

In the years 1950-57 I have spent a total of 137 days and 55 nights in the park, with a total for the twenty-year period of 379 days and 171 nights. On my record cards appear the names of 57 people who have hiked or camped with me. These names do not include the several hundred people who have been on extended field trips at meetings of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, the Kentucky Academy of Science, the National Science Institute, and numerous college excursions. I am glad to say that many of the hosts of people who have shared the park with me have been skilled observers and ornithologists.

Ecological conditions have changed considerably. The old fields in many areas have grown up in cedars; Virginia Pines have spread from mature trees, particularly around the garage area, around old CCC No. 4, and near Silent Grove Church; and many eroded fields, with the help of the Soil and Water Conservation work of the National Park Service, have grown up in *Lespedeza sericea* and are now great areas for winter finches and other ground birds. The young forest trees have grown in girth in these eight years, in spite of the three dry seasons in the early 1950's, so that some of the fields that were in cultivation in 1938 are now covered with almost mature forests. This is especially true in areas that had not lost their native fertility and had not been eroded. Of course, there are hundreds of acres of broom-sage yet, and there will probably be many such acres at the end of another twenty years. The Beaver Pond at Sloan's Crossing has become more and more wild, with the help of the active beaver and their incessant raising the level of the pond. A good many small ponds have been deepened to give a water supply to the Virginia Deer, now such a distinctive part of the fauna of the park. Though an open hunting season just outside the park was observed in 1956 and again in 1957, there are still many deer in the park, as attested by our finding 50 on the 1957 Christmas Bird Count.

In the original study thirty species were listed as being less numerous than in the area immediately outside the park. That number has grown to thirty-four. Only the Savannah and Song Sparrows on the list for 1938-49 seem a little more numerous than they were, though the increase has been quite small. To the remaining twenty-eight the following have been added: the Green Heron, the Black Vulture, the Horned Owl, the Red-headed Woodpecker, the Purple Martin, and the Tree Sparrow. The few nesting places suited to the Green Heron may explain its decline: Sloan's Crossing and First Creek Lake have become much used by fishermen. I suppose that the Black Vulture and the Horned Owl have met difficulties in finding enough food in the park area; both require large quantities of animal food. The Purple Martin has followed the Barn Swallow outside the park to find its types of aerial insects. The weed and grass seeds liked most by the Tree Sparrow are steadily growing scarcer in production. There will doubtless be other losses before the habitats become stable, but the chief losses have come in these first twenty years, especially in these last ten years.

Only eight species were listed in the 1950 study as having increased noticeably. Those eight are still increasing, and twenty more species have been added. Two of the additions are hawks: the Broad-winged nests pretty regularly in a few areas of the park; the Rough-legged is seen fairly commonly in winter. The Brown Creeper and the Winter Wren, though far from common, appear on more and more winter lists. A little greater increase is seen in the Golden-crowned Kinglet and the Cedar Waxwing. The sparrows—Savannah, Fox, Swamp, and Song—appear a little more often than formerly. For several winters the Myrtle Warbler has shown obvious increases, as have the Slate-colored Junco and the White-throated Sparrow. Some of these are still not back to the 1938 list, which represented the park when it was still cultivated in many areas, but have increased over the tabulations of the 1940's. All of the woodpeckers except the Red-headed have definitely increased, especially in winter. Maybe some of these come in from farm areas to the woods for the winter. Certainly there ought to be plenty of food for them, whether they like wood worms or various sorts of acorns. But why does the Red-headed still remain scarce? It is significant that most of the increases are among the woodpeckers and the winter residents.

The seventy-two species listed in 1950 as approximately the same in number as before the park was established or my study begun have now dwindled to forty-nine. These are accounted for in the two groups already discussed. It is highly probable that a few more species will be dropped from this list, particularly the few species that are to be found largely around old house sites, where rank weeds grow on for years after the places are abandoned.

The first twenty years of watching the changes in plant and animal life and especially in bird distribution have been great years. Without the companionship and cooperation of the numerous ones who have shared my camps and walks with me it would not have been so great an experience. I wish that all who read this article and who have been with me on one or more walks or camps will consider this a personal letter of thanks.

#### TABLE I

##### SPECIES THAT HAVE DECREASED IN NUMBERS, 1938-57

(Note: In this and the following table, I after a species indicates that it was on the DECREASED list in the 1950 article; II indicates it was on the INCREASED list; III indicates that it was on the list of those species that had remained approximately what they had been before the park was established.)

Green Heron III	Mockingbird I
Black Vulture III	Brown Thrasher I
Marsh Hawk I	Migrant Shrike I
Sparrow Hawk I	Starling I
Killdeer I	Warbling Vireo I
Mourning Dove I	English Sparrow I
Horned Owl III	Meadowlark I
Chuck-will's-widow I	Red-winged Blackbird I
Nighthawk I	Orchard Oriole I
Chimney Swift I	Baltimore Oriole I
Red-headed Woodpecker III	Purple Grackle I
Eastern Kingbird I	Cowbird I
Horned Lark I	Dickcissel I
Barn Swallow I	Grasshopper Sparrow I
Purple Martin III	Bachman's Sparrow I
Crow I	Tree Sparrow III
Bewick's Wren I	White-crowned Sparrow I

TABLE II

## SPECIES THAT HAVE INCREASED IN NUMBERS, 1938-57

Broad-winged Hawk III	Golden-crowned Kinglet III
Rough-legged Hawk III	Cedar Waxwing III
Bob-white II	Yellow-throated Vireo II
Whip-poor-will II	Myrtle Warbler III
Yellow-shafted Flicker III	Ovenbird II
Pileated Woodpecker III	Hooded Warbler II
Red-bellied Woodpecker III	Scarlet Tanager II
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker III	Purple Finch III
Hairy Woodpecker III	Savannah Sparrow I
Downy Woodpecker III	Slate-colored Junco III
Acadian Flycatcher II	White-throated Sparrow III
Brown Creeper III	Fox Sparrow III
Winter Wren III	Swamp Sparrow III
Hermit Thrush II	Song Sparrow I

TABLE III

SPECIES THAT HAVE REMAINED AS THEY  
WERE BEFORE 1938

Wood Duck	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Turkey Vulture	White-eyed Vireo
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Red-eyed Vireo
Cooper's Hawk	Black and White Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Prothonotary Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	Worm-eating Warbler
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Blue-winged Warbler
Screech Owl	Parula Warbler
Barred Owl	Yellow Warbler
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Cerulean Warbler
Belted Kingfisher	Yellow-throated Warbler
Crested Flycatcher	Prairie Warbler
Phoebe	Louisiana Water-thrush
Wood Pewee	Kentucky Warbler
Rough-winged Swallow	Yellow-throat
Blue Jay	Yellow-breasted Chat
Carolina Chickadee	Redstart
Tufted Titmouse	Summer Tanager
White-breasted Nuthatch	Cardinal
House Wren	Indigo Bunting
Carolina Wren	Goldfinch
Catbird	Eastern Towhee
Robin	Chipping Sparrow
Wood Thrush	Field Sparrow
Bluebird	

My Successive Publications Recording Changes  
in Bird Life in the Park

1940. Warblers in Mammoth Cave National Park, KENTUCKY WARBLER, XVI, 40-41.
1941. A Preliminary Check-list of the Birds of the Mammoth Cave National Park, KENTUCKY WARBLER, XVII, 16-24.
1942. Breeding Birds of Kentucky—A Composite List, KENTUCKY WARBLER, XVIII, 17-25.
1942. Summer Birds of the Mammoth Cave National Park, KENTUCKY WARBLER, XVIII, 58-59.

1946. BIRDS OF THE MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK, 24-page pamphlet authorized by the National Parks Concessions, Inc., and printed by Selby E. Smith.
1950. Bird Changes in the Mammoth Cave National Park, KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXVI, 17-24.
1953. BIRDS OF THE MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK, 28-page pamphlet, a revision of the one issued in 1946, authorized by the National Park Service and printed by Selby E. Smith.
1954. Summer Birds at Mammoth Cave National Park, KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXX, 12-13.

\* \* \* \* \*

### CLOUDS OF BIRDS OBSERVED HERE DURING COUNT

By Burt Monroe

(Editor's Note: The following article appeared in Burt Monroe's column, "The Courier Sportsman," on December 29, 1957. Mr. Monroe graciously allowed the WARBLER to use it as an introduction to our "Mid-Winter Bird Count, 1957-58.")

Nearly five million birds in one spot is a sight not soon to be forgotten. Yet that is what a group of bird watchers observed in the Jefferson County area this past week. And what makes it more astounding is the fact that this huge concentration is made up almost entirely of just four species—Starlings, Red-wing Blackbirds, Purple Grackles, and Cowbirds. Two other species—Rusty and Brewer's Blackbirds—were present but in small numbers.

In a grove of scrub pines just ten miles southeast of Louisville, one of the largest winter bird roosts in the United States is located. The site is about one-tenth of a mile from heavily traveled Bardstown Road, or Highway 31-E, in the vicinity of Farmer's Lane. The roost proper lies in a valley with gentle hills all around it, and each successive year it seems to attract more and more flocks.

Beginning at about 4 P. M. each evening, the birds fly to the roost along definite routes. There are six main flight lines, which grow in numbers as the birds near the trees. At some distance from the roost, the Starlings and blackbirds converge in small flocks and later join in the long columns which lead to the final resting place for the night. Huge flocks rise at times with a sound like thunder, sometimes circling over the fields and sometimes flying in a long, sinuous line, looking like a dense smoke when seen from a distance. These "clouds" often look like tornado clouds.

"Blackbird roosts" are not too common in Kentucky. In the late 1880's one was reported near Bardstown, and several were mentioned as being in Kentucky in the late 1920's. In 1941 one was described at Clay's Ferry, on the Kentucky River about fifteen miles southeast of Lexington, and in 1945 a sizeable one was recorded within the Fort Knox reservation, near Otter Creek Park. Concentrations of many thousands of Starlings have been noted within the city limits of Louisville for many years, but this new roost has pulled most of these birds from the business district.

The Christmas Count, which brought this tremendous gathering of birds into the news, is an old National Audubon Society custom that was instituted more than a half century ago. Bird watchers are organized into groups and cover specific circular areas fifteen miles



in diameter. And the census is conducted on a day between December 21 and January 1. The Beckham Bird Club of Louisville recorded a total of 82 wintering species on this year's count.

The number of birds making up this roost was estimated to contain nearly three million Starlings, one and a half million Red-winged Blackbirds, one million one hundred thousand Purple Grackles, and a quarter of a million Cowbirds. Perhaps not as spectacular but equally as important was the finding of a lone Franklin's Gull near the Falls of the Ohio River. This gull is a very rare visitant to Kentucky. Of interest to the wildfowler is the discovery that ducks were very scarce in the region. Only 638 ducks of eleven species were found—Mallard, Black Duck, Gadwall, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvas-back, Lesser Scaup, American Golden-eye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser. And not a goose of any species was found, although a fifteen-mile stretch of the Ohio River was patrolled by boat during the count. Mourning Doves were found in numbers, especially near the stubblefields, indicating that there will be ample breeding stock for next year's nesting season. And bobwhite were unusually plentiful. About 40 birds were found by two parties just on the outskirts of the city. Among the species of birds of prey were the Cooper's, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, Marsh, and Sparrow Hawks and the Screech and Barred Owls. And very few of the land birds known to winter in the Louisville area were missed by the observers.

One need not be a "birder" to be amazed at the huge population of wintering birds around here. A trip to the roost will be very convincing to those who might believe that the birds have gone south for the winter.

(Editor's note: See Stamm and Lovell, KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXXII, 47-49, 1957, for a description of this roost for a previous winter.)

\* \* \* \* \*

#### HOUSE WREN RETURNS FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE SEASONS

A male House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), wearing band No. 48-91250, merits mention because of its constancy shown to a territory and to a nesting box. This particular wren, the parent of a brood of young when banded on June 13, 1950, returned in 1951, and with a new mate raised six young. In 1952 the bird was back and again fathered a brood of young. In each of these years the bird had a different mate. During the spring and summer of 1953 the wren was trapped at his favorite nesting box in the yard, where two broods were raised with the same mate. This is the only record I have of a House Wren's being in the yard for four consecutive summers. An attachment to a nesting site is also indicated, since the same box was used by this male wren to attract mates for nesting, with the exception of the year the bird was banded.—Anne L. Stamm, Louisville.

**MID-WINTER  
BIRD COUNT  
1957-1958**

	Woodlands	Marion	Madisonville	Henderson	Owensboro	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave N.P.	Glasgow	Otter Creek Pk.	Louisville	Danville	Frankfort	Kleber	Willard	Ashland
Hor. Grebe.....										3		1			
Pied-b. Grebe.....			5	1							3	2			1
D-c. Cormorant...						*				1					
G. B. Heron.....	2	13		1						2	2				
B-c. N. Heron.....										52					
Can. Goose.....	10000	75		2525							14	6			
Blue Goose.....											4	3			
Mallard.....	1136	2700	33	13050	15	192	40		3	214	360	135			
Black Duck.....	550	400	7	50		39	19			151	142	2			
Gadwall.....						2				4	12	6			
Am. Widgeon.....	50										23	4			
Pintail.....				1500							5				
G-w. Teal.....				2							3				
B-w. Teal.....											1				
Shoveller.....													1		
Wood Duck.....		7													
Redhead.....					*					1	3				
R-n. Duck.....	110	5	1000							57					
Canv.-b. Duck.....			85	6						98					
Les. Scaup Duck..	15	46								103	5	10			
Am. Golden-eye..				2						4					
Buffle-head.....										4					
Ruddy Duck.....			2			1				1	1				
H. Merganser.....		2									1				
R-b. Merganser...										1					
T. Vulture.....	1	10		2	1	6	3	1		16	5	3			
B. Vulture.....							20	1		83		2		3	
Sh-sh. Hawk.....		1					1	1				1		1	
Cooper's Hawk....	1			7			1	1		7				2	
Red-t. Hawk.....	9	3	1	3	1	2	9	2	2	11	4	2		6	2
Red-sh. Hawk.....	4	2	*		*	4	1		1	8					1
Rough-l. Hawk....												1			
Golden Eagle.....	1														
Bald Eagle.....	12			1											
Marsh Hawk.....		5	1	1	1	1				2					
Osprey.....				2											
Sp. Hawk.....	3	7	2	5	6	4	3	6	2	47	22	3			4
R. Grouse.....															2
Bobwhite.....	30	54	10	3		27	52	6	32	40		1	15		13
R-n. Pheasant....						1									
Coot.....		32	110	1							3	24			
Killdeer.....	21	9	1	3		*		1	1	23	25	2			
W. Snipe.....						1					2				
H. Gull.....	33	175		2	2					57					
R-b. Gull.....	110								8	210					
Franklin's Gull...										1					
M. Dove.....	69	17	70	346	3	39	21	134		76	29	3	1	10	1
Screech Owl.....		1								1					
Horned Owl.....	4			3					1						
Barred Owl.....		4		2		2		2		1					1
S-eared Owl.....					1						1				
B. Kingfisher....	2	3	*	3	2	3		2	3	6	6	1	1		1
Y-sh. Flicker....	48	6	15	21	8	21	42	18	16	22	1	4	4		4
Pil. W'dpecker....	7	2	3	2	2	8	39	6	6	6	3				2
R-b. W'dpecker....	46	8	11	12	5	15	17	13	23	33	9	16	11		4

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1957-1958	Woodlands	Marion	Madisonville	Henderson	Owensboro	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave N.P.	Glasgow	Otter Creek Pk.	Louisville	Danville	Frankfort	Kleber	Willard	Ashland
R-h. W'dpecker.....	4		12	2	*	4		5		1					1
Y-b. Sapsucker.....	14	2	*	5		4	7	4	4			1	1		
H. W'dpecker.....	7	3	3	17	*	4	6	1	4	6	*	6	2	5	5
D. W'dpecker.....	33	11	6	21	6	19	31	22	22	76	30	32	17	2	11
Phoebe.....	1					1	2			2					1
Horned Lark.....	9	82	1	45	3	212		46	1	170	14	12			10
Blue Jay.....	52	11	28	38	15	72	97	80	18	110	12	1	6		12
Crow.....	35	85	5	17053	8	254	106	134	35	578	290	536	118	5	150
B-c. Chickadee.....															12
Car. Chickadee.....	100	38	14	30	10	27	137	48	49	217	110	182	57	21	48
T. Titmouse.....	103	44	14	44	8	23	91	52	50	226	49	65	29	25	29
W-b. Nuthatch.....	18	3	2	8			6	2	5	12	2			1	6
R-b. Nuthatch.....				1	2		18			3	1				1
B. Creeper.....	4					1	1	1	1	3	*		1		1
Winter Wren.....	1			2	*	2	2	1		1	1	4			11
B. Wren.....		4	*	2		2	3	5		2			1		1
Car. Wren.....	30	8	16	18	8	42	52	49	27	81	34	36	19	4	30
Mockingbird.....	13	8	11	21	4	15	26	22	8	126	26	24	10		3
B. Thrasher.....	10							1		1					
Robin.....	8	28	5000	34	50	41	1964	18	129	233	3	212	1338		475
H. Thrush.....	1		2	1	*	1	18	3	9			1			
Bluebird.....	26	47	16	45	10	38	176	22	44	67	39	29	30	11	22
G-c. Kinglet.....	8		1	2	4		13	1	13	2	3		2		5
R-c. Kinglet.....				1	*		1			3					2
Am. Pipit.....						*									
C. Waxwing.....	1	13	6	12	2	24	91	73	404	47	4	10	28		13
L. Shrike.....			2	1	*	4	1	6		2	1				
Starling.....	55	300	1 Mil.	1734	25	1120	77	1033	184	2925000	2162	910	1161	85	238
Myrtle Warbler.....	14		19	18	*	3	104	16	59	10		28	31		
Palm Warbler.....						1									
Eng. Sparrow.....	60	200	116	609	50	132	14	71	9	452	250	152	53	14	182
Meadowlark.....	206	21	52	107	28	206	1	25		118	28	5			5
Red-wing.....	108	19	325			75000				1491750					
Rus. Blackbird.....			320	3		75000				31500	18				
Brewer's B'bird.....										1					
Pur. Grackle.....	500		350	305	4	500M	5	28		1111500	211				
B-h. Cowbird.....		250	50	20		50M		6		263250			20		
Cardinal.....	220	72	32	127	6	186	141	86	137	365	125	129	86	13	66
Purple Finch.....	45		1	1		23	174	53	101	20	1	1	23		2
Pine Siskin.....					1	*	8			55			1		
Goldfinch.....	35	19	7	4	10	178	41	67	74	114	8	87	67	16	41
El. Towhee.....	47	12	28	11	5	27	69	23	25	29	1	17	8		9
Sav. Sparrow.....						8				1	1				
Ves. Sparrow.....	2														
S-c. Junco.....	150	125	20	44	10	50	397	101	342	447	49	198	240	12	72
Tree Sparrow.....	1	36	32	5	5			4	55	164	2	2	16		
Chip. Sparrow.....	5			12				1							1
Field Sparrow.....	89		5	3	5	44	62	5	11	55	2	12	2		12
Harris's Spar.....												1			
W-c. Sparrow.....		17	*	25	15	8	3	30	1	96	37	128	3		2
W-t. Sparrow.....	77	5	6	2	4	124	44	68	13	65	19		12		27
Fox Sparrow.....	8		1				1	10	2	2			1		1
Swamp Sparrow.....			7	3		17	2	12	12	56			1		
Song Sparrow.....	60	18	15	3	18	33	29	67	24	236	18	30	29	1	28
Lapland L'gspur.....						5				1					

Italic numbers in this table indicate a note on this find or this species.

## MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1957-'58

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (Same area as in previous years).—Dec. 28; 8:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Cloudy to partly cloudy in morning, clear in afternoon; temp. 37 to 46; wind S to SW, 0-7 m. p. h. Twelve observers in six parties. Total party hours, 30 (22 on foot, 8 by car); total party-miles, 80 (19 on foot, 61 by car). Total, 63 species, about 14,324 individuals.—EVELYN BARBIG, HOWARD BARBIG, CHRISTINE HANCOCK, HUNTER HANCOCK (Compiler), BEN HOLDRIDGE, JR., GERLINDA MEGOW, GERHARDT MEGOW, WILLIAM MITCHELL, CLELL T. PETERSON, A. L. POWELL, WILLIAM T. SLEDD, and L. D. THOMPSON.

\* \* \* \*

MARION (Cave-in Rock and return, Ohio River, river bottoms, woods).—Dec. 29; 6:00 A. M. to 6:00 P. M. Clear; wind S, 5-12 m. p. h.; temp. 30-50. Total, 53 species, 5058 individuals.—C. L. FRAZER.

\* \* \* \*

MADISONVILLE (W. W. Hancock farm, five lakes at Madisonville, Municipal Park, Brown and Frostburg Roads, and Clear Creek; deciduous woodlands and thickets 40%, open farmlands 30%, city streets 10%, and lake shore 20%).—Dec. 29; 6:45 to 5:00 P. M. Clear in morning, increasing cloudiness to heavy overcast in afternoon. Very little wind. Temp. 25 to 47. J. W. H. alone until accompanied by family in late afternoon. Total hours, 10¼; total miles, 45 (5 on foot, 40 by car). Total, 52 species, approximately 1,007,677 individuals.—JAMES W., KATHRYN, BRENDA L., and MAURICE G. HANCOCK.

### NOTES ON MADISONVILLE COUNT

Red-headed Woodpecker: This species seems to be staging a comeback, at least in the Elk Creek-Frostburg Road area.

Starling and others: The flocks of Starlings, Robins, and blackbirds seen in the late afternoon were the largest by far we have ever seen. The sight was amazing to J. W. H., an observer of twenty-six years of experience. The first sight of the great flocks of Starlings came while I was standing on the dam at Pleasant View Lake. The birds came in vast bands at least one-fourth mile wide and headed southeast. They kept appearing out of the west and stretched to the southeast as far as eye could see. The width of this flight was checked by my car speedometer and found to be a half-mile. A few Grackles appeared in the huge flocks, enough to give some noise, for the Starlings were silent. Then appeared small flocks of Red-wings, a few Cowbirds, and some Robins. After the 20-minute-long flight of Starlings, the Robins began to predominate, as many as 5000 of them. After seeing such huge flocks, it seemed only conservative to estimate them at 1,000,000. The Robins flew in looser flocks and could be more easily counted than the Starlings. On December 30 I returned and saw many, many birds passing over, including an apparent increase in blackbirds, but the flights seen were not immense and spectacular as those of the day before.

\* \* \* \*

HENDERSON (Area around and in Audubon Park).—Jan. 1; 7:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Clear; few low, broken clouds; temp. 18-25; barometer 30.36, rising; wind W, 10-15 m. p. h. Twelve observers in five parties. Total, 69 species, about 38,099 individuals. The weather

was rather unpleasant for both the birds and the watchers. Most of the birds stayed well hidden; we were unable to find some of our stand-bys. Two large concentrations of Mallards and one of Crows account for the large numbers. The most excitement was created for the Stanleys by a first record of a Purple Finch.—BILL BENSEIK, KING BENSON, AMELIA KLUTEY, MILDRED PARSONS, WILLIAM H. RHOADS, W. P. RHOADS (Compiler), MRS. C. B. SMITH, VIRGINIA SMITH, FRANK SAUERHEBER, R. C. SOAPER, MRS. GEORGE STANLEY, JR., MRS. NAT STANLEY, MRS. RICHARD STITES.

\* \* \* \*

OWENSBORO (Owensboro area).—Dec. 24; 9:30 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Two observers together. Miles, 50 (45 by car, 5 on foot). Area covered: Owensboro-Daviess County Airport, fields and woods, county roads (one 75-acre pine wood), and Ohio River bottoms. Windy in morning; calmer in afternoon; temp. 37 to 40. Total species, 39; individuals, 363. Starred forms are from two other outings: one by Joe Ford of Sorgho on December 29, with 25 species and 517 individuals; the other by Joe Ford, Keith Gough (president of the Daviess County Game Association), Mrs. A. L. Powell, and A. L. Powell (Compiler) taken on January 1, 1958.—MILDRED POWELL and A. L. POWELL (Compiler).

#### NOTES ON OWENSBORO COUNT

The Pine Siskin was found with a flock of Goldfinches, in some willows, sycamores, and cottonwoods in the Ohio River bottoms near Owensboro. The bird was observed long enough for me to identify it to my own satisfaction—a new species for my life list. Since the river was high and choppy, the ducks were lacking; from the same spot on other trips I have often seen thousands. The Airport was very bare. I fairly kicked up one Marsh Hawk and one Short-eared Owl, where I had found six Short-eared Owls two years ago. The Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen in the 75-acre pine wood.

On January 1 the lakes were very disappointing, as there were absolutely no waterfowl, not even a Coot or Pied-billed Grebe. Usually at this season many species of ducks can be found on the lakes.

My seven-year-old son, Wilton, hiked with the rest of us on this trip and could be considered a real member of the party.—A. L. POWELL.

\* \* \* \*

BOWLING GREEN (Same area as in the last forty years.)—Dec. 21; 6:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear; no wind; temp. 34-55. Five observers in two parties. Total, 58 species, 503,321 individuals.—MILLARD GIPSON, L. Y. LANCASTER, ROBERT PACE, CHARLES L. TAYLOR, and GORDON WILSON (Compiler).

#### NOTES ON BOWLING GREEN COUNT

This was our fortieth annual Christmas Bird Count. We celebrated the occasion, quite by accident, by breaking all previous records for species—58—and by finding more individuals than on all other counts put together—more than a half million birds, very conservatively estimated. The large number of individuals resulted from our seeing hordes of blackbirds coming from a roost that is near Bowling Green.

The Purple Grackles were some three-fifths of the number, with Red-wings, Rusty Blackbirds, and Cowbirds almost equally represented in the remaining two-fifths. Our largest previous totals for blackbirds were less than a thousand in one year.

The water birds were found on Grider's Pond, at the edge of the city (Ruddy Duck), and the McElroy and Chaney Farms (Mallard, Black Duck, Gadwall, and Wilson's Snipe). The McElroy Lake covered about 75 acres, the Chaney Lake about 100 acres. Three new names appear on our list: the Gadwall, the Ruddy Duck, and the Ring-necked Pheasant. The pheasant frequents the chicken yard of Dr. Pace, out on the Cemetery Pike. Some of our species appeared in relatively small numbers: Horned Lark, Crow, English Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow. The Lapland Longspurs were on both the McElroy and the Chaney Farms, in flocks of Horned Larks. In the same area before and after the count also appeared the American Pipit and the Great Blue Heron.

\* \* \* \*

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (Practically all the areas of the park).—Dec. 29; 6:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear except for hazy clouds in afternoon; no wind; temp. 26-42. Twenty-one observers in five parties. Total, 54 species, 4407 individuals.—DOUG EVANS, ALICE FURBER, MRS. JAMES GILLENWATER, MILLARD GIPSON, HUNTER HANCOCK, JIM HAYNES, CLEO HOGAN, L. Y. LANCASTER, GRANVILLE LILES, JERRY LILES, JIM LILES, GEORGE MCKINLEY, ROBERT MCKINLEY, RAY NELSON, ROBERT PACE, CHARLES L. TAYLOR, LILLIAN SIMMONS, RUSSELL STARR, MRS. RUSSELL STARR, GORDON WILSON (Compiler), JAY YOUNG.

#### NOTES ON MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK COUNT

This count concluded the twenty-year study of the birds in the park area by Wilson. (See elsewhere in this issue.) Appropriately, the number of species—54—exceeded any previous record; similarly, the individuals—4407—set a new record.

Almost complete coverage was obtained by dividing the park area into five divisions, with a leader in each group. The count would have been somewhat better if there had been one or two more parties, so that some groups would not have had to work too much territory or work so fast. The Red-breasted Nuthatches set a new record for this whole part of the state, so far as numbers are concerned. The Pine Siskins have been recorded before, but very few. It was a thrill to find nearly 2000 Robins; if some parties had been in areas north of Green River late in the afternoon, we might have added several hundred more as the Robins came in to roost. The White-crowned Sparrow appears on a Christmas Count for the first time since 1946, and the Purple Grackle is new for the counts. A record that gave us all thrills was the finding of 50 deer by the combined groups, one group finding 20. Without doubt, the winter residents are increasing in the park, particularly on the north side, among the pines and other new growth.

\* \* \* \*

GLASGOW (Starr, Grinstead, Winger, Wilmore, and Darter Farms; Beaver Creek area; Barren River Bridge on U. S. 31-E; connecting roads in the southern and southwestern part of the county).—

Dec. 15; 6:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Overcast and foggy all day; rain in the afternoon from a mist to a fairly heavy shower. Six observers. Total, 53 species, 2492 individuals.—MRS. JAMES GILLENWATER, JIM HAYNES, DR. GEORGE MCKINLEY, LILLIAN SIMMONS, MRS. RUSSELL STARR, and DR. RUSSELL STARR (Compiler).

#### NOTES ON THE GLASGOW COUNT

If the weather had been better, I am sure we would have made a much better list. High water prevented our getting across Beaver Creek to our excellent sparrow territory. The hawks were very disappointing, as practically all the species had been recorded lately, even abundantly. One huge snapping turtle was found near a woodland pond.

\* \* \* \*

OTTER CREEK PARK (Meade County; same territory as previous years; deciduous woods 35%, brushy fields 45%, creek and river bank 10%, farmland 10%).—Jan. 1; 7:00 A. M. to 4:35 P. M. Cloudy, light snow flurries; ground bare, small ponds frozen over; temp. 22; wind NW, 11 m. p. h. Seven observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 15 (10 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles, 42 (15 on foot, 27 by car). Total, 46 species, about 2,273 individuals. The Robins and Cedar Waxwings were found in large numbers in the cedar trees and were seen eating the cedar berries. One flock of Cedar Waxwings contained 200 birds. The Brown Thrasher was seen in a honeysuckle thicket by the Stamms. The Horned Owl was heard by the Johnsons. The Myrtle Warblers were more numerous than in previous years and were well distributed throughout the area.—JOSEPH CROFT, C. G. JOHNSON, OLIVIA JOHNSON, HARVEY B. LOVELL, RODERIC SOMMERS, ANNE L. STAMM (Compiler), FREDERICK W. STAMM.

\* \* \* \*

LOUISVILLE (Same area and coverage as last year).—Dec. 22; 5:30 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Mostly clear; temp. 37 to 61; wind S-SW, 0-5 m. p. h.; all water open. Thirty-one observers in nine parties. Total party-hours, 131 (38 on foot, 72 by car, 21 by boat). Total, 82 species, about 4,505,606 individuals.—MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM M. ABLE, MR. AND MRS. YANCY ALTSHELER, LEONARD C. BRECHER, FLOYD CARPENTER, WILLIAM M. CLAY, JOSEPH E. CROFT, MRS. C. A. HARDWICK, MRS. CHARLES HORNER, FRANK H. KRULL, FRANK X. KRULL, HARVEY B. LOVELL, JOHN LOVELL, BURT L. MONROE, JR., BURT L. MONROE, SR. (Compiler), MRS. H. V. NOLAND, LOUIS H. PIEPER, MARIE E. PIEPER, EVELYN J. SCHNEIDER, MRS. BEATRICE SHORT, MR. AND MRS. FRANCIS P. SHANNON, MABEL SLACK, ANNE L. STAMM, FREDERICK W. STAMM, MR. AND MRS. DON SUMMERFIELD, MRS. WILLIAM B. TABLER, MRS. ED THOMPSON, VIRGINIA WINSTANDLEY (Beckham Bird Club).

#### NOTES ON THE LOUISVILLE COUNT

Franklin's Gull: It was discovered on the count day by the Altschelers, Brecher, and Carpenter, an adult in winter plumage, with all marks noted; the bird stayed through December 30, perching on the same log daily in the Louisville harbor; it was observed on December 23, 24, 25, 29, and 30 by Brecher and the Monroes. Attempts to collect the bird proved unsuccessful. There are several previous records for Kentucky at the same location.

Blackbirds: All blackbird and Starling figures are based on partial count and estimate at a newly-discovered roost; the figures were arrived at by independent estimates of two parties as to the total number of birds and the composition of the flocks. Results: Total birds, 4,500,000 (most conservative, probably nearer 6-7 million, a very fantastic roost; the estimate was based on incoming lines of birds, individuals per minute, expanded for all lines and multiplied by time); Starlings, 65%; other blackbirds, 35%. Of the blackbirds, the estimates were for Red-wings, 51%; Purple Grackle, 38%; Cowbird, 9%; Rusty Blackbird, 2%. It is quite likely that this figure for the Rusty Blackbird contains numerous Brewer's Blackbirds, since one male was noted at the roost on two consecutive days, with positive identification. These percentages of 4,500,000 give figures used in count and are estimated at least within 20% of minimum, 75% of maximum value for each species; that is, it is felt that the figures represent accuracy for each species between a range of numbers 20% below the figure to 75% over the figure, which is about all that can be expected with numbers of this magnitude. It is interesting to note that both parties' estimates came to within 10% of the total number and 25% on all species percentages, and a count and estimate the day after the count proper bears out these nicely.

\* \* \* \*

DANVILLE (Most roads in and near county; farmland, thickets, streams, ponds).—Dec. 24; 5:45 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Cloudy with light drizzle in morning, clear in afternoon; temp. 35 to 48; wind moderate; ponds and streams full and open. Nine observers in four parties. Total party-hours, 35 (16 on foot, 19 by car); total party-miles, 278 (20 on foot, 258 by car). The Blue Geese were feeding with tame geese at a pond where a farmer feeds an enormous amount of grain. The Blue-winged Teal cannot fly; it and one other were left behind about two months ago when the others migrated. Only this one survived. Two Red-breasted Nuthatches have been seen feeding near feeding boards in town for some days. The Hairy Woodpecker and the Brown Creeper were seen during the count period.—JOHN CHEEK, JACKSON DAVIS, ROY ELLIS, MARGARET GLORE, SCOTT GLORE, EDNA DRILL HECK (Compiler), FRANK HECK, EDDIE HECK, DOROTHY BELLE HILL, WEST T. HILL, PAULA HILL, JUDITH HILD.

\* \* \* \*

FRANKFORT.—Dec. 29; 8:30 A. M. to 3:30 P. M. Waterfowl count made at lakes on State Experimental Game Farm on U. S. 60 west of Frankfort; most other species seen east of Frankfort in Forks of Elkhorn-Switzer area: mixed cedar and deciduous woods 20%, brushy hillside and weedy fencerows 30%, pastures and cultivated fields 30%, Elkhorn Creek banks and bottom lands 20%. Clear, becoming overcast in afternoon; temp. 30 to 45; no wind. Four observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 20 (17 on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles, 41 (11 on foot, 30 by car). Total, 52 species, about 2084 individuals. The Pine Siskin was seen at close range in a small flock of Goldfinches; the flock departed before all the members of it could be observed. The Harris's Sparrow, an adult, had been present since December 14.—ELIZABETH SATTERLY, MRS. MARGARET RINGO, JEAN JONES, HOWARD JONES (Compiler).

\* \* \* \*

KLEBER SONBIRD SANCTUARY, OWEN COUNTY.—Dec. 28. The area included the 700-acre sanctuary and the adjacent farmlands in a 7-mile radius. The Bewick's Wren is rare this far north in Ken-



tucky in winter. An unusually large number of Robins were observed, apparently flying from a roost in the early morning and returning to it in the late afternoon. Their high flight and scattered flocks indicated that the roost was some distance beyond our area. Four observers part of the time in two groups; 7:15 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Total hours, 12. Total, 40 species, 3306 individuals.—JOE CROFT, HARVEY LOVELL, FRED W. STAMM, ANNE. L. STAMM.

\* \* \* \*

WILLARD.—Dec. 26; 9:00 A. M. to 3:00 P. M. About seven miles over fields, woodland, and creek bottoms. Temp. 46 to 51. Total, 17 species, 227 individuals.—ERCEL KOZEE.

\* \* \* \*

ASHLAND, EAST KENTUCKY (Ashland and all over Boyd County; Martin County).—Dec. 28; 8:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Cloudy and damp; light intermittent drizzle; temp. 50, dropping during the day. Seven observers in three parties: Reed, Cheek, and Chapman in Martin County: farmlands 20% old clearing, rest deciduous woods, partly cut over; Hughes and Curry in northeast and east Boyd County: along Big Sandy River and ranging back from river: 40% fields, 50% deciduous woodland, 10% along streams; Green and Forson in southwest Boyd County: 30% old clearings, 10% coniferous, 55% deciduous and cut-over woodland, 5% swamp and along streams. Total party-miles, 95 (80 by car, 15 on foot). Total, 47 species, 1570 individuals.—RUFUS REED, JOHN CHEEK, BOB CHAPMAN, HENRY HUGHES, GEORGE CURRY, WALTER FORSON, and OKIE S. GREEN (Compiler).

#### NOTES ON ASHLAND COUNT

The bird crop in these localities is very light and has been all fall and winter. Also there were considerably fewer migratory birds in this region in the fall than usual. We do not know how to account for this, for there have been few fires here this season, there are many weed seeds, and the snow has not been heavy enough to break the weeds down.

Rufus Reed calls attention to the total absence of the Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers in Martin County.

A flock of about 30 Cedar Waxwings was noted in Martin County a few days before the count but could not be located on the day of the count.

Large flocks of Robins have been noted in eastern Kentucky. Both Reed and Cheek comment on their singing and their good physical condition.

#### SOME COMMENTS ON THE COUNTS

Waterfowl: Concentrations of waterfowl are to be expected in such areas as Woodlands, Marion, Henderson, and Louisville; it is interesting to note how many water species appear on the lists from Bowling Green, Danville, and Frankfort, with Madisonville ranking high on the Ring-necked Duck. The Franklin's Gull from Louisville is unique.

Hawks: In general the birds of prey are well represented, with the Red-tailed Hawk very widely distributed. Several correspondents commented on the numbers of Sparrow Hawks.

**Woodpeckers:** As usual, this group is widely scattered over the state, with the Red-headed showing a remarkable come-back at Madisonville.

**Crows-Jays:** Though Jays are about normal in numbers, Crows are, except for Henderson, below their usual winter numbers. No big Crow roosts were reported this winter.

**Brown Thrasher:** The Brown Thrasher appears on three counts, an unusual winter species. Woodlands has ten birds.

**Robin:** The number of Robins is far above average for the state. Madisonville, Mammoth Cave, and Kleber show large numbers, especially Madisonville.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** This small winter visitant appears on five counts, some of them for the first time.

**American Pipit:** At Bowling Green, before and after the count but within the count period, this irregular winter visitor appeared and continues to be found with Horned Lark flocks in small grain fields.

**Starlings and Blackbirds:** The startling finds of the count were of these species, with Madisonville, Bowling Green, and Louisville practically stealing the show. A month after the count, January 24, the Bowling Green roost, near the old boatlanding on Barren River, was twice as large as it had been on the count. See elsewhere in this issue for the three counts, especially the one from Louisville.

**Pine Siskin:** This irregular winter visitant appears on five counts. On January 1 there were 75-100 in Fairview Cemetery at Bowling Green.

**Lapland Longspur:** At Bowling Green and at Louisville this rare visitor appeared, associated, like the American Pipit, with Horned Larks.

**Totals:** Observers, 132; species, 109; individuals, 6 096,047. (The editor wishes to thank again all who helped make this a great count. Plan right now to beat your own record in 1958.)

\* \* \* \* \*

### CHRISTMAS COUNT BY OUR MICHIGAN MEMBER

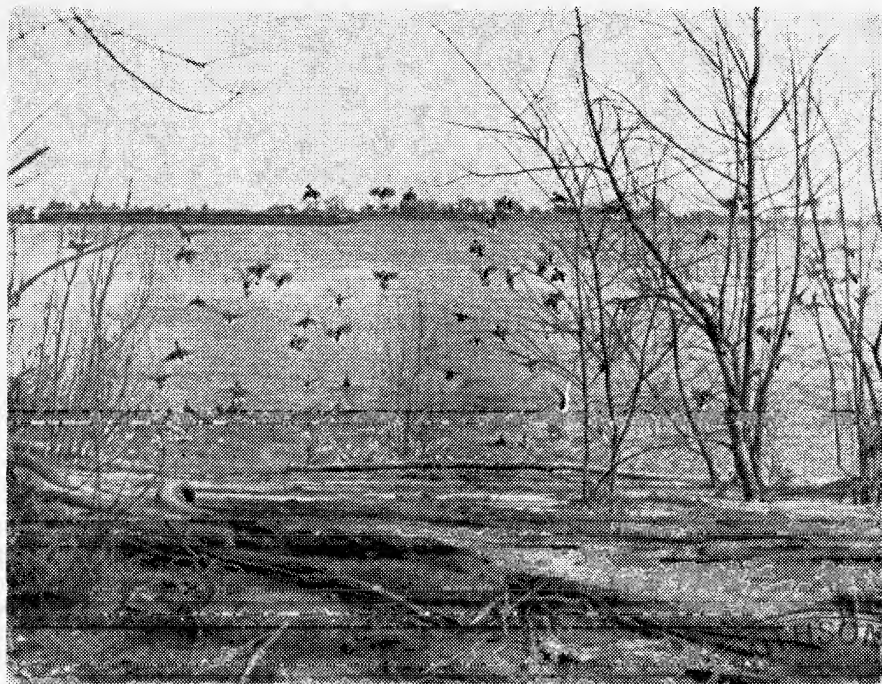
**THREE RIVERS, MICHIGAN** (Fields, woodlot, river, ponds, some of city).—Dec. 29; all morning. Partly cloudy; temp. 28 to 38; moderate S wind; not enough ice on ponds for fishing; very little snow. Ten miles on foot. Mallard, 1; American Golden-eye, 97; American Merganser, 3; Ring-billed Gull, 7; Mourning Dove, 10; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Blue Jay, 11; Crow, 3; Black-capped Chickadee, 7; Tufted Titmouse, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 14; English Sparrow, 100; Cardinal, 10; Goldfinch, 1; White-winged Crossbill, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 4; Tree Sparrow, 27; Song Sparrow, 2; Rock Dove, 6. Total, 22 species, 313 individuals. Other species recorded during count period: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Sparrow Hawk, Bob-white, Ring-necked Pheasant, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Brown Creeper, Robin, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Common Redpoll, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS.

# The Kentucky Warbler

Vol. XXXIV

MAY, 1958

No. 2



Waterfowl in Western Kentucky, February, 1958  
Photograph by Matthew Brown



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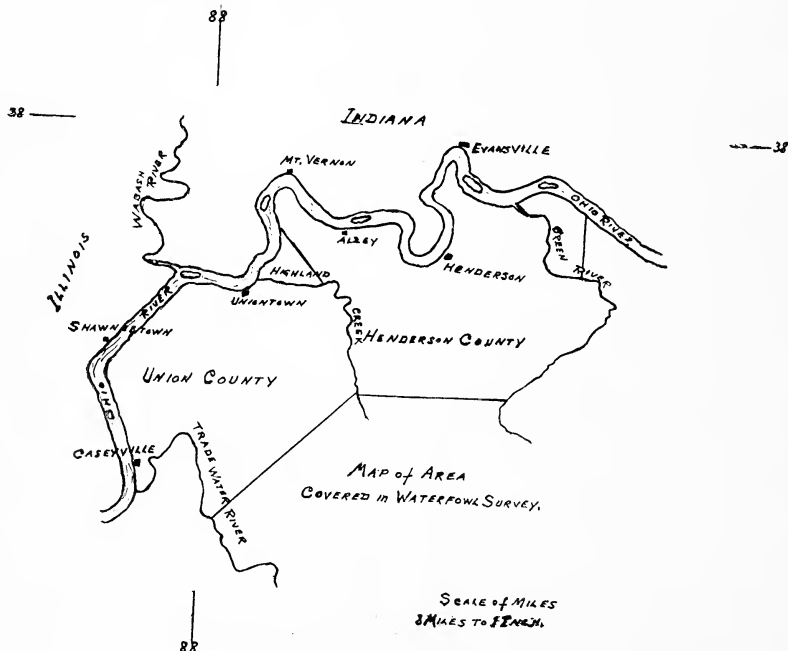
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## FEBRUARY, 1958, WATERFOWL IN HENDERSON AND UNION COUNTIES, KENTUCKY

By Robert C. Soaper

During February, 1958, field trips were conducted once or twice each week by Frank Sauerheber, a Kentucky Conservation Officer, also a U. S. Deputy Game Warden of Henderson, and me, for members of the Henderson Audubon Society. These field trips were organized by Virginia Smith and Amelia Klutey with the idea of conducting interesting field study for the local members as well as for gathering data on the waterfowl for a paper for THE KENTUCKY WARBLER.

Three photographer members made two to three of these trips in an effort to obtain some waterfowl pictures. They were Charles Meade, Matthew Brown, and Vernon Sellars, all of Henderson.

Only waterfowl were recorded on these trips, with the exception of the first two; on those days observation was made only in the afternoon.

February 2: minimum temperature, 17 degrees; maximum, 24 degrees; cloudy with light snow flurries and brisk north-west wind. Miles covered, 70. Area, lower end of Powell's Lake Drain and Walnut Bottoms. Field roads were too soft to take chances. February 3: minimum temperature, 10 degrees; maximum temperature, 27 degrees. Field roads frozen hard but rough; sky clear and bright. Miles covered, 87.

On the first day it was cloudy, and ducks and geese were feeding all afternoon in the open cornfields. They were restless because of the brisk winds. The weather made it difficult to locate many of the smaller species of land birds which use this type of area. Because of the condition of the roads, we were unable to get back into the big sloughs in this area.

Taking into consideration the clear weather of the second day, the waterfowl did not come out of the sloughs to feed in the corn and soybeans until just before sunset, but because of the frozen fields, we were able to drive back to two of the largest sloughs or lakes. These are lined on both sides with button-bush, willows, and timber—some oak, cottonwood, and a few pecan. We flushed literally thousands of Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Black Ducks (*Anas rubripes*), and Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) from Big and lower Grassy and Powell's Lakes. They were so numerous they had kept the water from freezing. As the waterfowl flushed from these lakes with loud whirring noise from the ducks and honking of the geese, they would fly around some fifteen or twenty minutes and alight again. Some would not even bother to rise. When we left this area a few minutes before sunset, ducks and geese were flying all over the fields to feed. Truly a sight for some of the members, and so well expressed by one: "If any one had told me ducks and geese existed in such numbers this close to Henderson, I would not have believed him." I informed the group that this was only one area of concentration. Several others will be described later.

Waterfowl counted on these afternoons were: Canada Geese, 7,000; Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea*), 1; Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*), 7; Mallards and Black Ducks, 170,000; about 1,000 Pintails (*Anas acuta*); and Redhead Duck (*Aythya americana*), 1.

There is usually a good reason when an exceptionally large concentration of waterfowl come into an area. During many years of experience in keeping up with waterfowl, this flight into Henderson

and Union Counties was the most unusual and noticeable. However, we always have a large concentration of waterfowl here in February, especially if we have had flood waters over the Ohio Valley which fills all the corn fields and wooded sloughs with water, but never such as this year, 1958.

During the latter part of January a small flight of Pintails came in from the south. They are the first noticeable change of species to start north. It is reasonable to assume some Mallards came with them.

On February 3 and 4 the temperature was down to 10 degrees and 12 degrees, respectively, and colder with more snow in the north and west. On February 5 and 6 the minimum temperature came up to 33 degrees and 30 degrees, respectively, with a high of 41 degrees, but temperatures dropped again on the 9th to 7 degrees and remained at 9 degrees with more snow and winds in the north and west. It remained cold with three days of sub-zero weather on the 16, 17, and 18, tapering off to 18 degrees on February 21. These two weeks of very cold weather, with all the area to the north of the Ohio River and west and northwest of the Mississippi River covered with ice and snow, forced the waterfowl south to the Ohio Valley. Here they found sufficient food in the wide cornfield bottom land of Henderson and Union Counties, covering an area from Caseyville, in Union County, Kentucky, up to seven miles above the mouth of Green River, in Henderson County. Near the beginning of this cold snap the Ohio River had risen to near flood stage. It put some water into the very low sloughs but soon began to fall slowly. However, it remained too high for the engineers to raise the dams. Then on February 16, the temperature was 1 degree below zero; on the 17th, 3 degrees below, and on the 18th, it was 3 degrees above. The Ohio River was half full of ice, which made it impossible to raise the dams. The river fell very fast for a few days (several feet below pool). This exposed large areas of sand bars, much to the liking of the ducks and geese. This also afforded them safe resting places, and the bars were literally covered with fowl.

Even during this sub-zero weather, waterfowl crowded some of the larger lakes and sloughs in sufficient numbers to keep most of the water from freezing.

After February 22, the ice disintegrated in the river, and the dams were up by the 24th. The ice soon melted in the lakes and sloughs, much to the enjoyment of the waterfowl.

As all waterfowl observers know, mating has taken place by mid-February. This is not so noticeable in flight when going out to feed, but when the flocks alight on water areas, they immediately pair off.

Now I will name and describe the various points of concentration, beginning at the upper river end of this area, which extends about ninety miles by river down stream as far as Caseyville, Kentucky, and give an estimate of the number of fowl using each area. All of these areas contain or are surrounded by fields of corn, soybeans, or small sorghum-type grain and contain many small sloughs and pot holes too numerous to mention.

1. **THE POINT:** Between Green and the Ohio River, including Nigger Creek and Pecan Woods, also Cypress Slough, which is on the left bank of Green River near the mouth, were 25,000 Mallards, 1,800 Black Ducks, 300 Pintails, and 1,000 Canada Geese.

2. **GREEN RIVER ISLAND AND DUCK ISLAND:** Between Duck Island and the mainland are two "all-weather" lakes in this chute. Green River Island is a strip about one and a half miles wide at the widest point and tapers off very narrow at the upper and lower ends.

This area, although on the right bank of the Ohio River, is in Kentucky. The part used by the waterfowl extends down the river from Audubon Memorial Bridge to the Evansville Water Works. Highway U. S. 41 runs across this strip, and from the bridge on the upper side of the highway is Ellis Park. To get to this area, it is necessary to cross the Ohio River over Audubon Memorial Bridge. Under the right-bank approach of this bridge is part of an old river bed, and very close to the bridge an open hole of water existed during the freeze-up. Regularly in this open hole were seven Goldeneyes (*Bucephala clangula*) and one White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*), diving for food almost continuously. I watched them many times, as they were very tame. This area took care of 100,000 Mallards, 7,000 Black Ducks, 400 Pintail, and 2,500 Canada Geese.

**3. HORSE SHOE BEND:** This is a narrow bend that extends down the left bank of the Ohio River from the Audubon Memorial Bridge beyond and across the river from Evansville, Indiana, and down to Henderson. This bend contains two "all-weather" sloughs named Harding and Woodward, with a lot of open sloughs usually left by January floods. This same flock of waterfowl use this area as well as the Green River Island, since it is just across, and down the river, from Green River and Duck Islands.

4. This area will necessarily have four names because the same flock of birds use all four areas. **BLACK POINT:** This area is fringed by two miles of sand bar on the river side, with heavy timber one hundred and fifty yards between the sand bar and the fields of corn and soybeans inland from the timber. **DIAMOND ISLAND BEND:** This has large sand bars on the upper side, and around the chute side also about middle way down the channel side is another large sand bar. The same type of grain is cultivated on the 1,200 acres inside the island. This island contains two overflow sloughs that are usually full of water at this time of year. **DIAMOND ISLAND BEND:** This area, as most of the members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society well know, contains the John James Audubon Heronry, dedicated as such at the 1937 Fall Meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. This area also contains many sloughs where in spring the parent herons, egrets, and cormorants obtain food for their young. **ALZEY BAR:** This is on the left bank of the river, beginning at the foot of Diamond Island and extending two miles down the river. This bar is covered with willows and has a bay extending inland around the lower end of the bar. This February, these four adjacent areas easily supplied food and natural protection for 100,000 Mallards, 8,000 Black Ducks, 800 Pintails, and 5,000 Canada Geese, 1 Snow Goose, and 7 Blue Geese. Very seldom do Blue and Snow Geese show up in any of these areas during migration.

**5. POND CREEK DRAINAGE DISTRICT:** The upper end of this district contains the Bayou, Anderson Pond, Cavanah, and Doriott Woods. At the lower end of this district are some well-known places, as Muskrat and Coon Ponds, Green Pond, and Jenny Hole. These areas were well frozen during this heavy February migration, with the exception of Anderson Pond, which had a sufficient number of waterfowl to keep about half of it from freezing. However, it supported about 10,000 Mallards, 800 Black Ducks, and 3,500 Canada Geese.

**6. WALNUT BOTTOMS:** A small portion of the lower part of this area is in Union County. This is the largest of all the areas. As previously stated, it contains two of the largest lakes, Big Grassy and Powell Lakes, with many small wooded and open sloughs. This area supported the largest number of waterfowl: 160,000 Mallards, 10,000

Black Ducks, 2,000 Pintails, 7,000 Canada Geese. Also another flock of Canadas of about 8,000 that roosted on Hovey's Lake in the southwest point of Indiana did their feeding in this area. Hovey Lake is a Pittman-Robertson Project, containing about 400 acres in the inviolate area and 600 acres in the public shooting area. These 8,000 geese came to feed in Walnut Bottoms late every evening in February.

It was interesting that on more than one occasion I saw three Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); one was fully matured, with white head and tail. Often he was in the same large cottonwood tree on the river bank in the Walnut Bottom area.

**7. UNIONTOWN TO CASEYVILLE BOTTOMS:** The approach to Earl Clements Bridge at Shawneetown, Illinois, divides this area in half. Just below Uniontown is Wabash Island, which normally supports many waterfowl. Continuing south and back from the river bank are some cypress swamps, some of them having been partially drained. Corn and beans are between these swamps and the river. Between the bridge and Caseyville are such lakes as Brown Chute, State Lake, Geigers Lake (partially drained), Lilly Pond, and several other wooded sloughs. This area normally supports more fowl than I found there this February. However, the tally showed 35,000 Mallards, 2,400 Black Ducks, 600 Pintails, and 2,500 Canada Geese.

The grand total for this ninety miles shows 430,000 Mallards, 31,000 Black Duck, 3,100 Pintails, and 29,000 Canada Geese, one Snow Goose, and 7 Blue Geese. I am unable to account for the shortage of Pintails, as I have often seen 20 to 30 thousand in most of these concentration areas. These counts are conservative.

Although we have a lot of waterfowl in February each year, the reader of this article should keep in mind that this was a phenomenal flight caused by the severe freeze-up and deep snow to the north and northwest, cutting off the supply of food and water from the birds.

One often hears hunters say that our open season should run through February, that when the ducks and geese are here, we are not permitted to shoot them. A majority of the hunters never stop to think if the season were open, the fowl would become scattered in accordance with the density of the gun pressure, or that it is necessary to maintain a large potential breeding stock in order to have a liberal open season next year.

There were more sick ducks than usual, but that could be expected from the increase in numbers present. I assume they were lung-shot birds suffering from lead poisoning from shot they had swallowed. Nothing alarming.

There are a lot of waterfowl across the Ohio River from these areas in Indiana and Illinois, but because of their narrow bottom land and drainage, the birds prefer the Kentucky side.

U. S. Game Management Agent,  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife,  
U. S. Department of the Interior, Henderson, Kentucky



## FIELD NOTES

### NOTES ON THE WINTER ROOSTING SITES OF SOME WESTERN KENTUCKY BIRDS

While collecting mammals in Crittenden County, Kentucky, about four miles west of Salem, the writers had the opportunity of observing the roosting sites of a number of wintering birds. Observations were made on the evening of January 30, 1958, between 4:45 and 5:45 P. M., C. S. T. At this time the sky was heavily overcast and the temperature about 40 degrees F. There was no precipitation or snow cover at the time. The following species were observed in the described roosting sites:

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). A total of six birds were found in Red Oaks (*Quercus rubra*) and Shingle Oaks (*Quercus imbricaria*), where they were roosting in clumps of leaves. One to two birds were found per tree in several trees ranging from 10 to 25 feet in height.

Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*). One bird was found about six feet above the ground in a spot where a small oak twig with dead leaves had become entangled between a fallen dead branch about one inch in diameter and two large grape vines (*Vitis* sp.). The bird was roosting in the dead leaves.

Carolina Wren (*Thyrothorus ludovicianus*). One was found beneath an overhanging strip of sod around the edge of a small limestone sink.

Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*). One was flushed from a dense patch of blackberry (*Rubus* sp.) in a depression in the middle of a field of Broom-sedge (*Andropogon virginicus*), where several Robins and Slate-colored Juncos were also roosting.

Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). Six were found together in a patch of sumac (*Rhus* sp.) and other small shrubs in the center of a field of Broom-sedge. About 10 were also noted in the previously mentioned blackberry patch.

Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*). One was found about 2-3 feet above the ground in a pile of woody brush around the base of the stub of a dead tree.

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*). One was found about five feet above the ground in a cluster of dead leaves in a small Red Oak.

Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). Two were found near the ground in an open field of Broom-sedge and Poverty Grass (*Danthonia spicata*), in or near the clumps of Broom-sedge. Two or three more were found in the patch of blackberry noted above.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). One was flushed from a dense growth of Broom-sedge and Poverty Grass at the edge of this same patch of blackberry.

—George W. Cox and John S. Hall,  
University of Illinois, Champaign.

### ANOTHER SIGHT RECORD OF THE FRANKLIN'S GULL

On Sunday afternoon, December 22, 1957, four observers working on the annual Christmas Bird Count in the Louisville area were checking the waterfowl in the harbor of the Ohio River just above Dam 41. Floyd Carpenter, Yancey Altsheler, Kay Altsheler, and Leonard C. Brecher noted an immature Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) perched on a branch of a semi-submerged tree near the Indiana shore. Each person possessed good binoculars, and there were two 20-power Balmscopes in the party. After completing a check of over 600 ducks, we made a trip to the Indiana shore in order to get a closer look at the cormorant, which is not seen regularly in Louisville. The cormorant was found still perching on the same log, which was about 100 feet off the Indiana shore. About six feet away on the same log was a gull which was one of the black-headed species in winter plumage. We had a long look at it as it stood, turning slightly now and then, but it did not alarm easily. Finally, Carpenter walked to the water's edge, and the crackling of the weeds and brush caused the gull to take off. There were several primary feathers missing on the left wing. From the white band on the wings Carpenter identified the bird as a Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*).

At noon on December 24 Carpenter again saw this same gull on the same log, and, as before, the gull was very complacent. The two Burt Monroes were notified and were fortunate enough to locate this gull later in the afternoon. Burt Monroe, Jr., who is very familiar with the wintering populations of Franklin's Gulls on the Gulf Coast of Texas, made a positive identification. The next morning, December 25, the Monroes again saw the same gull, which could easily be recognized by the missing primaries. Burt Monroe, Sr., saw this gull again on January 1, 1958.

This is the second sight record for the Louisville area that we are aware of, the first having been noted by Lovell and Carpenter on November 11, 1943, (See *Kentucky Warbler*, XXI: 31, 1945). The only other published record for Kentucky is one by L. Otley Pindar for 1889 in Fulton County, in extreme western Kentucky.

The Franklin's Gull is a bird of the prairie states west of the Mississippi River and winters down the Pacific Coast of South America and along the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana.

In the few weeks preceding Christmas we had several occasions when high winds came from the southwest, some of nearly tornado intensity. The last occasion was on December 19, and it is quite possible that this Franklin's Gull was caught by one of these winds and rode out the storm into our area. — LEONARD C. BRECHER, Louisville.

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### BLUE GEESE ARRIVE EARLY

On my last waterfowl census flight, January 27, 1958, from Owensboro to Wabash Island on the Ohio River, I saw five Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) and an albino Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*). The Blues are unusual at this time of year, evidently the vanguard of return migrants.

The Canada Goose appeared a dusty-white color. I circled above him in order to get a better look and could see the tail band and neck markings which showed through. These, although faint, were plain enough to easily recognize the bird as a Canada Goose.

Another thing of interest was what might be termed an "occluded front" of waterfowl. The cold weather to the north drove the ducks down and overlapped the early migrants arriving from the south. Ducks were everywhere! It was difficult enough to imagine such a large concentration in some areas, let alone trying to make a fair estimate of their numbers.—DAN RUSSELL, Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Resources, Bowling Green.

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#### SANDHILL CRANES OVER MAMMOTH CAVE AREA

On March 30, 1958, at about 4:00 P. M., I was walking along a forested path between the park (Mammoth Cave) residential area and the headquarters area. The weather was misty and overcast, with a low ceiling of several hundred feet. Catching a familiar call, I looked above me and saw five Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) flying in a perfect "V," just beneath the covering of clouds.

The extremely dismal weather may have accounted for the presence of the cranes in two ways. With poor visibility, they may have strayed from their usual Mississippi flyway, and with a low ceiling, they may have been flying much lower than is normal.—WILLARD E. DILLEY, Park Naturalist, Mammoth Cave.

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#### PREDATION ON BLUE JAY BY COOPER'S HAWK

A recent experience of observing a predator in the act of securing its food may be of interest to others studying birds of prey. On a number of occasions I have seen a Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*) sitting in a locust tree in the Otter Creek Park area. The tree is about ten feet from a cleared path, and below it is a young growth of cedar and sassafras. This is within sight of the Superintendent's residence. Usually about ten Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*) spend most of their time in this growth. On December 27, 1957, about two o'clock in the afternoon, I again saw a Cooper's Hawk in this same locust; and as I watched, a Blue Jay flew out of the young growth about eight feet from the ground. As it started across the cleared path, the hawk swiftly swooped down and captured the unsuspecting jay on the wing. There was only a slight evidence of struggle; the hawk was off balance only for a second or two, and was able to continue its flight, carrying its prey without touching the ground. It flew to the wooded area beyond where I believe it nests. The hawk had also been seen in this same tree the two previous days.

Last year we saw a Cooper's Hawk catch a rabbit in this same spot.—OLIVIA JOHNSON, Otter Creek Park, Vine Grove, Route 1.

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#### SPARROW HAWK CAPTURES STARLING

On January 12, 1957, while Mrs. F. W. Stamm and I were driving along Springdale Road, in eastern Jefferson County, we came upon a female Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) struggling in the air, only about two feet above the road, with a Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) which it had apparently just captured. As we stopped, perhaps 50 feet from the birds, the hawk dropped its prey and flew off. The Starling, unable to fly, scurried into a field beside the road. We caught it and found its left humerus broken; the left wing was slightly bloodstained. Apparently the bird had been feeding in the road when captured by the hawk.

Published data indicate that birds as large as the Starling are seldom preyed upon by the Sparrow Hawk. Donald Lamore (1956. *Wilson Bull.*, 68:154), in recording an instance of Sparrow Hawk predation upon the Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) listed average weights of birds reported taken by the Sparrow Hawk. The Starling's weight was given as 84 grams, compared with a variation from 83 to 130 grams for the Sparrow Hawk. Since most reports of predation are, as Lamore notes, based upon examinations of stomach contents rather than upon observations of the prey being carried in flight, it seems worthy of record that in the case here reported the hawk was capable of bearing its prey at least a short distance.

On at least two other occasions I have seen Sparrow Hawks vigorously chasing Starlings. In mid-May of 1957 I observed a male Sparrow Hawk pursuing a flock of about 150 Starlings near Seneca Park. The Starlings were densely bunched; their twisting course apparently proved too much for the hawk, which soon gave up the chase. Probably the hawk involved in this incident was an individual which I have regularly seen in the same area and which has been observed on several occasions chasing small birds, such as Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) and Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). About a month later, June 20, 1957, in the Caperton Swamp area I saw a flock of about 15 Starlings swiftly fly across an open field and land at the edge of a dense thicket. Hardly had they done so when a male Sparrow Hawk came into sight, obviously in pursuit of the Starlings. The Starlings hurriedly ran into the thicket; the hawk veered away while still 25 feet from the place of refuge, flew off, and was not seen again.—JOSEPH CROFT, Louisville.

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#### A LATE SINGING RECORD FOR THE ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Phœnicurus ludovicianus*) sang several times on the morning of September 14, 1957, in an oak tree on our lawn. This species, in my experience, seems to sing rather rarely in the fall migration. Aretas E. Saunders (*Auk*, LXV: 381, 1948) had the following to say about this song: "In Allegany Park, I heard this bird in song on August 17 and 23, 1933. In Connecticut, records are: Aug. 28, 1941; Aug. 15, 31, 1942; Aug. 29, 30, 1943; and Sept. 16, 1945. On two occasions the August singers proved to be young males in immature plumage. Bicknell (1885: 151) records a young male singing, Sept. 23, 1879."

The bird I heard repeated its song several times and also uttered the very distinctive call.—JAMES W. HANCOCK, Madisonville.

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#### A LATE SINGING DATE FOR THE WHIP-POOR-WILL

On the evening of September 17, 1956, I heard a Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) call two or three times from a densely wooded hillside across the road from my house. The locality where I live is at the edge of Jefferson County Forest. Here, the Whip-poor-will is heard many times during the spring, summer, and fall; but this is the latest date I have heard it sing.—AMY DEANE, Brooks Station.

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#### A LATE RECORD OF THE WHIP-POOR-WILL

In mid-afternoon on September 29, 1957, a male Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) was flushed from the ground at the base of a

walnut tree in a wooded area in Indian Hills between Calumet and Tepee Roads. It glided over a gully to a hillside opposite, a distance of about 45 feet, disappearing in a growth of Snake Root, Pokeweed, and Honeysuckle. Though confident of having noted exactly where the bird dropped, I was unable to flush it a second time. The latest date I have heard the call was on August 31, 1957, at 5:30 in the morning. The bird gave two "wuck" notes and then five "whip-poor-wills."—CATHARINE HOPE NOLAND, Louisville.

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## ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

"The Warblers of America: A popular account of the wood warblers as they occur in the Western Hemisphere. By Ludlow Griscom, Alexander Sprunt, Jr., and other ornithologists of note. Illustrated by John Henry Dick, Devin-Adair Co., New York, 1957." Pages 1-356 and i-xii, 35 colored plates, many black and white sketches and maps. Quarto, \$15.00.

A whole coterie of ornithologists (29 authors are listed in the table of contents) have put together a diverse set of writings and figures about this colorful bird family. The book is attractively printed on good paper, well bound, with few typographical errors. It includes 12 short chapters of a general nature (classification, songs, etc.), 11 chapters on the warblers of certain geographical areas outside the United States, and 60 species accounts of the warblers in the A. O. U. Check List area. There are many black and white drawings of warblers, and a breeding range map for almost every species and subspecies included in the A. O. U. Check List. Thirty-five colored plates made in Holland by six-color offset depict all of the species of Parulidae except for 6 species of *Geothlypis* and *Basileuterus richardsoni*. Also included in the colored plates are 2 subspecies of several species and 4 different subspecies of the Yellow Warbler. Each species account includes a general discussion emphasizing field appearance and, in some cases, ecology and/or behavior. Concise paragraphs follow, describing field characteristics, nest and eggs, song and call, food, and range. Also, in cases where subspecies are recognized by the A. O. U. Check List, a brief, though often vague, description of each subspecies and its range is given.

From the point of view of scientific ornithology, this book is spotty. The general chapters include 3 original contributions, 6 handy summations of knowledge, 2 reprints of excellent articles from scientific literature, and a series of biographies of the authors which should have been left for *American Men of Science*. Aside from the reprints, the chapters by Griscom on "The Songs of Warblers" and "A Suggested Reclassification" impressed me as especially worthwhile, although the latter would have been improved had the discussions been lengthened. The geographic-area chapters are particularly uneven, both in quality and content. Those by Bond, on the West Indies, and by Skutch, on western Central America, contain a good deal of original material on ecology, behavior, and migration. Those by Godfrey, on the Prairie Provinces, and by Clement and Gunn, on Eastern Canada, shame most of the rest of the book by their careful, scholarly, ecological treatment. As for the species accounts, with the exception of 3 by Skutch, they include nothing not found elsewhere—especially in Peterson's *Field Guides*, Bent's *Life Histories*, and the A. O. U. Check List. The considerable space devoted to A. O. U. Check List subspecies, contrasted with the omission of virtually all subspecies south of that area, results in incongruities. Thus the striking race *Dendroica auduboni*

*nigrifrons* is omitted, whereas several slightly differentiated races of *Geothlypis trichas* are included. There is no general bibliography, and throughout the book the use of references is erratic.

The range maps which illustrate the species accounts must have been carelessly drawn, for in numerous cases the range as shown thereon does not agree with the correctly-stated range in the accompanying text. The large map on page 332 incorrectly shows South-eastern Alaska as tundra. It should have been left blank or shown mostly as coast forest. The black and white sketches are crude for a book as expensive as this one.

Two factual errors caught my eye—both on page 350. The Red and Pink-headed Warblers are called "bright red throughout," although elsewhere in the text and in the colored plates the two species are correctly shown otherwise. Griscom calls the Fantailed Warbler "gigantic"—hardly appropriate for a species smaller than a Louisiana Water Thrush.

My own experience differs on a few points. On page 311 Lincoln says of the Townsend Warbler in Alaska: "The species does not appear to be common anywhere." I found it common—probably the commonest warbler—near Wrangell and Sitka. In Western Mexico I have noted the Red-faced Warbler foraging usually 5-20 feet above the ground and the Slate-throated Redstart 6-40 feet up. In the U. S. I have watched the Chestnut-sided Warbler foraging between 5 and 60 feet up. All three of these species, I think, should on page 41 be moved from the low-ranging column to the medium-ranging column.

Altogether, *The Warblers of America* would be an excellent ornithology book were the species accounts and the black and white sketches omitted, the colored plates rearranged, and all the general and geographical chapters brought up to the plane of the better ones.

The paintings by Dick are colorful and attractive, except where overcrowded. To my eye, however, they are less life-like and spritely than those by some other artists. Compare the warblers by Sutton, for instance, also printed by the offset method, in Todd's classic *Birds of Western Pennsylvania*. Or those by Fuertes in two or three different books! A good many of the plates in my copy are out of register in one or two colors. The last five plates are badly overcrowded. The combination of species on individual plates is not consistently either geographic, ecological, or phylogenetic; for instance, plate 8 includes 1 form of *Dendroica* (?), 2 of *Parula*, and 1 of *Chamaethlypis*, from 3 opposite corners of North America, and 4 major ecological types, and plates 31, 32, and 33 defy classification.

From the point of view of popular bird-watching, I consider this a good, but not outstanding, bird picture book. It combines in one volume a convenient summary of material found elsewhere only in several different books, some of them out of print. Some of the general chapters are inappropriate for the average reader. The subspecies accounts would better have been omitted, except in the few cases where they can be differentiated in the field.—**J. Dan Webster, Hanover College, Hanover, Indiana.**

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**The Birds of Rockbridge County, Virginia**, by Joseph James Murray. *Virginia Avifauna*, Number 1. Published by the Virginia Society of Ornithology, Sweet Briar, Virginia. Pamphlet, 60 pages. Copies may be obtained from F. R. Scott, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26, Virginia, for 50 cents each.

Here is a study that should encourage ornithologists that have spent years in a single county or area and have painstakingly recorded their observations. Dr. Murray, now visiting professor at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Louisville, has long been recognized for his accurate and continuous study of the birds around Lexington, Virginia, his home town. The booklet is a summary of his thirty years in this mountain-valley county. There is an informative introduction, in which the geology and geography of the area are presented. Because of his long association with the county, Dr. Murray has been able to give many records of weather conditions, changing areas because of logging or the establishment of National Forests, and the effects of the long years of drought.

The pamphlet has elaborate notes on 264 species and subspecies of birds, every one authenticated with specimens or better-than-average field observations. The author gives credit to many observers who have helped him through the years; among whom is the very personable Dr. Alexander Wetmore. This study is especially valuable to those of us who have tried to establish a list of birds for a given area. It is a credit to the Virginia Society of Ornithology that it chose this study for its first volume of *Virginia Avifauna*. We older observers can truly say of this study: "We wish that we had done it ourselves."—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

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## ANNUAL SPRING MEETING, APRIL, 1958

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its thirty-fifth annual Spring Meeting at Bowling Green, Kentucky, April 11-13, 1958, with headquarters at Lost River Motel. This was the third successive spring program in this locality, affording an opportunity for observation of migrating waterfowl and birds about the shores of McElroy and Chaney Lakes, the disappearing lakes.

On Friday evening Dr. and Mrs. Hunter M. Hancock were hosts at an informal gathering in their cottage. At his time, Mr. Howard Barbig of Memphis, Tennessee, showed his films on "Birds of Mexico" and also two reels of a film on "The Bear River Marshes." These films presented excellent views of bird life and other features of natural history.

A Saturday morning field trip led by Dr. Gordon Wilson took the members to the shores of Chaney Lake. Lunch was eaten, picnic style, at a roadside park. In the afternoon, the group visited Grider Pond, McElroy Lake, and a park area near town. A total of eighty-six species of birds were recorded, with the highlight being the first record in the area of the European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*).

The dinner meeting was held at the Helm Hotel, Dr. Hunter M. Hancock presiding. After the introduction of guests and recognition of members by localities, a brief business session was held. A motion was made to take from the table the question of accepting the report of the committee to establish a scholarship honoring Dr. Gordon Wilson. This was seconded and unanimously passed. Following this, Dr. Hancock returned the matter to the previously-appointed committee, which was directed to make a further report at the 1958 Fall Meeting.

Following the business session Dr. Hancock presented Mr. Ray Scott, Director, Photography and Public Relations, of National Park Concessions, Inc., who introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr. Willard E. Dilley, Park Naturalist, Mammoth Cave National Park. Mr.

Dilley, speaking on the subject "Birds and National Parks," utilized colorful and interesting slides made in Everglades National Park as an illustration of bird life in our national parks. At the conclusion of Mr. Dilley's presentation Miss Amelia Klutey introduced Dr. Gordon Wilson, who reviewed the history of K. O. S., now thirty-five years old. He also commented on the geologic formation of McElroy and Chaney Lakes and the history of birding there. The lakes were first visited by Dr. Wilson in 1912, with his serious studies and records being initiated in 1927. The evening's program was concluded by the showing of a film taken by Miss Klutey during the previous winter. The film, taken in the Henderson, Kentucky, locality, showed a concentration of water-fowl which literally darkened the sky at times. Following this, the meeting adjourned.

On Sunday morning, with continuing pleasant weather, members went to the cottage of Dr. L. Y. Lancaster on the Gasper River, where field trips were led by Dr. Wilson and Dr. Lancaster. Nine additional species of birds were found, making a total of ninety-five recorded during the meeting.

Those who attended have reason to remember this meeting for the many birds seen, the wonder of the disappearing lakes, and the fellowship enjoyed by all.

#### ATTENDANCE AT SPRING MEETING

Members and guests in attendance at our Spring Meeting, Bowling Green, April 11-13, 1958:

**BOWLING GREEN:** Dr. and Mrs. L. Y. Lancaster, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Long, Mrs. Meador, Dr. and Mrs. Robt. W. Pace, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Riley, Loyce Spencer, Dr. Gordon Wilson.

**DANVILLE:** Mrs. F. Powell Cheek.

**FRANKFORT:** Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jones.

**GLASGOW:** Dr. George McKinley, Dr. Robert McKinley, Mary Clyde Nuckols, Lillian Simmons, Faye Starr.

**HENDERSON:** Amelia Klutey, Carlton Klutey, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Rhoads, William Rhoads, Jr., Diana Squires, Edna Vogel, Miriam Vogel.

**LOUISVILLE:** Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, James Craddock, Mrs. H. C. Mitchell, Dr. J. J. Murray, Marie Pieper, Evelyn Schneider, Mabel Slack, Roderic Sommers, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Summerfield, Audrey Wright, Ann Winnenberg.

**MURRAY:** Dr. and Mrs. Hunter M. Hancock, Dr. and Mrs. Gerhard Megow.

**PIKEVILLE:** John A. Cheek.

**MAMMOTH CAVE:** Mr. and Mrs. Willard E. Dilley, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. W. Ray Scott.

**PRINCETON:** Dr. Cynthia Counce, Sally Lady.

**REED:** Mrs. Nat Stanley.

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE:** Albert F. Ganier.

**MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE:** Mr. and Mrs. Howard Barbig.

—Howard Jones, Recording Secretary.



## NEWS AND VIEWS

### HENDERSON AUDUBON SOCIETY FETES VIRGINIA SMITH

Miss Virginia Smith a former president of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, was recently honored by the Henderson Audubon Society, for having served as president of that group for the past eight years. Miss Smith was presented a copy of *The Warblers of America*, by Griscom, Sprunt, et al, and also a copy of McMillan's edition of Audubon's *Birds of America*. Miss Amelia Klutey, the new president, presided at the occasion and had charge of the arrangements. Miss Smith was cited for having been untiring in her efforts to promote an interest in birds, not only in the class room but in the community and the state as well. Our congratulations, and may Miss Smith continue to have time to devote to the work of both the local and the state societies!

\* \* \* \* \*

### MABEL SLACK HONORED

On February 18, 1958, at the annual dinner meeting of the Beckham Bird Club (Louisville Chapter). Miss Mabel Slack was presented the 1957 club award for "constructive contribution to Kentucky ornithology." At this meeting, Dr. J. J. Murray, of Virginia, and editor of *The Raven*, spoke on "Falcon in the Sky." Our congratulations to Miss Slack!

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE K. O. S. JUNIOR ACADEMY SCIENCE PRIZE GOES TO HERBERT TAYLOR

At the Fall Meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society it was announced that Herbert Taylor of Atherton High School had been awarded the K. O. S. prize for his paper on "Bird Flight." The selection was made by a special committee appointed by the retiring president, Mrs. Stamm. Each year a three-year subscription of *The Kentucky Warbler* is given to the high school student or member of the Junior Academy of Science Clubs for writing the best paper on some phase of original bird study. The 1956 award was given to Joseph Croft.

\* \* \* \* \*

### BIRDS AT AUDUBON PARK HAVE SPECIAL TREAT

The birds at Audubon Memorial Park, Henderson, have been well fed during the cold winter months of 1958, thanks to a Brownie Troop of Evansville, Indiana. Others may take a tip from this troop (Number 175 of Cave School), who took pine cones, dipped them into melted fat, then, as the suet hardened, rolled the cones in sunflower seed, millet, and other grain seeds. These cones were presented to the Park Management for proper placement. Some of the birds that fed on these cones and permitted museum visitors to observe them at close range were the nuthatches, sapsuckers, woodpeckers, titmice, and chickadees.

### THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

Plan now to participate in the Fall Meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. The dates are October 10-12, 1958. The meeting will be held at Dawson Springs.

\* \* \* \* \*

### K. O. S. SLEEVE PATCH

Advertise your Society by wearing one of our new sleeve patch emblems. You will want one for each of your field jackets to take with you on your vacation trip. It will be an easy way to introduce yourself to other ornithologists. Orders may be sent to the treasurer. The price is \$1.25.

\* \* \* \* \*

### DO YOU BUY BIRD BOOKS?

One of our members has two copies of *Warblers of America* by Griscom, Sprunt, et al. He is willing to sell one for \$12.50. The retail price is \$15.00. If you have not purchased a copy and would like one this is a good buy. This copy may be ordered through the treasurer.

\* \* \* \* \*

### K. O. S. MEMBERS ATTEND WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher and Mr. and Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Sr., attended the meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society at Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Va., on April 24-27, 1958.

\* \* \* \* \*

### AUDUBON CAMPS

During the months of June, July and August the National Audubon Society conducts nature camps. These camps may be attended for two week periods, and provide adults with a hobby in nature and conservation. These camps are located in the following places:

Audubon Camp of California, Sugar Bowl Lodge, Norden, Cal.

Audubon Camp of Connecticut, Audubon Center, Greenwich, Conn.

Audubon Camp of Maine, Todd Wildlife Sanctuary, Medomak, Maine.

Audubon Camp of Wisconsin, Saron, Wis.

For additional information and reservations, write to National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, N. Y.

\* \* \* \* \*

### THIS ISSUE

This issue is the work of our associate editor, Mrs. F. W. Stamm. She is to be congratulated on her work. Few of our members can know how many details are connected with a simple little 16-page magazine like this issue. In order to make up a good August number, please send in some notes right now to the editor, including your Big Spring List and such observations as you have made lately. For example, what oddity appeared on your spring count? How did arrival and departure dates of spring migrants differ from the average dates in your area? What species in your locality seem to have suffered from the bitter winter? We always need notes; they are the democratic part of our magazine, a part that every one can contribute.

—Gordon Wilson, Editor.

K 37  
Birds

# The Kentucky Warbler

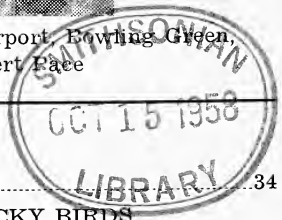
Vol. XXXIV

AUGUST, 1958

No. 3



Site of a Nest of a Dickcissel, at the City-County Airport, Bowling Green, May 24, 1958.—Photograph by Dr. Robert Pace



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## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

President.....Dr. Hunter Hancock, Murray  
 Vice-President.....Miss Amelia Klutey, Henderson  
 Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.....Mr. F. W. Stamm, 2118 Lakeside Drive, Louisville 5  
 Recording Secretary.....Mr. Howard Jones, Stamping Ground

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Mr. John A. Cheek, Pikeville.....1956-58  
 Dr. Russell Starr, Glasgow.....1957-58  
 Mr. Al Mayfield, Lexington.....1957-59  
 Miss Evelyn J. Schneider, Louisville.....1957-59

Retiring President.....Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Louisville  
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 Curator.....Mr. Burt L. Monroe, Ridge Road, Anchorage

### Editor:

Dr. Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green.

### Associate Editor:

Mrs. F. W. Stamm, 2118 Lakeside Drive, Louisville 5.

### Assistant Editors:

Mr. Leonard C. Brecher, Field Notes; Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, Notes on Ornithologists.

### COMMITTEES—

Nominating: Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Chairman; Mabel Slack, W. P. Rhoads, Gordon Wilson.

Membership: Evelyn J. Schneider, Chairman; Cynthia C. Counce, A. L. Powell, John Cheek.

Auditing: Louis Piepet, Chairman; Floyd S. Carpenter.

Conservation and Legislation: Burt L. Monroe, Chairman; Harvey B. Lovell, L. Y. Lancaster,  
 R. C. Soaper.

Endowment: Leonard C. Brecher, Chairman.

Gordon Wilson Scholarship: Harvey B. Lovell and F. W. Stamm, Co-Chairmen; Leonard C.  
 Brecher, John Cheek, Frederick W. Loetscher, Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Mrs. F. W. Stamm.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### A NEW RECORD OF WARBLER SONGS

Our readers will be delighted to know of the new 12-inch long-play phonograph record containing 522 songs, from 150 recordings, of 38 species (plus 1 hybrid) of warblers occurring in eastern United States and Canada. This fabulous recording by Dr. Donald J. Borror of Ohio University, and Dr. William W. H. Gunn, Federation of Ontario Naturalists, is designed to serve as a reference for the identification of warbler songs; it also shows some of the variation in the songs of each species. The songs on the record are arranged by species in four groups: (1) songs consisting of a series of similar phrases uttered slowly, (2) trilly songs, (3) buzzy songs, and (4) songs consisting of varied notes or phrases, not readily classified in any of the other three groups.

This fine recording should be of great interest to Kentuckians, as all songs with the exception of the Kirtland's Warbler may be heard within the state. The record will make a nice addition to one's ornithological aids. The price is \$5.95, and may be ordered from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 187 Highbourne Road, Toronto 7, Ontario, Canada.

### ROBERT C. SOAPER RETIRES

On June 30, 1958, Captain Robert C. Soaper of Henderson, retired from the position of U. S. Game Management agent after almost twenty-three years of service. Mr. Soaper has been a great defender of the law and has taken to his task of protecting the wildlife of the states under his authority with a spirit that went beyond the call of duty. Perhaps his biggest year in protecting birds came in 1939, when he took 37 men to federal court for violating the Migratory Bird Treaty act. These men had either been shooting doves over baited fields or using unplugged pump guns. Congratulations for a difficult job well done!

\* \* \* \* \*

### K. O. S. LOSES TWO MEMBERS BY DEATH

K. O. S. members mourn the loss of Frances Winstandley, who passed away June 19, 1958. She had been a member since 1942. One of her hobbies had been photographing birds, and one of her movies of the Kildeer will long be remembered by many.

Another member, Henry B. Hayburn, died rather suddenly on June 17, 1958. He had been a member of the Louisville Chapter (Beckham Bird Club) since 1955.

K. O. S. extends sympathy to the families of Miss Winstandley and Mr. Hayburn.

\* \* \* \* \*

### DR. BARBOUR IN INDONESIA

Our former president, Dr. Roger Barbour, who is now teaching in the University of Indonesia, recently wrote the editor:

"On April 10, 1958, four of us of the university staff visited Pula Dua, off the north coast of Java between Java and Sumatra. This is a small island only a few hundred yards from the coast of Java and is covered with a dense stand of mangrove and other assorted vegetation. There are a few trees as much as two feet in diameter but no water except immediately after a rain, when it collects in puddles among the mangroves. There is a house on the island, made mostly of bamboo and palm fibers, for the use of authorized visitors and caretakers.

"Mammals, as far as I could tell without trapping, consisted of a species of *Rattus*. Of reptiles I saw only two species; the ever-present little gecko *tjitjak*, and some 4-5-foot lizards of the genus *Varanus*. These are fearsome-looking beasts, but perfectly harmless.

"Birds are fairly common on this island except in December and January. We estimated 100,000 adults on the island when we were there—roughly one bird per square meter. We observed 13 species of water birds, 12 of them nesting. I had 700 feet of 16mm Kodachrome with me and was able to get some footage of nesting species. Those photographed were Wood Ibis, Stork, Black-crowned Night Heron, Pong Heron, Gray Heron (similar to our Great Blue), Purple Heron, Greater Egret, Lesser Egret, Sacred Egret, Cattle Egret, and two species of Cormorants. The Glossy Ibises were just arriving while we were there; we saw only 15 or 20. The Spoonbills had not yet arrived. This film has been sent to Australia for processing and will not get back for a month or two. I also took 80 color slides; they have now been processed and look pretty good. We ran out of water and film but plan to go back after we have seen our first movies, to try to round out the story."

**A. O. U. CHANGES IN COMMON NAMES OF KENTUCKY BIRDS**

By Roderic W. Sommers, Louisville

The long-awaited Fifth Edition of the A. O. U. Check-list\* is a monumental compilation of ornithological data concerning the nomenclature, taxonomy, and distribution of the 1,686 species and subspecies of birds that occur in North America. Of prime interest to our members is the A. O. U. Committee's revisions of the common names of birds. Of the many name changes, no less than 49 affect Kentucky birds as listed below.

Most of the changes tend to simplify the vernacular (common) name problem. Few will disagree with the committee's choice to abandon the use of common names for subspecies. The classification of a species into races is, after all, a problem for the scientist and not one that amateurs should attempt to solve in the field.

The omission of hyphens has accounted for the changes in 13 of the names on our list, i. e. Bob-white to Bobwhite. The hyphens were added in the case of the Black-and-White Warbler.

There has been a recent trend toward omitting the names of persons from the common names of birds. The committee has now listed Red-necked Grebe (formerly Holboell's) and Common Snipe (formerly Wilson's), but three other birds on our list have acquired new proper names; Traill's Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, and Bachman's Sparrow are the species in the category. Apparently the former names, although more descriptive, caused other inconsistencies. For instance, the western form of the bird we knew as the Alder Flycatcher has long been known as the Traill's Flycatcher.

The Common Scoter is a bird that appears in the northern climes of several continents; it therefore would be less than accurate to continue to call it the American Scoter. The Common Egret is one of several other species that similarly have had their names changed because their range extends well outside this continent. Conversely, certain species are actually typically American. In order to avoid confusion with the European Woodcock, our bird has now been called the American Woodcock. Four other species on the list have been re-named for essentially the same reason.

English-speaking people elsewhere in the world have adopted common names that very often differ with our names for the same species. Certain of these differences may never be coordinated, but the committee has adopted the European common names for the American Widgeon (Baldpate), Peregrine Falcon (Duck Hawk), and Dunlin (Red-backed Sandpiper). The Redwing of Europe is a member of the Thrush family; therefore our bird has been renamed the Redwinged Blackbird.

The "splitters" appear to have gained a little ground in certain cases (the Dowitcher is now two full species), but the "lumpers" have countered by combining certain former separate species into one full species (Bronzed and Purple Grackles to Common Grackle).

Note also that the committee continues to prefer the use of the common names Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Bluebird, and American Redstart. These three species are not currently listed on our state field card this way.

\**The A. O. U. Check-list of North American Birds*. Prepared by a Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union. Fifth Edition. xiii and 691 pages. Published by the American Ornithologists' Union. (1957) The Lord Baltimore Press, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland, U. S. A. Cost \$8.00.

Some of these changes may not meet everyone's whole-hearted approval, but the fact remains that eleven of our nation's top ornithologists have done a tremendous job of reviewing and compiling the reams of scientific data that were finally organized into this outstanding list. Changes that affect the Kentucky Ornithological Society's Check List of Kentucky Birds are:

Old Name	New Name
Holboell's Grebe	Red-necked Grebe
American Egret	Common Egret
Baldpate	American Widgeon
Shoveller	Shoveler
Canvas-back	Canvasback
Greater Scaup Duck	Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup Duck	Lesser Scaup
American Golden-eye	Common Goldeneye
Buffle-head	Bufflehead
Old-squaw	Oldsquaw
American Merganser	Common Merganser
Duck Hawk	Peregrine Falcon
Bob-white	Bobwhite
Florida Gallinule	Common Gallinule
Coot	American Coot
Golden Plover	American Golden Plover
Woodcock	American Woodcock
Wilson's Snipe	Common Snipe
Greater Yellow-legs	Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellow-legs	Lesser Yellowlegs
Red-backed Sandpiper	Dunlin
Dowitcher*	Short-billed Dowitcher
	Long-billed Dowitcher
	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	Great Horned Owl
Horned Owl	Common Nighthawk
Nighthawk	Great Crested Flycatcher
Crested Flycatcher	Traill's Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher	Eastern Wood Pewee
Wood Pewee	Common Crow
Crow	Swainson's Thrush
Olive-backed Thrush	Water Pipit
American Pipit	Solitary Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo	Black-and-white Warbler
Black and White Warbler	Blackpoll Warbler
Black-poll Warbler	Ovenbird
Oven-bird	Northern Waterthrush
Northern Water-thrush	Louisiana Waterthrush
Louisiana Water-thrush	Yellowthroat
Yellow-throat	House Sparrow
English Sparrow	Eastern Meadowlark
Meadowlark	Redwinged Blackbird
Red-wing	Common Grackle
Purple Grackle	Brown-headed Cowbird
Cowbird	American Goldfinch
Goldfinch	Rufous-sided Towhee
Eastern Towhee	Bachman's Sparrow
Pine Woods Sparrow	

\*Each of the two newly designated species have been recorded in Kentucky.

Three birds—the American Scoter, LeConte's Sparrow and the Harris's Sparrow—are not on our K. O. S. Check-list, since these birds are rarely seen in the state. However, we have recent sight records of the American Scoter and the Harris's Sparrow by competent observers, and a specimen of the former in the collection of Burt L. Monroe, Sr., and three specimens of the Le Conte's Sparrow taken by Alexander Wetmore (October 24, 1938). These name changes are:

Old Name	New Name
American Scoter	Common Scoter
LeConte's Sparrow	Le Conte's Sparrow
Harris's Sparrow	Harris' Sparrow

\* \* \* \* \*

### A CROW ROOST AT SHELBYVILLE, SHELBY COUNTY

By Anne L. Stamm and Gertrude L. Hardwick

On the afternoon of November 17, 1956, about eighteen members of the Beckham Bird Club (Louisville Chapter), went on a scheduled field trip with two purposes in mind; (1) to see fall land birds, (2) to look for a crow's roost.

The trip began six miles east of Middletown, at the extreme north-eastern section of Jefferson County, on Long Run road. This area was chosen as a starting point, for it was in this general area that Hardwick, formerly of Simpsonville, had observed crow flights the previous winter. The writers scouted the area the previous evening (November 16) during a heavy downpour of rain, and only two crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) were found, even though many miles were driven from 3:30 P. M. until dark. The next day, November 17, was sunny, clear, but cold. Permission had been granted from land owners to walk over fields behind the Long Run Cemetery. Here an Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) was observed. In mid-afternoon, around 2:30 P. M., small flights of crows were observed flying from the north and heading towards Simpsonville. Other groups of crows were noted coming across the sky from the west. We decided to get into our cars and follow the birds but found this a difficult task going up one graded road and down another. The crows quite naturally did not always follow the roads, and this often added miles between us. After driving many miles beyond Simpsonville with interval stops in order to determine what roads to follow, we finally noticed crows "dropping" down into an open field. Although the birds were at a great distance, our binoculars revealed hundreds of them on the ground and some perched in trees at the edge of a woods. This location was on Fox Run road. Thinking we could observe the birds from a better vantage point, we drove on, but darkness fell before this was possible. In the dim dusk, we could see additional flocks of crows flying to this area, and we felt certain that this was the roosting site.

The following day James Toy revisited the area and was surprised not to find any crows. Farmers reported to him that they had seen the birds the previous evening milling around and had shot sixty birds. This apparently caused the birds to moved elsewhere. At the same time of Toy's visit, Joseph Croft, Frederick W. Stamm, and the writers drove beyond this area and followed a flock of crows to Burke's Branch Pike Road, where thousands of birds had gathered at the Melvin Sams Farm. The birds were coming in from three directions; some settling in trees, some on the ground, and others coming in until after dark. This was definitely the main roost.

Ten days later, November 29, we arrived at the farm at 3:40 P. M., C. S. Time, with the hope of making an estimate of the number using



the roost. Hundreds of crows had already reached the area and were milling around in the open field adjacent to the road. About one quarter of a mile back from the road, the field slopes gently to the east, and in this valley, a row of trees parallels the road for approximately one half mile. These leafless trees, from top to bottom, and from one end of the valley to the other, were literally black with crows, forming a bold relief against the evening sky. A constant changing of places, with additional crows moving into trees, and others shifting from limb to limb, made counting numbers very difficult. As we watched, we noted there were three principal flight lines. Counts varied, with birds passing a given point anywhere from 300, for a two-minute period, to 1,289 crows, for a three minute period. At 4:05 P. M., the entire assemblage of crows left the trees and also flew from the ground and moved to the adjacent farm (towards Shelbyville), forming a huge black curtain silhouetted across the fading horizon. The birds stopped coming into this area around 4:35 P. M. The roost proper extended from the Sams farm to the upper end of Lake Shelby. (The lake is only one and a half mile north of Shelbyville). The concentration of crows in this valley on this evening extended three fourths of a mile in length, and we estimated contained close to 30,000 crows. (We are indebted to Harvey B. Lovell, F. W. Stamm, and Joseph Croft for assistance in counting numbers). We stayed until after dark, and the crows kept up a continual noisy cawing long after we heard the call notes of three Screech Owls (*Otus asio*) in the vicinity.

This same area was again visited on December 1, and the crows arrived as early as 3:10; by 4:00 P. M., larger groups came to this valley, and by 4:15 large black clouds of slow-flapping birds winged their way across the reddish sky and joined others that had travelled great distances to roost in this chosen area.

On December 14, 1957, we drove to this same location to see if the birds were using the roost again this winter. We found about three thousand crows, and they were nervous and did not act as settled as in the previous winter; and most birds flew across the road in the direction of Simpsonville and had evidently changed their roosting site.

On March 17, 1958, we again scouted the area and found the roost location now in a wooded area, and in an open field along the Louisville and Nashville railroad tracks. This is northwest of Shelbyville and about a quarter of a mile from Vaughn Mill Road. The roost is small in comparison with the 1956-1957 seasons. The birds, some 5,000, were disturbed when a train went by, and all birds took off, but soon returned to settle on the trees and ground and at 6:08 p. m. were settled for the night.

Residents in the Shelbyville area report that the crows have occupied this general territory over a period of years.

\* \* \* \* \*

### BIG SPRING LISTS

Our 1958 Big Spring Lists number only five, but they are quite representative of species recorded in our best years. If your area is not represented here, resolve to send in your biggest late April or early May, 1959, record for a whole day or a connected weekend.

**MADISONVILLE** (W. W. Hancock farm, Brown and Frostburg Roads, Municipal Park, four lakes at Madisonville, Loch Mary at Earlington, and Redwing Marsh: open fields, 20%; deciduous woodlands and thickets, 50%; lake shores, 30%).—May 9; 3:45 A. M. to

7:30 P. M. Mostly cloudy; light SE wind; temp. 47-71. Total hours, 15 ¼; total miles, 61 (6 on foot, 55 by car). Total, 92 species; 819 individuals.—James W. Hancock.

\* \* \* \*

HENDERSON.—May 4; 5:00 A. M. to 7:00 P. M. Clear; no wind; temp. 60-75. Nine observers. We who took the count feel that it is a good one except for the small numbers of water and shore birds. Those who worked the Audubon State Park area were fortunate in having with us most of the day Mr. Jim Huffman, a member of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, as well as his brother, Al Huffman, of Evansville. They are both specialists on warblers and are excellent field men. The Western Meadowlark was on the Benson Farm (King Benson is park naturalist at Audubon) and was identified by Mr. Robert Crofts, president of the Toledo, Ohio, Naturalists Society. The Western species is with others of our common Eastern Meadowlarks. Most of our shore-bird observers were unable to be with us, especially Frank Sauerheber and R. C. Soaper. Total, 116 species.—W. P. Rhoads (compiler).

\* \* \* \*

BOWLING GREEN.—May 9-11: May 9; 4-6 P. M. at Chaney Lake; May 10; 7:30 A. M. to 11:30 A. M. at the Mouth of Gasper; May 11; intermittently on Western campus and in my own yard. Rain, threatening weather every day; heavy rain on the night of May 10; cool, calm. The whole great record was almost an accident. The weather was so threatening that Dr. Lancaster and I did not do well on our morning trip near his cabin, though the water species list had been good late the preceding afternoon. Many warbler notes attracted my attention in the rain on May 11; I left my desk and walked across the street to the campus and into one of the three or four greatest aggregations of warblers I have ever seen. I was often driven into doorways by the rain while I watched the incessant movement, from south to north, of the warbler hordes. Here, within a few yards of my house, I found thirteen species of warblers, not to mention all six species of the vireos, all seven thrushes, the two tanagers, and many individuals of such unusual town birds as the Baltimore Oriole and the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Total for the weekend, 109 species, 61 of them on the campus and in my yard.—L. Y. Lancaster and Gordon Wilson (compiler).

\* \* \* \*

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK.—May 3-4; Pace and Wilson on north side on May 3; 3:00 P. M. until late afternoon; two parties in Central Area and much of the south side on May 4. Weather threatening; often small showers; sultry. Total, 117 species (101 inside the park, 16 in the immediate area outside). This record is the highest ever made for the park; the warblers equal the number for 1955, a previous high. — Dr. Robert Pace, Park Naturalist Willard Dilley, Dr. Russell Starr, Gordon Wilson (compiler), Mrs. Russell Starr, Mrs. James Gillenwater, Cleo Hogan, Jim Haynes, Dr. George McKinley.

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LOUISVILLE (Louisville and its environs, including the Ohio River, woodlands, meadow lands, and Caperton's Swamp).—May 4; 6:00 A. M. to 8:30 P. M., D. S. T. Mrs. Stamm and Mr. Sommers found the Harris' Sparrow. Total, 132 species.—Leonard C. Brecher, Floyd S. Carpenter, Helen Moore Cole, Joe Croft, Frank Krull, Burt L. Monroe, Sr. (compiler), John Pattison, Louis Pieper, Marie Pieper, Mabel Slack, Roderic Sommers, Anne Stamm, James Joy, Mr. and Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, Audrey Wright (Beckham Bird Club).

## BIG SPRING LISTS

M—Madisonville; H—Henderson; B—Bowling Green; MC—Mammoth Cave National Park; L—Louisville; \* after a letter—recorded near count date; - after MC—recorded outside the park on count days.

- Common Loon—M  
 Pied-billed Grebe—M, H, MC-  
 Great Blue Heron—M\*  
 Green Heron—M\*, H, B, MC, L  
 Bl-cr. Night Heron—B, L  
 Yel-cr. Night Heron—L  
 Am. Widgeon—L  
 Pintail—L  
 Blue-winged Teal—H, MC-, L  
 Shoveller—L  
 Wood Duck—MC-, L  
 Ring-n. Duck—B  
 L. Scaup Duck—M, B, L  
 Ruddy Duck—M, B  
 Hooded Merganser—L  
 R-b. Merganser—H  
 Turkey Vulture—M, H, MC, L  
 Black Vulture—MC, L  
 Sh-sh. Hawk—H, L  
 Cooper's Hawk—H, MC  
 Red-t. Hawk—H, L  
 Red-sh. Hawk—M\*, H, MC, L  
 Br-winged Hawk—MC  
 Sp. Hawk—M, H, MC-, L  
 Bob-white—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Virginia Rail—L  
 Sora—M  
 Florida Gallinule—L  
 Coot—M, B, L  
 Sem. Plover—B  
 Killdeer—M, H, B, MC-, L  
 Am. Woodcock—MC  
 Wil. Snipe—L  
 Sp. Sandpiper—M, B, L  
 Sol. Sandpiper—M, B, L  
 Gr. Yellow-legs—H, B  
 Les. Yellow-legs—H, B, L  
 Baird's Sandpiper—B  
 Least Sandpiper—B  
 Sem. Sandpiper—B  
 Herring Gull—L  
 Ring-billed Gull—L  
 Black Tern—M, B  
 Mourning Dove—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Y-b. Cuckoo—M\*, H, B, MC, L  
 B-b. Cuckoo—MC, L  
 Screech Owl—M\*  
 Barred Owl—H, B, MC, L  
 Ch-will's-w—M, L  
 Whip-poor-will—M, H, MC, L  
 Nighthawk—M, B, MC, L  
 Ch. Swift—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Ruby-th. Hummingbird—H, MC, L  
 Bel. Kingfisher—M\*, H, L  
 Yel-sh. Flicker—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Pil. Woodpecker—M, B, MC, L  
 Red-b. Woodpecker—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Red-h. Woodpecker—M, H, B, MC-, L  
 Hairy Woodpecker—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Downy Woodpecker—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Eastern Kingbird—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Cr. Flycatcher—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Phoebe—M\*, H, B, MC, L  
 Yel-b. Flycatcher—H  
 Acadian Flycatcher—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Traill's Flycatcher—H  
 Least Flycatcher—M, H  
 Wood Pewee—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Horned Lark—M, B, L  
 Tree Swallow—B  
 Bank Swallow—B  
 R-w. Swallow—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Barn Swallow—M, H, B, MC-, L  
 Pur. Martin—M, H, B, L  
 Blue Jay—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Common—Crow—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Car. Chickadee—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Tuf. Titmouse—M, H, B, MC, L  
 W-b. Nuthatch—M, H, MC, L  
 Red-br. Nuthatch—H  
 House Wren—H, B, MC, L  
 Bewick's Wren—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Car. Wren—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Mockingbird—M, H, B, MC, L

- Catbird—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Br. Thrasher—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Robin—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Wood Thrush—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Her. Thrush—H, B, MC  
 Ol-backed Thrush—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Gr.-cheeked Thrush—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Veery—H, B, MC, L  
 Bluebird—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Bl-gray Gnatcatcher—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Ruby-cr. Kinglet—M  
 Cedar Waxwing—M\*, H  
 Log. Shrike—H, MC-, L  
 Starling—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Wh-eyed Vireo—M, B, MC, L  
 Yel-th. Vireo—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Bl-headed Vireo—H, B, MC  
 Red-eyed Vireo—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Phil. Vireo—H, B, MC, L  
 War. Vireo—M, H, B, MC, L  
 B. and W. Warbler—M\*, H, MC, L  
 Proth. Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Swainson's Warbler—M  
 Worm-e. Warbler—H, MC  
 Gol.-w. Warbler—H, MC, L  
 Bl-winged Warbler—B, MC, L  
 Tenn. Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Nash. Warbler—M, B, MC, L  
 Parula Warbler—H, MC  
 Yellow Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Mag. Warbler—M\*, H, B, MC, L  
 Cape May Warbler—H, MC, L  
 Bl-th. Bl. Warbler—H  
 Myrtle Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Bl-th. G. Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Cer. Warbler—M, H, MC, L  
 Blackburnian Warbler—M\*, H, B, MC, L  
 Yel-th. Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Ch. sided Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Bay-br. Warbler—M\*, H, B, MC, L  
 Black-poll Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Pine Warbler—MC  
 Prairie Warbler—M, B, MC, L  
 Palm Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Oven-bird—M\*, H, MC, L  
 Nor. Water-thrush—M, MC  
 La. Water-thrush—M\*, H, B, MC, L  
 Ky. Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Yel-throat—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Yel-br. Chat—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Hooded Warbler—M\*, B, MC, L  
 Wilson's Warbler—B, L  
 Canada Warbler—H, B  
 Redstart—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Eng. Sparrow—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Bobolink—H, B, MC-, L  
 E. Meadowlark—M, H, B, MC, L  
 W. Meadowlark—H  
 Red-wing—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Orchard Oriole—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Balt. Oriole—M\*, H, B, MC, L  
 Pur. Grackle—M, H, B, MC-, L  
 Cowbird—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Sc. Tanager—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Sum. Tanager—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Cardinal—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Rose-br. Grosbeak—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Ind. Bunting—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Dickcissel—M\*, H, B, MC-, L  
 Pur. Finch—H, MC-, L  
 Pine Siskin—MC  
 Goldfinch—M, H, B, MC, L  
 E. Towhee—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Sav. Sparrow—B, L  
 Grass. Sparrow—B, L  
 Vesper Sparrow—H, MC  
 Sl-colored Junco—MC  
 Ch. Sparrow—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Field Sparrow—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Harris's Sparrow—L  
 Wh-cr. Sparrow—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Wh-th. Sparrow—M, H, B, MC, L  
 Fox Sparrow—MC, L  
 Swamp Sparrow—M, H, L  
 Song Sparrow—M, H, MC-, L  
**Total Species on Counts.....169**

## FIELD NOTES

### A CERULEAN WARBLER'S NEST AT MAMMOTH CAVE

On May 4, 1958, while we were taking our annual Big Spring List at Mammoth Cave National Park, we paused for a long time at the picnic place near the Old Ferry. Because of the numerous openings in the timber, we could soon find a number of migrating warblers. While we were looking at a Cerulean (*Dendroica cerulea*) Warbler female, we discovered that it was pulling at the fine inner bark on a Tulip tree. It would tug at the bark on a small dead limb, secure one or more small fibers, and dart away into the trees slightly downstream. In a matter of a few seconds it would be back. We knew by this that the nest was close to us. Finally Dr. Starr caught sight of the small bird as it settled for a very short time on its half-finished nest, which was placed directly on an almost horizontal limb of a Hackberry, about 35 feet up. Time and again the bird returned to the dead limb of the Yellow Poplar and also visited some dead limbs of a White Oak and a White Ash. Once Dr. Pace saw it get several fibers, drop one, and then recover it before it fell to the ground. Several times the bird flew around among the new leaves and returned to its nest, going through the same motions that it made when it had fibers to add; we assumed that it had collected cobwebs and was adding them to the nest. All the time we watched the female, the male was singing lustily in the immediate area. This nest was about 150 yards from one of those found by Gordon Wilson and Harvey Lovell in 1943. (See KENTUCKY WARBLER, Lovell, "Nesting of the Cerulean Warbler in Mammoth Cave National Park," 19:39-40).—ROBERT PACE, RUSSEL STARR, and GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green and Glasgow.

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE WOODBURN LAKES, SEASON OF 1958

The 1958 season was not especially good at the Chaney and McElroy Lakes. The year began rather auspiciously, for there was already a lake of 80 to 90 acres at Chaney's, a smaller acreage at McElroy's. Some 200 individual ducks had been seen on the two on the 1957 Christmas Bird Count. In late January the springs at Chaney's ceased to flow, but there were still some 50 acres of water when the mid-February 9-below-zero weather froze the area for days. The water dropped some two feet during the freeze and continued to fall until late March, when only a few pools were left. Huge rains again brought the lake up at Chaney's, so that it was almost as large as it had been in the winter. This second lake lasted until late June. But the fluctuation in the duck migration time made the finds rather poor as compared with the really great seasons.

Only 49 water species appeared from January 1 to June 30. The 300-400 Pintails seen on March 1 constituted the one big flock recorded of any species. Though all twenty species of ducks commonly seen in the area appeared, their numbers were small. The European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) was added as a new species for the lakes and the whole Bowling Green area, thanks to Leonard Brecher and a powerful telescope, on our annual K. O. S. outing on April 12. Shore birds were pitifully scarce.

Two land birds offered a thrill at Chaney's. On March 8 I tentatively identified the Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) in

huge flocks of other blackbirds. I have often encountered this species on my Western camping trips, as in 1952 and 1957, and was attracted by a few birds that did not act quite like Purple Grackles; their notes were quite different. On June 6 I found the Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) at Chaney's, in the same area where I have found it before. It sang, for many minutes, its wild, ringing song.

For several days in February and March, after the water had receded, the fields at Chaney's were black with the various blackbirds from the roost near Bowling Green. I estimated the flocks there on February 22 as almost a million, with half that many on March 1, 5, and 12.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### DICKCISSEL'S NEST AT BOWLING GREEN

On May 11, 1958, as my family and I were parked on Lover's Lane to let our children see the airplanes come in and land, we saw several Dickcissels (*Spiza americana*) and heard them singing. We saw one with nesting material in his beak and watched it as it dropped into the red clover, growing so rankly near the runway. We soon located the nest, a three-inch cup woven of dried grass and wedged in a clump of tall grass, four inches from the ground and only about thirty feet from the road. On May 17 I visited the same place again, saw several males singing from fence posts and electric lines in the area, but could not locate the nest. On May 24 Dr. Nelson Graham and I found the nest with its one blue egg. The accompanying picture (see cover) was made of the site. On May 30 I returned to try to get more pictures, but the clover had been cut, male Dickcissels were singing from fence posts and electric lines, but I could find no nest.—DR. ROBERT PACE, Bowling Green.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### SPRING NOTES FROM HOPKINS COUNTY

My vacation for 1958, May 9-17, was spent making observations in Hopkins County. The period was, doubtless, beyond the peak of migration, but I still recorded 92 species on May 9. My best observation was of the Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), in an oak-hickory woodland about seven miles northeast of Madisonville, where I had recorded it in June, 1955. This time the bird was seen while singing, perched about 25 feet up in a maple. I returned again on May 16 and 18 but was unable to find it again.

Shorebirds were scarce this season. However, because of frequent rains, there was also a shortage of mud flats. On May 14 I looked for the Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) in a large upland wood where I usually find it, but had no luck. I still believe that this area, a very large one, must support a few pairs. A Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) was heard in the neighborhood on several occasions this spring, which may indicate a nesting pair. This species is usually quite rare near my home.—JAMES W. HANCOCK, Madisonville.

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#### A FLIGHT OF MARSH HAWKS AT HENDERSON, HENDERSON COUNTY

After lunch, on Wednesday, April 2, 1958, as I was returning to my second-floor classroom in Henderson (City) High School, I glanced out of the hall window as I passed and saw quite a large flock of

large birds. This called for a real look. There were 35-40 Marsh Hawks (*Circus cyaneus*), in a leisurely flight riding a strong tailwind from the south. They were about one hundred feet above ground and were in a formation about a quarter mile wide and a half mile long. They just floated along in the wind, apparently using just enough wing power to keep on an even keel and maintain a proper direction.

My point of observation was only 400 yards from the center of the flight, and all of the species's characteristics were easily visible without the aid of field glasses.

Henderson High School is located in the very southern edge of the city, and the 35-acre campus slopes off to the southwest to join a couple of fields, beyond which is a widely wooded area along Canoe Creek.—W. P. RHOADS, Henderson High School, Henderson.

\* \* \* \* \*

### HARRIS' SPARROW AT FRANKFORT

While walking in Franklin County about four miles east of Frankfort, near noon on December 14, 1957, I was fortunate to come upon a Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). The bird was first noted on the ground beneath a clump of Osage-orange trees (*Machura pomifera*), where it appeared to be feeding on pieces of the fruit which probably had been scattered by rabbits. Also present and feeding were a number of White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), American Goldfinches (*Spinus tristis*), and Cardinals (*Richmondia cardinalis*). Nearby were other birds, including many Slate-colored Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) and a few Tree Sparrows (*Spizella arborea*). As I approached to within 30 feet of the feeding birds, the Harris' Sparrow flew up into a nearby cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), where it remained about five minutes before resuming its feeding.

The bird, an adult, was a striking specimen and easily recognized. The crown, face, and throat were black; the bill, pinkish; and the underparts, white. It did not sing. I observed the bird for about fifteen minutes with 7X glasses, as it was not shy and could be easily approached.

On December 23, and again on December 29, during the Christmas Bird Count, the Harris' Sparrow was found in exactly the same location. After this, I did not return to the area until January 19, at which time it could not be found, nor was it seen again on other subsequent visits. As far as I know, this is the first sight record for this species in Franklin County. On one or two occasions in other years I have been reasonably sure of its presence although I was unable to make positive identification.—HOWARD JONES, Frankfort.

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### A SPRING RECORD FOR THE HARRIS' SPARROW AT LOUISVILLE

On May 4, 1958, while in Seneca Park (Jefferson County) on the Spring Field Day outing, I came upon an adult Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) in breeding plumage. The bird was first seen in a dense growth of low bushes in a sort of ravine, and then it flew to a tree. Here it was easily seen. Anne L. Stamm, who had been nearby, also saw the bird. Apparently the bird was migrating, as it was not in the valley the previous day, nor was it seen thereafter. As far as I know, this is the only spring sight record in the Louisville area.—RODERIC W. SOMMERS, Louisville.

### SOME FALL MIGRATION NOTES

During the late summer and fall of 1957 I made a number of interesting observations of migrants in the Louisville area.

On August 10 Eric Mills and I visited the Falls of the Ohio and noted a flock of nine rather early Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and a lone Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Two later records of the falcon were of a bird seen flying over downtown Louisville on October 30 and again on November 7.

The Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) is generally considered the least common of the five terns occurring at Louisville. Consequently, it is of note that the bird was observed on three of eight trips to the Falls of the Ohio. The first observation was made on July 28, when Eric Mills and I found three; on August 2 I noted a single individual, and Mills and I saw another with a flock of seven Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*) on September 15.

A Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) was seen near Caperton Swamp on August 7. A Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) was seen in Seneca Park on October 12.

Among early warblers were two Blackburnians (*Dendroica fusca*) and a Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) in Cherokee Park on August 17; the following day I saw a Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) in the same area. Late warblers included a Tennessee (*Vermivora peregrina*) on November 1 and 2 and again on November 4, and a Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) on November 2. Also, a Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) in my yard on October 19 was a late record.—JOSEPH CROFT, Louisville.

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### SOME ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE BLACKBIRD ROOST IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

Since writing about the blackbird roost in Jefferson County, in the vicinity of Farmer's Lane (Ky. War., Aug., 1957), the authors made occasional visits to the area during the winter season of 1957-58 and found the roost in use as early as October 13, 1957. On that date, in late afternoon, Lovell observed several large flocks of mixed blackbirds gathering on the ground and in trees near the roost.

In the late afternoon of November 18, 1957, Gertrude Hardwick, returning from Bullitt County, reported seeing a "million blackbirds and Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) circling in the area between Farmer's and Thixton Lanes. Some birds were also on the ground and others in spirals so dense, sight could not penetrate in spots."

In mid-December, the character of the roost had changed from the February, 1957, season. The number of birds had increased tremendously. Immense flocks of thousands and thousands of Starlings began arriving at dusk, the majority flying directly to the roost proper. Blackbirds were also noted, but Starlings made up the largest percentage, whereas in February, 1957, blackbirds made up 90% of the roost. Six main flight lines were observed in contrast to four of the previous season, four of these being the same as last year. The majority of the Starlings did not use the fringe area for prerosting.

The day preceding the Christmas Count, December 21, Stamm scouted the area to determine what species and numbers made up the roost. She observed millions of birds: one flight line (coming from the northwest) was continuous from 4:15 to 5:00 P. M., C. S. T.; the



birds were streaming across the sky at widths of no less than fifteen birds and no more than one hundred. Birds sighted were Rusty Blackbirds (*Euphagus carolinus*), Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*), Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), Redwinged Blackbirds, (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Starlings, and a Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). The same observer visited the area at 6:12 A. M. the following morning (Census Day) and noted that the birds left the roost at 6:22, and all had dispersed by 6:30 A. M.

Frederick W. Stamm and Joseph Croft arrived just after the birds left the roost. They were fortunate, however, in seeing many birds that lingered in the fringe area—one in particular, a male Brewer's Blackbird.

Burt L. Monroe, Sr., with Burt L. Monroe, Jr., visited the area the same evening and subsequently wrote the fine account of the roost in the former's column, "**The Courier Sportsman**," on December 29, 1957, of the **Courier Journal**, which was reprinted in the **Kentucky Warbler** (Feb., 1958). Readers of this journal will remember that the independent estimates of nearly five million birds made by two parties (Mid-winter Bird Count, **Ky. War.**, 34:14) was a decided increase over the 500,000 estimate of the previous spring.

Trips were made in January, and during the middle of the month much shooting of the birds took place. Perhaps because of the wide publicity given this roost, persons from nearby counties came to shoot at the flying flocks. Because the flocks were predominantly Starlings, no protests were made. On January 18, numbers were down considerably, and home owners in the area stated it was because of the shooting which took place each evening.

On January 21, the roost area was visited during the daylight hours. Evidence of predation was found. A Starling was found "strung" on a wire fence, and wings and feathers of birds were scattered about. However, more dead birds were on the roadsides than in the roost proper. Three hawks were in the area; two were Red-shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*), the other unidentified. The depth of the droppings now exceeded the two-plus inches of the previous season, and this seems to have kept the shooters outside the roost proper.

A field trip by members of the Beckham Bird Club (Louisville Chapter) was scheduled for January 25, and they found the population down approximately one half; yet they exceeded the number of birds seen on January 18. Starlings still predominated.

A trip was made in February, and by that time more Rusty blackbirds, Cowbirds, and grackles were observed. Undoubtedly, these were early migrants. By March 1, there was a drop in the Starling population, and many birds of this species were seen roosting in vines, or cavities, in the Louisville area. Fewer birds were using the roost and had possibly returned to their potential nesting territories. The blackbirds were now making up the larger percentage of the total, and the fringe areas were once more black with birds. The roost took on the look of the previous spring when it was first found, except that the numbers had increased greatly.

Apparently, a large number of Starlings which formerly roosted in downtown Louisville used the roost at Fern Creek. Observations indicated that the number of Starlings using the buildings on Broadway and Fourth Streets was much less than when the Starlings first started roosting in the city in the 1930's.—ANNE L. STAMM and HARVEY B. LOVELL, Louisville.

### ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

BIRDS OF KNOX COUNTY TENNESSEE by Joseph C. Howell and Muriel B. Monroe, *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science*, 32 (4): 247-322. 1957. (Reprinted as a paper-bound booklet).

This is a carefully prepared list of 231 species recorded for Knox County, Tennessee, of which 51 are permanent residents, 51 summer residents, 42 winter residents, 85 migratory (transients), 13 visitants, and 9 considered accidentals. For 130 of the more common species there are tables which summarize the number seen by months and by field trips, and for 46 species there are tables (based on the work of Howell) of the number of birds heard singing each month from a series of roadside counts.

By use of initials for the chief observers, the principal localities, the time of year, and for abundance and status, the authors have condensed a tremendous amount of information into a relatively small space. There is also a useful index to the species of birds, the names of which are in agreement with the recent A. O. U. check list. A map shows the regions referred to in Knox County. The physiography and types of habitats are described in one small, six-line paragraph, an important subject which would seem to have merited a more detailed analysis. For example, the average elevation is given as "a little less than 1000 feet," but no mention is made of the highest elevation.

The amount of work necessary to compile and correlate such a large mass of data must have been tremendous, and the authors are to be highly commended for such a high standard of excellence in recording it.—HARVEY B. LOVELL, University of Louisville.

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### OUR FALL MEETING

Start planning to join us at Dawson Springs for our 1958 Fall Meeting. Our field trips will be in Pennyrite State Forest and Park, a wild area that James W. Hancock has studied so long and so well. A full announcement of the program, hotel rates, and needed information will be sent you later.

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### A Footnote To "The Woodburn Lakes, Season of 1958"

On July 4, 1958, I went to the Chaney Farm in my annual effort to locate some more Swainson's Warblers, though I had found the species there on June 6. All the lake of the season had disappeared except one very offensive pool a few feet across. Naturally, I assumed that the season was over. Then there came very heavy rains throughout July, and the water began to rise in the two lakes, ruining about a hundred acres of corn at the McElroy Farm but doing little damage at the Chaney Farm, as the part covered by the water was only partially in cultivation this year. By July 27 there were some thirty acres of water at Chaney's, a hundred or more at McElroy's. The heavy rains ceased near the first of August, but there were still some puddles on August 10, with six species of water birds around or on them: Wood Duck, Green Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, and Lesser Yellow-legs. It is barely possible that enough water will remain to make the two farms great stopping places for the main migration of water birds. In the few years when there has been water in the fields in August and September the number of water species, especially the heron group, is almost beyond belief.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

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Birds

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Division of Birds

# The Kentucky Warbler

Vol. XXXIV

NOVEMBER, 1958

No. 4



Photograph of the Ohio River at Louisville, showing the Falls in the background. The foreground is characteristic of the rock formation, with its potholes where shore birds feed. In the spring and during other periods of high water these rock beds are covered with water.

(Photograph courtesy *Courier-Journal*.)

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## NEWS AND VIEWS

Madisonville, Kentucky, October 9, 1958

Dr. Gordon Wilson  
 Western State College  
 Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Dr. Wilson:

The time has arrived for me to make some permanent disposition of my collection of oological specimens. After serious consideration, I have decided to place them in the Kentucky Building at Western Kentucky State Collegé, at Bowling Green. I have taken this action to honor you and the contribution you have made to the success of the Kentucky Ornithological Society over the years since its organization in 1923. You and my friend Dr. L. Y. Lancaster have done much to popularize the study of ornithology, not only at Western but also in Kentucky. Both my sons—Brasher C., Jr., and Frank—received most of their education at Western, and I am very much interested in its future.

My collection consists of about 450 sets of eggs, with nests with complete data on each set. I lost about 60 sets of eggs to vandals over the period of thirty years they were on display on the Spring

Lake Wildlife Refuge; some of my rarer sets were included in this loss. All data will be included on all sets, including the ones lost to vandals. About 50 sets in my collection were donated to me by my good friend James G. Suthard, formerly of Madisonville, now of Long Beach, California. I would like for the collection to be known as the Brasher C. Bacon-James G. Suthard Collection, as Mr. Suthard was my companion on many woodland strolls over a period of several years.

I have studied nature in all its forms over a period of more than fifty years and preached and practiced conservation for thirty. For twenty years I followed the birds and for thirty years they followed me on the five wildlife refuges which I established in Hopkins County, Spring Lake Refuge being the oldest, established in 1929, on which I made over a period of thirty years more than 7500 trips and fed to the wildlife more than ten tons of food. Twenty years were spent in banding birds, with twelve feeding stations in operation, with a total of forty cells. I have banded well over 1200 Cardinals and have banded Brown Thrashers as winter residents since 1949.

I am delivering to my grandson, Marcus Lambert Bacon, all my unpublished notes and records, of which I have thousands made over a period of more than fifty years. These will be for his use and for publication when he so desires.

I realize now what a thrill I would have experienced had I had such records when I began my studies of Hopkins County birds and nature years ago.

Sincerely yours,  
Basher C. Bacon.

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#### K. O. S. CONGRATULATES ROBERT M. MENGEL

We have learned that Robert M. Mengel, now at the University of Kansas, was granted the Ph. D. in zoology from the University of Michigan on June 14, 1958. The title of his dissertation was "A study of the distribution of the breeding birds of Kentucky." According to Dr. Mengel, this is part of a work commenced at the University of Michigan in 1947, and he advises us that the whole work, on the birds of Kentucky in general, is being prepared for early publication. While the dissertation is available for information or citation, on University microfilms, it embodies only a small portion of the entire work and Dr. Mengel asks that his friends in the K. O. S. refrain from formal citation of it in this form and await distribution of printed copies of the entire work. Our congratulations to Dr. Mengel.

(News and Views Continued on Page 63)

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#### SCARCITY OF SHOREBIRDS IN THE 1958 FALL MIGRATION AT LOUISVILLE

By Leonard C. Brecher, Louisville

To anyone who has been led to anticipate large numbers and varied species of shore and wading birds at the Falls of the Ohio during late summer and early autumn, the season of 1958 proved to be unusually disappointing. The principal reason was that the eroded bedrock which provides the feeding grounds along both the Kentucky

and the Indiana sides of the channel was covered with water during the early portion of the migration season.

Although the rainfall in Kentucky during the nine months from January 1, 1958, to October 1, 1958, averaged just about normal, yet there was a dry spring season, balanced by a rainfall of ten inches for the state in the month of July, compared with a normal precipitation of approximately three to four inches. Further, heavy rains in West Virginia and the upper Ohio Valley necessitated the raising of sufficient wickets at Dam 41 at Louisville to prevent flooding in the upper pool. As a result, the turbulence of the water was so great as it poured through the dam and over the sloughs and irregular channels in the bedrock that on July 11 all small boats had to be removed to safety. Not since 1938 has the volume of water in the river been great enough to cover the coral plateau below the dam on the Kentucky side of the channel during July and August. This is the area where most of the birds are normally seen.

It was not until August 22 that enough of the dam was closed to permit the receding water-level below the dam to expose the tableland. The rowboats were returned to the water, and the habitat on the Kentucky side became accessible.

The writer, who has checked the Falls area weekly during the migration season for the past ten years, made the first trip across the channel with Roderick Sommers on August 23. Only the following species of water birds were found: Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), 2; Common Egret (*Casmerodius albus*), 5; Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), 3; Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*), 1; Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes mauri*), 4; immature Ringbilled Gull (*Larus delawarensis*), an early record, 1. It is notable that no Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), a very common species, were seen or heard. These six species compare with sixteen species, including fifty Killdeer, on the corresponding weekend in 1957.

On the field trip of the Beckham Bird Club to the Falls on September 14, only 9 species, totaling 108 individuals, were seen, as follows: Great Blue Heron, 3; Common Egret, 14; Black-crowned night Heron, 50; Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), 6; Pintail (*Anas acuta*), 3; Killdeer, 20; Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*), 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 2; Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes*), 9. Contrasted with this poor showing was a list of 22 species of water birds, totaling 321 individuals, on a trip made by the author on the same date in 1957.

It was not until the weekend of September 29 that the first Pectoral Sandpiper (*Erolia melanotos*) was seen, and then only a single bird. In other years Pectorals are about the most numerous of all the shorebirds, exceeded only by Killdeer. In fact, in some years they have been so plentiful as to be considered a nuisance, from the standpoint of a careful observer, who must inspect each bird to be sure that some unusual species is not being overlooked.

This is the first year in the last fifteen that the author has not found immature Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*) in the white phase. Snowy Egrets (*Leucophoyx thula*) have been seen in small numbers nearly every year, but none were present this season. Also, the Common Egrets were not so plentiful this summer as they have been in many previous years.

It may be only a coincidence, but the terns were also noticeable by their absence. During the two-and-a-half to three-hour period spent each weekend in the Falls area, Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

were observed only on September 27, while Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*) were seen only on September 6. No Forster's, Common, or Least Terns were found at all. On the other hand, by contrast, the migration of the smaller land birds appeared to be better in many respects than that of many previous years.

Since there was no abnormal diminution in the numbers of land birds, it seems likely that neither temperature nor weather had an adverse effect on the water birds, either in their wintering home last winter or on their breeding grounds this summer, because land birds occupied the same general areas, too. It may, therefore, be reasoned that because of abundant rainfall over most of the country during June and July, the streams, lakes, and farm ponds were all in good shape. Consequently, the water birds were dispersed over wide areas and found suitable habitat en route south without being forced to the Falls because of lack of water elsewhere.

No work has been done on the length of stay of the migrating shore birds at the Falls. It has been assumed that they arrive and leave within a few days (depending on barometric conditions). However, it may be assumed that many water birds which are usually present on the Falls arrive during early August and linger there for several weeks, instead of the supposed short stay. Not finding suitable habitat this season because of high water, they continued southward without stopping, thus eliminating any accumulated population.

Whatever the reason, the abnormal decrease in the numbers of water birds found on the Falls area this season was such as to merit notice for the sake of the record. Perhaps this situation can be correlated with similar phenomena at other areas throughout the country in order to reach a logical explanation. If there are authentic comparisons in other sections of the country, the writer would welcome information to supplement the latter hypothesis.

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## THE NEST OF A CHUKAR PARTRIDGE AT BERNHEIM

By Harvey B. Lovell, Louisville

A dozen Chukar Partridges (*Alectoris graeca*) have been on display for several years in the outdoor zoo at Bernheim Forest in Bullitt County, some 30 miles south of Louisville. The survivors have been released at the end of each season but soon disappeared. This year the Kentucky Division of Fish and Wildlife Resources decided to make a larger release in the hills of Bullitt County to see how this exotic game bird would fare in this part of Kentucky.

Forty pen-raised Chukars were released on May 2 around the nature museum, which is close to a chain of three small ponds with open fields on one side and woods on the other. Forty more were released farther back in the wooded hills. Food was placed around the nature museum in case it was needed and in the hope of keeping some of the Chukars under observation. Several of the birds were killed by predators as shown by dead birds or piles of feathers found in several places. A few crippled birds did hang around the nature museum, where they ate the food placed there.

In August the road crew at Bernheim was widening the shoulder of the road for a new parking area. A deer corral was to be built in the adjacent bottomland, and an observation area for tourists was planned close to it. On August 5, 1958, the foreman, Charles Shelton, was getting ready to remove several trees. As he circled one of the trees, he flushed a Chukar Partridge from a nest at its base, containing ten large eggs. This is the first nest of the Chukar in the Bernheim forest and apparently the first in the state, although several small broods have been reported in the western Kentucky strip-mine areas, where other large releases have been made. Work on the parking area was immediately suspended to allow the bird to incubate undisturbed.

A few days later the eggs disappeared, and it was not at first known what was their fate. However, about two weeks later Carlyle Chamberlain, who was acting as assistant naturalist, reported a brood of 8 or 9 half-grown Chukar Partridges in the general area. About a week after that another worker on the Reservation also flushed some young Chukars, presumably the same brood.

The nest had been placed close to the base of a moderate-sized oak tree in an area fairly open. The nest itself was little more than a hollowed-out place in the oak leaves, with little, if any, material brought in by the nesting bird.

The story of the Chukar Partridge in America started when some birds were netted in the mountains of Nepal, in northern India, at altitudes of 6,000 to 10,000 feet and shipped to a California breeder. These birds multiplied rapidly in captivity, and breeding stock was sold to the Game and Fish Departments of several Western states. Successful releases were made in Washington State from 1938 to 1940 and also in southern California, especially in the region of the Mojave Desert. Other releases were made in Nevada, from 1939 to 1943, in the semi-desert mountainous areas. There in rocky, semi-desert country the Chukars have found the right habitats and are thriving. Nevada had its first hunting season in 1947, and the results were most encouraging. This game bird appears to have become established in parts of Colorado also and possibly other states in the Rocky Mountain area.



In Missouri, a state with a climate rather similar to that of Kentucky, large releases have been made without much success. The birds disperse over a wide area rather than settle down and build up a local population. The wildlife scientists there have agreed that this particular strain of the Chukar is not adapted for the "cottontail and catfish climate" of Missouri. It also seems probable that this strain is not adapted to the warm, humid climate of Kentucky, and that any released birds will gradually disappear partly because of their failure to breed and partly because of the tendency of the Chukar to walk out of the country in search of a suitable habitat. A colored photograph of this nest by Carl Rainbolt appeared in the Sunday Courier-Journal for September 21, 1958.

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### EXOTIC GAME BIRDS

By Lee K. Nelson, Wildlife Biologist

Game bird enthusiasts have been reading and hearing a great deal about exotic game birds lately. The Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources has been conducting experimental work with the pheasant (*Phasianus* sp.) since 1950, the Chukar Partridge (*Alectoris graeca*) since 1956, and the Coturnix quail (*Coturnix coturnix japonica*) since 1957. The studies are being conducted on selected areas throughout the state as part of the Exotic Game Bird Investigations Project.

In general, the studies include releases of pen-reared birds over a period of years on study areas, with follow-up investigations of mortality, population densities, movements, and reproduction. Study areas were selected in many of the unique habitat types found in the commonwealth.

To date, a total of 21,069 Pheasants, 2,992 Chukars, and 21,194 Coturnix have been liberated. All of the birds were leg-banded and also marked with numbered plastic tags attached to the neck for identification.

Most of the birds were released in the summer and early fall; however, a few Pheasants and Coturnix were released in the spring. Certain population trends developed. Quite a few pheasants and Chukars remained in or near the study areas during the fall, but the number dropped rather sharply in the winter. By spring only a relatively few breeders remained. A limited amount of reproduction occurred, but up to the present time it has not proved sufficient to maintain a population level necessary for permanent establishment.

Coturnix quail were noted to disperse very rapidly from some release sites. However, dense hay fields of legumes and grasses and harvested and unharvested grain fields containing Korean lespedeza and/or ragweed held some birds until November following the summer releases. No birds were found on the study areas during the winter, but since this particular species is a migrant, this was not surprising. However, only one bird was found on the areas (Henderson) the following spring, and the origin of this bird was unknown. Coturnix were shot and bands returned from Michigan, Maryland, Florida, Alabama, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Indiana. Distances traveled ranged up to 550 miles after time lapses up to seven months. Fourteen birds were known to have been shot in Kentucky during the 1957-58 hunting season. A very limited amount of Coturnix reproduction was found on the areas in the summers of 1957 and 1958. Birds of the

year were involved. Coturnix have the unique ability to lay fertile eggs at 35 to 40 days of age.

Mortality factors, including predation, do not appear to be limiting the exotic populations, although in some local instances predation was rather serious, particularly immediately following the releases. Feral dogs, foxes, and bird predators were especially damaging to the relatively tame released Chukars on the strip-mine areas.

Since the studies are still in progress, no final conclusions can be drawn at this time, but findings to date do not call for an optimistic outlook regarding the eventual establishment of the species involved. The search for exotics biologically suited to Kentucky environs will continue. It is hoped that exotics will be found which will eventually augment the native game birds in the hunter's bags. That is the ultimate goal of the project.

(A summary of an address given before the 1958 fall meeting at Dawson Springs.)

## FIELD NOTES

### CLARKSON YARD HOST TO MIGRATING PURPLE MARTINS

For the past three years several thousand migrating Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) have been arriving in our yard each summer in Clarkson, Grayson County, Kentucky. Apparently the birds are attracted to the area because of the large number of martins nesting here. This influx occurs in the latter part of July, and often large numbers of Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) also migrate with them. The local breeding birds become a part of this large flock, and all birds leave for the south about three weeks later. This year the departure date was August 15. Although the main body migrated at that time, a smaller group, mainly immature birds, remained and left later. In 1957 the birds departed on August 5. They gather at dusk and roost in the willow trees near a large pond. Here they congregate on the outer edges of the branches which hang over the ponds. (We have three.)

Our yard is located on a hill overlooking a valley of two hundred acres of farm land. Near the house we have erected a large Purple Martin box; there are 16 compartments to each of the five sections of this unit, making a total of 80 nesting cavities. All the openings are placed about two and a half inches above the bottom floor, with porches or ledges beneath the openings around the outside. This may be one of the reasons why we have never found young martins on the ground, as is often the case around martin boxes. The young birds apparently take trial flights, for they fly in semicircles from and back to the box. The young leave later than the adults, as indicated above. The species arrive in spring in the early part of April.—MRS. WALTER KELLEY, Clarkson.

### HORNED LARKS AT LEXINGTON

On June 12, 1957, my friend Miss Austin Lilly, who has recently become an interested bird observer, discovered Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*) at the Blue Grass Airport at Lexington but was unable at first to identify them. A week later I went with her to the airport and could scarcely believe my eyes when I saw a flock of six or more, young and adult, feeding in the grass, singing, making short flights, while planes landed and took off within a few yards of them. I asked Dr. Roger W. Barbour to check my identification, but he was very busy with final errands before his departure for Indonesia within a few days. I left for Syracuse, New York, soon after this. However, several of the local Audubon group saw the birds at various times during the summer and early autumn.

Miss Lilly and I made several trips to the airport this spring but failed each time because of sudden rain storms. Our first record for 1958 was on May 11, when I saw them while I was eating dinner at the Airport Restaurant. All former records by us had been made late in the afternoon; this was at noon. On July 29 Miss Lilly drove out a short distance off the Leestown Road to see one of Lexington's industrial areas, where her brother is now located. She was surprised to find even larger numbers of the larks in that area and took me out on August 4 to observe her latest discovery. There were two flocks of at least a dozen birds each, one in a grassy area, the other in a bare spot about two blocks nearer the buildings. There were young and adult birds in both groups, busily at work on insects and low-grass seeds. I saw them again on August 10 and 24, and Miss Lilly saw them as late as September 11, still undisturbed, although work on the extension of our four-lane by-pass had invaded their territory.

It is very gratifying to me to find that these beautiful and interesting birds are residents with us now and to find them so friendly. In earlier years Dr. Allen and I often made special trips to the hills of Clark County in late February or early March, hoping to catch one glimpse of Horned Larks before they moved on north. Not more than once or twice were we successful, though I had seen them there on collecting trips with Dr. Joe Neel. Now I hope to be able to locate a nest.—MRS. W. R. ALLEN, Lexington.

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### TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER IN JACKSON COUNTY

On June 1, 1958, while on an early bird walk about a mile southeast of Welchburg, in Jackson County, Kentucky, I found a Traill's Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) singing. At the time I gave it little thought, considering it to be a late migrant. Now I believe it was likely in breeding territory. In my own observation territory here in Tennessee I found two Traill's Flycatchers singing on May 24, 1958. On June 22 the finding of three nests proved that the two males I had heard singing on May 24 were on breeding territory, as the nests were within 25 feet of the positions from which the birds were singing. The fifth edition of the **A. O. U. Checklist** does not mention Kentucky as being within the breeding range, although locations in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia are not very far from the Kentucky line. The closest point listed in the checklist is Wilmington, Ohio, which is fully a hundred miles above the location mentioned above. I do not know whether you have Kentucky records of Traill's Flycatchers nesting. If you do not have breeding records and have some one in that area who would be interested in investigating after the

leaves fall or even around July 1 of next year, I would be glad to direct him to the area. The species seems to be a late nester, as the young hatched in the first nest here on July 4. I would like to determine whether our breeding does not extend the range by about 200 miles to the southward. The closest breeding area to this one, of which I know, is Morgantown, West Virginia.—DR. LEE R. HERN-DON, Editor, THE MIGRANT, 1533 Burgie Place, Elizabethton, Tennessee.

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### A SUMMER SWAINSON'S WARBLER AT MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

On August 14, 1958, Professor Millard Gipson and I found, in the swampy area of Mammoth Cave National Park along Mill Creek, near Good Spring Church, a Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*). We saw it several times in bright light and heard it sing more than in all my previous records of it put together. Though this was the first record of the species for the park, I have six records for the Chaney Swamp, south of Bowling Green, but only one bird on each record: May 31, 1945; July 4, 1947; May 26, 1948; May 4, 1949; June 17, 1956; and June 6, 1958. The area when we observed it in the park is ideal for a nesting site, as the sites are usually described in ornithological literature: a small, clear brook, which never goes dry; marshy banks and vegetation; small trees along the stream, with some old broomsage fields nearby. I hope to find the nest of the species at some later season and add the species to the list of the sixteen nesting warblers in the park.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

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### THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL FALL MEETING

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its thirty-fifth annual fall meeting October 10-12, 1958, at Dawson Springs, with headquarters at the New Century Hotel. On Friday evening Dr. Hunter M. Hancock, the president, after welcoming the members and guests to the opening session, introduced Mr. Lee R. Nelson, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, who, assisted by Mr. Carlos Kays, also of that department, discussed the efforts to stock in various areas three exotic game birds: the Ring-necked Pheasant, the Chukar Partridge, and the Coturnix Quail. His address, illustrated with slides, indicated that efforts at establishing these species in Kentucky have met with little success up to the present. Mrs. Lora Clark, Spottsville, then gave an entertaining presentation of observations of a nesting Whip-poor-will. The slides were made of a nest near her home. Following this, Dr. Harvey B. Lovell showed and commented on a film, "A Trip Around the Gaspé," which he had recently made, excellent views of bird life and other features of natural history of the coasts and islands in the Gaspé and the Bay of Fundy areas and the Audubon Camp in Maine. The film highlighted the bird life about the Bonaventure Island cliffs.

On Saturday morning the members made field trips in Pennyrile State Park, led by Mr. James Hancock, Dr. Hunter Hancock, and Dr. Harvey Lovell.

The Saturday afternoon business meeting, with seventeen members present, was presided over by Dr. Hancock. A very fine film on the Whooping Crane was shown through the courtesy of Mr. R. C.

Soaper. The minutes of the Executive Board meeting of April 12, 1928, and the minutes of the 1958 spring meeting were read and approved. Mr. F. W. Stamm gave the treasurer's report, which was accepted. The auditing committee had no report at this time. The report of the membership committee, presented by Miss Evelyn J. Schneider, showed that the society has 308 members, including 18 life members, 267 active members, and 23 corresponding members. Forty new members were added during 1958. There are 20 libraries that subscribe for the KENTUCKY WARBLER. The society has lost four members by death. Mr. Leonard C. Brecher, chairman of the endowment committee, reported no new life members during the past year.

The report of the committee on conservation and legislation was given by Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Sr., chairman. He reported that there was a possibility that the model hawk law might be passed at the next meeting of our state legislature. The committee did not report concerning Murphy's Pond. A motion by Mr. Brecher, seconded by Mr. W. P. Rhoads, suggested that the society go on record as favoring the National Wildlife Preservation Act and suggested that Murphy's Pond be included under the provisions of that act. The second choice of the society would be the Chaney and McElroy Farms, near Bowling Green. The motion passed. The chairman of the committee on conservation and legislation was directed to alert the K. O. S. members at the right time so that they might individually contact their legislators or Congressmen expressing interest in the act and in Murphy's Pond. At this time Dr. Lovell distributed material from the Nature Conservancy for the information of the members.

The committee appointed to study and activate the Gordon Wilson Scholarship Fund recommended that the objectives of the fund be broadened and that it should be known as the Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology. The committee made the following recommendations:

That the fund be established immediately and the income be used for the following purposes:

1. To assist in the improvement and expansion of the KENTUCKY WARBLER.
  - a. By printing of photographs and other illustrations of ornithological interest in the journal.
  - b. By printing of tables, graphs, maps, and other illustrative materials requiring special treatment.
  - c. By assisting in the cost of publication of long papers, such as monographs and occasional papers now beyond the scope of the finances of the society.
2. To assist in financing of research projects related to the ornithology of Kentucky and adjacent states.
3. To award fellowships and scholarships for the study of ornithology in schools and colleges and research stations.

Dr. Lovell and Mr. F. W. Stamm, co-chairmen of this committee, explained that Dr. Wilson's chief interest during the last thirty-five years had been and still is the KENTUCKY WARBLER. The revised recommendations as presented will broaden the fund and make it pos-

sible to use income from the fund almost immediately. The committee felt that this is a tangible way for the members of the society to express their appreciation to Dr. Wilson for his thirty-five years of loyal and devoted service to the Kentucky Ornithological Society. Dr. Lovell then moved that the recommendations be accepted as read, Anne Stamm seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Dr. Wilson, who had not known the story of this fund previously, spoke briefly in appreciation of the society's action. Donations to the Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology should be sent to either Mr. F. W. Stamm or Dr. Harvey B. Lovell.

The nominating committee report, given by Mrs. F. W. Stamm, chairman, presented the following names for election:

President.....Dr. Hunter M. Hancock, Murray

Vice-President.....Mr. W. P. Rhoads, Henderson

Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.....  
Mr. F. W. Stamm, Louisville

Recording Secretary.....Mrs. Margaret W. Ringo, Frankfort

Councillors:

Mr. John A. Cheek, Pikeville, 1958-60

Dr. Russell Starr, Glasgow, 1958-60.

The slate was elected unanimously.

Dr. Gordon Wilson read a letter from Mr. Brasher C. Bacon, one of the three founders of the society, informing the society that his oological specimens were to be placed at the Kentucky Building, Western State College, Bowling Green. Dr. Wilson commented on this fine gesture by Mr. Bacon and the worth of the collection. Mrs. F. W. Stamm offered a motion for the preparation of a resolution stating the appreciation of the society for the collection. The motion carried.

The annual dinner was held on Saturday night in the dining room of the New Century Hotel. Dr. Hancock announced the 1958 fall meeting will be held at Mammoth Cave National Park and the spring meeting at Bowling Green. Guests were recognized by their home towns. Dr. Hancock then introduced Dr. Loren S. Putnam, Ohio State University, Director of Stone Laboratory at Put-in Bay, Ohio. Dr. Putnam spoke on "Subjects of Interest in the Field of Ornithology," illustrating his presentation with slides made at Stone Laboratory and various islands in Lake Erie, especially stressing his own study of the Cedar Waxwing.

The meeting was concluded on Sunday morning, October 12, with a field trip to the State 4-H Club Camp near Dawson Springs. A total of 59 species of birds was compiled in the Dawson Springs area. The scenic parks, with their brilliant colors of woodland, the sunny days, and the excellent programs made the whole meeting memorable. —HOWARD JONES, Recording Secretary.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance in Bank on October 12, 1957.....\$ 221.53

#### RECEIPTS

Membership Dues .....	\$ 583.00
Dividend on Jefferson Federal Savings and Loan Full-Paid Shares .....	26.25
Sales of KENTUCKY WARBLER .....	37.60
Sales of check lists, bibliographies .....	17.25
Sales of sleeve patch .....	38.75
Profit on sales of books .....	17.62
Net income from fall meeting, Cumberland Falls .....	24.70
Receipts — dinner meeting, Bowling Green .....	78.75
Donations .....	3.50
<hr/>	
Total Receipts .....	\$ 827.42
<hr/>	
Total of Balance on Hand and Receipts .....	\$1,048.95

#### DISBURSEMENTS

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER, printing costs .....	\$ 522.70
Treasurer's Expenses: postage, stationery, envelopes .....	60.72
Programs, printing, for meetings .....	11.43
Nature Conservancy dues .....	2.00
State of Kentucky, corporation filing fee .....	2.00
Dinner meeting, Bowling Green .....	84.80
Miscellaneous expenses .....	2.60
Midwest Badge Company for sleeve patch .....	103.36
<hr/>	
Total disbursements .....	\$ 789.61
<hr/>	
Balance on hand in Lincoln Bank and Trust Company, Louisville, October 1, 1958.....	\$ 259.34

#### ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance in Savings Account as shown by report of October 10, 1957 .....	\$ 385.08
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## RECEIPTS

Dividends on Savings, 1958 .....	\$ 14.12
Balance in Savings Account, Jefferson Federal Savings and Loan Association, Louisville, Kentucky, October 1, 1958 ....	399.20
Securities Owned:	
Full-paid shares (7) in Jefferson Federal Savings and Loan Association, Louisville, Ky., October 1, 1958 .....	700.00
Total .....	\$1,099.20

## BALANCE SHEET AS OF OCTOBER 1, 1958

## Assets:

Cash in bank .....	\$ 259.34
Full-paid shares and savings account .....	1,099.20
Total Assets .....	\$1,358.54
Net worth of the society .....	\$1,358.54

—FREDERICK W. STAMM, Treasurer.

\* \* \* \* \*

## MEMBERS AND GUESTS ATTENDING THE MEETING

Anchorage: Mr. and Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Sr.

Bowling Green: Dr. and Mrs. Robert N. Pace, Dr. Gordon Wilson.

Corydon: Miss Mara Lea Arnett, Malcolm Arnett.

Henderson: Mr. Matt Brown, Miss Mary Helen Carroll, Miss Lillian Hoffman, Charles M. Meade, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Parsons, John Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Rhoads, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Rhoads, Mary Sinclair, Virginia Smith, Edna Vogel.

Louisville: Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Helen Browning, Floyd Carpenter, Mrs. Charles Hardwick, Harvey B. Lovell, Dorothy Piel, Evelyn Schneider, Mrs. C. E. Schindler, Mabel Slack, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Elsie P. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Wetherell.

Madisonville: Mr. and Mrs. James W. Hancock, Brenda Hancock.

Murray: Dr. and Mrs. Hunter M. Hancock, Gerhard McGow, Clell Peterson.

Owensboro: Mrs. Carl Beasley.

Princeton: Dr. Cynthia Counce.

Reed: Mrs. Nat Stanley, Sr.

Spottsville: Mrs. Lora Clark, Stevie Clark.

Stamping Ground: Mr. and Mrs. Howard P. Jones.

Valley Station: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Summerfield.

Columbus, Ohio: Dr. Loren S. Putnam.

Nashville, Tennessee: Albert Ganier.

White Pigeon, Michigan: Oscar McKinley Bryens.



(News and Views Continued from Page 51)

### OUR MISS KLUTEY MARRIES

Miss Amelia Klutey, of Audubon Museum, Henderson, and also our vice-president, was married on August 9, 1958, to Mr. William Krieger. They are making their home at 28 Lindley Avenue, Tenafly, New Jersey. We are sorry to lose such a good Kentucky ornithologist, but New Jersey is benefited by our loss. Congratulations, Mrs. Krieger! Don't forget to come back often to Henderson and to visit the K. O. S.

\* \* \* \* \*

### CAMPUS BIRD COUNT

Bird students at Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York, initiated this year a Campus Bird Count. They asked as many colleges as possible to participate. Eleven colleges and six sanctuaries sent in reports. Sarah Lawrence, with its twenty-eight acres of campus, did quite well by the side of many larger areas, up to the 600 acres of the University of Redlands. Kenneth Cooper, of Sarah Lawrence, the chairman of the movement, will be glad to send materials and suggestions to any Kentucky college that would like to participate in the 1959 count. More and more in bird study smaller areas are being worked thoroughly and consistently. This is a movement that should interest many of our members.

\* \* \* \* \*

### OUR 1958 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This issue should be in your hands early enough for you to plan a Christmas Bird Count for 1958, even though you have never made one before. Stay out as many hours as you can on a single day, beginning, this year, on December 20 and running through January 1, 1959. Cover as many types of territory as possible, counting species and individuals. Confine your observations to an area fifteen miles in diameter and enlist as many parties as you can muster. Please send the results of your day in the fields to the editor for our February, 1959, issue, remembering that he should have it by January 15. And, as always, good birding!

\* \* \* \* \*

### ALEXANDER WILSON IN KENTUCKY

THE REGISTER, organ of the Kentucky Historical Society, contained in the July, 1958, a second article by our editor on the visit of Alexander Wilson to Kentucky in 1810. The previous article appeared in the October, 1957, issue, under the title "An Ornithologist Visits Kentucky." The first article gave in detail Wilson's trip down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh to Louisville, his walking trip to Frankfort and Lexington, and his long horseback ride to New Orleans, the whole experience lasting from late January (when he left Philadelphia, his home) until the following August. The second article, by the special request of Mr. Charles Hinds, the editor of THE REGISTER, gave abundant quotations from Wilson's diaries, his bird essays, and his numerous letters about his western trip. Of most interest to ornithologists, it would seem, are his references to Audubon, the great hordes of Passenger Pigeons, the Barrens, where he made his rather bizarre sketch of the Prairie Chicken. These articles grew out of a brief account in the editor's doctor's thesis. — ALEXANDER WILSON: POET-ESSAYIST-ORNITHOLOGIST.

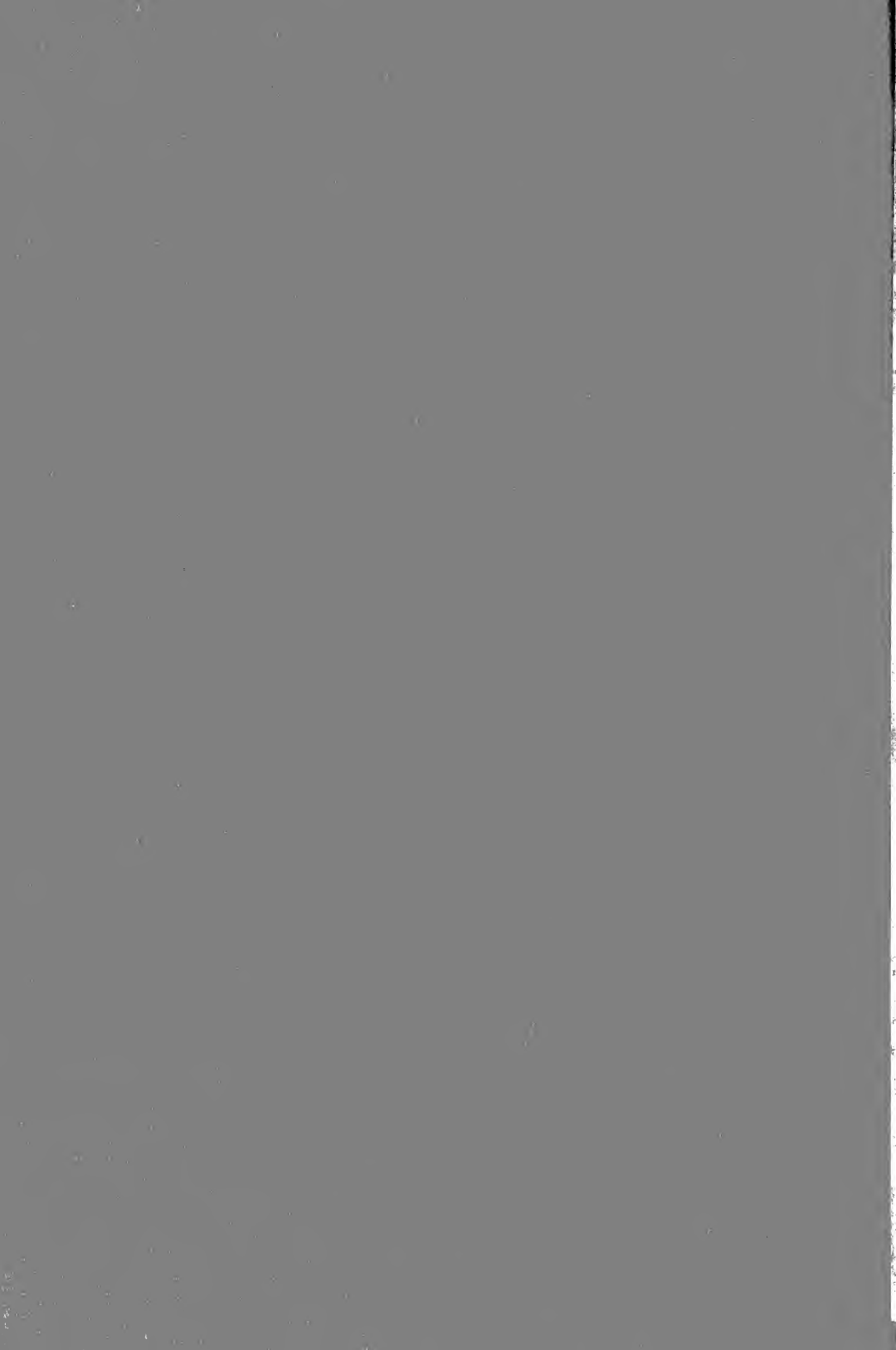
### SOME CHALLENGING QUESTIONS

The editors of this magazine are always in need of good articles and notes for publication. And we need variety, too. As a suggestion, here are some questions that need to be answered. Start some investigations and gradually build up a good long article on any one of them. Meanwhile, if you have some short notes that might point the way, send them in, and they will be issued as bearing on some of the puzzling questions that we old-time bird students have been asking.

1. What is happening to the Baltimore Oriole? In some sections of the state it is rarely seen except in migration. Why not take this question and write to a dozen different observers, in various parts of Kentucky?
2. What effect did the hard winter of 1957-58 have on such species as Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Myrtle Warbler?
3. Why is the Hairy Woodpecker so much less numerous than the Downy? Do you detect any change in numbers of the Hairy in the last ten years?
4. Just what seems to determine the type of habitat of the Chuck-will's-widow as compared with that of the Whip-poor-will?
5. Can you detect any noticeable change in numbers in your area of such species as wintering Common Grackles, Starlings, Redwinged Blackbirds?
6. What new nesting species have you added in your area in the last ten years?
7. What is the status of the Red-headed Woodpecker in your area of observation? Is it growing any more or less numerous? In some parts of the state it is among the very rare species. Could the Starling's appropriation of nesting holes have anything to do with the drop in numbers of Red-heads?
8. In spite of the large population of Chimney Swifts and Nighthawks over Bowling Green and neighboring towns and cities, both species are noticeably scarce at Mammoth Cave National Park except for some late-summer migration flights of Nighthawks. Some one interested in these species could render a service to ornithology by trying to determine what makes this difference, especially as both species are often seen over wooded areas outside the park.
9. The Warbling Vireo, long among the missing species in Mammoth Cave National Park, is associated in this same region of the state with farm houses and yards. Is it the type of tree so commonly found in yards, or neighboring gardens and barnyards that make a nesting site in a yard so advantageous?
10. Maurice Brooks has done a remarkable study of the Bachman's Sparrow. What is its status in your area now? What effect has the "green-pasture" program had on its numbers? In some farm areas it is becoming one of the very rare birds, especially where gullies have been bulldozed away and the fields planted in fescue and other hardy pasture grasses.

These questions could be extended to twenty or more that are interesting to bird observers. If some other one suggest itself to you, pursue your investigations and be sure to give the KENTUCKY WARBLER a report of your findings. Bird life in our state, though not changing rapidly, is certainly not static and should be watched at all times.





.K37  
Birds

Division of Birds

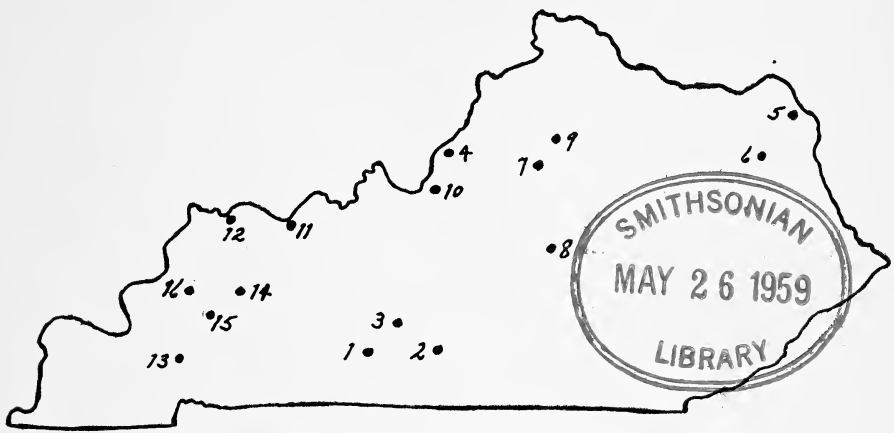
# The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. XXXV

FEBRUARY, 1959

No. 1



MAP SHOWING WHERE 1958-1959 MID-WINTER BIRD COUNTS WERE MADE

**Key to map:** 1. Bowling Green, 2. Glasgow, 3. Mammoth Cave National Park, 4. Louisville, 5. Ashland, 6. Willard, 7. Frankfort, 8. Danville, 9. Kleber Song Bird Sanctuary, 10. Otter Creek Park, 11. Owensboro, 12. Henderson, 13. Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge, 14. Madisonville, 15. Pennyryle State Park, 16. Marion.

—Map by Anne L. Stamm.

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## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

President.....Dr. Hunter Hancock, Murray  
 Vice-President.....Mr. W. P. Rhoads, Henderson  
 Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.....Mr. F. W. Stamm, 2118 Lakeside Drive, Louisville 5  
 Recording Secretary.....Mrs. Margaret W. Ringo, Frankfort  
 Councillors:

Mr. Al Mayfield, Lexington.....1957-59

Miss Evelyn J. Schneider, Louisville.....1957-59

Mr. John A. Cheek, Pikeville.....1958-60

Dr. Russell Starr, Glasgow.....1958-60

Retiring President.....Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Louisville

Librarian.....Miss Evelyn J. Schneider, University of Louisville Library

Curator.....Mr. Burt L. Monroe, Ridge Road, Anchorage

Editor.....Dr. Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green

Associate Editor.....Mrs. F. W. Stamm, 2118 Riverside Drive, Louisville 5

Assistant Editors:

Mr. Leonard C. Brecher, Field Notes; Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, Notes on Ornithologists.

COMMITTEES:—

Nominating: Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Chairman; Mabel Slack, Robert Pace, Gordon Wilson.

Membership: Evelyn J. Schneider, Chairman; Cynthia C. Counce, A. L. Powell, John Cheek.

Auditing: Louis Pieper, Chairman; Floyd S. Carpenter.

Conservation and Legislation: Burt L. Monroe, Chairman; Harvey B. Lovell, L. Y. Lancaster.

Endowment: Leonard C. Brecher, Chairman.

Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology: Harvey B. Lovell and F. W. Stamm, Co-Chairmen;

Leonard C. Brecher, John Cheek, Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### NEW REGIONAL FIELD NOTES EDITOR

Professor Russell E. Mumford of the department of forestry and conservation at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, has been appointed as regional editor of AUDUBON FIELD NOTES, to succeed Val Nolan, Jr. Several of our members send reports on migration, nesting, and the seasons to this magazine and will remember the new editor and his address. Here is a good place to remind all of us to keep more and more accurate notes, to send them to the WARBLER, to send them to AUDUBON FIELD NOTES personally or through Mrs. F. W. Stamm, who has so long been active in this work.

\* \* \* \* \*

### ANOTHER BIRD PAINTING FOR OUR SOCIETY

Again Mr. Howard Rollin has presented a bird painting to the K. O. S. Among the fifteen given us to date by this fine bird artist, this is the first of water birds, a pair of Buffleheads gaily swimming on rippled blue and green waters. Another pair in the air, somewhat

(Continued on Page 15)

## MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1958-1959

**KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE** (Same area as in previous years.)—Dec. 28; 5:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Foggy and misty in morning, clearing in afternoon; temp. 28-49; wind S to SW, 0-5 m. p. h. Seven observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 15 (12 on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles, 42 (10 on foot, 32 by car). Total, 49 species, about 5104 individuals. Seen in area in count period: Pintail, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, American Coot.—CHRISTINE HANCOCK, HUNTER HANCOCK (Compiler), DENNIS HOLLAND, GERHARDT MEGOW, KATHERINE MITCHELL, CLELL T. PATTERSON, LOREN PUTNAM.

### NOTES ON WOODLANDS COUNT

The official waterfowl census, taken for the week of December 21-27, compiled by the refuge personnel, was as follows: Canada Goose, 21,000; Blue Goose, 8; Mallard, 20,000; Black Duck, 5,500; Pintail, 50; American Widgeon, 1,200; Wood Duck, 35; Ring-necked Duck, 70; Lesser Scaup, 1; American Coot, 21.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MARION** (Same area as in previous years).—Dec. 25; 7:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Temp. 30-50; wind, 5 m. p. h.; clear. During Christmas Week I recorded two Bald Eagles and a good-sized flock of Cedar Waxwings. Total, 52 species, 7899 individuals.—CHASTAIN L. FRAZER.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MADISONVILLE** (W. W. Hancock farm, Brown and Frostburg roads, and five lakes at Madisonville; open fields 15%, deciduous woodland and thickets 60%, lake shore 25%).—Dec. 31; 7:00 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Heavy overcast; wind SE, 8-12 m. p. h.; temp. 35-47. Total hours, 9½; total miles, 36 (30 by car, 6 on foot). Total, 46 species, 1165 individuals. Other species recorded near the time of the count: Black Duck, Killdeer, Barred Owl, Bewick's Wren, Cedar Waxwing, and Common Grackle. The Brown Thrasher, seen at the Spring Mill Wildlife Refuge, was engaged in singing a "whisper song," with the bill closed. A very similar performance was observed in the same general area on February 5, 1941. A Brown Thrasher has been observed on several occasions in December, 1958, at my home, but it was not located on the day of the count.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PENNYRILE FOREST STATE PARK** (Deciduous and pine woods and fields within the park area. Pennyrile Lake, and adjoining farmlands: wooded area 40%, open fields in the park 30%, farmlands 20%). Jan. 7, 1959; 6:45 A. M. to 4:15 P. M. Temp. 32-41; cloudy; frequent drizzles in afternoon; wind SW, 8-12 m. p. h. Total hours, 9¼; total miles, 25 (10 on foot, 15 by car). Total, 33 species, 344 individuals. Weather conditions were unfavorable, and birds were generally difficult to find. Lake frozen; water birds absent.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

\*\*\*\*\*

**HENDERSON** (7½-mile radius, with Audubon Museum as center).—Dec. 29; 7:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Heavy fog all day; poor visibility, but good close-ups of the birds we did find. Temp. 30-40. We were within ten feet of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet and the Winter

Wren. Our recent loss of the faithful R. C. Soaper made our waterfowl count low. Our local county farm agent was unable to join us because of some business engagements. Eight observers in three parties. Total, 59 species, about 4258 individuals.—STANLEY ADDY, KING BENSON, MRS. LAURA CLARK, MRS. ROSS PARSONS, W. P. RHOADS (Compiler), VIRGINIA SMITH, MRS. GEORGE STANLEY, JR., and MRS. NAT STANLEY, SR.

\* \* \* \*

OWENSBORO (Pine forest, deciduous woods, creek bottoms, fields, roadside ditches, farmland, and Ohio River bottoms—all in the vicinity of Yelvington, Sorgho, and Owensboro, Daviess County).—Dec. 26. Temp. in low 30's; clear. Total hours, 10; total miles, 72 (66 by car, 6 on foot). Total, 44 species, 1759 individuals.—JOE FORD, MILDRED, WILTON, and A. L. POWELL (Compiler).

#### NOTES ON OWENSBORO COUNT

Essentially the same area was covered as in previous years except Carpenter's Lake and Pup Creek, which we covered on December 27, with a total of 30 species and 1337 individuals. The species found on this second day appear as stars in the table. A small side trip to the Ohio River on December 27 brought about 1000 Mallards, far out on the river.

Waterfowl: We were very much disappointed at not finding more waterfowl. Every place we visited along the river was infested with hunters.

Robins: The Robins, so abundant last year, were down to one lone bird on our first day and up to only two on the second. We usually find them feeding in flocks on the dogwoods; not a dogwood berry was in sight.

Sparrows: Similarly, we failed to find the numbers of Fox and Tree Sparrows that were present, two weeks before the count, along some country roads.

Miscellaneous: We are disturbed about the scarcity of Myrtle Warblers, Loggerhead Shrikes, Winter Wrens, Phoebes, and White-breasted Nuthatches. We might add the Screech Owl and Brown Creeper to this list. Where does the Belted Kingfisher feed when his usual grounds, like Carpenter's Lake, are frozen over?

\* \* \* \*

BOWLING GREEN (Same area, approximately, as the one covered for forty-one years).—Dec. 26: 6:15 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Clear; cold; temp. 18-40. Ponds and still places of running streams frozen over, ground bare. Four observers in three parties. Total, 56 species, about 205157 individuals.—L. Y. LANCASTER, ROBERT N. PACE, CHARLES L. TAYLOR, and GORDON WILSON (Compiler).

#### NOTES ON BOWLING GREEN COUNT

Ducks: The Lesser Scaup and the Common Merganser were found on Grider's Limestone Lake, at the edge of Bowling Green; the Hooded Merganser was found on Drake's Creek; there was no water in the Chaney Swamp, where in 1957 ducks appeared in unusual numbers. The Common Merganser appears for the first time on an actual count, but it was found in Christmas week in 1942.



Mourning Dove: The lowest count since 1950, though 100 were recorded in the same area on January 2, 1959.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: The highest ever recorded in the forty-one years of counts at Bowling Green, 39.

Carolina Wren: Quite obviously below most years; apparently the severe winter of 1957-58 destroyed many of this species, both here and at Mammoth Cave National Park.

Mockingbird: Highest since 1939, 35 individuals.

Starling: Just at sunset we found a roost of more than 200,000 Starlings. This figure is far below any previous Starling record here. Several days after the count it was discovered that a roost of black-birds, with probably a half million birds, was located only a mile or so from where we had found the Starlings.

Cardinal: This species is very numerous this winter inside the city. This year's count—191—was the highest since 1939.

Swamp Sparrow: The 74 individuals were more than double any previous record.

\* \* \* \*

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK.—Dec. 21; 6:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. The entire park area, except some outlying sections such as the Big Woods and Brooks Knob, was covered. Clear, cold, temp. 12-30; wind, 0-7 m. p. h.; ponds frozen over; very heavy frost. Twenty observers in five parties. Total, 48 species, 2525 individuals.—WILLARD DILLEY, MILLARD GIPSON, MRS. JAMES GILLENWATER, HUNTER HANCOCK, CLEO HOGAN, CLEO HOGAN, JR., JIM HAYNES, ALICE FURBER, L. Y. LANCASTER, CHARLES L. TAYLOR, ROBERT N. PACE, HOMER PARRENT, GRANVILLE LILES, JIM LILES, RUSSELL STARR, MRS. RUSSELL STARR, GEORGE MCKINLEY, RAY NELSON, JAY YOUNG, and GORDON WILSON (Compiler).

#### NOTES ON MAMMOTH CAVE COUNT

Wild Turkey: Jim Haynes, in Group IV, found two Wild Turkeys; Clayton Davis, of the Maintenance Department of the park, saw five male Wild Turkeys in Region V that day. This species is new for our Christmas Counts at the park.

Sixteen species were recorded in greater numbers than on any of the preceding thirteen counts: Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Purple Finch, and American Goldfinch. Nine other species appeared in the second highest numbers, notably the Slate-colored Junco, with more individuals than at any time since 1938, when large areas in the park were still in cultivation. Though there were no great numbers of Robins, as in 1957, when we visited some roosts, the 1958 count ranked second for the park counts. It is quite evident that woodpeckers are increasing each year, as we have covered the same extensive areas for three successive counts, with steadily increasing numbers. As a secondary project, the counting parties recorded Virginia deer, with a total of 79 for the day, an all-time high.

GLASGOW (Mostly farmland, consisting of cultivated fields, grown-up pastures, open pastures, along small streams, and open woodland).—Dec. 28; 6:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Sky overcast all day, with intermittent drizzle; temp. 40. Three observers in morning, two in afternoon. Total, 34 species, 550 individuals. Grasshopper Sparrow carefully identified.—JIM HAYNES, ALICE FURBER, MARQUITA GILLENWATER.

\* \* \* \*

OTTER CREEK PARK (Meade County; same territory as in previous years; deciduous woods 35%, brushy fields 42%, creek and river banks 10%, open fields 13%).—Dec. 28; 7:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Clear; ground bare; ponds frozen over; Otter Creek frozen over in still places; temp. 30-56. Seven observers in three parties. Total party-hours, 21 (16 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles, 49 (12 on foot, 37 by car). Total, 42 species, 1862 individuals.—JOSEPH CROFT, FLOYD S. CARPENTER, JOHN LOVELL, HARVEY B. LOVELL, EVELYN J. SCHNEIDER, ANNE L. STAMM (Compiler), FREDERICK W. STAMM.

#### NOTE ON OTTER CREEK COUNT

Comparing the 1958 figures with those of 1957, we find that there was a noticeable decrease in the numbers of woodpeckers, particularly the Yellow-shafted Flicker, the Red-bellied Woodpecker, and the Downy Woodpecker; an increase in the Common Crow and Starling populations; a decrease in Carolina Wren, Robin, Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Myrtle Warbler, Purple Finch, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Slate-colored Junco.

\* \* \* \*

LOUISVILLE (Same area and coverage as last year).—Dec. 21; 5:30 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Partly cloudy; temp. 22 to 35; wind light and variable; Ohio River and flowing streams open. Twenty-eight observers in eight parties. Total party-hours, 55 (38 on foot, 17 by car); total party-miles, 249 (24 on foot, 225 by car). Total, 94 species (1 additional race), about 3,006,433 individuals.—MR. AND MRS. YANCEY ALTSHELER, LEONARD C. BRECHER, FLOYD S. CARPENTER, MRS. W. R. COLE, JOSEPH E. CROFT, JOAN ESCHRICH, MARY ANN ESCHRICH, FRANK X. KRULL, HARVEY B. LOVELL, JOHN LOVELL, MRS. SPENCER MARTIN, BURT L. MONROE, SR. (Compiler), BURT L. MONROE, JR., MRS. H. V. NOLAND, LOUIS H. PIEPER, MARIE E. PIEPER, EVELYN J. SCHNEIDER, MR. AND MRS. FRANCIS P. SHANNON, MABEL SLACK, RODERIC W. SOMMERS, ANNE L. STAMM, FREDERICK W. STAMM, MRS. W. B. TABLER, MRS. E. V. THOMPSON, VIRGINIA WINSTANDLEY, AUDREY WRIGHT (Beckham Bird Club).

#### NOTES ON LOUISVILLE COUNT

Western Grebe: Discovered two weeks prior to count by Roderic Sommers; well observed on count by Monroes.

Greater Scaup: Noted at close range on water and in flight, with Lesser Scaup; 13 seen on December 18 (Monroes).

Horned Lark: Three Northern Horned Larks noted at close range, well-marked birds; we have specimens for previous years (Stamms).

Catbird: Wintering in Cherokee Park (Slack and Sommers).

Bluebird: Rare this winter, widely scattered.

Blackbird roost: Down from 5,500,000 to 3,000,000 this year; Brown-headed Cowbirds and Common Grackles are about the same as last year, Starlings down about a million, Rusty Blackbirds up 30,000, but the most notable change is the loss of Red-winged Blackbirds from 1,500,000 to 60,000.

Western Meadowlark: Now a regular but rare winter resident; specimens collected several times in previous years (Monroes).

Brewer's Blackbird: One female at the blackbird roost (Stamm); one male with Rusty Blackbirds (Monroes).

Indigo Bunting: Group of three wintering in sorghum field; only one found on count day; specimen taken on December 14, 1946, at same spot, our only previous winter record (Monroes).

Rufous-sided Towhee: Notably scarce this winter.

Chipping Sparrow: Seen on the day before the count (Croft).

Lapland Longspur: Good numbers this winter, about 10% of Horned Lark flocks (Monroes).

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FRANKFORT.—Dec. 27; 8:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Sky generally overcast; temp. 32-50; slight wind. Two observers together. Miles, 31 (21 by car, 10 on foot). Our waterfowl count was again made at the lakes on the State Experimental Game Farm, on U. S. 60, west of Frankfort; other species were found in Franklin County east of Frankfort in the Forks of Elkhorn-Switzer area. Territory covered included mixed cedar and deciduous woods 25%, pastures and cultivated fields 20%, brushy hillsides and weedy fencerows, 30%, Elkhorn Creek bottom and creek banks 25%. Total, 54 species, 2381 individuals, with three flocks of ducks (estimated at 600 or more) flying in a southeasterly direction at such a height and distance they could not be identified. The Green-winged Teal, a male, is the first of this species we have seen in Franklin County.—JEAN and HOWARD JONES.

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DANVILLE (Largely the same area as in former years).—Dec. 27; 6:15 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Mostly cloudy; temp. 30-47. Eight observers. The Blue Geese were in a farm pond with tame geese. Total, 57 species, 5184 individuals.—MRS. E. POWELL CHEEK, JOHN CHEEK, E. W. COOK, JACKSON DAVIS, SCOTT GLORE, JR., EDNA DRILL HECK, EDDIE HECK, F. H. HECK (Compiler).

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KLEBER SONGBIRD SANCTUARY and Vicinity, Owen County. —Dec. 26; 7:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Clear; temp. 15 to 30; creeks frozen; wind 1-3 m. p. h. Total party-hours, 13. Fields 15%, brushy pastures 75%, woods 15%. Total miles. 43 (8 on foot, 35 by car). Total 40 species, 1634 individuals.—JOSEPH CROFT, HARVEY B. LOVELL (Compiler). JOSEPH MULLENEX, ANNE L. STAMM, FREDERICK W. STAMM.

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WILLARD (Creek bottom, farmlands, woodlands).—Dec. 26; 9:00 A. M. to 3:00 P. M. Clear; temp. 20-38. Eight miles on foot. Other

**MID-WINTER  
BIRD COUNT  
1958-1959**

	Woodlands	Marion	Madisonville	Pennyrite S. P.	Henderson	Owensboro	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave N.P.	Glasgow	Otter Creek	Louisville	Frankfort	Danville	Kieber Sanct.	Willard	Ashland
Com. Loon.....											1					
Horned Grebe.....											7					
Western Grebe.....											1					
P-b. Grebe.....		2									1		2			
D-c. Cormorant.....		2									1			1		
G. B. Heron.....											12					
B-c. N. Heron.....																
Can. Goose.....	3000	80			87							8	15	22		
Blue Goose.....	3											3	8			
Mallard.....	1000	5000	143		170	250				30	124	162	1230			
Black Duck.....	100	1000	*		10	15		2			288	80	120			1
Gadwall.....											7	6	1			
Am. Widgeon.....	1										3	14	20			
Pintail.....	*		2								4		1			
G-w. Teal.....												1	5			
Wood Duck.....	*	9														
Redhead.....											4					
R-n. Duck.....	*	3	7				*				75					
Canvasback.....			109								222	3	12			
Gr. Scaup.....											6					
Les. Scaup.....	*	36					6				418	4	2			
Com. Goldeneye.....											25		1			
Bufflehead.....											2					
Oldsquaw.....											1					
Ruddy Duck.....											4		3			
H. Merganser.....		4					5				6		6			
Com. Merganser.....	8						1				1					
Tur. Vulture.....		11			3		3	2			*		3			
Bl. Vulture.....	2						3	3			53	5				
Sh-sh. Hawk.....		2		1			*			1	2					
C. Hawk.....					4	2	1	1			4				1	
R-t. Hawk.....						8	2	1	1	2	7	1	5	8		2
R-sh. Hawk.....		5	1		2	*	5	2		1	11			1		
R-l. Hawk.....					1		1									
Bald Eagle.....	4	*			1											
Marsh Hawk.....		7	2		1	3					10	1		1		
Osprey.....		1														
Per. Falcon.....											1					
Sp. Hawk.....	3	4	5		10	18	5			3	45	2	10			1
Bobwhite.....		52	6	10	19	9	22	24		13	14	18	2	1	*	12
Wild Turkey.....	1							7								
Am. Coot.....	*	21	55								2	2	4			
Killdeer.....	3	7	*		12				1		10	2	11	8		
Com. Snipe.....							1				2					
Glaucous Gull.....											*					
Her. Gull.....		41				1					115					
Ring-b. Gull.....											104					
M. Dove.....	3	17	104	2	66	300	22		4	17	50	55	6		12	1
Screech Owl.....		2						1			2	1	1	1		
Horned Owl.....					5					1						
Barred Owl.....	2	5	*		1	4					3					1
B. Kingfisher.....	1	2				1					2	1	3	2		
Y-s. Flicker.....	25	5	13	6	30	21	16	48	10	4	38	11	1	10	1	1
Pil. W'dpecker.....	8	3		1	4	1	9	47	4	6	2					8
R-b. W'dpecker.....	28	8	14	1	18	30	39	60	2	14	33	13	5	14		5
R-h. W'dpecker.....	3		9		5	3	1				7	1	1	2		5
Y-b. Sapsucker.....	1		1		2	10	6	3	2	4	7	1	1	2		2
H. W'dpecker.....	5	4	2	1	8	2	2	8	2	3	16	5	3	3	2	6
D. W'dpecker.....	16	11	9	6	21	20	14	42	12	13	56	29	25	11	6	20

MID-WINTER  
BIRD COUNT  
1958-1959

	Woodlands	Marion	Madisonville	Pennyrite S. P.	Henderson	Owensboro	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave N.P.	Glasgow	Otter Creek	Louisville	Frankfort	Danville	Kleber Sanct.	Willard	Ashland
E. Phoebe.....							1	1			1				1	1
Hor. Lark.....	20	50	5		33	35	154	1		15	100	23	27	2		20
Blue Jay.....	50	18	53	11	57	60	59	161	10	38	95	11	17	17	*	13
Com. Crow.....	24	64	5	9	124	80	452	157	30	92	201	338	1410	40	4	115
B-c. Chickadee.....																2
Car. Chickadee.....	16	26	12	12	76	55	36	163	21	58	123	69	125	46	14	142
Tuft. Titmouse.....	43	37	12	6	37	70	40	95	22	38	140	18	34	28	23	74
W-b. Nuthatch.....	14	2	3	2	8		2	22		7	10				4	13
R-b. Nuthatch.....					2	2					3					1
B. Creeper.....	2		1	1	2		4	3		2	16	3	2			
Win. Wren.....					3		2	2	1		2					10
Bew. Wren.....		7	*		4		1	1	2		1	1	3			
Car. Wren.....	17	13	9	2	9	10	14	12	13	12	58	32	25	16	2	33
Mockingbird.....	4	12	8	2	23	2	35	7	6	18	106	8	17	10		5
Catbird.....											1					
Br. Thrasher.....	1		1		1						1					
Robin.....	4	7	20		3	1	6	324	6	31	37	5	3	31		2
Her. Thrush.....	1		1	1	1	1	2	33		3						4
E. Bluebird.....	27	13	7	5	13	12	43	38		15	51	7	15	3	6	12
G-c. Kinglet.....			2	3			7	23		3	5	6		3	*	6
R-c. Kinglet.....	2				1	1		2			1					2
Ced. Waxwing.....	30	*	*		*			9		2	15			20	*	
Log. Shrike.....			2		1		6		2		4		1			
Starling.....		500	182	11	1210	450	20,300	26	24	379	1650000	800	1070	563		224
Myr. Warbler.....	1		10	2	1	*	3	16	1	26	8	7		12		
House Sparrow.....		200	90		498	180	205	22	35	87	655	115	277	74	22	83
E. Meadowlark.....	61	18	93	23	93	64	110		51	19	264	3	20	31		75
W. Meadowlark.....					1						1					
R-w. Blackbird.....					50	100	40				60000	75				1
Rusty Blackbird.....							125				60000					50
Brewer's B'bird.....											2					
Com. Grackle.....			*		1100		34	3			1050000	6	95			
B-h. Cowbird.....		150			207	25	150				180000		10			
Cardinal.....	153	44	40	31	49	60	191	106	73	76	535	52	99	41	27	56
Ind. Bunting.....											1					
Dickeissel.....																*
Pur. Finch.....	13	5		30			10	184	7	11	8	1		14		3
Pine Siskin.....											1					2
Am. Goldfinch.....	8	19	17	5		*	71	77	12	42	174	78	19	95	1	257
R-s. Towhee.....	34	8	20	15	8	20	33	56	15	4	74	11	16	45	*	68
Sav. Sparrow.....			2				1				1					
Grass. Sparrow.....					2				1							
Vesp. Sparrow.....													2			
S-c. Junco.....	200	300	13	103	39	50	126	528	89	212	798	91	248	303	35	256
Ore. Junco.....											1					
Tree Sparrow.....		15	12	2		1			6		214	15		4	16	2
Chip. Sparrow.....					5						*					
Field Sparrow.....	6		11	7	28	15	12	22	2	10	117	2	24	6	3	11
W-c. Sparrow.....		12			42	4	48	8	4		157	35	35	36		5
W-t. Sparrow.....	135	6	18	12	27	10	159	43	40	3	170	25	31	24		25
Fox Sparrow.....	7		2	2	4	2		6	12		2	6	2	18		1
Sw. Sparrow.....			18	7	5		74	6		9	69	1		5		
Song Sparrow.....	3	29	14	12	11	16	46	27	33	32	401	109	49	63	16	33
Lap. Longspur.....											7					
Snow Bunting.....																6
Species.....	49	52	46	33	59	44	56	48	34	42	95	54	57	40	19	50
Individuals.....	5104	7899	1165	344	4258	1759	205157	2525	550	1862	3006433	2381	5184	1634	196	1693
Observers.....	7	1	1	1	8	4	4	20	3	7	28	2	8	5	1	8

(Italics indicate a note on this species or number.—Ed.)

birds seen during the Christmas holidays: Bobwhite, Blue Jay, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Rufous-sided Towhee. Total, 19 species, 196 individuals.—ERCEL KOZEE.

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ASHLAND (All of Boyd County, Bear Branch section of Greenup County, Wolf Creek area in Martin County, near Lovely: 60% mixed hardwoods, 10% river front, 10% old fields, 10% marshland, 5% cultivated areas, 5% slashes).—Dec. 27; 7:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear to partly cloudy; temp. 15-50; wind, 0-5 m. p. h., SW to NE; rain predicted for night. Ground thawing; all running streams open; no snow. Rock Dove, 15, also recorded. Total, 50 species, 1693 individuals.—OKIE S. GREEN (Compiler), WALTER FORSON, HENRY J. HUGHES, JR., GEORGE A. CURRY, RUFUS M. REED, ROBERT CHAPMAN, EDWIN MOORE, CLINE DALE MOORE.

#### NOTES ON ASHLAND COUNT

Snow Bunting: Seen by Curry in the week before the count at Grandview Lake, in Boyd County, and observed for nearly an hour at close range. This species has also been reported in the vicinity of Majestic, in Pike County, by Mrs. J. W. Rees, an experienced observer.

Pine Siskin: Pine Siskins were reported from various areas.

Dickcissel: Hughes and Curry saw what they were almost sure was a Dickcissel. A search of AUDUBON FIELD NOTES for the 1957 Christmas Bird Count revealed several Dickcissel records for similar areas in this latitude.

Robin: One notable feature of the 1957 count was the abundance of Robins; this year only two were recorded. Correspondence shows that this condition prevails in many parts of the state.

Miscellaneous: Towhees were scarce in 1957, abundant in 1958. Bluebirds are very scarce; the Pileated Woodpecker seems on the decline, probably because of the destruction of its natural habitat. In general, there is an abundance of bird food this winter.

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#### COMMENTS ON THE 1958-59 COUNTS

The counts, as presented in this issue of the WARBLER, are, in general, below those of 1957. Many of the compilers have sent their regrets along with their records. Probably the most obvious thing in this table is that many species are erratic this season; for example, the Cedar Waxwing appears on only five of the counts, with no large flocks anywhere. The blackbirds are in certain places only and in large numbers largely in the Louisville area, where they are far below the numbers of last year.

Waterfowl in numbers appeared at Woodlands, Louisville, Marion and Henderson. Aside from these places, only the Mallard and the Black Duck were found in various parts of the state.

Hawks were fairly normal; the Red-shouldered and Sparrow Hawks a little above normal; the Bald Eagle was recorded at Woodlands and Henderson, the Osprey at Marion.

Woodpeckers were normal for the state as a whole and exceptionally numerous at Mammoth Cave National Park, where their numbers have steadily increased, except for the Redheaded, for the last three years.

Crows were astonishingly scarce, with the 1410 at Danville being the top figure this season. On some of our counts there have been several observers who reported as many as several thousands at roosts. Just why the slump in Crow numbers is unknown; waste grain is as plentiful as ever.

Robins were very scarce everywhere except at Mammoth Cave, with its 324, more than in all the rest of the state. In 1957 Robins were reported up to 5000 in a single area.

Bluebirds seem a little better than they were expected to be, for many observers have been talking lately about a slump in Bluebirds in their observation territory.

Starlings appeared in great numbers only at Bowling Green and Louisville, where there are large roosts.

Myrtle Warblers are decidedly below par, except at Glasgow. Mammoth Cave usually has a large Myrtle Warbler population but is far below normal this season.

Cardinals made up for losses elsewhere, as did also the Purple Finch, the Slate-colored Junco, and the Rufous-sided Towhee.

Oddities are explained in the reports. It will be observed that the Brown Thrasher appears in four widely scattered places, the Wild Turkey at Woodlands and Mammoth Cave. The excellent list from Louisville, 94 species and an additional race, contains some remarkable finds: Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Western Grebe, Black-crowned Night Heron, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Peregrine Falcon, Glaucous Gull, Catbird, Western Meadowlark (also at Henderson), Brewer's Blackbird, Indigo Bunting, Oregon Junco, and Lapland Longspur.

Sixteen places, as you see, took counts. There were 110 participants; when repeaters are subtracted, you still have 92 who braved the fierce weather to count birds. In the table there are 105 species and 3,248,144 individuals. Thanks, all of you, for another good Christmas Count! Plan another big day for 1959.

## FIELD NOTES

### CHUKARS AT OWENSBORO

Two records of the Chukar Partridge (*Alectoris graeca*) in the Owensboro area have been called to my attention. The first record was made by Bernard Smith, Old Airport Road, Owensboro, who called to say that a strange bird had flown into his yard on November 1, 1957. I found it to be a Chukar. The other record was made on July 22, 1958, when G. C. Pirtle found an apparently stunned bird in front of his house at 1116 Cedar Street, Owensboro. There had been a heavy wind and rain storm, and the Chukar may have crashed into an object, or the sidewalk. In spite of the bird's being stunned temporarily, it seemed to be in good shape and not suffering from any lack of food. These birds may have come from those which were released near Earlington, in the strip-mining area, by the Fish and Wildlife Resources.—Albert L. Powell, Owensboro.

(Editors' note: The Chukar Partridge is a native of Asia. The Fish and Wildlife Service has been experimenting with this species to supplement our native Bobwhite, and the Chukars mentioned above are, doubtless, some of these pen-reared Chukars.)

### A HAND-REARED PURPLE MARTIN

In the summer of 1958 I had an interesting experience raising a young Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) to the fledgling state; I had attempted this in 1957, but without success. It seemed worth the trouble, for Forbush (1929, *BIRDS OF MASSACHUSETTS AND OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES*) says of the martin: "When a young bird falls to the ground, it is soon deserted by its parents, who give up the attempt to preserve its life."

In my yard I have a two-story, sixteen-room martin house mounted on an iron pole, and, in addition, I have eight gourds attached to a crosspiece on top of a wooden pole nearby; also, a single gourd tied to the wooden pole about half way up. The martins seem to like the gourds as well as the compartments of the house.

In the latter part of June, 1958, one of the gourds contained a family of five nestlings; they were continually leaning far out of the opening. One bird fell out, and I did not think I could raise it successfully; therefore, I placed it in the lower gourd with another family, as I could not manage to get up to the higher gourd. The nestling appeared smaller and younger than its nesting companions. In a few days I found it dead and lying on the ground beneath the gourd; it may have been killed by its foster parents, or perhaps not fed by them.

On July 2, 1958, another martin fell from the same gourd. I decided to try to raise it. The first thirty-six hours the bird was uncooperative, and it was necessary to pry open its bill to feed it. The third morning it had changed its mind and came running towards me with its bill wide open and begging for food. Thereafter it was a simple matter to feed it. I started out by feeding cooked chicken liver and boiled egg yolk. The main diet was chopped beef and a drop of cod liver oil added each day. I also caught a few insects, large butterflies, and grasshoppers, which it ate with relish.

The young martin seemed very healthy and strong all along; it preened its feathers, it did vigorous exercises frequently, it would fly short distances in the house and out of doors, it liked to ride around the house and lawn on my shoulder and at times on top of my head. Other young martins had taken wing, and I was hoping that it would be able to join them. One day I placed it on a post about four feet high and crouched in some shrubbery about twenty-five feet away to see what it would do. After preening and stretching a while, it flew to me. On July 14 it flew around the house and disappeared, but the next morning it had returned and was on my neighbor's doorstep, begging for food. On July 17 it made several practice flights in the yard, and late in the afternoon flew to the roof of the house. When I attempted to retrieve it, it took off, flying nicely. Two days later I saw a martin that I feel sure was the same bird. It was begging for food from an adult female. Two times the adult bird shoved the young off the perch and flew along beside it, seemingly trying to teach it to provide its own food. Thereafter I did not see it any more.—O. C. Keller, Somerset.

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### HAWK MIGRATION AT CURLEW, UNION COUNTY

As I left the "Dogrise" on my farm at Curlew, Kentucky, on the afternoon of September 23, 1958, I noticed several hawks soaring above me. They were apparently taking advantage of an updraft from Anvil Rock Hill. This is one of the Ohio River wind-blown hills, and a



southern breeze will come up the river valley for several miles, colliding with the hill and sweeping upward. One or two hawks may frequently be seen soaring above the hill; but this was the first time I had seen a large group, probably twenty-five or thirty, circling upward with little effort. When they had reached the desired height and had begun to glide toward the south, I decided to count them; as I counted, more hawks came into view from the north and began to circle. The hawks came in at various levels; the higher ones did not circle to gain height but continued their glide to the south; they were spread out high and low, some soaring, some gliding, and maintaining a path about a hundred yards wide. I tried to count them, but it was difficult to do because of their different heights. I am satisfied that I probably did not see the leaders of this migration; also I feel certain that I did not see the end of it. I had to drive away; as I left, hawks were still coming over the hill from the north. In gliding and soaring they presented a solid under coloring of silvery gray; but I am not well enough informed on hawk species to make a definite identification. However, it was of interest to me that in twenty minutes I counted one hundred and fifty-seven hawks!—Donald W. Martin, Henderson.

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#### BLUEBIRDS NESTING IN MARTIN BOX

For three years one of our K. O. S. members, Mrs. Lee E. Cralle, Primrose Way, has had Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) nesting in her Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) house. I was with her in the garden on July 1, 1958, when a male Bluebird came in with food in his bill and entered one of the compartments of the martin house. Martins have never used the house. House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) have tried to take over, but each year the Bluebirds have successfully chased them away. Another one of our members, W. G. Duncan, hearing of the martin box occupation, presented Mrs. Cralle with a regulation Bluebird house, which was put up early this past spring. When the Bluebirds arrived, they spurned the house put up especially for them and returned to the martin house.—Fan B. Tabler, Louisville.

(Ed. note: Bluebirds were observed nesting in the martin box at Kleber Song Bird Sanctuary.)

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#### WILD TURKEYS AT MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

In 1943 twenty-one wild turkeys from Kentucky Woodlands and a Mississippi game farm were released in Mammoth Cave National Park. For several years sight reports were so scarce—and the majority of these unconfirmed—that some believed the turkeys had not survived. In 1947 six more turkeys were released, and reports became favorable.

Annual wildlife reports made by the park to Washington, D. C., were optimistic. In 1950 it was estimated that 90 were in the park and that they were on the increase. However, in 1951 only 60 were reported, based on fewer observations, lack of food, and the severe ice and snow storm of February of that year. In 1952 the results were even more discouraging, with only a total population of 50 estimated, observations made by sights, tracks, and calls. In 1955 reports indicated that the bird was rare. In 1957 it was also reported as rare, based on the few observation records and on a special turkey count held in May of each year, with 4 reported in 1956 and 10 reported in 1957.

The picture has been more optimistic in 1958. On the May turkey count 15 were reported, 9 of these being sight records, and all of them north of Green River. During the year park employees made other sight records of 37 turkeys. The encouraging thing was that approximately half of these were seen south of the river, indicating a spread.

We hope these majestic birds will be able to survive and increase in the future.—Ray Nelson, Naturalist, Mammoth Cave National Park.

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### ROBERT C. SOAPER

"He had friends in all walks of life," Mrs. Soaper told me as we reviewed the many activities of Captain Robert Callaway ("Cotton") Soaper, who died suddenly of a heart attack on Monday night, December 8, 1958, at the age of sixty-seven. In June, 1958, he had retired as United States Wildlife Agent for the territory of Kentucky, southern Illinois, and western Tennessee. With citations from both the regional office in Atlanta and the Department of the Interior, he told his friends that he was going to devote the rest of his life to hunting and fishing just for himself. Always ready for rugged activity, he had spent the last afternoon of his life quail-shooting with Charles B. Smith (brother of our Miss Virginia Smith of the Kentucky Ornithological Society) and "Old Joe," the Smith pointer.

His active military life began with the local National Guard unit in the "Nightrider War" in Trigg County and soon after that with the same unit on the Mexican border in 1916-17. His unit was called from there to active duty in the United States Army at the beginning of World War I. By this time he had attained the rank of captain. He shipped overseas on June 11, 1918, and returned to the United States on September 23, 1919. While "over there," his unit was a part of the Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel encounters. His discharge was dated October 21, 1919.

In 1928 he was married to Miss Edith Wilson of Henderson, who survives. He has a daughter, Mrs. Beverly L. Clark, and a son, Robert C. Soaper, III.

In 1929 he won the nomination for sheriff of Henderson County in the Democratic primary over six other candidates by 1,500 votes and was elected overwhelmingly in November. He served in this office until January 1, 1935. After service in the state Department of Revenue, he was appointed as game management agent in September, 1935. At its inception the Fish and Wildlife Service was a part of the Department of Agriculture and was later placed under the Department of the Interior of the national government. His first territory was made up of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. During World War II the area was divided to give better coverage and conserve gasoline. In his earlier work he had often averaged 50,000 miles a year. Later, as more trained manpower became available, the territory was reduced still more.

Mr. Soaper has been successful in giving a wonderful lift to the idea of the conservation of wildlife during the twenty-three years he spent in this service. In the early days a game warden was placed in the same category as a revenue officer, and many of his cases, even in the last few years, have been for attacks on some of his deputy agents.

His work was approached from two points of view: strict enforcement and education. The latter to make plain the reasons for the necessity for the regulations. He was always aided by the local agents

with whom he worked. When he found that in one school system the seventh grade reader had the story "Jack Miner, the Ducks' Best Friend," he told the teacher that he would bring one of Miner's leg-bands with a suitable verse. In a few weeks a goose foot with the Jack Miner band was brought to the school with this Bible quotation: "He careth for you."—I Peter 5:7. Similar experiences could be extended many, many times.

He uncovered many illegal methods and devices, including very elaborate shocking units and even steel traps for geese. (See KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXIX, 53.) His knowledge of identification, habits, and habitats of many wild birds was very unusual. He trained many of the present staff of wildlife agents while they were deputies in his area. Always a student of wildlife and conservation, he served as president of the Isaak Walton League and accepted many responsibilities in the Henderson Audubon Society and the Kentucky Ornithological Society.—W. P. Rhoads.

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(News and Views Continued from Page 2)

more distant, plainly show the distinctive markings on this species in flight. The painting will be framed by the Beckham Bird Club and exhibited in the University of Louisville Library.

Mr. Rollin will be glad to accept orders for bird paintings at a very reasonable price. His address is Route 1, Weldona, Colorado.—Evelyn J. Schneider, Librarian, K. O. S.

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**"AS ITHERS SEE US"**

The COURIER-JOURNAL magazine section for January 12 contained a humorous article entitled "Weather for Ducks?" by John Meehan of the staff of that newspaper. It is a sympathetic but humorous account of the author's accompanying the fifth annual water bird trek across the Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge at 14th Street, Louisville. The humor was injected to laugh at the weather, not at the observers. "The Weather Bureau said the temperature was 19 degrees, but no weatherman was facing the hard winds blowing across the bridge." The article quotes Mrs. Yancey Altsheler, president of the Beckham Bird Club, which sponsors the annual hike, as saying that, in spite of the foul weather, there were recorded ten species of ducks, the Western Grebe, the Glaucous Gull, the Common Loon, the American Coot, and the Double-Crested Cormorant.

\* \* \* \* \*

**TOXIC PESTICIDES**

The National Audubon Society has issued, under date of November 10, 1958, a very revealing booklet on "The Effects of Toxic Pesticides on Wildlife." It is a reprint of all papers on this general subject given at the 54th annual convention of the society and sounds a warning against miscellaneous and unauthorized use of dangerous sprays and similar chemicals. Carefully compiled data show how bird and mammal life are being injured in many parts of the country.

### SONGS OF WARBLERS

The BULLETIN OF THE FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS for December, 1958, contains an excellent article to accompany the recent issue of "Songs of Warblers of Eastern North America," a long-playing record mentioned in a previous issue of the WARBLER. The record, which came to the editor as a Christmas present from the women teachers of his department, is aided greatly by this additional explanation of the songs, which were recorded by Dr. Donald J. Borror of the Ohio State University and Dr. William W. H. Gunn, of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists.

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### OUR SPRING FIELD STUDY

Don't forget our Field Study at Bowling Green on the weekend of April 17-19, 1959. Full announcements will be sent you later.

\* \* \* \* \*

### A PLEA FOR THE ENDOWMENT FUND

No doubt, when you read this, many will have paid or be about to pay K. O. S. dues for 1959. If you have not made out your check, and you are not a life member already, why not write a check for \$12.50 as the first installment of a four-year payment for a life membership? Or, better still, send Frederick W. Stamm, our treasurer, the full payment of fifty dollars and relieve yourself of all future payments. Selfishly, it is to your advantage to make this decision just as early in your life as you can afford to do so, since you will be saving on future dues payments. To pay now, while you still have an income or earning capacity, will assure your membership in the society and an unbroken file of the KENTUCKY WARBLER the rest of your life. Over and above this purely personal reason, you, of course, will be helping your society to become more soundly established. Your payments are placed in an endowment fund from which only the interest is used to help defray current running expenses. Incidentally, these payments as well as any gifts you make to the society are **deductible for income tax purposes**. In case you have already mailed your check for this year's dues, the treasurer will be glad to credit this payment on your first installment, so that you can begin your life-membership program now. Then here is another suggestion: we hope you will seriously consider bequeathing a sum of money to the Kentucky Ornithological Society at your death. This is an excellent way of preserving your interest in birds and enabling your society to be of greater value to each new generation as it studies, conserves, and appreciates the bird life of our state. Won't you add this bequest to your will at the earliest opportunity?—Leonard C. Brecher, Chairman Endowment Committee.

K37  
Birds

Division of Birds

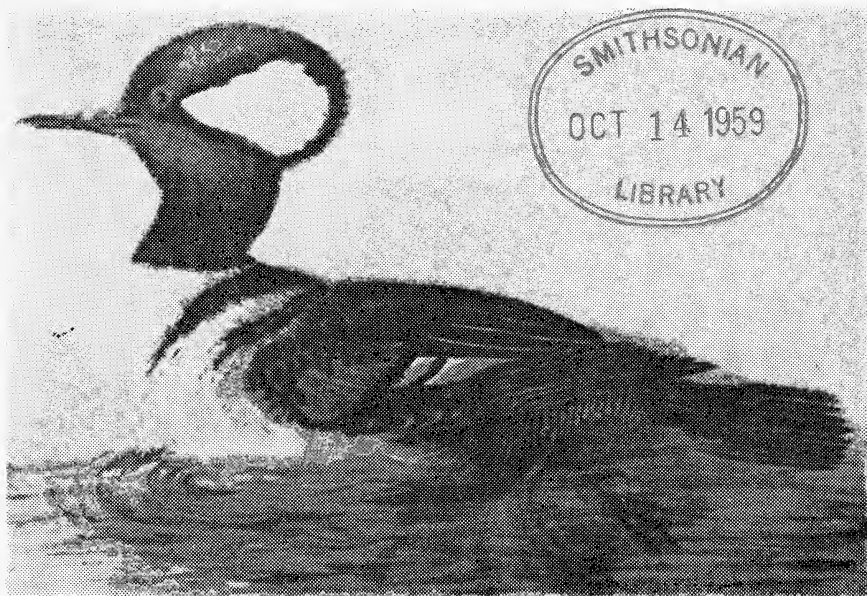
# The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. XXXV

MAY, 1959

No. 2



**HOODED MERGANSER**, from a painting by Sadie F. Price now in the Library of the Missouri Botanic Gardens, St. Louis

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## MR. BACON DIES

Brasher C. Bacon, one of the three Founders of the Kentucky Ornithological Society and long a great proponent of conservation, died while being taken to the Hopkins County Hospital. He had been in poor health for several years but was not regarded as in any danger until fairly recent months. He was unable to attend our fall meeting at Dawson Springs last October but sent his best wishes and his plan for placing his excellent collection of nests and eggs at the Kentucky Building at Western Kentucky State College in honor of Drs. L. Y. Lancaster and Gordon Wilson and as a good will gesture to the college where his two sons were educated.

All his life he was interested in wildlife and conservation and was a pioneer in establishing and protecting sanctuaries for songbirds. His many activities at Madisonville made his sanctuaries show places for people of similar interests as his. There was nothing quite like a trip around one of his sanctuaries with him: every tree, every brook or lake, every other natural object was made vividly alive by his accounts of how he had attempted to preserve everything in its own setting.

In April, 1923, with Dr. L. Otley Pindar and Gordon Wilson, he founded the Kentucky Ornithological Society, becoming the first vice-president of the organization and later serving as its president. Until 1941 the constitution that he prepared for the society was unchanged; meanwhile the group had grown so large that it was necessary to rewrite the constitution, but Mr. Bacon's basic features remained. From time to time he contributed articles and notes to the KENTUCKY WARBLER, but not nearly so many as the editor requested. He always hoped to have some leisure to arrange his voluminous notes for publication, but ill health and death overtook him before he was able to carry out his plans.

At the spring, 1959, meeting at Bowling Green Dr. Hunter Hancock, the president of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, appointed as a committee to draw up suitable resolutions in memory of Mr. Bacon the following: Albert F.

Ganier, Leonard C. Brecher, Gordon Wilson, and Floyd S. Carpenter. They submitted the resolutions as follows:

BRASHER C. BACON

Whereas, death has recently taken from among us our beloved Founder, Brasher C. Bacon, we, the committee of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, wish to submit the following resolutions:

1. The Kentucky Ornithological Society has lost one of its ablest and most scholarly students of Kentucky bird life.

2. The cause of conservation, one of his greatest interests in a busy life, has suffered a great loss, locally and on the whole state and national scene.

3. The cause of making and guarding bird sanctuaries has most reason to feel his death, for Mr. Bacon has done more in this field than any other Kentuckian.

4. Most of all, our members and the members of the numerous ornithological and conservation societies with which he was affiliated miss his cheerful presence, his persistent interest in every phase of protecting and preserving our wildlife.

5. A copy of these resolutions are to be sent to the bereaved family.

6. A copy will be preserved in the files of our society and published in THE KENTUCKY WARBLER.

Committee:

Albert F. Ganier, Leonard C. Brecher, Gordon  
Wilson, and Floyd S. Carpenter

April 19, 1959

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF SADIE PRICE <sup>1</sup>

By Harvey B. Lovell, University of Louisville

### THE PRICE FAMILY HISTORY

Sarah Frances Price, or Sadie, as she was known, was born at Evansville, Indiana, in 1849, the third child of Alexander Price and Marie Morehouse Price. She was the youngest of three children. Her brother, Frederick S. Price, born 1843, and her sister and life-long companion, Mary Elizabeth Price, born 1845, completed the family. The Prices moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky, while Sadie was still quite young. However, they sent her back to Terre Haute, Indiana, to St. Agnes Hall, a church school run by the Episcopal Church, from which she graduated.

Her father was a successful business man, at least up to the time of the War between the States. He ran a retail and wholesale grocery business, and the family lived in a fine home on Adams Street in Bowling Green. They were prominent members of the Christ Episcopal Church, and the church records show that Mary Price was confirmed by Bishop Smith on May 12, 1861. The mother died in 1874, the father in 1875, and brother Frederick in 1879. Mary Price gave the altar at Christ Episcopal Church in memory of her parents in 1888 and at her death left the family silver to the same church to be melted down to make a communion service, again in memory of her father and mother. There is no record of Sadie's ever joining the church.

During the Civil War, Mr. Price found himself in trouble because of his Northern sympathies. His son served in the Union Army. According to one story, Mr. Price converted most of his wealth into gold and Mrs. Price stitched the coins into two belts, one of which she wore and he kept the other. In an unpublished manuscript entitled "Conscience Money" Miss Sadie tells a story which seems to be at least partly based on truth. At the end of the paper there is a note to the editor which states "It is an o'er true tale." The story described her father's experiences during the war. She writes, "In the war of secession my father's sympathies were with the Union. On the invasion of the state by the Confederates, early in the sixties, he sent his family north, intending to remain at home. . . . As my father had been repeatedly warned by acquaintances, who were avowed friends of the Confederacy, that it would be more prudent for him to leave, he finally decided to go north."

According to the story, Mr. Price was accompanied by a friend to whom he entrusted the money when he was afraid he was going to be caught, and the friend later claimed to have lost the belt. In any case the Prices were in reduced circumstances after the war.

<sup>1</sup> Contribution No. 26 (New Series) from the Department of Biology University of Louisville.



### EARLY WORK OF SADIE PRICE

Just how Miss Sadie became interested in natural history, we do not know. It seems probable, however, that she first became interested in painting, and that she used flowers and birds as subjects. She suffered from ill-health most of her life, and was bedridden for twelve years. One of her students recalls that something was wrong with her back. She read extensively during that time and even taught drawing from her bedside. She finally took medical treatments from Dr. Weir Mitchell of Philadelphia and returned six months later much improved. As she called it, she had been "patched up." This must have been by 1887 or slightly earlier, for it was then that her biological studies were begun in earnest. She made collecting trips not only in the immediate vicinity of Bowling Green but to many of the neighboring counties in southern Kentucky in order to collect flowering plants and ferns and to make observations on birds.



SARAH FRANCES (Sadie) PRICE

1849-1903)

from a small picture in FERN BULLETIN, 1904.

Miss Sadie was well read in literature, according to one of her pupils. Her first two publications were non-biological and consisted of compilations. SONGS FROM THE SOUTHLAND, a small book of thirty-two pages, was published in 1890, followed two years later by SHAKESPEARE'S TWILIGHTS. The latter consisted of quotations from Shakespeare which were arranged in two parts: first, his morn-

ings, and second, his evenings. These were beautifully illustrated by two artists, W. P. Chalomer and H. P. Barnes. Both books were published by D. Lothrop and Company, Boston.

### THE WORLD'S FAIR EXHIBIT

The Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 was a great stimulus to Miss Sadie's studies in natural history. She decided to enter an exhibition of paintings of the plants and birds of Warren County and began her work in 1888 or 1889.

When the exhibit was ready, Miss Sadie held a reception at her home to show the town the results of her labors. The local paper (March 3, 1893) spoke of the collection as "a unique and interesting one. It consists of an elaborate collection of plants and botanical specimens procured wholly in Warren County. There are 720 different specimens and these are drawn and painted and arranged in series; each drawing and painting is placed on cardboard and grouped with the series to which it by nature belongs. Each of the series is enclosed in a paper case . . . Miss Price has been four years in collecting and preparing the exhibit, which is a perfect and accurate epitome of the botanical growth of Warren County."

The exhibition of plants and birds won first prize at the Columbian Exposition, and the Committee on Awards wrote her on April 17, 1894, that her award would be inscribed on a diploma and sent her. She had won over more than a hundred contestants. This must have been a great honor, especially to a woman who had spent twelve years in bed and whose life at best was extremely quiet and uneventful. The medal and diploma were presented to the University of Kentucky by Mary Price, five years after her sister's death. Dr. Harrison Garman wrote under the date of May 7, 1908: "With reference to the medal and diploma, I would say that we should be glad to take care of them here. Your sister was one of the few Kentuckians who has shown the genuine naturalist's spirit, and I do not know any institution in the state where her work is more prized."

### BOTANICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Even as early as July 1, 1890, Miss Sadie was invited to membership in the National Science Club of Washington, D. C. The letter inviting her says that she was recommended by Mrs. Elizabeth G. Britton, of New York. Mrs. Britton, herself a serious student of mosses, was the wife of Dr. Nathaniel Lord Britton, Professor in Columbia University and co-author of the famous Britton and Brown Botanical Manuals. Miss Sadie frequently sent plants to the Brittons for identification.

Miss Sadie now published the *FLORA OF WARREN COUNTY, KENTUCKY*, a 31-page leaflet summarizing her studies on the vascular plants which she had made in connection with the fair exhibit.

It contained a list of 714 species, giving the scientific name, a common name, and in some cases a local name when known. The copies in the Missouri Botanic Garden at St. Louis, The Kentucky Building at Bowling Green, The Filson Club at Louisville, and the Louisville Public Library have 255 additional species written in the back, bringing the list to 969. This shows that Miss Sadie continued to add new species to the flora of the county at the rate of 25 per year for the next ten years.

She now began to publish short notes on her botanical discoveries in several botanical journals, beginning in 1893. In the March 1 issue of *GARDEN AND FOREST*, she commented upon her discovery on September 10, 1892 of "A Rare Fern, *Asplenium Bradleyi*," 13 miles from Bowling Green. In the same journal for September 27, 1893 she discussed cave plants. She wrote that "A different growth of plants is to be found in the cave entrances and large sink holes than along the banks of streams. . . . Another very interesting sink is 'Cave Mills,' a small stream that arises above ground several yards beyond, flows into the entrance of this sink and disappears. . . . It has also been called Lost River, as the stream disappears under the large arched rock of the cave, extends underground a mile or more, and then reappears above ground, following a creek that flows into Barren River.

"The third sink is not as deep as Wolf's Sink, but the entrance is about as large in diameter. It is by the side of a road leading to the river, in a dense grove of trees and so is in constant shadow. It is rather a gloomy spot, and has gained the reputation of being haunted among the superstitious negroes living nearby. I tried to hire some half-grown negro children to climb down to gather some plants for me, but they refused, saying there were 'haunts' down there." Miss Sadie evidently went to the bottom herself, for she gives a list of plants she found there. It was rugged country through which the Kentucky naturalist was pursuing her plants, and the nearly inaccessible sinks were only one of the hazards she had to face.

In 1889, Miss Sadie published a six-page leaflet entitled *THE TREES AND SHRUBS OF KENTUCKY*. It contained a list of 255 woody plants, of which 145 are trees, and 110 shrubs or woody climbers. The eleven naturalized plants in the list are indicated by bold face. In the introduction she writes, "I shall in this list, use the new nomenclature as given in Brown and Britton's new 'Flora,' and after this name give the more familiar one given in Gray's Manual. I also give the common name, and after this, in quotation marks, the local name that I have heard used by farmers while on my numerous collecting excursions through the state." She found only six additional species, as shown by this number added in writing to the copy in the library of the Filson Club.

Dr. B. L. Robinson, Curator of the Gray Herbarium, took Miss Price to task for using the unorthodox names of Britton and Brown's

FLORA. He wrote in part: "Thank you very much for your excellent list of the Woody Plants of Kentucky. It shows careful and painstaking work. I always regret to see the names of the so-called reformers used. The Latin nomenclature is such an important matter for international communication that its stability cannot be too carefully guarded." This letter must have been somewhat of a shock to Miss Sadie, who probably had not known up to this time about the bitter rivalry that was developing between the international and the American systems of nomenclature.

### FERNS

Ferns were one of the chief interests of Miss Sadie throughout her active career. She constantly refers to them in her publications. She worried about the way the more beautiful forms were being destroyed around the parks and resorts, especially in the eastern mountains. Her best known contribution in this field was the FERN-COLLECTORS HANDBOOK AND HERBARIUM, published by Henry Holt and Company in 1897. This work contained seventy-two full-page drawings of the ferns of eastern United States drawn by her. There is a guide in the front, arranged in part like a dichotomous key as an aid to identification, but otherwise the species are not described. The plan was for collectors to use the book to keep pressed samples of each species on the blank page opposite each drawing. This book received a favorable review in the FERN BULLETIN by the editor, Willard N. Clute, as follows: "Another interesting volume designed to assist the beginner in fern study has recently appeared. By its use one who knows nothing of botany, may identify any fern in the region mentioned, by merely turning the pages until he comes to the illustration that matches his specimen." On the other hand THE NATION was mildly critical in its review: "In this Quarto, seventy-two excellent figures of our native ferns are given. We could wish that, in a few instances, the artist had carried a more steady hand, even at the risk of rendering the outlines less sketchy: to us it seems that a little more care in the representation of the axis of the fronds would not have been thrown away. . . The artist has a gift for meeting difficulties instead of slurring them over, which we trust she will employ in further illustration. Both she and Schuyler Mathews have rendered good service in the botanical sketches, and we must ask them both for more." All in all, the publication of this book was a botanical triumph for the Kentucky naturalist, isolated in southwestern Kentucky, far from any libraries, herbaria, or talented botanists. She had to depend entirely upon the U. S. mails to keep her in touch with the scientific world. There is no evidence that any naturalist of note ever broke in upon her isolation, or that she ever visited one on her few trips out of her home territory, unless it might have been Dr. Harrison Garman of the University of Kentucky.

## ORNITHOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

For many years, Miss Sadie was deeply interested in birds and drew every species she could obtain. She was familiar with most of the kinds found in Warren County, as shown by the large number of species represented in her portfolio. She had first accumulated a large series of water color paintings for her exhibit in the Columbian Exposition in 1893, and she continued to add to it through the rest of her life, as shown by the dates on some of the paintings. Many of the birds were drawn from specimens brought to her in the flesh by one of her pupils or by J. H. Clagett, and others were drawn from the collections of local taxidermists (who were free to mount any bird they wished in those days).

In 1894 Harrison Garman published his PRELIMINARY CHECK-LIST OF THE VERTEBRATE ANIMALS OF KENTUCKY, in which he quotes several birds on the authority of Miss Price. For example he lists, *Peucaea aestivalis*, the Pine Woods Sparrow (he called it the Oak Woods Sparrow), as follows: "this species has been observed by Miss Sadie F. Price of Bowling Green. It is probably not uncommon locally in western Kentucky. I have found it rather common in Illinois near our border." To have learned this inconspicuous bird was no mean feat. For the Bobolink, he writes, "Not common, Miss Sadie R. Price has observed it at Bowling Green." Mr. Garman may have seen her bird paintings, as shown by his comment on the Loggerhead Shrike: "Miss Sadie F. Price of Bowling Green has a water color sketch of a specimen obtained at that place." Since she had not published any articles on birds at that time, Garman must have obtained his information directly from her.

Miss Sadie's earliest publication on birds was entitled "Queer Misfortunes of Birds" and appeared in the *American Naturalist* in 1895. In this she described a Crow Blackbird (Grackle) which had perished by becoming caught by the neck in a string in a tree overhanging the road. A Hairy Woodpecker was found dead with its bill driven into the trunk of a tree with such force that it could not extricate itself. The rest of the article is about diseases in caged Mockingbirds.

A newspaper article published in the *Bowling Green Courier* on May 31, 1896, shows that Miss Sadie was familiar with the songs of most of the local species. She begins, "I have frequently been asked to give a list of Kentucky song birds. The following list contains the names of the principal singers that make their homes with us, or visit us in their fall and spring migrations." She arranged them by families, giving comments about the songs of some as well as giving the status of most of them, that is, whether transient, summer resident, or permanent resident. The House Wren is not mentioned, indicating that it was not then present. At the end of the article she included a list of nineteen warblers and adds, "The above is a partial list of the

Warblers seen in southern and western Kentucky. As many more probably come here occasionally. The Kentucky biologist in his 'Kentucky Vertebrates' has listed thirty-eight, while Mr. Beckham gave thirty-four. Among the family of so-called 'Warblers' there are few that can be called singers, but they are very interesting little birds on account of their varied and brilliant plumage and the habit that some have of seeking high tree tops where they flit about for insects, concealing themselves and their nests in the foliage, so that they are difficult of identification, often leading the bird students many a weary tramp before a good view of them is obtained." From this we learn that she had two recent publications on Kentucky birds, that of Garman's mentioned above and also Charles Wickliffe Beckham's LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NELSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, published in 1885.

Her two final publications on birds, which appeared posthumously in the AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY in 1904, were written near the end of her life, probably in 1902 or 1903. The first, entitled "Bird Sketches from Southern Kentucky," gives an account of the birds observed on a field trip to a country residence in Warren County, which she reached after a two-hour trip by steamboat on the Barren River. She writes that "three days spent in the woods near the river, boating or wandering on the bluffs and densely wooded banks and open fields adjacent, gave a notebook of bird notes and a feast of musical notes long to be remembered and treasured. Southern Kentucky is rich in resident song birds and favored by many migrant singers." Her wide knowledge of literature is attested by the frequent quotations with which her writings are profusely sprinkled. She refers to the mockingbird as that "trim Shakespeare of the trees," and the Baltimore Oriole as that "scrap of sunset with a voice." Her all-round knowledge of birds is well illustrated by the following quotation: "As we glided down the stream a solitary fisherman, the Little Green Heron, 'Shidepoke' in local parlance,—was observed standing erect on a floating drift, patiently waiting an unwary fish. 'Solitary tattlers' and a Killdeer were seen near the bank. A mother Wood Duck and the young also were heard near. A glimpse of a Red-shouldered hawk and its 'chicken' was heard far over-head in a dense tree top.

"Bee-martins were seen, and a Carrion Crow ('Black Buzzard') had built its rude nest at a cave entrance in the bluff, and startled us by flapping out in our faces as we approached. The young, half-fledged, the color of young ducks, grotesque objects, all head and eyes and surrounded by anything but the airs of Araby, stood shivering at our notice.

"The Kingfisher was a common bird on the river,—while Vireos and Tit-mice, the gray Nuthatch and Carolina Wren were common notes heard every day. The 'Maryland' Yellow-throat is an early bird, beginning its matins at four o'clock or earlier." She also describes the nests of the Phoebe and Wood Pewee.

She does not give the date of this trip, but judging from the bird activity, the time must have been May or early June. The rest of the article consists of random notes on birds, particularly the Robin, Bobo-link, Cardinal, Partridge (Bob-white), Wild Turkey, Woodcock, and a list of local ducks and shore birds.

Her last article, which is entitled "**Kentucky Birds,**" gives data on thirty-six species which Miss Sadie considered unusual or worthy of note. Among these were the Snowy Owl (occasionally seen in southern Kentucky), Golden Eagle ("I saw and identified one in a collection of birds owned by a taxidermist near Bowling Green"). Long-billed Curlew ("Rare. One was shot near here a few years ago"), Franklin Gull (a painting of this is in her collection), Sand-hill Crane, and Snowy Egret.

Most of Miss Sadie's paintings of birds are deposited in the Library of the Missouri Botanic Gardens, in St. Louis, Missouri, where they were sent after her death by her sister Mary. These paintings are mounted in a large scrap book which is rapidly deteriorating with age. The paintings themselves are in excellent shape, each one being covered by a transparent sheet of paper. The birds are arranged by orders, beginning with the ducks and ending with the hawks and owls. They may have been placed in this scrap-book by Miss Mary after her sister's death.

Most of the drawings are nearly natural size or when necessary reduced somewhat in the case of the larger birds. Most of the small birds are drawn standing on a branch. Several of the water birds are shown swimming in the water. Two birds, the Nighthawk, and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, are in flight. In at least six cases, where species exhibit pronounced sexual dimorphism, both male and female are shown, as in the Cardinal, Summer and Scarlet Tanagers, Sparrow Hawk, Indigo Bunting, and Bobolink. In several species she has also drawn the nest, as, for example, the Chimney Swift is hanging to the side of its nest, the Wood Pewee has a nest in the crotch of a limb, and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is flying over its nest.

Most of the pictures have little or no background, other than the perch. One cannot but wish that Miss Sadie had drawn some of her flowering plants as backgrounds, but she always kept her bird paintings and flower paintings separate.

The bird paintings are usually very accurate and well colored and in lifelike poses. However, some minor errors have been noted. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet has too much red on the back of his head, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird has the red throat extending part way down on its chest, the Chipping Sparrow does not have enough white over the eye and too much black below the white stripe. Several birds do not have proper wing bars. Not having any diagrammatic sketches of birds to compare with her paintings, it is not surprising that she

made some errors or omitted some diagnostic markings. Audubon has about the same number of inaccuracies in his paintings. Some of her birds have poor proportions or unnatural positions. However, in many cases she has captured a typical pose.

There is every reason to believe that all her paintings were made from birds obtained in Bowling Green and vicinity and are therefore fairly good Kentucky records. At least four of her birds are still not thoroughly substantiated by modern specimens and represent one of our best pieces of evidence that the species occurs in Kentucky. The Long-billed Curlew, Blue Grosbeak, Long-eared Owl, and Franklin's Gull evidently were found in southern Kentucky in Miss Sadie's time, as shown by her water-color paintings of these four species.

Four species have been included twice in the scrap-books: the Black Tern, the Pied-billed Grebe, the Yellow Warbler, and the Golden-crowned Kinglet. All together there are 152 paintings of birds, representing 142 species. In the case of the smaller birds, such as the warblers, there are several species on the same plate. There are also seven plates of bird's eggs, showing eighty-six eggs and seventy-one species. There are several drawings of Cowbird's eggs showing how the markings in the eggs of this species vary.

#### THE TRAVELS OF SADIE PRICE

The problems involved in travel for a woman in poor health, especially in the back country, were considerable in her time. One of her pupils states that Miss Sadie always wore long dresses to her ankles and high shoes, not boots. She was so weak that she had to be helped over fences, which luckily were mostly rail fences, and "not one inch of leg above the shoes must show." Mrs. Will Potter, one of her former students, recalled an occasion when Miss Sadie, after climbing a particularly difficult fence, leaned against a tree and laughed at her own weakness. She drove herself hard, took the most difficult trips, and nothing would deter her when she was after a rare specimen.

One of Miss Sadie's articles, entitled "Perusin' the Pennyrile Country," is an interesting account of one of her longer trips which she made with Miss Betty Patterson, a nature teacher in Ogden College. Miss Sadie was always much interested in the native vernacular. When she heard a country woman use the word "perusin'" one day, she was much taken with it and thought it the most appropriate word to fit what they were doing. "We certainly do peruse the country we visit," she said again and again, according to Mrs. Carson. In this article Miss Sadie tells, in a very entertaining way, the problems which faced two ladies in the back country in search of natural history specimens.

She writes "Our way before reaching Green River led over a long stretch of turnpike, then a rock incline until we reached the sandstone



ridge. We crossed many little streams—one of them dark with asphalt in the soil . . . After leaving the mail route we entered a rough country road that passed beneath the edge of a large rock projecting over a cave entrance. As we approached, the cave opened dark and weird before us, and the road was in deep shadow under the immense chestnut oaks and beeches that bordered it . . . ”

“A feeling of sadness came over us as we watched our driver turn the horses homeward and we were left in the wilderness, many miles from a railway. The picturesque little creek of this locality,—a mere brook in dry weather with its banks covered with laurel,—is called Ivy Creek, the local name of the laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) being ‘Ivy’.”

She described her collection of the rare filmy fern: “A turn in the cliff, a lowering of the head, still lower, down on the knees, then I obtained a full view of the dainty beauty. But to collect it a humbling of my pride was necessary, as I had to cast aside hat and botanical equipment, and crawl under the projecting rock, with scarcely room for head and shoulders to enter. It meant strained muscles and fresh accumulation of mud on the dress that had already passed recognition.”

On their return the girls found “The river was out of its banks and very rapid, the boat unwieldy, and the guide not a dextrous oarsman. We made slow progress; but when the boy lost an oar, we were at the mercy of the contrary stream. The boat swung back and forth down the stream brushing against the willows on one bank and then the other so that to return was the only alternative.”

Mrs. James O. Carson, one of the most active students in the nature class, recalls many of the trips she took with Miss Sadie to Edmonson County and other nearby counties, but the naturalist preferred Edmonson County because it was wilder and yielded more unusual specimens. Usually a party of six or eight went along. In addition to Dr. and Mrs. Carson, the group usually consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence McElroy (a lawyer), Mr. Thomas W. Thomas (also a lawyer who went along because he enjoyed the trips), Mrs. Will Potter, and Miss Florence Ragland. Some trips were overnight affairs, lasting two to three days. Her older sister, Miss Mary Price, never went on the field trips, but in spite of this she knew a great deal about her sister's collections, and when shown a new plant by a visitor, would confidently exclaim, “She has that one,” or “That is a new species.”

#### THE SADIE PRICE NATURE CLASS

One of the activities which added greatly to the fame of Sadie Price was her nature class. The class attracted some of the more prominent young people of Bowling Green. Mrs. Will Potter had two children, yet she still found time to attend these classes, as she told me: “Not so much that I was interested in nature, but rather because I thought it was a great opportunity to study under her. In spite of

her ill health, Miss Sadie never missed a class. There were usually ten to twelve in attendance. The class met once a week and I think we paid \$5.00 each quarter. On short field trips, the class went in an open wagon, usually driven by a negro (Mrs. Potter called it a wagonette). We took a lunch with us. Occasionally friends not in the class went along, but sometimes Miss Sadie was too ill to accompany the class. One of their favorite trips was to Bear Creek."

Another popular trip was to the Gulph, which was too difficult to drive into. Dr. Carson had to untie the horse and lead him down an eight-foot drop. Then the men let down the wagon on ropes so Miss Sadie would not have to walk so far. Edmonson County was a nest of moonshine stills. A native with a gun nearly always dropped in on the party and stayed with them. He would say he was out hunting, but the naturalists knew that he was a moonshiner who was delegated to make sure that they would not stumble on a still.

Miss Sadie had only one male pupil, Arthur Underwood, a student at Ogden College, who made a collection of plants of the area under her supervision. He was often assisted by another boy, Argo Clagett, son of J. H. Clagett, for many years professor of English at Western State College. Miss Florence Ragland recalled that upon one occasion, these two boys brought in a rare bird which they had shot. Miss Sadie became quite excited and scolded them for killing it. However, it was quite customary for them to have dead birds in the class, and later Miss Sadie made this bird the subject of a class exercise. Argo Clagett remembers the incident well but does not recall the species of bird. Since both Mrs. Carson and Mrs. Potter insisted that there were no boys in the class, it seems probable that young Mr. Underwood was a special pupil who met with her privately, at least most of the time. Underwood graduated from Ogden College, later went to West Point, and became a professional soldier.

After her death, the class continued to meet as the Sadie Price Nature Class at the homes of some of the members. They had a strong urge to continue her work, but no one had the time or ability to make original contributions and publish them. The class was very active for fifteen years and continued to meet occasionally until quite recently.

#### MISS SADIE'S PERSONAL LIFE AND APPEARANCE

In spite of her success as a naturalist, and the popularity of her nature class, Miss Sadie lived a life apart from the community. She had advanced ideas (for that time), even believed in woman's suffrage, and may have been an agnostic (according to Mrs. Carson). "Miss Sadie thought that men were making fun of her because she had stepped out of the usual role of a woman. She thought they objected to her activities as a naturalist, because she was doing things that only men should do. It was a fixation with her. Dr. Carson once invited her to speak to a business men's club to which he belonged. Al-

though she was fond of the doctor and believed him sincere in his request, she could not bring herself to appear before a group of men. She thought they asked her in order to make fun of her."

Although Miss Sadie was sometimes disgusted because her pupils did not work hard enough, Mrs. Potter does not remember of her ever losing her temper. She had a way of expressing disapproval by curling her lips in a characteristic way, when a student did not show as much interest as she should. Miss Florence Ragland, however, recalled very vividly an occasion when Miss Sadie did lose her temper and became so angry with her that Miss Ragland left the class and went home. A few days later Miss Sadie called on her and was very pleasant but made no reference to the episode except to ask, "I hope you will be in class next time," and Miss Ragland returned.

The Prices lived on Eleventh Street. They had a wild flower garden on the north side of their house. Miss Sadie was against bringing in flowers that would not stand transplantation. For example, she would not let the nature class attempt to transplant Dutchman's breeches, because she had found it would not live in her yard. In her writings she often speaks with regret of the destruction of the native flora.

The consensus of opinion of four of her former students was that Miss Sadie was not a pretty woman. She had prominent teeth and a nervous laugh. She was thin and rather tall—spare is the word for it, according to her best friend, Mrs. Carson. However, she was very shy and sensitive, smiled frequently, and was very friendly with her students, who adored her. She was highly respected in the town for her talents and growing fame.

We have Willard N. Clute, the editor and publisher of the FERN BULLETIN, to thank for the only extant picture of Sadie Price. Mr. Clute was publishing a series of biographical sketches of fern students and wanted a photograph of her to go with it. He wrote November 19, 1901, as follows:

"After turning over in your mind the FERN BULLETIN'S request for permission to print your portrait, I hope you have decided to accede to it. May we not have the photograph for this next volume. Those who have your fern book will certainly be very glad to see your portrait as you partly belong to the public—having published a book—the public ought to be gratified in this."

Miss Price apparently delayed so long having her picture taken that her biography turned out to be her obituary, as it was not published until 1904, six months after her death.

### MOLLUSCA

In 1900 Miss Sadie published in THE NAUTILUS a list of the Mollusca of southern Kentucky. She wrote in the introduction: "While engaged in botanical work, I have collected the following land and

fresh-water shells, most of them in Warren County." Her paper contains a list of 151 species with data on the localities and abundance for most of the species. Dr. V. Sterki mentions specimens sent him in an article in the same journal, "And a few good specimens from Bowling Green, Kentucky, by Miss S. F. Price in 1899. They . . . are valuable in showing a wide geographical distribution of our species." Most of her shells were sent to the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia as follows: July 20, 1898, fourteen trays of shells; August 10, 1900, specimens of *Unio* and *Pyramidula*; and February 4, 1902, three specimens of *Polygyra*. A brief account of her life which appeared in the NAUTILUS comments, "In the last dozen years she became interested in Mollusca, and becoming acquainted by correspondence with conchologists working upon inland species, she collected assiduously and successfully, publishing a list of her local collections in this journal. Like a true naturalist, Miss Price passed on to many pupils the love of nature."

### INSECTS

Strangely, Miss Price published very little about insects. She made many pages of water-color drawings of butterflies and other insects which fill a large volume in the library of the Missouri Botanic Gardens. Many of these show sequences of development from caterpillar to pupa to butterfly.

### INDIAN ARTIFACTS AND FOLKLORE

The versatile Miss Price was also interested in Indian artifacts. In the summer of 1896 along Green River in southern Kentucky, she counted more than a dozen mortar holes along a ridge. She writes in the ANTIQUARIAN of an oblong knob called "Indian Fort" in the northwestern part of Warren County. In a corn field she found a group of limestone slabs, set edgewise at regular distance about a foot apart and more than half buried under the earth. Here she found a number of pieces of broken bones and a small skull. These were later identified as a child's skull, two human femurs, several phalanges, and an ear bone.

Miss Price collected a great many local superstitions which she published in 1901 in the JOURNAL OF AMERICAN FOLK-LORE. She was interested in collecting local names for plants and birds. After listing a large number of superstitions which still prevailed, she wonders, "What the schoolmaster has been about all these years, or whether in spite of his efforts, these ideas are bound to survive and always retain a niche in the minds of sensible people."

### NEW SPECIES

Much of Miss Price's fame rests upon the new species of plants she discovered in her travels. Dr. B. L. Robinson of the Gray Herbarium published in 1898 in the BOTANICAL GAZETTE, "A New

Species of *Apios* from Kentucky." He named this *Apios Priceana*, and illustrated it by a drawing by Miss Price. He states that it was "collected in flower and fruit by Miss Sadie F. Price in rocky woods, Bowling Green, Warren County." It was so distinct that Dr. Robinson even made a new subgenus *Tylosemium* to contain it.

In the same year John K. Small described a new *Oxalis* in the BULLETIN OF THE TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB. He, too, named it in her honor, *Oxalis Priceae*. He wrote, "Miss Sadie Price, for whom this *Oxalis* is named, has furnished me with copious material from near Bowling Green, where she has observed this and other interesting species in the field for several years."

J. K. Small also described *Cornus Priceae*, a new species of cornel in TORREYA in 1901: "Several months since, Miss Sadie F. Price sent me flowering specimens of a *Cornus*, which she had found growing on river banks near Bowling Green."

Small also described *Clematis flaccida* in Britton and Brown's MANUAL OF THE FLORA OF THE NORTHERN STATES AND CANADA according to a letter which he wrote to Mary Price in which he states, "I have had the description of the species copied from Dr. Britton's Manual and send it to you with this note, 'New *Clematis* discovered by Sadie F. Price near Bowling Green, Ky.'" *Aster Priceae* was also named in her honor by Small in his MANUAL OF THE SOUTHEASTERN FLORA.

In 1900, Miss Price sent an unusual-looking violet to Charles Pollard of Washington, D. C. He finally published it as a new species in 1903 and wrote, "In rich soil, various stations around Bowling Green, Kentucky. The description is drawn from a clump of plants in my garden, sent me in May, 1901, by Miss Sadie F. Price; these flowered sparsely in April, 1902, but more freely in 1903, and were conspicuous when in bloom on account of the contrast between the purple margins and pale ground color of the corolla." He named it *Viola Priceana*. This violet has been grown in several gardens around Bowling Green ever since, where it is known as the Sadie Price violet. However, Brainerd regarded it as an albino form of *Viola papilionaceae*, and Fernald in Gray's MANUAL called it a synonym of *V. papilionaceae* forma *albiflora*, the Confederate violet.

Francis Lloyd and Lucien M. Underwood in the REVIEW OF LYCOPODIUM (1900) named a new species of *Lycopodium* from specimens sent by Miss Price. *Lycopodium porophilum* is described as being found on the mountains of Warren County "on the face of sandstone cliffs, June 8, 1898, S. F. Price."

Herman Von Schrenk described a new species of Basidiomycete fungus as *Polyporus juniperus* and in his description wrote, "This body does not appear to be common, for as far as known, it has been collected only twice, once in 1895 by Sadie F. Price, at Bowling Green, Ky. . . . and once by the writer near Murfreesboro, Tenn."

### THE LAST YEAR

Miss Price's fame during her last year reached a climax. She was offered the position as curator of the Joliet High School Museum, according to an item in the JOLIET DAILY NEWS, July, 1903: "Ex-sheriff Daniels and a news party visited Miss Price at her home about three years ago and together the party collected plants over some of the rarest Kentucky collecting ground. Only in June she was half inclined to accept the position, but finally concluded to remain with her Bowling Green Class in Nature Study, for the pupils seemed more to her than anything else. Miss Price was one of the best friends of the Joliet fern and plant collection. Her latest was the crimson flax, greatly admired by frequenters of the park rock garden. No little effort was exerted to make the collection perfect in time for the anticipated and long hoped for visit from Miss Price."

Professor T. D. A. Cockerell in 1903 wrote an article for the POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY entitled *The Making of Biologists*, in which he states, "The South is hardly represented at all; from South Carolina came J. A. Holmes and J. P. Smith; from Kentucky, Morgan and Miss Sadie Price; Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Virginia do not appear on my list at all.

Miss Sadie's crowning glory was her inclusion in *WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA* (1903-1905). Her biographical sketch reads in part as follows: "PRICE, SADIE F., botanist; b. Bowling Green, Ky.; Grad. St. Agnes Hall, unmarried, Received award, medal, and diploma, World's Columbian Exp'n. 1893, bot. work; teacher of botany; since 1887 has been engaged in studying the flora of southern Kentucky, traveling through counties that are without railroads, by stage, farm-wagon, skiff, etc. Has discovered many rare plants, several that are new to science; has made an herbarium, also sketches in water colors of the plants (1000 or more in the higher orders alone); also water color sketches of Kentucky birds. Author: (A list of her chief publications follows)."

### DEATH AND POSTHUMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS

Sadie Price died on July 3, 1903, from an attack of dysentery, at the age of fifty-four. She was at the peak of her powers and left much unpublished materials and many projects unfinished. Several of her unpublished manuscripts were submitted for publication by her sister, Mary Price. Miss Sadie had been commissioned by Willard N. Clute to prepare an article for the FERN BULLETIN on the fern flora of Kentucky. This appeared in the July, 1904, issue with the comment that it had been compiled from her notes. Other posthumous contributions were her manuscript on "*Kentucky Oaks*," which appeared in the PLANT WORLD in February, 1904, and two bird articles in the AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGIST, also in 1904. An autobiographical article describing in detail one of her longer trips, "*Perusin*" the

"Pennyrile" Country, appeared in two parts, also in the AMERICAN BOTANIST, for December, 1906, and January, 1907. These last three articles have been quoted from previously.

### THE DEVOTION OF MARY PRICE

Miss Mary Price devoted herself for years to the disposition of her sister's collections. The herbarium of plants, along with the numerous water color sketches, were sent to the Missouri Botanic Gardens. Dr. Trelease, director, replied that he was much pleased to secure the specimens and sketches for the herbarium. Both the plants and the flower paintings have been distributed according to their family and genus, and the author spent several days going through the Herbarium in St. Louis, hunting up examples of Miss Sadie's work. Both the pressed specimens and the colored sketches are in excellent shape, and the water colors are as beautiful as the day they were made.

Later Miss Mary dug up many of her sister's plants and sent them alive to Dr. Trelease, who wrote on October 29, 1903: "I am most grateful for the plants which you sent the 24th, and which have safely reached us and are planted together.—with a general label showing that they are from your sister's gardens, in addition to their individual labels."

In 1908 Miss Mary sent the rest of her sister's paintings to the Missouri Botanic Gardens, and Dr. Trelease replied, "The volume and portfolio containing your sister's exquisite bird and insect sketches came to hand yesterday, accompanied by your kind letter of the 4th. There has never been made to our library a more appreciated gift than this . . . I can assure you that the sketches will always be carefully preserved in our library, and I am sure that students of birds, as well as of plants, will many times think kindly of your sister's memory when using these products of her knowledge and skill."

In 1911 Miss Mary presented to Western Kentucky State Normal School "a collection of curios from India and China, including pictures, embroidery, carved ebony box, bronze idols and rings. This collection formerly belonged to Miss Price's sister, and is known as the Sadie F. Price Collection."

Miss Mary also presented copies of her sister's publications to several libraries, particularly to the Highland Branch of the Louisville Public Library. These are now in the Kentucky Room of the main building on York Street.

Her final gift was the scrap-book of Miss Sadie's writings, letters, newspaper notices which Miss Mary had been accumulating for years. In the scrap-book is Mary's last letter, placed there no doubt by Dr. Trelease.

"September 1914

Dr. Trelease,

Dear Sir: I am directing that this note and book containing notes and short articles written by my sister and notices of her work, etc., be sent to you not on account of its value, but because it will be cared for in your library and also because her herbarium and bird pictures are there. When you receive this you may know that I am just entering or have already entered the future life.

Very sincerely,  
Mary E. Price."

Acknowledgements. I am indebted to the librarian of the Missouri Botanical Gardens for the loan of the portfolio of bird paintings and the Sadie Price Scrap-book; to Thomas McCoy for the use of his manuscript on the life of Sadie Price deposited in the library of the Kentucky Building at Bowling Green, from which I obtained information on the Price Family and the early life of Miss Sadie; to Sadie Price's former students: Mrs. James O. Carson, Mrs. Will Potter, Miss Florence Ragland, and Mr. Argo Clagett, from whom I obtained intimate reminiscences about her personality and character; to Mrs. J. R. Alexander and Miss Marjorie Clagett from whom I learned a little about the Sadie Price legend; and to the Research Fund of the University of Louisville for a grant to travel to St. Louis to examine her pressed plants and water color sketches of her plants and insects.

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## Minutes of the Thirty-sixth Annual Spring Meeting

April 18-19, 1959

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its Annual Spring Meeting at the Lost River Motel at Bowling Green, Kentucky, this being the fourth consecutive field study in this location. Sixty-eight persons attended all or part of the meeting.

An informal meeting was held Friday evening in the cottage of Dr. and Mrs. Hunter Hancock. Color slides of birds and their habitats were shown by Miss Mabel Slack, Albert Ganier, and Harvey B. Lovell.

On Saturday morning the members, led by Dr. Gordon Wilson, had an interesting field trip, notwithstanding the unusual manifestation of the variability of Nature being demonstrated by the complete absence of water in the Chaney and McElroy Lakes. Here vast numbers of shore and water birds are usually observed each spring.

At noon picnic lunches were enjoyed at the well-kept roadside park on the southern outskirts of Bowling Green. Following lunch the members were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Grider, at their interesting limestone lake, where several species of ducks and grebes were observed.

The dinner meeting was held at the Helm Hotel, with Dr. Hunter Hancock presiding. After welcoming members and guests, he introduced the members of the executive board. Dr. Hancock introduced Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, who presented Dr. Frederick J. Hilton, of the University of Louisville. Dr. Hilton obtained his Ph. D. degree at Johns Hopkins University, where he did extensive research to determine the influence of hormones on the behavior of birds and small animals. This scientific address on "Bird Behavior," illustrated by graphs and professional artistry, was of unusual interest to our members.

A short business meeting was held after the main feature of the program. The treasurer, F. W. Stamm, reported on the progress of the **Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology** and said that he and co-chairman H. B. Lovell had received \$416.00, which had been placed in the Greater Louisville First Federal Savings and Loan Association. He also stated that the members of the Henderson Audubon Society had given a check for \$150.00. This was given as a memorial to the late R. C. Soaper. Shortly before Mr. Soaper's death he expressed a desire to see the Henderson group make some sort of contribution to the Fund. Mr. Soaper was interested in the work of Dr. Wilson, the Kentucky Ornithological Society, and its publication, **THE KENTUCKY WARBLER**. Mr. Stamm commended the Henderson group for this fine gesture and their contribution.

Dr. Gordon Wilson gave a short resume of the K. O. S., expressed his appreciation of the Fund of Ornithology that bears his name, and

extended an invitation to the Society to return to Bowling Green and "The Lakes." He also introduced the members and guests by their localities.

Mr. Albert Ganier said he had received a letter from Aaron Bagg, Secretary of the Wilson Ornithological Society, in which he said he hoped that in the near future it would be possible to hold a meeting in the south. Mr. Ganier asked if K. O. S. would be interested in co-operating with T. O. S. and inviting the Wilson Ornithological Society to hold its 1960 meeting at Gatlinburg, Tennessee. After some discussion Mr. Brecher expressed himself in favor of accepting the invitation from T. O. S. to assist with the project. Mrs. Stamm said that at present Kentucky state parks did not have ample facilities to house the Wilson group; so she, too, was in favor of K. O. S. assisting the Tennessee Society. In reply to Mr. Floyd Carpenter's question, "What would be the obligation of the K. O. S.?" Mr. Ganier stated that in all likelihood Mr. Stupka and his staff and the eastern members of T. O. S. would handle major details. Mr. John A. Cheek then moved that K. O. S. cooperate with T. O. S. in sponsoring the proposed meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society at Gatlinburg, Tennessee, in the spring of 1960. Motion seconded by Mrs. F. W. Stamm. Motion carried.

Mr. Ganier moved that the President appoint a committee to prepare a resolution to express our great loss in the death of Mr. Brasher C. Bacon. Second by Mrs. F. W. Stamm. Mr. Floyd Carpenter, Dr. Gordon Wilson, Mr. Ganier, and Mr. Brecher were appointed.

Mr. Leonard Brecher stated that a floral tribute from K. O. S. had been sent to the funeral of Mr. Bacon, and Dr. Wilson announced that Mrs. James Gordon of Madisonville had written that her garden club would like to present a bronze plaque at Western Kentucky State College in honor of Mr. Bacon.

The convention was concluded with a very pleasant Sunday morning field trip to the picturesque summer home of Dr. and Mrs. L. Y. Lancaster, at the mouth of Gasper.

One hundred species of birds were recorded for the two days in the field.

—Margaret W. Ringo, Recording Secretary.

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#### ATTENDANCE AT SPRING FIELD MEET, BOWLING GREEN

APRIL 17-19, 1959

**BOWLING GREEN:** Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Chamness, Dr. and Mrs. Nelson V. Graham, Dr. and Mrs. L. Y. Lancaster, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Long, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Milliken, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Pace, Frances Richards, Mary Ellen Richards, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Riley, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Roemer, Dorothy Shelton, Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Taylor, Mrs. W. G. Thomas, Mrs. F. E. Wilson, Dr. Gordon Wilson.

**DANVILLE:** Mrs. Powell Cheek.

**FRANKFORT:** Mrs. W. P. Ringo.

**GLASGOW:** Mrs. James E. Gillenwater, James Haynes, Dr. George McKinley, Dr. Robert McKinley, Lillian Simmons.

**HENDERSON:** Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Rhoads.

**LAWRENCEBURG:** Elizabeth Satterly.

LEXINGTON: Mrs. H. T. Holliday, Mrs. Robert Meyers, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Reece.

LOUISVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Helen Browning, Floyd S. Carpenter, James Craddock, Joseph Croft, Amy Deane, Dr. Frederick Hilton, Juanita Hyatt, Vivian Hyatt, Dr. and Mrs. Harvey B. Lovell, Marie Pieper, Evelyn J. Schneider, Mabel Slack, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. Roderic Sommers, Mary Van Winkle, Sally Van Winkle, Haven Wiley, Audrey Wright.

MURRAY: Dr. and Mrs. Hunter Hancock.

PIKEVILLE: John Cheek, Annette Smith.

VALLEY STATION: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Summerfield.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: Albert F. Ganier.

\* \* \* \* \*

### SUMMER RECORDS ON THE BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO

On July 30, 1947, I observed a Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) in willow trees at Spring Lake on the Spring Lake Wildlife Refuge, which is located at the west edge of Madisonville. This bird was studied at twenty feet, and I noted the dark mandibles, the smooth, even brown of the back, the white underparts, and the absence of rufous in the wings. The species was so unexpected in summer that I pondered the identification and did not publish the record. However, an experience last summer (1958) caused me to have more confidence in my 1947 record.

On July 14, 1958, I was taking an early walk on my mother's farm, which is located one and a half miles southwest of Madisonville, when I came upon a Black-billed Cuckoo in a persimmon tree near my late garden. Studying the bird while it was perched, I noted the dark lower mandible and the absence of rufous in the wings. Presently the bird flew to an apple tree and a second bird joined it, whereupon the two of them went through several seconds of a very obvious courting performance! Before they left, I got an excellent view of the red eye ring of one of these birds. I left convinced I had seen a pair of Black-billed Cuckoos.

Although I watched for them thereafter, I was unable to locate this species further, either on the farm or elsewhere.—JAMES W. HANCOCK, Madisonville.

\* \* \* \* \*

### ANOTHER SAW-WHET OWL RECORD

There are few published records of the Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) in Kentucky, and judging from these, it would seem that the species is quite rare. Therefore, I should like to add a record from western Kentucky.

On January 23, 1959, Carl Kays, local Fish and Wildlife Resources biologist, brought to me a frozen Saw-whet Owl. He found this small owl lying near a range-feeder (for Chukar partridge) in a strip-mined area, five miles southwest of Earlington. He had identified the bird before bringing it to me. We both agreed that the specimen clearly followed the size and general description of the Saw-whet.

On checking published records, I have found one by Mabel Slack (*Kentucky Warbler* XII, 1936), in which the bird was found by Dr. Arthur A. Allen in Cincinnati, Ohio, and near the Kentucky line. Frank Krull reported another at Jeffersontown, five miles east of Louisville. The latter was seen from October, 1955, regularly until

near the time of the Christmas Count, but could not be found on the day of the Louisville Count (*Kentucky Warbler* XXXII, 1956, p. 14). Roger Barbour cites one record (*Kentucky Warbler* XXVIII, 1952 p. 25), "a female collected near Morehead on October 21, 1939."

Perhaps this species is hardly so rare as these records would indicate, but it has obviously been seen by comparatively few observers in the state of Kentucky.—JAMES W. HANCOCK, Madisonville.

\* \* \* \* \*

**BIG SPRING LISTS**

As this issue goes to press, the editor has already on hand five Big Spring Lists. Please send in your list, so that it will appear in the August *WARBLER*.

\* \* \* \* \*

**NATURE'S FERTILITY**

On April 20, 1959, two young Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) were still being fed at the nest, in a pine tree just across the street from my house, on the Western campus. Four days later a mature Mourning Dove was brooding eggs in this same nest, which did not seem to have been changed in any way from the first nesting. I had noticed the small doves for several days and was expecting them to be leaving the nest soon but did not actually see them after their being fed on April 20.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

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**THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

- President.....Dr. Hunter Hancock, Murray
- Vice-President.....Mr. W. P. Rhoads, Henderson
- Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.....Mr. F. W. Stamm, 2118 Lakeside Drive, Louisville 5
- Recording Secretary.....Mrs. Margaret W. Ringo, Frankfort
- Councillors:
  - Mr. Al Mayfield, Lexington.....1957-59
  - Miss Evelyn J. Schneider, Louisville.....1957-59
  - Mr. John A. Cheek, Pikeville.....1958-60
  - Dr. Russell Starr, Glasgow.....1958-60
- Retiring President.....Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Louisville
- Librarian.....Miss Evelyn J. Schneider, University of Louisville Library
- Curator.....Mr. Burt L. Monroe, Ridge Road, Anchorage
- Editor.....Dr. Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green
- Associate Editor.....Mrs. F. W. Stamm, 2118 Riverside Drive, Louisville 5
- Assistant Editors:

Mr. Leonard C. Brecher, *Field Notes*; Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, *Notes on Ornithologists*.

**COMMITTEES:—**

- Nominating: Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Chairman; Mabel Slack, Robert Pace, Gordon Wilson.
- Membership: Evelyn J. Schneider, Chairman; Cynthia C. Counce, A. L. Powell, John Cheek.
- Auditing: Louis Pieper, Chairman; Floyd S. Carpenter.
- Conservation and Legislation: Burt L. Monroe, Chairman; Harvey B. Lovell, L. Y. Lancaster.
- Endowment: Leonard C. Brecher, Chairman.
- Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology: Harvey B. Lovell and F. W. Stamm, Co-Chairmen; Leonard C. Brecher, John Cheek, Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas.

31  
Birds

Division of Birds

# The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. XXXV

AUGUST, 1959

No. 3



SMITHSONIAN  
OCT 14 1959  
LIBRARY

Plate 25 of Alexander Wilson's AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY  
Upper left figure—Tennessee Warbler; large central figure—Mississippi Kite;  
center right—Prairie Warbler; bottom—Kentucky Warbler.

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## NEWS AND VIEWS

### THE KENTUCKY WARBLER AS SEEN BY ALEXANDER WILSON

In 1925, when our magazine was begun as a four-page quarterly, your editor named it in honor of the one bird that bears the name of our state, the Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*). This beautiful bird was discovered and named by Alexander Wilson in Kentucky on his famous western journey of 1810. Since he mentions (See below) that it arrives in Kentucky about the middle of April, he must have shot his first specimen not far south of Lexington, for he says in his letter to Alexander Lawson from Nashville on April 28, 1810, that he left Lexington on April 14. Because the original edition of Wilson's AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY is now very rare and even the numerous later editions are hard to find except in old-book sales, it might be well to include here Wilson's own account of the Kentucky Warbler just as it appeared in Volume III of his monumental work.

#### "KENTUCKY WARBLER (*Sylvia formosa*).

"This new and beautiful species inhabits the country whose name it bears. It is also found generally in all the intermediate tracts between Nashville and New Orleans, and below that as far as the Balize, or mouths of the Mississippi, where I heard it several times, twittering among the high rank grass and low bushes of those solitary and desolate looking morasses. In Kentucky and Tennessee it is

(Continued On Page 55)

## NOTES ON THE WESTERN MEADOWLARK IN THE SOUTHEAST

By Burt L. Monroe, Jr.

Since the year 1955 the Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) has exhibited a most remarkable expansion of its winter range. According to the A. O. U. Check-List, Fifth Edition, the eastern race of this species (*S. n. neglecta*) winters "... south to ... southern Texas (Brownsville, Cove), Louisiana, and Mississippi." It further mentions it as "Casual in Kentucky (Louisville, Bowling Green)." There is no mention of its occurrence in Alabama or Florida (p. 524, 1957).

Commencing with the winter of 1955-1956 this species put in its appearance (or at least was discovered) in considerable numbers in Alabama and western Florida, and, in smaller numbers, in central Tennessee and Kentucky.

A summary of known records of the species for these four states, prior to 1955, is as follows: **Kentucky**:—known from a specimen taken by Robert M. Mengel, six miles south of Louisville, Jefferson County, on December 31, 1946 (in lit.); specimen taken on May 4, 1949, at Chaney Farm, south of Bowling Green, by Robert M. Mengel (in lit.); and a singing bird at Madisonville, Hopkins County, in March and April, 1954, by James Hancock (*Kentucky Warbler*, 30:47-48, 1954). **Tennessee**:—recorded only from Shelby County, extreme southwestern Tennessee, in the Memphis area, where the species is regular in winter and has since been shown to be resident (Coffey, in lit., and in Newman, *Audubon Field Notes*, 10:390, 1956). **Alabama**:—known from a single record of a singing bird at Fort Morgan, Baldwin County, on March 19, 1949, reported by Henry Stevenson (*Auk*, 68:396, 1950). **Florida**:—totally unknown.

From December, 1955, to the date of this writing, February, 1959, the Western Meadowlark has been shown to be a regular winter resident in these four states, and even common in parts of Alabama and western Florida. A summary of records since 1955 follows:

**Kentucky**:—a group of three birds one mile north of Anchorage, Jefferson County, from December 22 through December 25, 1956, by Burt L. Monroe, Sr., and the writer, from which group the second state specimen was secured on December 25, now deposited in the University of Louisville collection; on February 14, 1957, one was observed on the Chaney Farm south of Bowling Green, at close range, for fifteen minutes as it fed and sang on the ground in freshly plowed land (*Kentucky Warbler*, 33:58); a single bird noted by the Monroes on December 20 and 21, 1958, near Brownsboro, Oldham County.

**Tennessee**:—exclusive of Shelby County, recorded from Ashport and Fort Pillow, Lauderdale County, on February 2, 1957, by Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr.; near Somerville and LaGrange, Fayette County, March 10, 1957, by Coffey and Alice Smith; and at Pulaski, Giles County, March 4, 1957, by the writer (in Newman, *Audubon Field Notes* 11:272, 1957).

**Alabama:**—numerous records for Limestone, Jackson, Perry, Baldwin, and Mobile counties, with extreme dates of November 1 and March 23, including three specimens: Marion, Perry County, February 16, 1957, by Thomas A. Imhof and Lois McCollough, deposited in the University of Alabama collection; near Hartselle, Morgan County, March 4, 1957, by the writer, deposited in the same collection (Imhof, *Auk*, 75:356, 1958); and Dauphin Island, November 1, 1958, deposited in the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology.

**Florida:**—numerous records for Santa Rosa and Escambia counties, extreme western Florida, with extreme dates of October 26 and April 1, totalling more than 125 individuals identified during this period; specimens taken, the only ones from Florida, eleven miles south of Bagdad, Santa Rosa County, December 31, 1955, deposited in the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology (Monroe, *Florida Naturalist*, 29:65-66, 1956); at Pace, Santa Rosa County, January 21, 1956, by the writer, deposited in the University of Louisville collection; six miles south of Jay, Santa Rosa County, November 30, 1957, by Francis M. Weston and the writer, deposited in the Florida State University collection (Weston and Monroe, in Newman, *Audubon Field Notes*, 12:286, 1958); and twelve miles north of Pace, Santa Rosa County, January 31, 1959, by Weston and the writer, deposited in the University of Louisville collection. In addition, there is a sight record for Cocoa, Brevard County, in eastern Florida, on December 29, 1958, by Richard Kuerzi and Fred Hebard (Cocoa, Florida, Christmas Bird Count, *Audubon Field Notes*, 13:149, 1959).

Although these records show that this species has suddenly become regular and common far east of its known winter range, I do not believe that this is due entirely to a recent influx of the species, even though it is known to be extending its breeding range to the eastward. The basic problem with winter records has been in establishing reliable identification of it at a time when it rarely sings. Identification of most individuals, if well seen, can be established in winter, without the use of song, as will be seen in the following discussion.

#### NOTES AND PLUMAGES

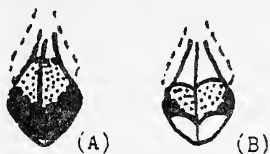
In order to understand the differences in winter between the Western Meadowlark and the Eastern Meadowlark (*S. magna*), it is first necessary to know what takes place during the molts of the two species, particularly the prebasic (post-nuptial, and presumably also the post-juvenal) molt.

In summer, both meadowlarks are superficially very similar, both being bright yellow below with a well-defined black pectoral band, and brownish above, the Western somewhat more grayish. However, in this plumage the birds are frequently in song, and further may be identified by the extent of yellow in the malar region, that of the Western covering most of the malar region, while the Eastern possesses primarily white feathers in the malar region (See fig. 1). In





Figure 1—Head profile (diagrammatic), showing extent of yellow (stippled area) in the malar region.



(A) Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*).  
(B) Western Meadowlark (*S. neglecta*).

Figure 2—Contour feather from black pectoral band, showing amount of exposed black; broken line indicates position of overlapping feather; stippled area shows region of concealed black.

(A) Eastern Meadowlark (*S. m. magna*),  
December 25, 1956, Anchorage, Kentucky.

(B) Western Meadowlark (*S. n. neglecta*),  
December 25, 1956, Anchorage, Kentucky.

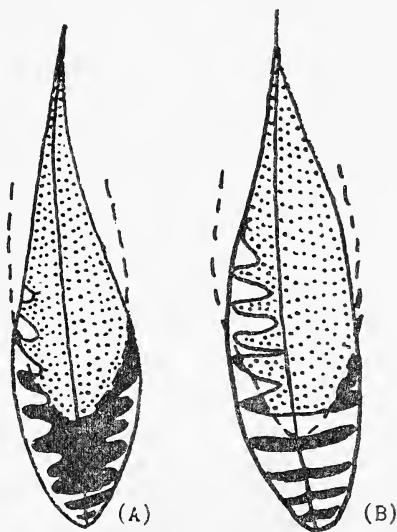


Figure 4—Inner secondary (tertiary), showing barring effect of exposed portion; broken line indicates position of overlapping feather; stippled area shows region of concealed black.

(A) Eastern Meadowlark [same specimen as in figure 2A].

(B) Western Meadowlark [same specimen as in figure 2B].

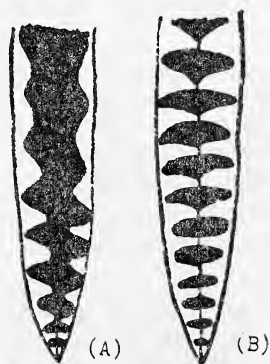


Figure 3—Central rectrix (exposed), distal two-thirds, dorsal aspect.

(A) Eastern Meadowlark [same specimen as in figure 2A].

(B) Western Meadowlark [same specimen as in figure 2B].

addition, the barring of the rectrices and secondaries, discussed in a later paragraph, is also evident.

However, the results of the prebasic molt in the fall in the two species are quite different. The Eastern Meadowlark displays a basic (winter or non-nuptial) plumage very similar to the alternate (summer or nuptial) plumage. The only evident difference is in the breast feathers, which occasionally have the extreme tips with pale coloration, this effect normally visible only in the hand, and usually does not destroy the effect in the field of a bright yellow breast with a well-defined black pectoral band. On the other hand, the Western displays a basic plumage which is quite variable, and on the whole much different from that of the alternate plumage. The contour feathers of the underparts (both black and yellow) are tipped with buffy, usually at least the outer third of each feather (See fig. 2). Since the outer third of each feather is all that is visible in the field, due to overlap of the adjacent feathers, the overall effect is one of a very pale or washed-out bird. In fact, I have collected winter specimens (especially the Florida bird of December, 1955) in which the black band and yellow underparts were virtually invisible in the field, due to the buffy feather tips. However, this is not a positive field character. There is much variability in the Western, depending on wear of the feathers, some being fairly bright below, and an occasional Eastern will have enough light tipping to show against the black breast band, but the character is very helpful in the field and is positive when coupled with other plumage factors, mentioned below.

It can also be seen from the above that the extent of yellow in the malar region will become almost useless as a field character in the winter, due to this obscuration of the yellow by buffy feather tips. It may be used for specimens in the hand, however, by examining the feather bases, which are yellow in the Western and mostly white in the Eastern.

As spring approaches, the Western Meadowlark gradually attains the bright yellow underparts of the alternate plumage, due to the wearing of the buffy tips. By March 15, most Westerns are similar to this plumage. It is not known whether the breeding (alternate) plumage is acquired entirely by feather wear, or there is a complete pre-alternate (prenuptial) molt.

#### FIELD IDENTIFICATION

In connection with the above plumage differences (the relative paleness of the Western being the first effect one gets when viewing the bird in the field), there is one positive field character, which takes some practice to ascertain, but which is evident in any bird when viewed from the side or from behind. The innermost secondaries (tertiaries) and the rectrices, in the Western, are conspicuously barred with black, these bars distinct and separate, not united along the feather shaft. In the secondaries this barring may occasionally be

united near the base, but in the rectrices I have found it to be distinct throughout the length of the feather. In the tail only the middle rectrix is exposed (from above) and is the only one which can be satisfactorily used. However, the distal third of each tertiary is exposed, and is a most satisfactory character (See figs. 3 and 4). With a little practice this barring effect becomes most evident.

Occasionally in the Eastern there will be a separation of the distal two or possibly three bars in the secondaries (See fig. 4), but the barring effect is lost due to extensive union of more proximal bars along the shaft. The barring on the rectrices, however, is very constant throughout the feather, at most only the most distad bar in the Eastern being separate (See fig. 3).

Another plumage factor, evident in birds in all plumages, which lends to the overall relative paleness of the Western, is the coloration

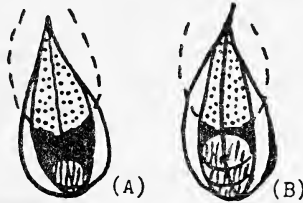


Figure 5—Contour feather from the back, showing amount of black exposed; broken line indicates position of overlapping feather; stippled area shows region of concealed black.

(A) Eastern Meadowlark [same specimen as in figure 2A].

(B) Western Meadowlark [same specimen as in figure 2B].

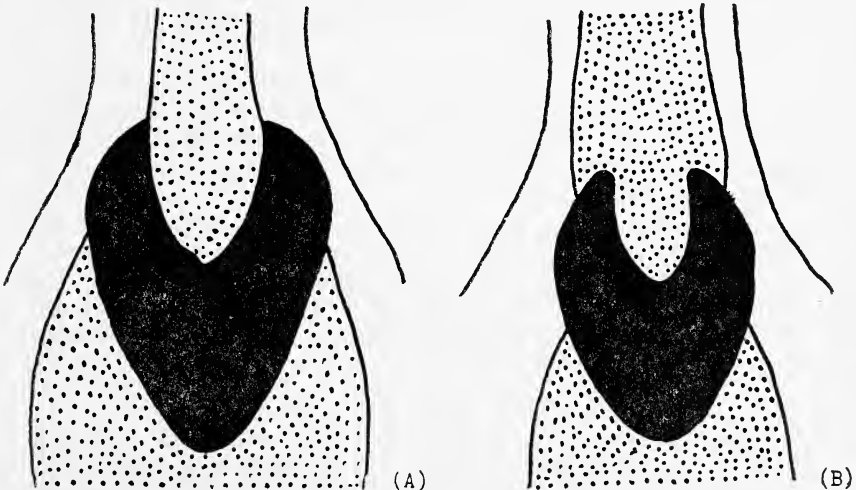


Figure 6—Throat and breast region (diagrammatic), ventral aspect, showing extent of yellow coloration (stippled area).

(A) Eastern Meadowlark.

(B) Western Meadowlark.

of the contour feathers of the back. In both species the lateral edges of the back feathers are pale buffy, while the area along the shaft is black basally and brownish distally. In the Western, this distal coloration is **grayish-brown**, and covers about the distal half of the shaft area, while in the Eastern the distal coloration is **reddish-brown**, and covers only about the distal third, therefore exposing more black area (See fig. 5). This darker brown, together with more exposed black area, lends to a much darker overall coloration of the upperparts in the Eastern than in the Western.

One other factor, quite variable in the Western and of little value in the field, is the extent laterally of the yellow of the underparts (See fig. 6). This factor is primarily of interest in comparing the two species in the hand. In winter birds, this extent of yellow must be determined by examining the feather bases, as mentioned earlier.

#### CALL NOTES

To the field observer in winter, the call notes are of far greater importance than the song. I have found that each species gives two different calls, one of which is common to them both and one which is peculiar to each.

The note most frequently given by the Eastern Meadowlark is the staccato series of notes with which every eastern field student is familiar. This note I have never heard uttered by the Western in winter. Less frequently the Eastern will produce a "peent" call note, similar in quality to the call of the Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), but much softer in volume. This latter call note is also the one most frequently heard from the Western. This may produce uncertainty in the field, but it is helpful to the extent that the Eastern, when making the nighthawk notes, will usually sound off with an occasional staccato series.

This brings us to the distinctive Western Meadowlark call note, which is heard much less frequently than the nighthawk sound. This distinctive note is very similar to that of a Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*), a soft "chuck" note. This, to my knowledge, is never produced by the Eastern.

In connection with song, it might be well to mention that the Eastern frequently sings throughout the winter, whereas the Western only rarely does so. There have been several reports of winter singing of the Western, but in my personal experience with more than 200 individuals observed, I have heard only one sing, and that so softly as to be audible only a few feet away.

#### HABITS

There are several characteristics of winter meadowlarks that will be helpful in identification. It is virtually impossible to carefully study every meadowlark seen in the field, so these characteristics often help in indicating which individual birds to observe closely.

Whenever both species occur locally in large numbers, the flocks of each species tend to remain homogeneous; that is, all Westerns together and separate from the Easterns. If only a few individuals of one species is involved, however, they will often mix with the other. I have never found more than three individuals of either species mixed with large flocks of the other. And I have observed as many as 40 Westerns in one flock, and 25 Easterns in another, within several hundred yards of each other, with no sign whatever of association of the two species.

A most helpful characteristic of the Western is its relative tameness. In many cases I have been able to drive a car alongside a group of Westerns without flushing them, whereas the Easterns are normally very wary and will not permit close approach. Of course, this is subject to much individual variation, but has occurred enough times to warrant its inclusion as a characteristic.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank Francis M. Weston, Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Robert M. Mengel, and Thomas A. Imhof for their comments and assistance in assembling the records and material included in this article.

#### SUMMARY

Since 1955 the known winter range of the Western Meadowlark has been extended eastward throughout central Kentucky, central Tennessee, all of Alabama, and extreme northwestern Florida, with occasional stragglers farther east.

Field and specimen identification of winter birds may be satisfactorily made from plumage characteristics, without use of song.

The call notes of each species have been recorded and are often helpful in identification.

Field identification may be further aided by certain characteristic habits of each species, including tendency of flocks of either species to remain homogeneous.

—Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### BIG SPRING LISTS

Here are our 1959 Big Spring Lists, excellent ones but not from enough places in the state. The editor wishes that those of you who participate in all-day or weekend field trips along about May 1 would make it a rule to send in your lists, so that your area may be represented.

A \* after a reference indicates that the species was recorded near but not on the count; a - after MC denotes a species that was found on the count days but not actually inside the Mammoth Cave National Park. M—Madisonville; H—Henderson; B1—Bowling Green on K.O.S. Field Days; B2 Bowling Green on regular May count; MC—Mammoth Cave National Park; L—Louisville.

MADISONVILLS (W. W. Hancock Farm, Clear Creek, seven lakes at Madisonville and Earlington, Brown and Frostburg Roads, and a small marsh).—May 4; 4:00 A. M. to 7:00 P. M. Partly cloudy; very little wind. Temp. 66 to 81. About 6 miles on foot, 64 by car; 15 hours in field. Observer alone. The Swainson's Warbler was found near Clear Creek on May 8. Total, 112 species.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

\* \* \* \*

HENDERSON (Henderson County).—May 3; daybreak to 4:00 P. M. Clear; Temp. 70 to 92. 16 observers in 10 parties. We were fortunate again this year in having some excellent outside assistance: James Huffman, president of the Los Angeles, California, Audubon Society; Robert Crofts, director of field trips, Toledo, Ohio, Naturalists Society; and Al Huffman, Evansville, Indiana. We still miss the help of R. C. (Cotton) Soaper, who, with the help of a few others, always added many water and shore birds. The weather had been so dry prior to the count that none of us have been successful in finding shore birds this year; on the last Sunday in April, at Mrs. Nat Stanley's, we found only four species and did very little better on our May 3 count. There was some doubt in our minds about the Wilson's Warbler and the Henslow's Sparrow; hence they are not included in the totals. Total, 114 species.—W. P. RHOADS, Compiler.

\* \* \* \*

BOWLING GREEN (Chaney Farm, Municipal Park, Grider's Limestone Lake, McFarland's Beach, Mouth of Gasper area).—April 18-19; all day on April, 18, until 2:00 P. M. on April 19. Rain, threatening, warm. Some 60 K. O. S. members and guests were on one or more of the outings. Total, 100 species, 6 near count, 106.—GORDON WILSON, Compiler.

\* \* \* \*

BOWLING GREEN 2 (Chaney Swamp, Grider's Lake, Drake's Creek).—April 25-26; 8 hours in the field on April 25; 4 hours on April 26. Clear; temp. 60-75. Total, 97 species. Starred forms were found only at Mammoth Cave National Park in afternoon of April 25.—GORDON WILSON.

\* \* \* \*

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (Most of the park area covered, with Pace and Gipson going by motor boat from Houchins Ferry to Kyrock and back).—May 1-3; 6:00 P. M. on May 1 to 2:00 P. M. on May 3; camps at Houchins Ferry and Campground. Hot, sultry; temp. 60 to 90. The Swainson's Warbler was found on Mill Branch, not far from the one recorded on June 21, 1958. Total, 114 species.—GORDON WILSON (Compiler), DR. RUSSELL STARR, DR. GEORGE MCKINLEY, JIM HAYNES, MILLARD GIPSON, DR. ROBERT PACE.

\* \* \* \*

LOUISVILLE (Louisville and its environs, including the Ohio, woodlands, meadows, and Caperton's Swamp)—May 3; 6:00 A. M. to 8:30 P. M. Total, 135 species.—Members of the Beckham Bird Club, Burt L. Monroe, Sr. (Compiler).

## BIG SPRING LISTS

- Common Loon—M  
 Pied-billed Grebe—B1, B2  
 Double-cr. Cormorant—L  
 Great Blue Heron—M\*, H  
 Common Egret—H, L  
 Little Blue Heron—L  
 Green Heron—M, H, B1, B2, L  
 B-cr. Night Heron—H, L  
 Y-cr. Night Heron—L  
 American Bittern—M  
 Mallard—H, B1, MC, L  
 Blue-winged Teal—B1, B2, MC-, L  
 Wood Duck—H, MC, L  
 Redhead—B1  
 Canvasback—M  
 Greater Scaup—B1\*, B2  
 Lesser Scaup—M, H, B1, B2, L  
 Ruddy Duck—B1  
 Hooded Merganser—L  
 Turkey Vulture—M\*, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Black Vulture—B1, MC, L  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk—B1  
 Cooper's Hawk—H, L\*  
 Red-tailed Hawk—MC, L\*  
 Red-shouldered Hawk—M, H, B1, L  
 Broad-winged Hawk—MC, L  
 Pigeon Hawk—L  
 Sparrow Hawk—M, H, B1, B2, MC-, L  
 Bobwhite—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Sora—H, B1, B2, L  
 American Coot—M, H, B1, B2, L  
 Semipalmated Plover—H, B2  
 Killdeer—M, H, B1, B2, MC-, L  
 American Woodcock—M, B1, MC  
 Common Snipe—B1, MC-, L  
 Spotted Sandpiper—B1, B2, MC, L  
 Solitary S'dpiper—M, H, B1, B2, MC-, L  
 Greater Yellowlegs—H, B1\*, B2, MC-, L  
 Lesser Yellowlegs—B1, B2, L  
 Pectoral Sandpiper—B1, B2, L  
 Herring Gull—H, L  
 Ring-billed Gull—L  
 Forster's Tern—L  
 Caspian Tern—L  
 Black Tern—M  
 Mourning Dove—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo—M, H, MC, L  
 Black-billed Cuckoo—L\*  
 Screech Owl—L  
 Great Horned Owl—H, B1  
 Barred Owl—H, B1, MC, L  
 Chuck-will's-widow—M, L  
 Whip-poor-will—M, H, B1\*, MC, L  
 Com. Nighthawk—M, H, B1\*, B2, MC-, L  
 Chimney Swift—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Ruby-th. H'bird—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Belted Kingfisher—H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Y-shafted Flicker—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Pil. Woodpecker—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Red-bel. W'pecker—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Red-headed W'pecker—M, H, MC-, L  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—B1, L  
 Hairy Woodpecker—M, H, B1, MC, L  
 Downey W'pecker—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Eastern Kingbird—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Great Cr. Flycatcher—M, H, B2, MC, L  
 Eastern Phoebe—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher—MC  
 Acadian Flycatcher—M, H, MC, L  
 Traill's Flycatcher—H, MC  
 Least Flycatcher—M, H, L\*  
 Eastern Wood Pewee—M, H, MC, L  
 Horned Lark—M, H, B1, B2, L  
 Tree Swallow—B1  
 Bank Swallow—MC-, L  
 Rough-w. Swallow—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Barn Swallow—M, H, B1, B2, MC-, L  
 Purple Martin—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Blue Jay—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Common Crow—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Car. Chickadee—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Tufted Titmouse—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Wh-breasted Nuthatch—M, H, B1, MC, L  
 Brown Creeper—B1  
 House Wren—M, H, B1, B2, MC-, L  
 Bewick's Wren—M, H, B1, B2, MC-, L  
 Carolina Wren—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Mockingbird—M, H, B1, B2, MC-, L

- Catbird—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Brown Thrasher—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Robin—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Wood Thrush—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Hermit Thrush—H, MC, L  
 Swainson's Thrush—M, H, B1, MC, L  
 Gray-ch. Thrush—M, H, B2, MC, L  
 Veery—M\*, H, B2, MC, L  
 Eastern Bluebird—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Bl-gr. Gnatcatcher—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Ruby-cr. Kinglet—M\*, H, MC, L  
 Cedar Waxwing—M, H, B1, L  
 Log. Shrike—M\*, H, B1, L  
 Starling—M, H, B1, B2, MC-, L  
 Wh-eyed Vireo—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Y-th. Vireo—M\*, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Solitary Vireo—B2, L\*  
 Red-eyed Vireo—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Phila. Vireo—H, MC, L  
 Warbling Vireo—M, H, B2, L  
 B'n W Warbler—M\*, H, B1, B2\*, MC, L  
 Prothon. Warbler—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Swainson's Warbler—M\*, MC  
 Worm-eating Warbler—M\*, B1, MC, L  
 Gol-winged Warbler—M\*, MC, L  
 Blue-winged Warbler—M\*, H, B2, MC, L  
 Tenn. Warbler—M, H, MC, L  
 Nash. Warbler—M\*, MC, L  
 Parula Warbler—H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Yellow Warbler—M, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Magnolia Warbler—M, H, MC, L  
 Cape May Warbler—M\*, H, MC, L  
 Myrtle Warbler—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Bl-th. Green Warbler—M, H, B2, MC, L  
 Cerulean Warbler—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Blackburnian Warbler—B1, L  
 Yel-thr. Warbler—M, H, B1, B2\*, MC, L  
 Ch-sided Warbler—M\*, H, B2, MC, L  
 Bay-br. Warbler—M\*, H, L\*  
 Blackpoll Warbler—M, H, B2, MC-, L  
 Pine Warbler—B1, MC  
 Prairie Warbler—M, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Palm Warbler—M, H, B2, MC\*, L  
 Ovenbird—M, H, B2\*, MC, L  
 N. Water Thrush—M, B1, B2, MC, L  
 La. Water Thrush—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Kentucky Warbler—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Yellowthroat—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Yel-br. Chat—M, H, B2, MC, L  
 Hooded Warbler—B2\*, MC, L\*  
 Wilson's Warbler—M\*, H-  
 Canada Warbler—MC, L  
 Redstart—M, H, B2, MC, L  
 House Sparrow—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Bobolink—L  
 East. Meadowlark—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Western Meadowlark—H  
 Redwinged Bl'bird—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Orchard Oriole—M, H, B1\*, B2, MC, L  
 Baltimore Oriole—H, MC, L  
 Rusty Blackbird—B1  
 Common Grackle—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Br-headed Cowbird—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Scarlet Tanager—M, H, B1, MC, L  
 Summer Tanager—M, H, B1\*, B2, MC, L  
 Cardinal—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Rose-br. Grosbeak—M, MC, L  
 Indigo Bunting—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Dickcissel—M, B2, MC-, L  
 Purple Finch—B1, B2  
 Am. Goldfinch—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Ruf-sid. Towhee—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Savannah Sparrow—B1, B2, L  
 Grass. Sparrow—B1, B2, MC-, L  
 Henslow's Sparrow—H-  
 Vesper Sparrow—B2, L  
 Bachman's Sparrow—B1, L  
 Sl-colored Junco—B1\*, L\*  
 Chipping Sparrow—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Field Sparrow—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Wh-cr. Sparrow—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Wh-th. Sparrow—M, H, B1, B2, MC, L  
 Fox Sparrow—H  
 Lincoln's Sparrow—L  
 Swamp Sparrow—M, B1, B2, MC-, L  
 Song Sparrow—M, H, B1, L



## FIELD NOTES

### NESTING MISHAP

While the University of Louisville class in Ornithology, taught by Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, was on a spring field trip in Iroquois Park, we found a dead Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) hanging on a branch of a hedge apple tree about fifteen feet from the ground. Upon closer examination we found a thin string tangled around the bird's feet and the branch. The string was found to be extremely long, the end of it high in an adjacent tree, and was obviously a discarded kite string which the unfortunate Robin had intended to use for nesting material.—James C. Garriott, Louisville.

\* \* \* \* \*

### WOOD DUCKS NESTING ALONG DRAKE'S CREEK

Here is an observation made on a float trip down Drake's Creek, a few miles east of Bowling Green. The first leg of the trip was made at night, from nine o'clock until just after midnight, a trip of approximately three miles. We sighted in the spotlight three broods of Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*), from four to eight in each, on May 23. None of the young attempted to follow the adult in flight. One week later the trip was continued, lasting from noon until about 5:00 P. M. at the Schneider Farm. This time we observed five broods in as many miles, with the number of young varying from six to ten. Several of the young flew short distances, just above the water. A few days earlier, between the two float trips, we saw two broods from the bridge across the Cemetery Pike at the same time; the one upstream numbered nine young; the one below, eleven. These records seem to indicate a wonderful comeback of a species that only recently was placed on the no-season lists by the Department of Fish and Wildlife of Kentucky.—Robert N. Pace, Bowling Green.

\* \* \* \* \*

### A SHEAF OF NOTES FROM BOWLING GREEN

The Scarcity of the Baltimore Oriole—In the November, 1958, issue of *THE KENTUCKY WARBLER* (XXIV;64), I listed the scarcity of the Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) as a problem to challenge investigations by our members. The sight of a male of this species on June 20, 1959, caused me to check all my records for June, July, and August. They revealed what I had expected: that the Baltimore Oriole, formerly regularly and fairly commonly seen here, is now a very rare summer resident. For the years 1918-26 there is no break in the summer records, almost fifty for these months, with 1921 the most times when the species was recorded, 11, practically every observation trip in the summer. Beginning with 1927, the records for summer have been very few, just 11 for the 33 seasons, chiefly June

records only. In the 22 seasons that I have studied birds in the Mammoth Cave National Park, 1938-1959, I have only three summer records: June 4, 1938; June 6-14, 1942; and June 1-2, 1946. The species does not appear on any list, even in spring migration, for the years 1939, 1941, 1949, 1950, 1951, and 1956 at Mammoth Cave, but it is found on every year's list at Bowling Green. It appears as early as April 15, as late as May 7, for the first migration date, with an average date of April 22 for the 43-year period at Bowling Green; the earliest departure date is July 3, the latest September 15, the average August 28. This note is designed to get you to check your own records of this species and please report to me.

**A Very Late Warbler**—The Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*), one of the rarest warblers in spring migration at Bowling Green, appeared first in 1959 on May 9; as it was not recorded any more for the following days, I concluded that it had gone on northward. On May 27 one began singing in the honeysuckle tangles of a lot behind my own and appeared every day through June 3, the latest date for a spring warbler migrant in my life. I saw it several times and was sure to hear it every morning and late afternoon.

**A Woodcock in the City**—Mrs. Charles Stovall, who lives inside the city of Bowling Green next to the Municipal Park (Covington Woods Park), called me late in May to say that a strange bird was in her back yard; she believed it was an American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*). It had been there for six or eight weeks and had often been seen in her shady, woodsy back yard. Several of the neighbors had also seen it in their yards along about the same time. She promised to call me again if it appeared after she was away on a weekend visit. The call came early on the morning of June 3. Sure enough, there it was, almost as gentle as the proverbial chicken, probing in the soft mud in some shady places under shrubs and trees. She has never seen more than one at a time. I had hoped to find a nest, for the conditions are perfect for a nest in that area. In recent years I have often heard the Woodcock calling as it flew over town at night in spring and summer.

**Another Blue Grosbeak**—Dr. Jesse Funk, a very careful observer, who lives in one of the most attractive corners of Bowling Green in what was once a part of Covington Woods, observed, on several successive days in April, 1959, a bird that fits perfectly the description of the Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea caerulea*). It was first seen on the morning of April 28. The next day it was seen at close range at morning, at noon, and again late in the afternoon. I visited the place on the afternoon of April 30, but the bird had apparently gone on its way. Dr. Funk had seen one bird of this species in the same place on April 25, 1958.

**Exit Bachman's Sparrow**—As a friend of the many farmers who have allowed me and encouraged me to visit their farms and watch

their birds, I would not want to question their modern farming methods, particularly the "green pastures" program. In the last six or eight years nearly every typical habitat of the Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis bachmanii*) has been destroyed; what had been washed-out old fields have been seeded with fescue, orchard grass, Ladino clover, and other pasture grasses and clovers. As a result, it is nearly impossible to see or hear this species, one of my favorite songsters, whether in our old broomsage fields or the pine forests of the Far South. For years my best observation place has been the ridge that leads from Hadley to Dr. L. Y. Lancaster's cabins at the Mouth of Gasper. It is still there in very small numbers, but every year marks a still further decline. In Mammoth Cave National Park the Water and Soil Conservation activity of the National Park Service has bulldozed ditch banks, planted *Lespedeza sericea* and other soil restorers and thus driven my bird to more distant old fields. Though there are still thousands of acres of broomsage fields in the park, very few of them contain typical gullies and scanty vegetation such as those of the places where I used to see and hear the bird. Around Bowling Green there is hardly a spot now, except for the Hadley ridge that has any typical habitats. Will the species move out or slowly adapt itself to changing farm conditions? Long study of species that are so especially adapted to a narrow habitat, plus the scholarly findings of Maurice Brooks in his study of this species, makes me fear that I have just lost my Bachman's Sparrow as a fairly common summer resident and colorful twilight singer.

—Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.

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#### BLUE GROSBEAK IN MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

Since the Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea caerulea*) is a very rare transient in Mammoth Cave National Park, the following sight record may be of interest. A single adult male of the species was seen on the afternoon of April 28, 1959, and was observed from about twenty feet, with no intervening vegetation. The bird was perched in a branch of a small tree at the edge of the trail paralleling Echo River, about 250 yards from the Mammoth Cave Ferry. Identification was made on the basis of the blue plumage, the two rusty-brown wing bars, and the grosbeak bill. In size it was definitely larger than the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), several of which were present in the area. After our short period of observation the bird flew away into the forest and disappeared; a brief search did not find it again.—George McKinley, Glasgow.

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#### (NEWS AND VIEWS Continued From Page 42)

particularly numerous, frequenting low damp woods, and builds its nest in the middle of a thick tuft of grass, sometimes in the fork of a

low bush, and sometimes on the ground; in all which situations I have found it. The materials are loose dry grass, mixed with the light pith of weeds, and lined with hair. The female lays four, and sometimes six eggs, pure white, sprinkled with specks of reddish. I observed her sitting early in May. This species is seldom seen among the high branches; but loves to frequent low bushes and cane swamps, and is an active sprightly bird. Its notes are loud, and in threes, resembling **twedle, twedle, twedle**. It appears in Kentucky from the south about the middle of April; and leaves the territory of New Orleans on the approach of cold weather; at least I was assured that it does not remain there during the winter. It appeared to me to be a restless, fighting species; almost always engaged in pursuing some of its fellows; though this might have been occasioned by its numbers, and the particular season of spring, when love and jealousy rage with violence in the breasts of the feathered tenants of the grove; who experience all the ardency of those passions no less than their lord and sovereign man."

The figure of the Kentucky Warbler on our cover appeared first in Plate 25, of Volume III, AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY; it is the figure at the bottom. The central figure is of the Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), discovered on the plantation of William Dunbar, near Natchez, later in 1810. The small figure at the top is the Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*), discovered in Tennessee shortly after he entered the state, in late April, 1810. The other figure is that of the Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*), which Wilson thought he had discovered in the Barrens of Kentucky, but it had been discovered by Vieillot in 1807. Wilson died in 1813 without knowing about this previous record. The cut used on the cover was made from a photograph of the original plate in the series of volumes of AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY, which appeared from 1808 to 1814.

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#### OUR 1959 FALL MEETING

Begin planning now to attend our annual fall meeting, to be held this year at Mammoth Cave National Park. Full details will be mailed all members in due time. The park at that season is always beautiful and alluring; of course, bird life is far below the spring migration and early summer, but we should see a great many of the all-year residents and some of the fall migrants. Many of us regard the scenery as of a very high order and know that you will enjoy a fall weekend there.

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BIRDS

Division of Birds

# The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. XXXV

NOVEMBER, 1959

No. 4



EXAMINING SOME OF THE BACON-SUTHARD COLLECTION

Left to right: Frank Bacon, Dr. Gordon Wilson, Gayle Carver, curator of the Kentucky Building at Western, and Dr. L. Y. Lancaster.

See Page 66 (Photograph courtesy Robert G. Cochran).

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## NEWS AND VIEWS

### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AWARDS

Mabel Slack, Atherton High School, Louisville, attended the Summer Institute of Biology sponsored by the National Science Foundation at Claremont College, Claremont, California. She studied under a National Science Foundation stipend and did graduate work in biology and physiology. The program stressed the latest methods and findings in biology rather than instructional methods. Specialists in their fields called attention to the most important developments and discoveries in science in the last several years.

\* \* \* \*

W. P. Rhoads, our vice-president and science teacher at Henderson High School, Henderson, also received a N. S. F. stipend and studied physics and graduate biology at the Summer Institute at Murray College, Murray, Kentucky, also sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

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### NEW LIFE MEMBER

Mrs. William Krieger (Amelia Klutey), of Tanafly, New Jersey, is joining the growing number of Life Members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. Mrs. Krieger was vice-president of K. O. S. at the time of her marriage (1958) when she moved from Henderson, Kentucky, to New Jersey. Her interest in ornithology is of long standing and she is active in ornithological groups. She served as secretary of the Henderson Audubon Society for about eight years and was president when she moved to New Jersey. Mrs. Krieger was assistant curator at Audubon Park Museum for four years. She holds a degree from Lawthrop School of Landscape Architecture at Groton, Massachusetts.

Mrs. Krieger attended the Annual Meeting of the New Jersey Audubon Society at Cape May, New Jersey on the same weekend as K. O. S. held its Annual Meeting at Mammoth Cave; our loss is New Jersey's gain.

\* \* \* \*

### NOTICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If your address changes, please notify the society at once. Send your complete new address to the treasurer, F. W. Stamm, 2118 Lakeside Drive, Louisville 5, Kentucky. This will facilitate your receiving the **Kentucky Warbler** and notices promptly and also reduce extra postage and mailing expenses.

\* \* \* \*

### DR. LOVELL'S ARTICLE HONORED

THE PARK CITY DAILY NEWS for October 4, carried a summary of the "Biographical Sketch of Sadie Price" by Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, which was the leading article in our May, 1959 issue. Hundreds of people who did not get to see the original article have shown an interest in this very scholarly study done by our K. O. S. stalwart. Numbers of people have called the editor to know where they can get a copy of the entire article. The cover cut and the picture of Miss Price used in the original article were used by permission of Dr. Lovell and the K. O. S.

## A YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERONRY IN LOUISVILLE

By Henry Fitzhugh, Jr.

On April 8, 1959, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Collins, our guests from Massachusetts, called attention to a single Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) perched about fifty or sixty feet up in a hundred-foot sycamore tree on our property, between Cherokee and Seneca Parks, just off Alta Vista Road, in Louisville. Beal's Branch, a tributary of Bear Grass Creek, flows directly beneath the sycamore. The sight of a heron in that spot was very interesting to me, as I had seen one in virtually the same place approximately fifteen years ago. Three hours after the discovery of the first bird a second one appeared. It perched about three feet from the other one, and for the rest of the day they moved around very little, if at all.

On the morning of April 9, when passing the spot in a car, we noticed that two more birds had arrived and were perching, a few feet apart, in a walnut tree some thirty yards from the sycamore. These trees, being about thirty yards from our driveway, were in an ideal location for the observation of the herons. There were no leaves on the trees at that time; so the large birds were very conspicuous.

A fifth heron arrived on the morning of April 10 and took a position in the sycamore on the side nearest the road and about the same height as the first two birds, which were on the far side of the tree. This later bird spent the rest of the day standing patiently alone and had moved only a few feet one way or another on the several occasions when we passed by during the day. It was on this day, April 10, that the first two pairs started nesting. Each pair had placed, or rather balanced, about three twigs on a fork of the branch on which they perched.

On April 11 a mate came to join the lonely bird of the previous day, and a fourth pair showed up in another sycamore thirty yards from the walnut tree. Now there were three occupied trees in a row along the creek, about thirty yards apart. The fourth pair chose a branch perhaps ten feet higher than the other pairs and spent the day quietly and inactively. Pairs 1 and 2 showed more activity now, as they flew from tree to tree along the creek, collecting twigs for the nests. Most of these twigs seemed about the thickness of pencils and were probably a foot or more long. One bird always remained at the nest while the other searched for building materials, and several times the returning bird gave a twig to its mate, passing it from bill to bill to be adjusted in the nest. This was all a very slow process, so that only a few twigs were collected.

On April 12 four nests were being constructed, each at the approximate position first chosen by the birds. On several occasions, while passing in the car, we found birds missing. Presumably, they were hunting for suitable building material.

On April 13, when I stopped to watch the birds, as I did each time I passed by, one of them raised its yellow crest beautifully above its head. This was probably a gesture of courtship. Pairs 1 and 2 began setting on the small and flimsy nests. Presumably these setting birds were females.

By April 14 all of the pairs had commenced setting, though the nests did not look substantial enough to hold an egg if one were laid. The attentive mates remained close to the nests, flying off only occasionally. It was difficult to tell whether my presence disturbed

them, or whether they were simply making routine trips to procure more sticks. The nests were gradually increasing in size; so I suppose each trip was for the purpose of finding material to add to them.

It was on April 15 that two of the birds flew up from the creek-bed on my arrival. This was late in the afternoon and the first time I had seen any of them on the ground.

From April 16 to April 25 there was no noticeable change in the actions of the birds; however, the nests were slowly but steadily growing larger.

From April 25 to April 30 I was in New York City, and by the time I returned, the leaves had come out enough to make the nest in the walnut quite difficult to locate. The nests had grown so that it was almost impossible to tell whether the birds were on them, but, by looking very closely, I could spot a bit of yellow crown, thus proving the presence of the bird.

For the first three weeks in May very little was seen of the attending birds, because of the thick foliage, though there were birds on the nests all the time. On May 20 in Nest 1 I saw the first two youngsters and was surprised at their size. They appeared to be about eight inches high while standing with necks withdrawn. Before now they had not been visible from the ground. The parent bird stood with wings partly outstretched to shade the young from the hot May sun.

On May 21 I discovered that there were at least two young in Nest 2. These appeared larger than those in Nest 1, where three small ones could now be seen. And in Nest 3 I found three youngsters twice the size of those in Nest 1. While the young of Nest 1 were completely covered with gray down, the brood in Nest 3 had already become a mottled brown with the growth of feathers. The heads of these young birds were covered with downy fuzz, which stood erect and was about one and a half inches long. This gave them a very startled appearance.

On May 22 I noticed that the foliage beneath the nests was whitewashed by the droppings of the birds and that the young laboriously backed to the edge of the nest in their efforts to keep it clean. One youngster lost its balance and only by flapping its pin-feathered wings was able to keep from falling out. The parent stood imperturbably by, with no sign of alarm at the prospect of losing a baby overboard. This was a very hot day, and all the brooding parents shaded their young by spreading their wings.

On May 23 it was evident that Nest 3 had grown considerably. Some leafy sycamore branches had been added, giving the effect of camouflage.

I called Mr. and Mrs. Yancey Altsheler on May 24, telling them about the birds, and after observing the nests a few hours later, they persuaded me to prepare this report.

From May 25 through May 28 a trip to Virginia kept me from observing the birds, but on May 29 it was evident that all the nests had grown appreciably, especially Nest 3, which now had a considerable amount of wilting green leaves on the east side, but none on the west. This might have been done to protect the nest from the morning sun, as this nest was more exposed to the sun in the early morning than the others.

On May 30 I was able to find the off-duty bird near Nest 4, very



cleverly concealed behind leaves and branches and standing motionless. Since none of these off-duty birds had been visible for about two weeks, I was curious as to their whereabouts. It is now my belief that they remain well hidden during the day in the vicinity of their nests.

May 31: Mr. Paul Jones and Burt Monroe, Jr., took some pictures of the birds through a high-powered telescope. At this time we ascertained that there were four young in Nest 1. While they took pictures, I hunted for the off-duty bird near Nest 1, finally discovering it by locating the dark orange eye peering at me through a cluster of leaves. The rest of the bird was completely concealed.

June 1: This was the first day that I saw a young one out of the nest. Half-grown, it had ventured six inches out on the branch, only to be stopped by the parent, which blocked the way.

From June 2 to June 4 I paid special attention to Nest 4, because I had seen no youngsters in it. Though the brooding bird had been setting as long as the others, no young appeared to have hatched.

June 5: The first youngster in Nest 4 showed himself, while both parents stood on the edge of the nest regarding the baby. One parent moved to its favorite spot three feet from the nest as I watched. This evening at dusk there was a great deal of activity by the birds along the creek. Much squawking could be heard and a lot of flying from one tree to another. I followed one bird by its squawks for a quarter of a mile up the creek to the nest.

June 6: Today I tried to find egg shells beneath Nest 4 but without success. The parent bird left the nest and flew to a tree forty yards away as I approached.

June 7: There were definitely five young in Nest 1 today. This was the first time I had been able to see more than four. The parent was, as usual, in attendance on the edge of the nest.

June 8: Five young could be seen in Nest 3. This is the biggest nest, yet one young one persists in standing outside the nest on the branch.

By June 9 the birds in Nest 1 were so crowded that I wondered how they managed to stay in it. With both parents there, making seven birds in all, they looked very uncomfortable. Apparently the young were being fed in the nest. Only two young ones could be seen in Nest 2, with both parents in attendance. Nest 3 had one parent on guard, and the other one flew into the tree as I watched. It lit fifteen feet from the nest. Two downy heads were visible in Nest 4. With the exception of this nest, all the young have taken on the appearance of large immature birds in their final immature plumage. The crests are now obvious, though paler and not so pronounced as those of the adults. The feathers are mottled brown and creamy white, and the wings are almost fully developed.

On June 10 I noticed that one bird (probably the female) from Nest 4 had gray legs from the tibia down. In other words, the whole tarsus was gray, while that of its mate was yellow. I have seen the legs of brooding chickens change from yellow to gray in this same manner.

June 11: This was the first time I had a good view of a parent bird regurgitating into the nest while the young birds fed. There was much spreading and flapping of wings as the young scrambled for the predigested food; this was at 10:30 A. M.

June 12: I was able to stop only for a moment and found Nest

1 with all five young accounted for and a parent standing near by.

At 10:30 on June 13 the birds in Nest 1 were alert and moving about, with a parent on the edge of the nest. By 11:15 all the young had settled down and apparently were asleep. In Nest 2 two of the young were visible, and a parent was on the edge of the nest. Nest 3 had all five birds showing, with four in the nest and one on the limb a foot above. One parent was three feet away. Nest 4 definitely has three young birds in it. Two were standing with their long necks extended upward, while the third lay between them. Both parents were on the limb, three and four feet away. All the birds were motionless for long periods and watching me with intense interest, their heads pointed directly at me, so that they were watching me with both eyes, like hawks and owls. After fifteen minutes the young birds gradually turned their heads and retracted their necks very slowly, so that no motion was visible; and thus they settled down out of sight in the nest.

June 14: All the young birds in Nest 1 were standing around the edge and looking very crowded. One parent was a few feet away on the limb. At Nest 2 two youngsters and a mature bird were standing on a branch a few feet from the nest. There were seven birds in and around Nest 3; they seemed to be suffering from the heat, with their bills open and necks vibrating. Nest 4 had two young in the nest, two on a branch one foot above, and one on a branch slightly to the side of the nest.

On June 15, as I watched two of the young ones and one old bird in Nest 4—all of which were watching me—I suddenly became aware of a third young one's head hanging from the nest at the end of a long, limp neck. It opened and closed its eyes and allowed its beak to drop open several times. The head was about three inches below the bottom of the nest. In a few minutes it went slowly back into the nest and out of sight.

June 17: I found that one old bird each in Nests 1 and 3 has grayish-yellow tarsi, and the mates have plain yellow tarsi, as is the case in Nest 4. At 8:00 P. M. no adults were in attendance, and none returned during the half hour I watched. One bird flew up from the creekbed on my arrival and looked as if it were about to travel a considerable distance, because it rose fairly high above the trees and headed east. The creek has now dried up completely.

At 9:45 A. M. on June 18 there were five young standing around Nest 1, with a parent in the usual place three feet away. The gray on the legs was clearer today, and apparently only on the front of the legs. Two young were in sight at Nest 2. The third one was either concealed in the nest or out on a branch hidden by leaves. No parents were present. Three young could be seen at Nest 3, with both parents, which stood three and four feet away. There were two birds slightly outside Nest 4 and three sleeping in the nest, with heads hanging limp and bills resting on the side.

On my arrival at the heronry at 8:00 P. M. on June 19, two adult birds left Nest 1 and flew in a southeasterly direction. I judged that they would cross Seneca Park and were probably headed for Bear Grass Creek at the eastern end of the park. So after looking at the remaining nests and finding all the young present and no adults in sight, I drove to the suspected feeding ground, only to find many picnickers along the creek, and no birds!

June 20, 2:30 P. M.: In Nest 1 five young were standing in the nest, one adult in its usual place near the nest. One young bird

was in Nest 2 and one adult two feet below. Three young were in Nest 3 and two ten feet away in a clump of leaves on the same branch as the nest. I am almost certain now that there are four young in Nest 4; three were plainly in sight, and a bit of head fuzz could just be distinguished, indicating a fourth bird.

June 21, 8:00 A. M.: Seven birds were at Nest 1; all the young were in the nest, with both parents standing side by side a couple of feet away. Nest 2 had one youngster in it, and after long scrutiny I found a second young one standing on a branch forty feet away, on the other side of the tree. The young were showing signs of becoming more venturesome. In Nest 3 all the young but no adults were present. The young were scattered along the branch. Nest 4 had two young showing themselves. A loud squabbling noise came from Nest 3. The disturbance was brief and sounded much like a cat fight. There was some flapping of wings, as if the birds were trying to keep their balance on the limb. By the way, the wings of all the birds except those in Nest 4 seem to be fully feathered.

June 22: There was nothing out of the ordinary to report for Nests 1 and 3, but in Nest 2 no birds were visible. A noise almost above my head in an ash attracted my attention, and there I found one of the young. It was very nervous and walked back and forth on the branch in obvious concern over my nearness. It was probably thirty feet up and thirty-five yards from the tree in which it was hatched. One bird in Nest 4 raised its crest, which could not compare in beauty with that of an adult. All this was at 4:00 P. M.

June 23, 10:45 A. M. In Nest 1 were seven birds; five were in the nest and two old ones on the branch. The one nearest the nest took wing and flew off, and immediately the other adult moved to the nest and regurgitated into it, while the young scrambled for the food. This occurred three times at intervals of about two minutes; then the parent moved out on the limb again. At 7:45 P. M. I found three birds back in Nest 2, showing that they return to the nest after learning to fly. All the young were accounted for in the other nests, but all parents were absent.

June 24, 9:00 A. M.: All five young were sitting around Nest 1 in a slight drizzle of rain. No parents were to be seen. There were no birds in or near Nest 2. I finally located two young twenty-five feet away on a branch at the west side of the tree, about the same height as the nest. Nest 3 had one bird on the edge, and two were on the branch close by; one was ten feet farther out. I could not locate the other bird or the parents. Nest 4 had three birds standing with necks extended, but the fourth one was not in sight and no parents were present. At 5:00 P. M. two young were back on the edge of Nest 2, and one young one came down on the road thirty feet in front of my car. After walking around the road for a few minutes, it flew without effort for fifty yards and alighted at the base of an oak, where it was almost completely camouflaged. If I had not seen it land there, it would have been extremely difficult to find it.

June 25, 9:30 A. M.: The birds at Nest 1 were spread out from the nest along the branch; there were no adults in sight. At Nest 2 there were no young and only one adult. There were two young at Nest 3, one in the nest and one near by. The other three were down in the road. When I approached them in my car, they flew across the fence, where they perched on low branches in a woody section below the nesting trees. At Nest 4 three young were standing with necks extended. They stared at me motionlessly, with their beaks pointed directly toward me. No adult was there.

June 26: One young bird was on the road at 7:30 A. M. At 11:00 there were three young in Nest 1 and two on the branch. No birds were in Nest 2, but three were on a branch thirty feet away at the west side of the tree. There were three young on Nest 3 and one in an elm about sixty feet away and sixty feet high in the tree. I could not find the fifth bird of this nesting. Four young were in Nest 4, and both parents were near by, one four feet away, the other one about fifteen feet away. At 5:15 P. M. five young were in Nest 1, none in Nest 2, three in Nest 3, and three visible in Nest 4. Across the fence in the Speed property one adult was walking about on the grass with three young from Nest 2 and two from Nest 3. One bird was stalking a squirrel in a most amusing manner and finally got within four feet of it before the squirrel escaped up a tree.

June 27: At 9:00 A. M. three birds were on the ground on the other side of the fence, two from Nest 2 and one from Nest 3. The remaining bird from Nest 2 was in a tree thirty feet away. Four birds were in Nest 3. All the other birds were accounted for in their respective nests. At 7:45 P. M. there were two birds in Nest 1 and three on the branch but no parents. One bird was in Nest 2 all alone, four young were in Nest 3, and four in Nest 4. No adults were at any nest. One bird made a pass at Nest 3 but shied off and lit on the ground fifty or sixty yards away. Two others flew into near-by trees. I believe that they are the same ones I saw on the ground earlier in the day.

June 28: At 9:30 A. M. all the young were in Nests 1 and 4, and none were in the other nests. No old birds could be seen. One youngster flew from a pin oak to a walnut, a forty-yard flight. I was able to locate only one other bird, sitting in a walnut. At 3:00 P. M. four birds were seen on the road, and two flew up from the creekbed at the approach of the car. Those on the road were so indifferent to the danger of being run over that I had to stop the car to keep from hitting them. At 8:00 P. M. all of the young were back in their nests, but no parents were in sight.

June 29: Between 9:45 and 10:45 A. M. three birds made their first flight from Nest 1. There were only two in Nest 2, four in Nest 3, and four in Nest 4. Two left Nest 3 in the next few minutes. At 8:00 P. M. all birds were back at Nest 1, two at Nest 2, five in Nest 3, and four were standing along the branch by Nest 4. They moved down into the nest as I watched.

June 30, 9:30 A. M.: There was one bird in Nest 1, none in Nest 2, two in Nest 3, and three on a branch near Nest 4. One was down on the grass across the fence. At 5:45 P. M. there were three on the branch near Nest 1, none at Nest 2, none at Nest 3, and three in Nest 4. One flew up into the trees on my approach; no other birds could be sighted.

July 1, 9:30 A.M.: Three birds were in Nest 1, one on the fence below the nest, and one on the ground a few feet away. I judged that these last two were from Nest 1. One was in Nest 2, two in Nest 3, four in Nest 4. Most of them were very sleepy and dozed off, letting their heads droop gradually until their bills touched the nest, and thus they would remain for long periods, with the sun beating down upon them.

July 2, 9:45 A. M.: Two birds were in Nest 1, and two on the branch. All birds were missing from Nests 2 and 3, but all four birds were by Nest 4 on the branch. Two of them moved down into the

nest, one after the other. At 5:30 P. M. there were five birds in Nest 1, four in Nest 4, but no others could be seen.

July 3, 9:00 A. M.: All five birds occupied Nest 1 and four were on the branch by Nest 4; there were none around Nests 2 and 3. One bird flew from the branch at Nest 4 up to a perch twenty feet higher and on the far side of the sycamore. It spent some minutes apparently picking insects from the leaves and preening itself. I spent approximately an hour searching the trees and ground for a quarter of a mile up the creek but found no other herons. However, at 6:00 A. M. I had heard several squawks of the adult birds and thus knew that they had not left the vicinity. At 8:30 P. M. Nest 1 had five birds, Nest 2 one, Nest 3 two, and Nest 4 four.

July 4: My only chance to observe the heronry was at 5:15 P. M., when there were four young in Nest 1, none in 2 and 3, and three in Nest 4. Five young were on the road and appeared quite tame. The noise of firecrackers in the distance was enough to startle them into flying a few feet, and when I passed slowly by in the car, they flew only about forty feet to the side of the road and settled on the ground again. I believe these five were from Nest 3. Sporadic fireworks and a noisy party at a neighbor's that lasted well into the night left the birds virtually undisturbed.

July 5, 5:45 P. M.: Three young were in Nest 1, none in Nest 2, three in Nest 3, and three in Nest 4. This was a casual observation, as I had no time to search for others.

July 6, 9:30 A. M.: There was only one bird at any of the nests, an adult at Nest 1. However, five of them were on and beside the road. They flew only ten yards away when I passed in the car. Two birds were standing on a horse jump in the Lamp-ton's' property, across our eastern fence line.

July 7, 9:45 A. M.: Four birds that were down on the ground near the road did not get up as my car passed. No birds were in or near any of the nests.

July 8, 10:00 A. M.: Four young ones were on the road, and none in any of the nests. At 11:30 there were seven along our side of the fence in the shade. They were quite hard to see in that particular light. Other birds were flying from tree to tree and almost impossible to spot in the thick foliage. This shows that they remain close to the nesting site for some time after leaving the nests. I believe that all the birds are still around but keep pretty well hidden among the leafy branches.

July 9: Throughout the day birds were seen singly and in groups on the ground and flying into the trees. None were in the vicinity of the nests. It looks as if the nests had been abandoned.

July 10: A few birds were seen on and near the road, as well as on the fence and in the creekbed. There were as many as nine on the ground at once.

July 11: My observations came to an end on this day, as I left early in the morning for a motor trip to Canada. The two people whom I delegated to keep an eye on the birds for me reported that little was seen of them after my departure and that by July 13 they all had gone.

It took these herons ninety-three days of patient and devoted work and attention to raise their broods. Eight birds arrived on April 8, and twenty-five left on July 13. I wonder how big the herony will be in 1960.

### THE BACON-SUTHARD COLLECTION

At the 1958 fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society at Dawson Springs, Dr. Gordon Wilson read a letter addressed to him from Mr. Brasher C. Bacon in which Mr. Bacon told of his plan to leave his collection of nests and eggs to the Kentucky Building at the Western Kentucky State College because of his long friendship for Dr. Wilson and Dr. L. Y. Lancaster and because of his respect for the alma mater of his sons: Brasher C. Bacon, Jr., and Frank. None of us knew how seriously ill Mr. Bacon was at that time and hoped that he would have many more years of working on the collection, which had been a major project of his since his early youth. He died on February 9, 1959, just twelve days after his sixty-seventh birthday. The family rejoiced that, though he was in poor health for some time, he was never a bed-ridden invalid but that he could devote some time every day to his study of birds. As soon as it was possible after Mr. Bacon's death, steps were taken to transfer his collection to Western. He had requested that it be called the Brasher Bacon-James Suthard collection because Mr. Suthard had helped for a long time in the earlier days of this monumental oological collection. Dr. L. Y. Lancaster, of the biology department of Western and the teacher of the course in ornithology that has been a distinctive part of the college offerings for many years, and Mr. Gayle Carver, the curator of the Kentucky Building, took a truck belonging to the maintenance department of Western and so skillfully packed the exhibits that not an egg was broken and not a nest disarranged. They were aided in this careful packing by Mrs. Bacon and her son Frank. Gradually the 450 sets of eggs and dozens of nests are being arranged and are to be seen on the third floor of the Kentucky Building, which is open every day. Among the many merits of the collection are its representation of virtually all the birds native to Kentucky, besides excellent displays of sea-bird eggs which Mr. Bacon had secured by exchanging surplus specimens with other collectors. Western deeply appreciates having on display this remarkable collection and is grateful to the memory of Mr. Bacon and Mr. Suthard for feeling that the college is worthy to own and display this work of a lifetime of bird study.

Though a few things about Mr. Bacon appeared in the May, 1959, issue of THE KENTUCKY WARBLER, some more data on his active and useful life should be given here. Brasher Collins Bacon, born January 28, 1892, started keeping records and collecting specimens when he was only eight years old. In 1908 he began work at the Madisonville postoffice and remained there until he retired in 1948, serving under eight postmasters. He was Civil Service Clerk and Examiner in addition to his regular duties. In all his spare time he returned to his birds. In 1923 he organized the Spring Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and kept his collections there until his death. Dozens of ornithologists visited the place and marveled at his collections and at his extensive bird banding. At one time he ran fifty banding traps. He also was able to secure for wildlife refuges the various waterworks lakes around the city as well as several privately-owned areas. He banded an average of 1500 birds a year in the active years of his life. Locally and in the state he served in nearly every organization that has for its purpose the study and protection of wildlife. In 1923 he, with Dr. Wilson and Dr. L. Otley Pindar, organized the Kentucky Ornithological Society, which has grown steadily ever since its inception. Though an ardent fisherman, he never hunted and was active in helping enforce the game laws. He always said that he preferred to educate the younger

ones to protect wildlife rather than prosecute the older ones for hunting out of season but that the latter had to be done to keep man from destroying nature. Because of this philosophy he was active in working with Boy Scouts, conservation clubs, woman's clubs, and numerous service clubs that tried to help in the battle with the people who hindered rather than helped nature. In his church, the Presbyterian, he was always active and was an enthusiastic supporter of its programs. Madisonville and the whole state of Kentucky lost an able, enthusiastic naturalist and philosopher when Mr. Bacon died.

His family have said that he was fond of quoting to the various groups that he addressed the following lines from Longfellow:

"If thou art worn and hard beset  
With sorrows that thou wouldst forget;  
If thou wouldst learn a lesson that will keep  
Thy heart from fainting and thy soul from sleep;  
Go to the woods and fields! no tears  
Dim the sweet look that nature wears."

Any of you ornithologists will always be welcome to stop at the Kentucky Building whenever you are in Bowling Green. Mr. Carver extends this welcome and trusts that many of you will take advantage of Mr. Bacon's generosity to the college of his two sons. (The data for this article were furnished by L. Y. Lancaster and Frank Bacon.)

\* \* \* \*

## FIELD NOTES

### AN ODDLY-MARKED JUNCO

Attracting birds to the Audubon State Park Museum, Henderson, by means of feeding has given the curators much enjoyment during the past winter months as well as a look at an unusually marked bird. Normally those coming to the feeding stations are the more common winter birds; but on February 10, 1959, Mrs. Hust saw what appeared to be a strange-looking species. It was a little shy at first, but the bird soon learned that the grain around the feeder was put there "for the birds." We looked through the bird book we keep on the window sill, but could not find a description of a light-gray bird with snow-white head, one wing with a white patch, and the other with wing bars! We called Sherman Combest, Park Superintendent; King Benson, Park Naturalist; and W. P. Rhoads, vice-president of K. O. S., and the bird was pointed out to them; all were of the opinion it was an albinistic junco.—LORINE C. LETT, Curator, Audubon Memorial Museum, Henderson.

\* \* \* \*

### WOOD DUCK CAUGHT ON LIMB-LINE

While conducting the scheduled July Duck Brood Census on Drake's Creek in Simpson County, one sub-adult Wood Duck was found caught on a limb-line (a fish hook on a short cord tied to an overhanging limb). The duck had swallowed bait, hook, and the line up as far as it could. When I cut the line close to the bill, it promptly gulped down the short piece.

No hook could be located by feeling the neck and breast region; it must have gone down without catching. If so, the acid and grind-

ing action of the gizzard would probably dissolve the hook in a short time.

The duck was banded and released, apparently none the worse from its experience.—DAN M. RUSSELL, Bowling Green.

\* \* \* \*

#### A LATE SINGING DATE FOR THE WHITE-EYED VIREO

On September 23, 1959, I was standing on a wooded hillside at the edge of Jefferson County Forest and was rather surprised to hear the spring-like notes of the White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*). I listened, and the bird sang its ful "chip-per-a-weoo-wink" song seventeen times during a four-minute period. This date seemed rather late, and on checking records I found that Aretas Saunders (Bulletin 197, United States National Museum) says of this species: "The song is revived after the molt, in late August or September, my dates varying from August 30, 1917, to September 20, 1907; and the last song averaging September 9. I have records at this season for ten years, but in a good many years have heard no singing at this season." Later, as I moved down the hillside, I heard another White-eyed Vireo, but its song was rather feeble and only a fragmentary portion of its usual one.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

\* \* \* \*

#### STARLING TAKES OVER NESTING SITES OF OTHER CAVITY-NESTING BIRDS

For some time I have been concerned as to what will happen to the Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) and the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) as both species compete with the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) for nesting sites.

In 1950, when I built my house on Maple Avenue, Owensboro, Kentucky, I had hoped to have Red-headed Woodpeckers in our yard during the summer months, but this idea was short-lived. On one particular occasion I observed a band of Starlings trying to drive a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers out of a nesting hole that they had occupied for years. At first it did not alarm me, for several times I saw a woodpecker drive a Starling to the ground, but the Starlings had their own way of working. There were about a dozen of them, and eventually a Starling got into the hole in the tree, and the woodpeckers couldn't get it out. I called my neighbor, Jay O'Flynn, Jr., and the two of us killed six Starlings in about ten minutes, but the one in the cavity did not budge. The tree was such that we could not climb it. It was a losing fight there as elsewhere. In less than one year there was not a woodpecker left on Maple Avenue. The same thing is happening to the Flickers. I actually saw a Starling take young Yellow-shafted Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) out of a hole in a maple tree beside our walk, and drop them one by one on the concrete beneath the nesting site.

In spite of all this I do not believe that the woodpecker family is doomed by the Starling. They will nest in the deep woods, and the Starling likes the open country. I do believe, however, that the Bluebird is doomed. It is not a woods bird. It likes the same habitat as the Starling and is no match for it. As a boy living in the suburbs of Owensboro, I had Bluebirds nesting in boxes in my back yard; today there are none at all in the city, and they are scarce throughout the entire country. It is my sincere belief that the next fifty years will find the Bluebirds almost, if not completely, out of existence. Will the friendly little Bluebird, with its usefud habits and



plaintive song, go the way of the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*)?—FOREST G. MERCER, Lexington.

Editor's Note: We know Starlings take over nesting sites of the above species. However, Red-headed Woodpeckers have a habit of swooping low across highways in front of speeding cars, thus increasing the species mortality rate.

Some of the Bluebird shortage in February, 1959, may be attributed to the severe winter of 1958-59, when Bluebirds were found frozen in nesting boxes as far south as Nashville, Tennessee. Also, the absence of Bluebirds in the city of Owensboro today is not necessarily caused by Starlings. Because of the growth of the city, with its houses, trees, and shrubbery, there is less suitable habitat for Bluebirds, and they normally disappear with the advance of urban growth.

\* \* \* \*

### THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL FALL MEETING

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its thirty-sixth annual fall meeting at Mammoth Cave National Park Hotel, on October 9-11, 1959.

On Friday evening Hunter Hancock, the president, introduced Mr. Willard E. Dilley, Park Naturalist, who welcomed the members to the park and called attention to the things that should be looked for in the forest, illustrating with colored slides which were very beautiful and interesting.

Mr. W. P. Rhoads, vice-president, introduced Dr. Gordon Wilson, who spoke on "The Ecology of Bird Life at Mammoth Cave," which he has been studying since 1938.

Field trips were made on Saturday morning under the leadership of Gordon Wilson, Harvey Lovell, L. Y. Lancaster, and Willard Dilley.

In the afternoon business meeting Dr. Hancock opened the meeting with the announcement that the 1960 Fall Meeting would be held in Henderson, Kentucky. The next item of importance presented was the ever-increasing printing cost of the *Kentucky Warbler*. The treasurer said that the estimated income for 1960, based on present dues, would not meet expenses. After some discussion it was moved by Donald Summerfield and seconded by Harvey Lovell that the recommended increased dues of students from \$1.00 to \$2.00, regular membership from \$2.00 to \$3.00, corresponding memberships from \$1.50 to \$2.50, and contributing membership remain at \$5.00 be accepted. Vote unanimous.

Dr. Hancock mentioned that the board of directors went on record as favoring the Model Hawk and Owl Law for Kentucky, urging protection for the birds of prey except where they are found in the act of destroying poultry; and urging the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources to work for its adoption.

The minutes of the spring meeting as published in the *Kentucky Warbler* were approved.

Mr. Stamm gave the treasurer's report, which was accepted, and a commendation was given for his excellent work.

**REPORT OF TREASURER  
GENERAL FUND**

Balance in bank as shown by last report dated October 1, 1958 .....	\$ 259.34
<b>Receipts</b>	
Membership dues .....	\$569.00
Dividends—Jefferson Federal Savings & Loan Association .....	65.56
Sale of Kentucky Warblers .....	20.00
Sale of check lists, bibliographies, etc. ....	7.50
Sale of sleeve patch .....	22.50
Receipts—Fall Meeting, Dawson Springs .....	169.00
Receipts—Spring Meeting, Bowling Green .....	118.00
Contributions to Gordon Wilson Fund for Orni- thology .....	358.00
Donations .....	1.00
Total Receipts .....	1330.56
Total .....	\$1589.90
Printing Costs—The Kentucky Warbler .....	680.39
Treasurer's Expenses: Postage, stationery, envelopes .....	56.80
Programs, printing costs, etc. ....	14.72
State of Kentucky—Corporation filing fee .....	2.00
Fall Meeting, Dawson Springs .....	182.00
Spring Meeting, Bowling Green .....	106.75
Miscellaneous Expenses .....	5.34
Transfer to Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology .....	358.00
Total Disbursements .....	1406.00
Balance on hand in Lincoln Bank & Trust Co., Louisville, Kentucky, October 1, 1959 .....	\$ 183.90

**ENDOWMENT FUND**

Balance in Savings Account as shown by last report dated October 1, 1958 .....	\$ 399.20
<b>Receipts</b>	
Dividends on Savings Account .....	15.11
TOTAL .....	\$ 414.31
<b>Disbursements</b>	
Transfer of dividends for years 1956, 1957, 1958, and 1959 to general fund .....	39.31
Balance in Savings Account, Jefferson Federal Sav- ings & Loan Association, Louisville, Kentucky, October 1, 1959 .....	\$ 375.00
<b>Securities Owned:</b>	
Full paid shares (7) in Jefferson Federal Savings & Loan Association, Louisville, Kentucky, October 1, 1959 .....	700.00
TOTAL .....	\$1075.00

**GORDON WILSON FUND FOR ORNITHOLOGY**

Balance in Savings Account, Greater Louisville  
First Federal Savings & Loan Association,  
Louisville, Kentucky, October 1, 1958..... \$ 100.00

**Receipts**

Contributions to fund, 1959 ..... 358.00  
Dividends on Savings Account ..... 8.56  

---

Balance in account, October 1, 1959—Total..... \$ 466.56

**BALANCE SHEET**

as of

**October 1, 1959****Assets:**

Cash in bank ..... \$ 183.90  
Endowment Fund ..... 1075.00  
Gordon Wilson Fund ..... 466.56  

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**TOTAL ASSETS** ..... **\$1725.46**  

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Net Worth of Society ..... **\$1725.46**  

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FREDERICK W. STAMM, Treasurer

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****Report of the Auditing Committee**

Floyd Carpenter reported that the books and the accounts of the treasurer were examined and found to be in good order. He reported the net worth of the society as of September 30, 1959, to be \$1725.46.

**Report of Endowment Committee**

Mr. Brecher reported a balance of \$1075.00 in the Endowment Fund as of September 30, 1959. He also reported that Amelia Klutey Krieger had become a Life Member.

**Report of the Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology**

Dr. Lovell reported a balance in the Fund of \$466.56 as of September 30, 1959.

Dr. Wilson gave the recommendations of the nominating committee for new officers:

President .....James W. Hancock, Madisonville

Vice-President .....W. P. Rhoads, Henderson

Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary  
.....Frederick W. Stamm, Louisville

Recording Secretary .....Helen G. Browning, Louisville

**Councillors:**

Virginia Smith, Henderson, 1959-61

Conley Webster, Lexington, 1959-61.

The motion was made and carried that the slate of officers be accepted.

Mr. Rhoads put the motion before the house to indorse Dr. Hancock's excellent work as president, and Mr. Stamm was given a standing ovation for his contribution to the K. O. S.

Motion was made and seconded to appoint a committee to investigate Mr. Ganier's suggestion that some various foundations would possibly make a contribution to K. O. S. for its scientific publications.

The annual dinner meeting was held in the hotel dining room, with an attendance of 102. Dr. Hancock, president, introduced guests and members at the speaker's table, and Dr. Wilson recognized the attending members by their localities.

Harvey Lovell, University of Louisville, was a delightful after-dinner speaker; his illustrated "Intimate Glimpses of Kentucky Birds" showed many shore birds at the Falls of the Ohio and many of our commoner land birds at his home garden.

The Sunday morning field trips concluded a very excellent annual fall meeting. The birds were unusually active for the time of year; 79 species were recorded during the days of the meeting.—MARGARET RINGO, Recording Secretary.

\* \* \* \*

#### ATTENDANCE

Members and guests attending the meeting totaled 107: BOWLING GREEN: Mildred Allen, Mrs. H. W. Gingles, Dr. L. Y. Lancaster, Dr. and Mrs. Robert N. Pace, Mr and Mrs. D. C. Riley, Dr. A. C. Tucker, Dr. Gordon Wilson; BROOKS: Amy Deane; BURKESVILLE: Mrs. John W. Drake; CALHOUN: Walter Taylor; CLARKSON: Mrs. Walter Kelley; CORYDON: Malcolm Arnett, Mary Lee Arnett; FRANKFORT: Dr. and Mrs. Don Howard, Mrs. W. P. Ringo; GLASGOW: Alice F. Furber, Mr. and Mrs. James Gillenwater, James Haynes, Dr. George McKinley, Dr. Robert N. McKinley, Mrs. Clyde Nuckols, Lillian Simmons, Dr. and Mrs. Russell Starr; HENDERSON: Katherine Reuter, Louise Reuter, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Rhoads, Edna Vogel, James Wilke; LAWRENCEBURG: Elizabeth Satterly; LEXINGTON: Dr. and Mrs. Roger Barbour, Anne Heaton, Mr. and Mrs. Al H. Mayfield, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred M. Reese, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Simpson, Conley Webster; LEITCHFIELD: Mrs. Aubrey Moorman; LOUISVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Yancey Altsheler, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Floyd Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. James Craddock, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Duncan, Mrs. Charles Horner, Dr. and Mrs. Harvey B. Lovell, Dr. and Mrs. H. V. Noland, Anna R. Peil, Dorothy Peil, Evelyn J. Schneider, Mrs. F. P. Shannon, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Elsie Stewart, Mrs. W. B. Tabler, Mr. and Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Weatherell; MACEO: Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Powell; MAMMOTH CAVE: Mr. and Mrs. Willard E. Dilley, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Scott; MURRAY: Dr. and Mrs. Hunter M. Hancock, Dr. Clell Peterson; PARK: Mr. and Mrs. Brant Loper; PARK CITY: Cleo Hogan, Cleo Hogan, Jr.; PRINCETON: Dr. Cynthia C. Counce; ROCKFIELD: Mr. and Mrs. Roy P. Milliken; RUSSELLVILLE: Mrs. Carrie McKenzie, Maybelle Morton; ST. CHARLES: Robert Sneed; STAMPING GROUND: Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jones; VALLEY STATION: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Summerfield; FLOYD KNOBS, INDIANA: Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Webster, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Wolking; WHITE PIGEON, MICHIGAN: Oscar McKinley Bryens; CINCINNATI, OHIO: Bertie Heis, Olivia Marckworth; NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: Albert F. Ganier.





# The Kentucky Warbler

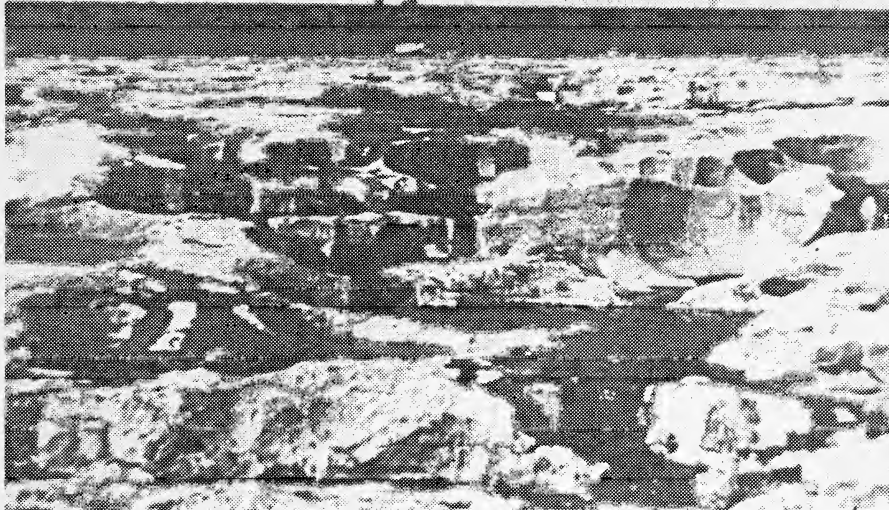
(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. XXXVI

FEBRUARY, 1960

No. 1

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K37  
Birds



**POTHOLES AT THE FALLS OF THE OHIO**

(Wickets in background)

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## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

President.....	James W. Hancock, Madisonville
Vice-President.....	W. P. Rhoads, Henderson
Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.....	F. W. Stamm, 2118 Lakeside Drive, Louisville 5
Recording Secretary.....	Helen G. Browning, Louisville

### Councillors:

John A. Cheek, Danville.....	1958-60
Russell Starr, Glasgow.....	1958-60
Virginia Smith, Henderson.....	1959-61
Conley Webster, Lexington.....	1959-61

Retiring President.....	Hunter M. Hancock, Murray
Librarian.....	Evelyn Schneider, Louisville
Curator.....	Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Ridge Road, Anchorage

### THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the *Kentucky Ornithological Society*. Published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. The *KENTUCKY WARBLER* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular, \$3.00; Contributing, \$5.00; Student \$2.00; Corresponding, \$2.50; Life, \$50.00. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editors. Subscriptions, memberships, and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

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## NEWS AND VIEWS

### SPRING FIELD STUDY AT BOWLING GREEN

The Spring Field Study will again be held at Chaney and McElroy Lakes, Bowling Green, Kentucky, on April 22-24, 1960. Announcements regarding plans, etc., will be mailed to the membership later. Keep the date in mind.

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### WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETS AT GATLINBURG

K. O. S. members will be glad to know that the Wilson Ornithological Society will hold its Forty-first Annual Meeting in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, May 5-8, 1960. Many Kentuckians plan to attend this meeting; in fact, many of our members also belong to this national organization, and some have been active in the society's work, having served as officers and committee members during the past years.

(Continued on Page 20)



## THE 1959 AUTUMN SEASON AT THE FALLS OF THE OHIO

By Anne L. Stamm, Leonard C. Brecher, and Harvey B. Lovell

The late summer and autumn season of 1959 was one of the best years the writers have known for observing shore and wading birds at the Falls of the Ohio during their many years of study there; numbers were down, but the varied species, some unusually rare, made it a season of ornithological interest. The Falls have long been a stopping-off place for the migratory shore birds heading south; but seldom, if ever, have species been so diverse. For example, on September 10, an Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*), Baird's Sandpiper (*Erolia bairdii*), and four Knots (*Calidris canutus*) were seen; on September 12 and 13 such uncommon species as the Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*?), Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes mauri*), American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*), Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*), Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*), and Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) brought excitement to the "lister". On the latter two dates it was possible to record as many as twenty species of the order Charadriiformes. The season was a decided contrast to that of the fall season of 1958. (1958 Ky. War., 34: 51-53).

Undoubtedly, the climatic conditions were a contributing factor in attracting the migrants to the Falls. The summer was unusually hot and dry, with temperatures averaging above normal for August and September. Most ponds, streams, and low-lying farmlands were dry during the greater part of the four-month migration season. The rainfall was below normal for July and September, but August's rainfall was heavy, particularly during the middle of the month, and averaged 2.14 inches above normal.

Unlike some seasons there were few, if any, large waves of shore birds. The pattern seemed to indicate a slow but steady day-by-day migration from mid-July through early October. Five days after October 4's high temperature reading of 92.3 (the hottest ever reached this late in the year) a cold front moved in, and the high was 69 and the low 46 degrees; this period brought a flock of 50 Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) to the shallow water below the Falls, and some Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*). Again during the latter part of the month another cold front developed; this period brought numbers of Coots (*Fulica americana*) and flocks of ducks.

The authors made observation trips to the Falls from July 15 through November 29, or the entire length of time the potholes and rocky ledges were accessible during the autumn migration. On the latter date, a large majority of wickets were open, and the entire tableland from the dam to the Indiana shore was covered with water. Study trips were made on the following dates: July 15, 23, 24; August 1, 8, 12, 15, 16, 22, 29, 30, 31; Sept. 2, 7, 10, 12, 13, 20, 23, 25, 26, 27; October 4, 12, 17, 18, 25, 31; November 7, 8, 22, 29. The trips, totaling 32, were frequent and in some cases on consecutive days, thereby permitting us to ascertain arrival dates for a few species, and also species' length of stay. The purpose of this paper is to make available the findings of our pooled trips, which add to the present knowledge of the water birds at the Falls of the Ohio.

On some occasions the writers were together, and on a few trips one or two of the authors were accompanied by Roderic Sommers, Floyd Carpenter, James Craddock, or F. W. Stamm. Joseph Croft and Haven Wiley were on the August 16 and September 13 trips, and we are also indebted to them for certain data which they obtained on

additional trips prior to September 13 other than ours. Other individuals are given credit for reporting data on particular species in the appropriate places.

**Common Loon. (*Gavia immer*).** Two recorded on October 25.

**Horned Grebe. (*Podiceps auritus*).** Eight birds on October 25 above the dam; thereafter recorded throughout November 29 in adjacent areas.

**Pied-billed Grebe. (*Podilymbus podiceps*).** Two were in the pool adjacent to the dike on September 12, numbers increased on September 25, ten were recorded on October 25, but only one bird on October 31.

**Double-crested Cormorant. (*Phalacrocorax auritus*).** Only one bird was observed, and that was on August 1, although one or two were in the harbor until November 29.

**Great Blue Heron. (*Ardea herodias*).** July 15 to October 25. Seven birds on August 8 were the greatest number recorded.

**Common Egret. (*Casmerodius albus*).** Seven recorded on July 15; numbers increased on August 1, when forty-five were noted, and from August 8 until September 26, sixty to eighty were in the area. Only four birds could be found on October 4; apparently they left ahead of the cold front.

**Little Blue Heron. (*Florida caerulea*).** July 24 to September 19. On the latter date the birds were seen by Miss Brockschlager and Miss Brinkmann of Cincinnati, Ohio. No more than five birds were seen at any one time. In 1949, as many as sixty birds were counted on August 28, and all but one were in the immature plumage. (Lovell. *Ind. Aud. Quarterly*, 29:2). The past nine or ten years have shown a steady decrease in population.

**Green Heron. (*Butorides virescens*).** Summer resident in the area and was last recorded on September 27. The most observed were eighteen on August 8, and numbers decreased after September 12.

**Black-crowned Night Heron. (*Nycticorax nycticorax*).** A colony nests in the wooded area below the dam. Seventy birds were counted as they came in to feed on the evening of September 23; this contrasts with a count on the evening of September 18, 1949 when Lovell counted 821 birds. The colony has been reduced somewhat from previous years because of cutting of trees for the enlargement of the locks.

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron. (*Nyctanassa violacea*).** Nine immatures on August 30, three on September 4 (JC and HW); also recorded on September 6 (JC and HW).

**Canada Goose. (*Branta canadensis*).** A flock of fifty of this species arrived on October 10 and 11 and were observed by Charles Long; twenty birds were counted on October 17 in the shallow water at the lower end of the Falls by Stamm.

**Mallard. (*Anas platyrhynchos*).** Six birds were seen on August 1 and others noted on numerous occasions through November 29. A small number remain through-out the winter above and below the Falls.

**Pintail. (*Anas acuta*).** Two birds on September 13 (JC, HW); one on 19 through 23.

**Green-winged Teal. (*Anas carolinensis*).** One bird on September 20.

Blue-winged Teal. (*Anas discors*). An early migrant. One on August 22, greatest number—65—on September 10, and last noted on October 18.

Lesser Scaup. (*Aythya affinis*). First noted on Falls November 8; some remain throughout the winter in adjacent waters.

Common Goldeneye. (*Bucephala clangula*). One on November 29, in the swift water that flowed over the bedrock near the dam (RS & ALS). However, earlier records were obtained in the harbor.

Red-breasted Merganser. (*Mergus serrator*). As a rule not common here, especially in late summer and early fall. A single bird was recorded from September through October 17, and for the greater part of time it fed in the pool adjacent to the dike. Six to ten recorded in the harbor from November 7 through 29.

Common Gallinule. (*Gallinula chloropus*). One bird on September 20, at lower end of Falls by Brecher and a group of observers from Cincinnati, Ohio; as far as we know, this is the only record for the Falls. It was interesting to note that a single immature of this species was seen the previous day in Caperton's swamp (RS, ALS & Beatrice Short).

American Coot. (*Fulica americana*). Five birds seen on October 17 (usually arrive earlier), and thirty were recorded on October 25. This species is quite common in spring and fall, yet seldom do we find large flocks on the Falls proper; but two rafts totaling perhaps four to five hundred birds were counted on November 7, above the dam beneath the Clark Memorial Bridge.

Piping Plover. (*Charadrius melodius*). A rather uncommon species; no more than two were seen at one time. Records are for the following dates: August 19 and 25 (Mrs. Y. Altsheier, Mrs. H. V. Noland, and Mrs. E. V. Thompson); August 22 (LCB, RS); August 24 (JC, HW); August 29 (LCB, HBL); August 30 (JC, HW).

Semipalmated Plover. (*Charadrius semipalmatus*). Few were seen this season. Our records start from August 1 through September 26 but Joseph Croft and Haven Wiley reported one on July 26.

Kildeer. (*Charadrius vociferus*). Recorded from July 15 to November 7; greatest number, 100 recorded on August 22. Number began to decrease after September 7.

American Golden Plover. (*Pluvialis dominica*). Never common. No more than six birds recorded at any one time; this contrasts with ten birds recorded on October 28, 1951, by Lovell and Stamm. One reported on September 4 (JC, HW). Our records are for September 12, 13, 20, 23, 25, and October 4. The birds left the area earlier than in some years, as Mable Slack and Stamm recorded them as late as November 11 in 1951 (1952. *Ky. War.*, 28: 42).

Black-bellied Plover. (*Squatarola squatarola*). Not common, but a fairly regular fall migrant. Our records are for August 8, 22, 31; September 10, 12, 13, 20, 26; October 4, 31. Three were seen on the latter date, the highest number this season. The bird on August 8, (HBL and Craddock) was in spring plumage.

Ruddy Turnstone. (*Arenaria interpres*). An uncommon species, yet a few show up each year at the Falls. No more than two birds were recorded at any one time. Records are for September 10, 12, 13, 20,

and October 4; the latter is a late-departure date. October dates are rare. The bird on October 4 fed on the rocks at the edge of the channel on the Indiana side; all others were across the channel.

Common Snipe. (*Capella gallinago*). Records began on September 12, and the last was on October 31; four were the largest number and were seen on September 26.

Upland Plover. (*Bartramia longicauda*). Uncommon here. One record September 10, by Stamm; as far as we know, the only one for the Falls. This apparently is a late date as well as an arrival date, as Croft and Wiley did not see it on September 9 or 11. The bird may have moved on the same day.

Spotted Sandpiper. (*Actitis macularia*). Recorded for most of the season; largest number—6—on August 8, and latest date was October 17, which is a late-departure record. As a general rule, departure dates for this species are for the first week in October.

Solitary Sandpiper. (*Tringa solitaria*). Not many recorded; one seen on each of the following dates: July 19 (JC, HW); August 30 (JC, HW); September 20; and October 17 by authors.

Willet. (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*). This is a very rare species here. Two birds were observed on August 16 by the Stamms Croft, and Wiley. There had been a ten-degree drop in temperature from the previous day, and some rain had fallen during the night; and it was believed the birds had arrived during the early morning hours, as Brecher and Carpenter had covered the area thoroughly the previous day. A single bird was found on August 22 by two groups (LCB, RS) and (JC, HW).

Greater Yellowlegs. (*Totanus melanoleucus*). A few came in earlier than usual. Croft and Wiley found them on July 19, which is the earliest record we have; formerly it was July 26. This species is never as common as the Lesser Yellowlegs, but it was interesting that as many as eighteen birds were seen on September 7; and on October 31, the last date recorded, we found eight against one of the Lesser Yellowlegs.

Lesser Yellowlegs. (*Totanus flavipes*). Largest number—40—on August 22. Birds recorded from July 19 through October 31. The July 19 record by Croft and Wiley is a few days earlier than previous records, and October 31 date by authors and Sommers is later than usual save for the year 1951, when birds were here on November 11.

Knot. (*Calidris canutus*). A very rare species. A single bird was observed on September 7 by Sommers; one on September 9 by Croft and Wiley; and four on September 10, by Lovell and Stamms. This is the largest number ever recorded here. September 7 is apparently the arrival date, as the Falls area was covered on September 6 by Wiley. The length of stay for the species was from September 7 through 13, as it was not recorded after that date.

Pectoral Sandpiper. (*Erolia melanotos*). Observed from July until October 4. Not as numerous as in some years, yet thirty to one hundred were recorded from August 8 to September 7; numbers were just a scattered few after September 12.

Baird's Sandpiper. (*Erolia bairdii*). A rather uncommon species and one difficult to identify. Our earliest record was on August 15; also seen August 30, and a few were noted during most of September and two on October 4.

Least Sandpiper. (*Erolia minutilla*). Numerically this species lower than in recent years. Recorded from July 19 (JC, HW) through September 23, after that date no "peeps" were found until October 31. when three were seen.

Dunlin. (*Erolia alpina*). Rare, a flock of twenty on October 18 by Lovell; these birds apparently arrived during the night or early morning and established an arrival date as the entire Falls area had been covered the previous day by Stamms. Nineteen birds observed on October 31.

Dowitcher. (*Limnodromus griseus?*). One in rusty plumage (LCB) on August 15, and a single bird in fall plumage recorded intermittently from August 22 until September 25; another one on October 17 and 18.

Stilt Sandpiper. (*Micropalama himantopus*). Not common. No more than four birds were seen on any one day; records are for July 26 (JC, HW); August 22; September 12, 19, 20, 26. The four were observed on September 19 by Miss Brinkmann and Miss Brockschlager of Cincinnati.

Semipalmated Sandpiper. (*Ereunetes pusillus*). Records from August 8 to September 20. Not as numerous as in some seasons.

Western Sandpiper. (*Ereunetes mauri*). Few recorded this fall. Records are spotty: one on August 2 (JC, HW); one on August 19 (Altsheler, Noland, and Thompson); two on September 7, three on September 12, and one on September 13, by authors.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper. (*Tryngites subruficollis*). Rather uncommon. On our 32 trips we had only one record of a single bird on September 20. However, three birds were observed on September 6 by Wiley, and one on September 9 (JC, HW).

Sanderling. (*Crocethia alba*). Only a few appeared on the Falls. This species formerly seen regularly and in greater numbers. Records this season rather spotty, first noticed on August 2 (JC, HW), and ours are from August 31 through September 23.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*). A rare migrant. A single bird on August 8, by Sommers and Brecher; as far as we know, this is our earliest record by a month. A single bird on August 22 (JC and HW); one on September 12 and 13; one on September 17 observed by Croft.

Northern Phalarope. (*Lobipes lobatus*). One in company with above species on September 12 and 13; both species discovered on the morning of September 12 by Croft and Wiley, and in afternoon by Sommers and writers. (See additional date in this issue by Croft and Wiley). Because we have so few records of this species, it may be well to add one for September 27, 1953, which two of the authors have in their files.

Herring Gull. (*Larus argentatus*). A single bird on October 18. three on October 31 and the population built up after November 7. Formerly this species was more common than the Ring-billed Gull: now it is in reverse.

Ring-billed Gull. (*Larus delawarensis*). An early record was established when a single gull was seen on August 8 by Sommers and Brecher. Six were noted on October 12, twenty-one on October 25, forty to fifty on October 31. Numbers increased by November 22, when hundreds were in flocks on the rocky ledges opposite the channel.

Franklin's Gull. (*Larus pipixcan*). A rare species this far east. Six observed October 25 (LCB, RS) above the Falls.

Bonaparte's Gull. (*Larus philadelphia*). Our first record was on October 31. Twenty were seen by Burt L. Monroe, Jr., on November 27; scattered numbers have been recorded during December and early January, 1960, above the Falls.

Forster's Tern. (*Sterna Forsteri*). An uncommon migrant: three on July 19, two on July 26 (JC, HW); twelve on September 26 (LCB, ALS).

Common Tern. (*Sterna hirundo*). Uncommon this season. Two records only: eight observed on September 10, and twenty on September 26.

Least Tern. (*Sterna albifrons*). Always one of the more uncommon terns. Three on August 15 (FC, LCB); another record on August 19 (Altsheiler, Noland, Thompson).

Caspian Tern. (*Hydroprogne caspia*). Small numbers on numerous occasions from August 30 to September 13.

Black Tern. (*Chlidonias nigra*). Usually a common tern at the Falls, but few were recorded this season. August 15, (Craddock, Lovell); August 16 (ALS, JC, HW).

No attempt has been made to include other than waterbirds that frequent the Falls area, although it may be well to mention a few species that we found feeding there, such as the Osprey (*Pandion halioetus*), which was recorded on September 20 and October 4. Two and three Kingfishers (*Megaceryle alcyon*) worked from one end to the other from September 10 to October 31. The Water Pipits (*Anthus spinoletta*) were noted on October 17, and seventeen were seen on October 31.

In summarizing this paper, we have attempted through our 32 trips to record the waterbirds as we found them during the entire autumn season of 1959 and point out arrival dates for the Upland Plover, Dunlin, Willet; departure dates for the Little Blue Heron, Ruddy Turnstone, and Spotted Sandpiper. It was interesting that the greatest number of species occurred between the 10th and 13th of September.

We should also like to mention some of the changes we have noticed over a period of many years of observation, such as: (1) the smaller numbers of Little Blues appearing each autumn; (2) the increased numbers of Ring-billed Gulls, and the decrease in Herring Gulls, which formerly was the direct opposite; (3) the smaller number of shore birds frequenting the Indiana side. The latter may be because of less sewage than formerly, due to installation of the Clarksville sewage plant. In former years, and particularly after rains, one could sit on a rock on the Indiana side and watch hundreds of "peeps" and other shore birds as they fed along the pitted ledges.

We hope this paper will be helpful as a guide for future observations of the waterbirds on the Falls of the Ohio.

## MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1959-1960

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (Same area as in previous years).—Dec. 30; 6:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Overcast, intermittent light snow; temp. 33 to 41; wind S to SW, 0-5 m. p. h. Twelve observers in four parties. Total party-hours, 20 (14 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 52 (14 on foot, 38 by car). Total, 56 species, about 27,574 individuals.—J. A. COSSEY, HUNTER M. HANCOCK (Compiler), KENNETH A. MAYNARD, CECIL E. McMULLAN, ROBERT PACE, CLELL T. PETERSON, WILLIAM T. SLEDD, PAUL W. STURM, WILLIAM STURM, KENNETH B. TENNYSON, KENNETH W. TENNYSON, GORDON WILSON.

### NOTES ON WOODLANDS COUNT

The waterfowl estimates are based on the official census taken by the refuge personnel just before our count. These men state that the waterfowl population was much less numerous, both in species and individual numbers, than during previous Christmas Counts.

Unusually heavy concentrations of Rufous-sided Towhees were encountered in two areas, and a heavy concentration of Crows in another.

Thirteen fallow deer and six Virginia deer were also observed by the counters.

\* \* \* \*

MARION (same area as usual, in Crittenden County, with Marion as the center).—Dec. 25; 6:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Cloudy; temp. 40-60. Light wind. The spring-like day brought out many birds. Total, 50 species, 7742 individuals.—CHASTAIN L. FRAZER.

\* \* \* \*

MADISONVILLE (same area as usual; open fields 20%, deciduous woodlands and thickets 50%, lake shore 30%).—Dec. 28; 7:00 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Heavy overcast; frequent drizzles; bottom lands partially flooded; wind S. W., 13-18 m. p. h.; temp. 45 to 36, Total hours, 9½; total miles, 38 (6 on foot, 32 by car). Total, 42 species, 2938 individuals.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

### NOTES ON MADISONVILLE COUNT

Some of the species not recorded during the count period are scarce this season, such as Mallard, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Fox Sparrow.

A Chukar Partridge was recorded on January 2 on Outer S. Main, Madisonville, alongside the busy traffic of Highway 41; it was observed at very close range.

Approximately 925 Robins, a total of several flocks, were observed on December 24.

\* \* \* \*

PENNYRILE FOREST STATE PARK (Deciduous and pine forests and fields within the park area, Pennyrile Lake, and adjoining farmlands; wooded area 50%; open fields in the park 20%; farmlands 20%; lake shore 10%).—Dec. 27; 6:45 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Partly cloudy to overcast; occasional showers or drizzle; wind SW, 13-18 m. p. h.; temp. 55 to 64. Total hours, 9¼; total miles, 21 (6 on foot, 15 by car). Total, 37 species, 2094 individuals.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

**MID-WINTER  
BIRD COUNT  
1959-1960**

	Woodlands	Marion	Madisonville	Pennyrite S. P.	Henderson	Sorgho	Owensboro	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave N.P.	Glasgow	Otter Creek	Louisville	Frankfort	Kleber Sanct.	Willard	Ashland
Common Loon.....			*										3			
P-b. Grebe.....			1										4	1		
D-c. Cormorant.....					2											
G. B. Heron.....	7	3			4				2					1		
B-c. N. Heron.....												30				
Canada Goose.....	11500	36			1616						16		13			
Blue Goose.....	*												5			
Mallard.....	9100	4000			49		30		94			12	114			
Black Duck.....	1200	2000			77		10		159	*	7	62	54			
Gadwall.....												2	4			
Am. Widgeon.....	200		3		1								17			
Pintail.....					1							1				
G-w. Teal.....	2							1								
Wood Duck.....		4			2					*		2				
Redhead.....							1									
R-n. Duck.....	300	2	487									22	1			
Canvasback.....			30						1			25				
G. Scaup.....					1											
L. Scaup.....		84					1					100				
Bufflehead.....			*								2					
H. Merganser.....	*	5	*									5				
C. Merganser.....							1					1				
R-b. Merganser.....												2				
Turkey Vulture.....	1	7			3			4	72	15		8	2			
Black Vulture.....									8	11		41	3			
Sharp-s. Hawk.....		1		1		1		1				1				
Cooper's Hawk.....					2						3	2	2	3		
Red-t. Hawk.....	2	4			2		3	5	5	3		10	2	1		
Red-s. Hawk.....	4		1		3		3	2	4	4	3	6		1		1
Rough-l. Hawk.....	2								2	2						
Bald Eagle.....	13				1											
Marsh Hawk.....	1	7	2		3		*	1		*		2				
Sparrow Hawk.....	2	5	2	1	7	2	4	8		17	3	28	3	1		5
Bobwhite.....	4	52	27	7	23			*	8	1	13	2	18	*		20
Chuk. Partridge.....			*													
Wild Turkey.....	*															
Amer. Coot.....	*	5	216		20			1				2	1			
Kildeer.....			5		9			4		5		68		2		
Common Snipe.....								*		*		2				
Herring Gull.....	1	48			6							43				
Ring-b. Gull.....	54						1					321				
Mourning Dove.....	25	13	26	29	2517	10	11	575	4	86	39	142	77	45		
Screech Owl.....		1			1											
Horned Owl.....		1			1								1			
Barred Owl.....	3	2			3		1	1		2		2				1
Short-eared Owl.....						1										
B. Kingfisher.....	2	3	4		9		3	*	2	*	2	5	2	4		1
Y-s. Flicker.....	39	6	6	8	29	1	8	19	35	25	23	33	9	14	1	25
Pil. Woodpecker.....	14	2		1	8		2	10	30	7	4	4		3	4	
Red-b. W'dpecker.....	47	8	7	1	11		10	28	31	12	6	33	9	16	4	3
Red-h. W'dpecker.....					5			15	9	3		4		1	2	
Y-b. Sapsucker.....	9		1	1	3			4	3	4	5	5	2	1		1
H. W'dpecker.....	1	4	2	1	15		*	3	13	1	4	8	5	4	3	10
D. W'dpecker.....	38	9	4		18	4	5	21	33	32	11	44	31	21	11	6
E. Phoebe.....	1							*	1			2		1		
Horned Lark.....		30		1	55	3	50	68	7	3		93	48			
Blue Jay.....	65	13	13	8	47	19	25	91	80	57	98	89	15	54	11	12



**MID-WINTER  
BIRD COUNT  
1959-1960**

	Woodlands	Marion	Madisonville	Pennyrite S. P.	Henderson	Sorgho	Owensboro	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave N.P.	Glasgow	Otter Creek	Louisville	Frankfort	Kleber Sanct.	Willard	Ashland	
Common Crow.....	274	150	31	3	150	130	2	10	32	221	146	27	270	252	658	7	250
B-c. Chickadee.....																	10
Car. Chickadee.....	60	14	7	9	20	13	7	61	96	88	51	143	141	75	10	15	
Tuft. Titmouse.....	70	14	9	3	35	4	7	53	58	65	41	131	36	99	26	30	
W-b. Nuthatch.....	16		*	1	6			*	9	2	6	14			1	6	
R-b. Nuthatch.....					4		1			1		2				1	
B. Creeper.....	2		*	1	1			1		2	4	5	13	1		3	
Winter Wren.....	3			1	4			*	11	1		2				13	
Bewick's Wren.....					3			1	1	3		2	1	2		1	
Car. Wren.....	33	11	16	7	20	6	10	26	37	22	18	55	32	34	8	25	
S-b. Marsh Wren..																1	
Mockingbird.....	12	9	8	5	21	9	4	30	4	28	6	72	9	13	1	5	
Brown Thrasher..			*														
Catbird.....																1	
Robin.....	24	7	74	830	11	1	1	16	76	14	258	131	103	503		250	
Hermit Thrush.....			*		1		1	4	14	1	6				1	6	
E. Bluebird.....	27	11	14	14	2		4	12	28	54	15	52	11	47	3	10	
G-c. Kinglet.....				10	5			*	24	2	6	5	6	6	*	10	
R-c. Kinglet.....	2				1				10		1					5	
Water Pipit.....							*										
Cedar Waxwing..		14	*	1				*	4	4	518	218	9	252			
Log. Shrike.....			*		3			6		6		6					
Starling.....	14	500	1550	1015	373	75	25	27280	133	2192	328	1125000	245	719		150	
Myrtle Warbler..	29		5	3	3			2	25	7	46	18	11	24			
House Sparrow..	12	175	54	11	154	50	70	272	60	34	679	84	112	8	100		
E. Meadowlark..	45	18	105	7	36	17	9	245	4	98	16	126	7	14		5	
Red-w. Blackbird	4	19						5				25000				1	
Rusty Blackbird..	21		15		10							35000				10	
Brewer's B'bird..												2					
Common Grackle..		28			23		12	30	34	9		260000	4			2	
B-h. Cowbird.....		250			49			*	20			180000	8	3		2	
Cardinal.....	230	22	51	21	55	32	20	138	102	72	101	579	99	174	27	50	
R-b. Grosbeak..										14							
Purple Finch.....	146	9	12	10	1			13	225	15	26	25		63			
Pine Siskin.....									1			24					
Amer. Goldfinch..	51	18	5	2	12	7	15	316	119	71	50	112	84	88	14	28	
Rufous-s. Towhee	119	8	15	7	9		12	52	32	45	18	26	14	28	3	25	
Sav. Sparrow.....	4							2		1							
Grass Sparrow..					3												
Vesper Sparrow..									2								
Slate-c. Junco..	407	64	49	46	25	1	14	130	187	90	141	570	207	236	*	300	
Oregon Junco.....												2					
Tree Sparrow.....			22		1		5			3	3	77	3	57			
Chip. Sparrow.....					46									1			
Field Sparrow.....	5		11	3	14		10	33	43	43	4	34	1	6	6	20	
White-c. Sparrow		28	5	6	33	22	5	144		34		130	55	9			
White-t. Sparrow			15	8	24		20	110	34	90	23	159	56	21	6	6	
Fox Sparrow.....	9				1		1	*	7	22	1	10		1			
Swamp Sparrow..	48		6	3	21			27	3	13	7	44		5			
Song Sparrow.....	25	16	20	8	4	30	40	41	50	87	43	310	35	74	7	10	
Lap. Longspur.....												1					
Snow Bunting.....																*	
Date of Count.....	Dec.30	D.25	D.28	D.27	Dec.26	D.24	D.25	Dec.23	D.27	D.31	D.23	Dec.27	D.26	J. 2	D.25	J. 2	
Species.....	56	50	42	37	71	22	41	48	52	55	44	80	52	44	22	44	
Individuals.....	27574	7742	2938	2094	155717	310	462	29994	2192	3686	2037	1630340	1966	3499	162	1441	
Observers.....	12	1	1	1	12	1	3	6	24	7	5	25	1	4	1	6	

(Italics indicate a note on this species or number.—Ed.)

## NOTES ON PENNYRILE COUNT

Several species were missed that might normally be expected, such as the Red-tailed Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Tree Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow.

HENDERSON (area the same as in previous counts).—Dec. 26; 7:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Cloudy; temp, 51-56. Twelve observers in five parties. Total, 71 species, 155,717 individuals.—KING BENSON, JAMES CLARK, MRS. LORA CLARK, MRS. LORAIN LETT, MRS. ROSS PARSONS, W. P. RHOADS (Compiler). FRANK SAUERHEBER, C. B. SMITH, VIRGINIA SMITH, MRS. GEORGE W. STANLEY, JR., JAMES STANLEY, MRS. NAT STANLEY, SR.

## NOTES ON HENDERSON COUNT

The Grasshopper Sparrows were studied by Miss Smith and Mr. Benson again the next day. Mr. A. F. Ganier has been invited to come to collect some of them.

Mr. Sauerheber, our state game warden, says that all of the Crows in the country must have congregated here. A careful comparison of the other counts will show what he means. for the Crow population is down in most parts of the state.

\* \* \* \*

SORGHO, DAVIESS COUNTY (Fields and roadsides, ditches, fence rows, some woods,—chiefly on the Ford Farm).—Dec. 24; 9:00 A. M. to noon. Weather warm, clear. Total, 22 species. 310 individuals.—JOE FORD.

\* \* \* \*

OWENSBORO (Maceo, Yelvington, Kingfisher and Carpenter's Lakes, Ohio River from Maceo to county line at Blackford Creek—same area as in previous years).—Dec. 25; 7:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Overcast; warm. Eight miles by car;—3 to 4 miles on foot. Total, 41 species, 462 individuals.—A. L. POWELL, MILDRED POWELL WILTON POWELL.

## NOTES ON OWENSBORO COUNT

Unseasonable weather seemed to be the reason so few birds were seen. There was so much warmth that bats were feeding on swarms of insects.

The Horned Larks were observed at a large cleared area at the Ohio River.

A preliminary count was made on December 19 by Julian Wilson and Wayne Duncan (Daviss County High School Science Club members) and A. L. Powell. Twenty-nine species and 320 individuals were counted. The presence of hunters on the Ohio River evidently scared away the few ducks that might have been present.

\* \* \* \*

BOWLING GREEN (Approximately same area as the one covered for the last forty-two years, with Kuykendall's Store, six miles northwest of Bowling Green, as the center of a circle of 15 miles diameter).—Dec. 23; 6:15 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Partly cloudy; temp, 32 to 45; wind NW, 5-12 m. p. h.; ground frozen slightly; ponds partially frozen over. Six observers in three parties. Total party-hours, 23 (20 on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles, 54 (10 on foot, 44 by car). Total, 48 species, 29,994 individuals.—MILLARD GIPSON, CHARLES L. TAYLOR, ROBERT N. PACE, ROBERT ROLD, L. Y. LANCASTER, and GORDON WILSON (Compiler).

## NOTES ON THE BOWLING GREEN COUNT

The Green-winged Teal, a female, was the first Christmas Count record for the species, though it appeared on the count period in 1942. Similarly, the Coot appears for the first time on a count, but it was also seen in the 1942 count period.

The following species set new records for individuals: Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, Eastern Meadowlark, American Goldfinch. These species set next-highest records for the whole period of forty-two years: Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike, Rufous-sided Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow.

At the other end of the count—the lowest—are the Common Crow, with the second lowest for the whole long period, and the Bluebird, with the lowest since 1951.

Many species were much less obvious than they had been on December 19 and 21. The following were recorded on one or both of those dates but not on the count proper: Bobwhite, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Phoebe, White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Cowbird, and Fox Sparrow.

\* \* \* \*

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (Almost the entire area of the park, including a motor-boat trip down the Green River from the Mammoth Cave Ferry almost to Houchins Ferry).—Dec. 27; 6:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Partly cloudy with occasional drizzles in morning; heavy rains in afternoon, beginning shortly after noon; temp. 54-65. Twenty-four observers in seven parties. Several parts of the state were represented in the group of observers: Mammoth Cave National Park, 7; Glasgow, 5; Bowling Green, 5; Park City, 2; Murray, 1; Calhoun, 1; Owensboro, 1; Maceo, 1; Sorgho, 1. Total, 52 species, 2192 individuals.—STANLEY CLARK, WILLARD DILLEY, JOE FORD, ALICE FURBER, MRS. JAMES GILLENWATER, MILLARD GIPSON, HUNTER M. HANCOCK, JIM HAYNES, CLEO HOGAN, JR., CLEO HOGAN, SR., L. Y. LANCASTER, GRANVILLE LILES, JERRY LILES, GEORGE McKINLEY, CHRIS METTLEMAN, RAYMOND NELSON, TOM NORRIS, ROBERT N. PACE, A. L. POWELL, RUSSELL STARR, CHAS. L. TAYLOR, WALTER TAYLOR, GORDON WILSON (Compiler), JAY YOUNG.

## NOTES ON MAMMOTH CAVE COUNT

The heavy rain drove most of us into shelter from one to two hours before dark.

The following species were new for the counts in the park: Great Blue Heron, Canvasback, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Vesper Sparrow.

Dr. Pace and Professor Gipson took the motor-boat trip, finding nearly all the ducks reported and also most of the Winter Wrens. They also saw six beaver.

The following species were found in greater numbers than on any previous count: Mallard, Black Duck, Turkey Vulture (a huge roost near the western end of the park was found by Dr. Starr and his party), Hairy Woodpecker, Common Crow, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, and Song Sparrow. We counted 55 deer.

**GLASGOW** (Starr, Darter, Winger farms, along Beaver Creek; Park City and Chestnut Grove farming areas and slashes; the Armstrong farm on Barren River below Finney; Gillenwater and Simpson farms near South Fork Creek; and a cross-country coverage of the Temple Hill, Freedom, Etoile, and Roseville sections along Skeggs Creek, Caney Fork, and Rose Creek).—Dec. 31; 6:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear most of morning; cloudy all afternoon; temp. 21 to 33. Ground frozen hard in morning and ponds frozen over. Seven observers in four parties.—ALICE FURBER, MARQUITA GILLENWATER, JIM HAYNES, CLEO HOGAN, JR., CLEO HOGAN, SR., FAYE STARR, RUSSELL STARR (Compiler).

#### NOTES ON GLASGOW COUNT

At an old spring near Stovall Crossing, in a tangle of vines, weeds, and brush, some strange-looking birds were seen. When they were flushed, they flew into the lower branches of a near-by tree and were easily recognized, with or without binoculars, as Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. This is not the first December record of this species for Glasgow, as Dr. Starr found seven feeding in the back yard of his home west of Glasgow, on December 23, 1936.

Since December 1 we have had the daily appearance of a Red-breasted Nuthatch at the feeder and suet in the rear of our Glasgow residence; during the winters of 1955 and 1956 there was a one-legged Red-breast present almost daily, but we have not seen one during the years since then until this winter.

The Barred Owl is a very definite bird in Glasgow, especially in the southern end, where there are a lot of old beeches and where South Fork Creek ambles through the town. These woods birds congregate in our yard or in neighboring yards every night of the year; they are most vociferous in very early spring, when we have counted as many as five in the large elm and pecan trees in our yard. Presently, we hear them best just before dawn.—RUSSELL STARR.

\* \* \* \*

**OTTER CREEK** (Meade County; same territory as in previous years; deciduous woods 35%, brushy fields 44%, creek and river banks 8%, open fields 13%).—Dec. 23; 7:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Cloudy and overcast all day; rain began at 3:05 P. M.; ground bare; ponds partially frozen over; Otter Creek and Ohio River open; temp. 29 to 44. Five observers in two parties. Total party hours, 18 (14 on foot, 4 by car); total party miles, 34 (13 on foot, 21 by car). Total, 44 species 2037 individuals.—JOSEPH E. CROFT, C. O. JOHNSON, OLIVIA JOHNSON, ANNE L. STAMM (Compiler), F. W. STAMM.

#### NOTES ON OTTER CREEK COUNT

We found an unusually large number of Blue Jays, 98, the highest number since the counts began in 1941.

Cedar Waxwings were found widely scattered over the area, and this year's count, 518, was the highest recorded.

Slate-colored Juncos were down from the past two years.

The Johnsons found the Brown Creepers at their feeder.

\* \* \* \*

**LOUISVILLE** (Same area and coverage as last year).—Dec. 27; 5:30 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Clear in morning; heavy rain in afternoon:

temp. 51 to 68; wind SE 2-10 m. p. h.; Ohio River high; all flowing streams and ponds open. Twenty-five observers in eight parties. Total party-hours, 47 (31 on foot, 16 by car); total party-miles, 242 (32 on foot, 210 by car). Total, 80 species, about 1,630,340 individuals.—MR. and MRS. YANCEY ALTSHELER, LEONARD C. BRECHER, FLOYD S. CARPENTER, JOSEPH E. CROFT, MARY ANN ESCH-RICH, PAXTON GIBBS, MRS. CHARLES HORNER, FRANK X. KRULL, HARVEY B. LOVELL, MRS. SPENCER F. MARTIN, ESTHER MASON, BURT L. MONROE, SR. (Compiler), MRS. H. V. NOLAND, LOUIS PIEPER, MARIE PIEPER, EVELYN SCHNEIDER, BERNICE SHANNON, MABEL SLACK, RODERIC W. SOMMERS, ANNE L. STAMM, FREDERICK W. STAMM, MRS. W. B. TABLER, HAVEN WILEY, AUDREY A. WRIGHT, (Beckham Bird Club).

#### NOTES ON THE LOUISVILLE COUNT

Blackbird Roost: The roost was down again this year from about 3,000,000 to 1,625,000; Starlings down about 500,000; Common Grackles down nearly a million; Rusty Blackbirds down 25,000, and Redwinged Blackbirds down about 35,000. Brown-headed Cowbirds were about the same as last year. The roost has moved from its former site to about two miles closer toward the city of Louisville.

Brewer's Blackbird: Two were observed carefully by Croft and the Stamms.

Cedar Waxwings: Extremely plentiful this year.

Waterfowl: The high water in the Ohio River and the fact that the Falls of the Ohio were completely covered over made the waterfowl count the lowest in years, both from the standpoint of species and individuals.

\* \* \* \*

FRANKFORT (Eastern Franklin County and State Game Farm Lakes).—Dec. 26; 6:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Overcast and damp, with intermittent drizzle; temp. 55. Area and coverage same as last year. Total miles, 53 (13 on foot, 40 by car). Total, 52 species, about 1,966 individuals.—HOWARD JONES.

#### NOTES ON FRANKFORT COUNT

As usual, there were some disappointing aspects of the count. On the day selected the wet weather kept bird activity down; so I missed recording some standbys that are on several December lists. This also seemed to hold down the number of individuals.

About a week earlier there were many more Robins here, but I failed to locate them in the count period.

Brown Creepers were more numerous than ever before and have been unusually abundant all winter.

Ducks seem scarce, particularly on Elkhorn Creek; however, in both numbers and variety they have compared favorably with previous years at the Game Farm Lakes.

The Killdeer, usually easily found, has been very scarce since fall.

I found my first Pileated Woodpecker in Franklin County on November 21, along Elkhorn Creek in an area I have visited regularly for more than twenty years. I wonder whether they are reported regularly in other areas of the Inner Bluegrass. I notice that they appear rather regularly at Danville.

KLEBER SONG BIRD SANCTUARY and vicinity, Owen County.—Jan. 2; 7:20 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Cloudy; rain in the afternoon; ponds and creeks open; wind variable, 2 to 5 m. p. h. Censused area same as in previous years; brushy fields 75% grassy fields 15%; deciduous woods 10%. Four observers (two parties on foot, one in car). Total party-hours, 18 (14 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 34 (10 on foot, 24 by car). Total, 44 species, 3499 individuals.—JOSEPH E. CROFT, ANNE L. STAMM (Compiler), FREDERICK W. STAMM, CONLEY WEBSTER.

#### NOTES ON KLEBER COUNT

James Mullinex flushed 13 Bobwhites on the day before the count, but none could be found on the count day.

Blue Jays and Crows: Highest number since the first count in 1954. Most of the Crows were found in meadows outside the sanctuary proper.

Robins and Cedar Waxwings were numerous; in fact, it was the highest count for the Waxwing.

It is interesting to note that the Bluebirds have increased over the past six years.

The Chipping Sparrow was seen at close range by Conley Webster.

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WILLARD, CARTER COUNTY.—Dec. 25; 9:00 A. M. to 3:30 P. M. Cloudy; temp. 48-54. Ten miles on foot over cultivated fields and through woods. Total, 22 species, 162 individuals.—ERCEL KOZEE.

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ASHLAND-EAST KENTUCKY (Northern half of Boyd County, Bear Branch section of Greenup County, Coldwater and Wolf Creek in Martin County near Lovely, Peter Creek area of Pike County).—Jan. 2; 7:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Partly cloudy; intermittent rains; temp. 37-50. Wind SW, 5 m. p. h. All water open; ground bare. Six observers in three parties. 60% mixed woodlands, 10% river front, 10% old fields, 10% marshland, 5% cultivated fields, 5% slashes. Total, 43 species, 1441 individuals.—OKIE S. GREEN (Compiler), WALTER FORSON, RUFUS M. REED, ROBERT CHAPMAN, CLINE DALE MOORE, MRS. MABLE REES.

#### NOTES ON EASTERN KENTUCKY COUNT

Reed fears that the Pileated Woodpecker is rapidly vanishing in Martin County because of the decline in the food supply and the habitat.

The Short-billed Marsh Wren was observed at close range, by Green and Forson in a swampy, willow-bordered area at the Mouth of Bear Branch, Greenup County; this being an area where this species has been seen many times but never before at this season of the year. Identification was positive and observation made for several minutes as the bird moved back and forth in clear view.

Robins were quite abundant in the Ashland region, but none were found in the Martin County area.

Bluebirds continue to be scarce in the mountains.

Reed also reports that he sighted a Snow Bunting in Martin County a few days before the count.

Because of the increase of hunting in our area, game birds are decreasing.

## FIELD NOTES

**Sight Records of the Franklin's Gull at Louisville.**—On the morning of October 24, 1959, the author observed eight Franklin's Gulls (*Larus pipixcan*) in the Ohio River Harbor at Louisville. The group was watched for a quarter of an hour with 7X binoculars and a 20X telescope. The gulls flew up and down the river well out in the middle, at a considerable distance from the Kentucky side, and occasionally dropped to the water to feed. Six adults in winter plumage and two immatures were present in the flock. The distinctive white bars across the wings of the adult birds were clearly observed. The weather of the previous night was cold and rainy, with a strong westerly wind, which possibly accounted for the gulls' appearance in Louisville.

From the Indiana side on the morning of October 25 the flock was observed resting on the river with three larger Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*). Mr. Roderic Sommers and Mr. Leonard Brecher observed six of the Franklin's Gulls in the Harbor that afternoon.

On November 6 following another cold front an adult and an immature gull of this species were identified flying past Cox's Park, about four and a half miles upstream from the Harbor. A young Franklin's Gull was seen in the Harbor area by Mrs. Frederick Stamm, Mr. Sommers, and Mr. Brecher on the afternoon of November 7.

The November dates were almost two weeks after those in October. The Franklin's Gulls were not seen during the intervening period, although the river was twice thoroughly scouted by the writer. It seems likely that the flock left the area sometime shortly after its first appearance. At least two Franklin's Gulls, possibly from this original flock, visited Louisville later, after a second cold wave.

There have been two previous sight records of the Franklin's Gulls at Louisville published in the *Kentucky Warbler*. Lovell and Carpenter reported a flock seen on November 11, 1943 (1945. *Ky. War.*, 21: 31). In 1957 a single Franklin's Gull was seen on December 22 during the Christmas Count by Brecher (1958. *Ky. War.*, 34: 24). In addition, two records of the occurrence of this species in Kentucky during the late nineteenth century have been published. L. Otley Pindar (1925. *Wilson Bull.*, 37: 78) during the years 1884 to 1893 found this species to be "a rare migrant and occasional winter visitant" in Fulton Co., in extreme western Kentucky (see also 1889. *Auk*, 6: 311). Sadie F. Price (1904. *Amer. Ornith.*, 4: 166-167) records a specimen of this gull which was shot (apparently in Warren Co.). The occurrence of the Franklin's Gull in Kentucky in 1959 appears to have been the third in recent years.—HAVEN WILEY, Louisville.

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**Records of the Wilson's and Northern Phalaropes.**—The remarkable influx of shorebirds at the Falls of the Ohio in the late summer of 1959 included, among other unusual species, at least four Wilson's Phalaropes (*Steganopus tricolor*) and one Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*). In view of the rarity of phalaropes in Kentucky, some details on these finds are in order.

Our first observation of the Wilson's Phalarope came on August 22, when an unusual-looking shorebird landed by itself in a

shallow pool and began feeding. Observation through a 20X telescope quickly disclosed the identity of the bird. We eventually approached to within a few feet of the phalarope, and in the bright sunlight we were able to get a good view of its markings. The very white breast without any streaking, dark patch through the eye, very thin bill, and dull yellow legs were all noted. When we flushed the bird, we saw the pattern of dark wings and back and white tail.

This was the second Wilson's Phalarope to appear at the Falls this season, for on August 8 Mr. Leonard C. Brecher and Mr. Roderic W. Sommers had observed one.

The third Wilson's Phalarope of the season appeared in the company of a Northern Phalarope on the morning of September 12. Our attention was first drawn to the two birds when we saw the Northern Phalarope swimming about in a pool. Although the birds were at a considerable distance, we were again favored with excellent light, and the Northern Phalarope was easily recognizable with 7X binoculars and with the telescope. We were so engrossed in watching this phalarope that it was not until a few minutes later, when we had approached more closely, that we realized that the second bird was a Wilson's Phalarope.

We watched the two birds for more than half an hour, and throughout this time they stayed within a few feet of each other, even after being flushed. Next to the Wilson's Phalarope, the Northern Phalarope looked much smaller. Several times while in flight the Northern Phalarope gave a call resembling that of a Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*), but somewhat harder. The difference in the call notes was great enough to distinguish the phalarope from the Sanderling, for on several occasions we heard one or the other call while flying by, before we saw it, and in each instance our identification by the call note was confirmed when we saw the bird.

The behavior of the two phalaropes was particularly interesting. The Northern Phalarope, in true phalarope fashion, would spin around very rapidly on the surface of the water, frequently dipping its bill into the water. The Wilson's Phalarope, on the other hand, would run very rapidly in such small circles that we wondered that it did not trip itself in the process; later in the morning, we did see the bird trip over itself momentarily, but only on this one occasion. We have not come across any mention in the literature of this peculiar behavior. The possibility suggests itself that it was in imitation of the Northern Phalarope's spinning, but this is no more than a conjecture.

That afternoon Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm, Mr. Brecher, and Mr. Sommers visited the area and also observed the phalaropes, identifying them as Wilson's and Northern without knowledge of our observations, thus confirming the identifications.

The following morning, September 13, the Beckham Bird Club took a regularly scheduled field trip to the Falls, and thirteen members of the Club had ample opportunity to observe the two phalaropes. On this trip Mr. Frederick W. Stamm made three colored slides of the two birds at very close range. These turned out excellently, and both species are very clearly identifiable. On this trip we observed the Wilson's Phalarope occasionally swimming and spinning about, though to nowhere near the degree the Northern Phalarope indulged in such behavior.

The final observation was on September 17, when Croft visited the Falls alone. The weather had turned much colder during the



week, and the number both of species and of individual shorebirds had decreased considerably. The Northern Phalarope had apparently left the area, but a Wilson's Phalarope was observed. This latter bird was definitely a different individual from the one seen earlier in the week. The Wilson's Phalaropes we had previously seen had no markings on the neck and were uniformly gray on the back. This bird however, had a very distinct brown wash on the neck in the pattern such as the female Wilson's Phalarope shows in spring, and also showed a certain amount of brown on the back. Three times the phalarope was approached to within a dozen feet or so. Three days later it had apparently left, for a group of Cincinnati, Ohio, observers visiting the Falls were unable to find it. No more phalaropes were reported during the remainder of the year.—JOSEPH CROFT and HAVEN WILEY, Louisville.

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**Nests of the Black and Turkey Vulture.**—On August 4, 1959, I chanced upon two young vultures at Devil's Backbone ridge, Oldham County. These birds fled hissing into a large crack, the nesting cavity, at the base of a large ridge. On August 8 Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Stamm and I revisited the spot. At this time I took one bird from the cavity, and Mrs. Stamm identified it as a Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*),

The site overlooked Harrod's Creek to the north in an area predominantly forested with maples. The abundant ground cover consisted mainly of poison ivy, wild hydrangea, and wild flowers, growing in rich black loam. The nest was situated on the ground at the bottom of a fissure, formed by two massive chunks of limestone about 15 feet high, leaning against each other. These huge weathered blocks, split from the ridge, are characteristic of the area. The width of the opening was about 23 inches; the cavity was approximately 18 feet deep and 13 feet high. There was a smaller second opening that faces the ridge, above ground level inside the "cave." An adult wing feather found here may indicate that the parent used this secondary entrance. The hole was divided into two compartments by a projecting rock; the birds hid in the smaller one, to the left of the main chamber. This pocket was quite small; it must have been a tight fit for two birds. Bare dirt formed the floor of the den.

Mrs. Stamm banded this young bird, which was about the size of a plucked chicken, though the wings were disproportionately large, and had pale orange-buff down, a black bill, and feet that were a dirty white. Black feathers about 3 inches long were developing along the outer wing edges. To our surprise, the young vulture did not regurgitate, but did show extreme annoyance at being handled. It could not fly, but ran back into the den when freed. There was no evidence of a parent's presence on either visit.

On the same morning (August 8) we checked another cavity across the ridge 75 yards from the nest described above; we found young Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) occupying the "cave". These young were clearly distinguishable from the orange-buff Black Vulture in having cotton-white down. No further details could be perceived in the gloom of the hole. The den was 3 feet wide, 2½ high, 12 to 15 feet deep, and 3 feet from the top of the ridge. No strong offensive odor was noticed at either nest. It was interesting that two Black Vulture eggs had been found here on the ground on March 7, 1959, by the author in company with Floyd Carpenter and Dr. Vero Wynne-Edwards; the eggs disappeared later that spring.

It appears that Devil's Backbone is attractive to nesting vultures; at least three nests have been found there this past year. Accordingly, the ridge should provide ample opportunity for more thorough observations in the coming season.—WILLIAM BLOCH, Louisville.

Ed. Note: This area has been known for many years as a breeding site for both the Turkey and Black Vultures; but little has been written on the subject.)

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## NEWS AND VIEWS

(Continued from Page 2)

### ANOTHER HOWARD ROLLIN PAINTING

The K. O. S. collection of bird paintings has been augmented by another gift from this talented artist with a portrayal of a pair of Ruddy Turnstones. With his usual meticulous work, this 9" x 12" painting shows the striking spring coloration of the male, and the female in her less gaudy plumage. The painting will be framed by the Beckham Bird Club and prepared for display. This is the sixteenth consecutive year in which this good friend has so honored the K. O. S.

Mr. Rollin's address is Route 1, Weldona, Colorado.

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Mrs. Sue Semple died at her home in Providence on August 16, 1959. She was active in the work of the society prior to her illness. Mrs. Semple was the author of many poems on birds and nature some of which were published in the **Saturday Evening Post**, **Nature Magazine**, and **The Kentucky Warbler**. Among her writings was an interesting account of "Song Sparrows Breeding at Providence" in western Kentucky, which she co-authored with Mable Sisk Holt.

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R. Haven Wiley, Jr., one of our student members, has an interesting and scholarly article in the December, 1959, issue of the **Wilson Bulletin**. "Birds Observed During Two Atlantic Crossings." K. O. S. is proud of his ornithological contributions. Congratulations!

\* \* \* \*

Are you interested in nature photography? The Hamilton Naturalists' Club is sponsoring an International Exhibition of Nature Photography in April, 1960. According to the president Robert O. Elstone, one of the purposes of this venture is to bring to the attention of the public "the need of saving our few remaining natural beauty areas." If any of our members care to enter their photography, please write for entry forms to Mr. John Giles, Exhibition Chairman, Hamilton Naturalists' Club, Main Post Office, Box 384, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

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Division of Birds

N-73

BIRDS

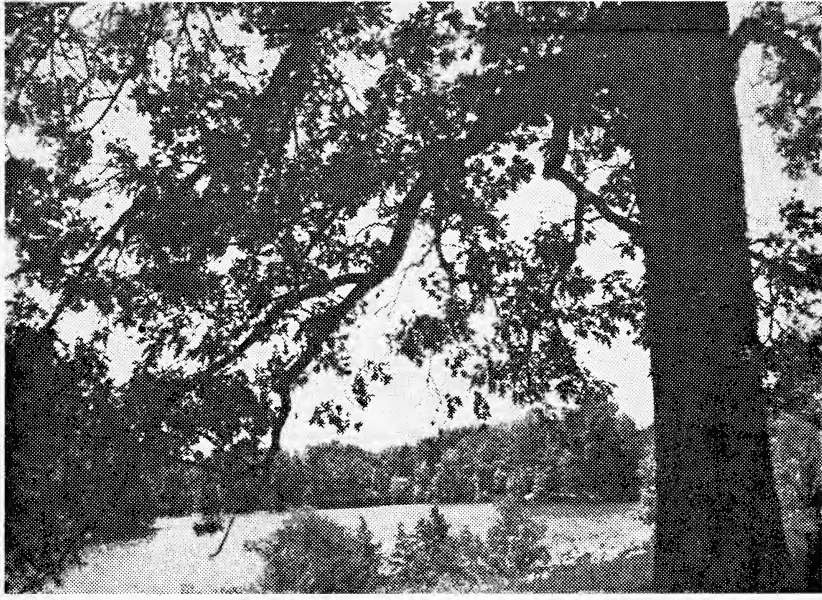
# The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. XXXVI

MAY, 1960

No. 2



A portion of Kingfisher Lake No. 2, showing characteristic habitat that surrounds the lakes. Photo, by A. L. Powell, was made from the road that divides the two Kingfisher Lakes.

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. Published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. The KENTUCKY WARBLER is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular, \$3.00; Contributing, \$5.00; Student \$2.00; Corresponding, \$2.50; Life, \$50.00. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editors. Subscriptions, memberships, and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

LOSSES OF BIRDS IN 1959-60 WINTER

The cold, snowy weather in March, 1960, especially, may have taken a heavy toll of bird life. If you have any evidence of this, will you please forward the information to the editors? Bluebirds and Carolina Wrens are early nesters, and we should like to know how they managed during the severe weather. What about the March-nesting Killdeers? If you have any information on the Bobwhite or any of the other birds in your area that were found dead because of the lack of available food, we should also like to know.

\* \* \* \*

A NEW CHAPTER OF K. O. S.

Preliminary steps have been taken to organize a chapter of the K. O. S. at Murray. On April 10, 1960, a group of nine prospective members held a field trip at Paris Landing State Park, just over the Kentucky-Tennessee state line, with an attractive list of 36 species of birds recorded and 468 individuals. On April 30, 1960, a meeting is to be held for the purpose of taking further steps toward completing an organization.

## SOME BIRDS OF THE OWENSBORO LAKES

By A. L. Powell

For the past ten years most of my ornithological studies have been made on the three state-owned lakes that are located ten miles northeast of Owensboro, near Yelvington: Carpenter's, Kingfisher No. 1, and Kingfisher No. 2. Two private lakes of about six acres each are included in the "chain," as they practically join the north end of Carpenter's Lake.

Carpenter's Lake has 78 acres of water, with numerous inlets and bays and a large peninsula. Kingfisher No. 1 has a long and interesting history that goes back to the turn of the century. This lake and No. 2 are almost as large as Carpenter's and lie right across the road from it. The habitat surrounding these lakes is quite varied, as there are fields, cultivated and overgrown, deciduous woods, and a fairly large cattail marsh at one end of Carpenter's. Running along beside Kingfisher No. 2 and a part of Carpenter's Pup Creek meanders. In fact the spillway from Carpenter's cascades down a man-made pile of boulders into this stream. The creek bottom has many sycamores, willows, beech, and other forest trees. The term "habitat" includes many things; so we must consider that there are many vacation cottages and permanent homes, not only around the lakes but close by. The writer's home, "Milbert Gardens," is an example. A number of these homes have extensive plantings of evergreens and berry-producing shrubs and trees. Many of the families love birds and try to attract them with feeding stations, bird boxes, and plantings. Such efforts will naturally affect such species as bluebirds, wrens, robins, martins, and other species that like to live near man. The Fish and Wildlife Department have also put up a number of boxes for Wood Ducks.

Since I have covered every nook and cranny of this area, I have often thought of the extent of the influence of a lake, a river, a mountain, a marsh, or any other habitat on the overall wildlife pattern. Just how far is such an influence felt? We know that it is extremely foolish to draw a line and say that all on this side belongs to the sphere of the lakes and across the line some other area is to be credited with its effect. My impression is that an area like the one under study certainly affects bird life for two or three miles in all directions. I am thus convinced that the Fish and Wildlife Department is to be commended for obtaining lakes and ponds for the public and also encouraging farmers in the pond programs. The Soil Conservation Service is also interested in more ponds for fish and wildlife.

Many thousands of people visit these lakes during a year, especially in summer, because of the excellent fishing. Mr. Clint Bowers, fisheries biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service, has written me of the 17 species of fish to be found in the lakes, but I will mention only the large-mouthed bass, the bluegill, and the white crappie. Numerous species of mammals also are to be found in and around the lakes: weasel, mink, opossum, red and gray foxes, gray and fox squirrels, and a number of field rodents. The rabbits are fairly abundant, and on our own place we have a large white oak that is the den tree for raccoons. Muskrats are to be seen in abundance and are often quite tame. At one of the private lakes a muskrat came out of the water, waddled toward my son and me, and actually walked over my son's feet. All of these things—animals, trees, flowers, fish, frogs,

water, and everything that man has done—have a direct relation to the bird life.

Though my wife and I have made many investigations for a decade, we feel that we are still just beginning. Several species that we should have seen have not yet been found. We especially regret our inability to find the nests of certain species. We have set down our own identifications and somewhat discounted local records. One man told us how fish hawks were destroying so many fish; we later found that the bird in question was a Great Blue Heron. In a later article we plan to tell of other species besides the ones recorded in this study.

**COMMON LOON (*Gavia immer*).** We usually find one or two each year. One bird was brought from another part of Daviess County; I released it in one of the lakes.

**PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*).** Fairly common and can be seen the year around, though I have never found a nest.

**GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*).** I see one to three each year. It probably breeds in some obscure part of the creek bottom. The presence of so many people at the lakes keeps this species on the go.

**GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*).** A common summer resident. I have found a number of nests, but none were occupied.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*).** I have found two birds roosting and one or two flying over.

**CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*).** A number of these birds visit the lakes each year to rest or feed. In 1954 a lone goose stayed the entire winter. I saw a flock of twenty or more about to land, but they saw me and veered off.

**MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*).** For the past three years I have been disappointed in the waterfowl count, and the Mallards have been scarce. I have seen them only in small flocks; the larger flocks prefer the Ohio River.

**GADWALL (*Anas strepera*).** Recorded only twice. One year a sizable flock stood on the edge of the ice and allowed us to study them for a long time.

**AMERICAN WIDGEON (*Mareca americana*).** Five males and six females on March 24, 1951. On the private lake across the road from our house we observed one on June 19, 1958, a very unusual record on, as it should have been in its nesting grounds; far to the north, at that time; the bird took flight and flew easily to Carpenter's Lake and beyond; so it was not injured.

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL (*Anas carolinensis*).** Very few of this species have been recorded, which seems strange to me.

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL (*Anas discors*).** Several sizable flocks can be counted on for each year, but in the past few years they have not been as common as previously.

**WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*).** Fairly common and breed here. I have found some of their nesting holes and have seen broods on opposite sides of the lakes at the same time.

**REDHEAD** (*Aythya americana*). Usually present in one of the lakes, alone or in small flocks; one of my favorite ducks.

**RING-NECKED DUCK** (*Aythya collaris*). The most abundant of all the ducks that visit the lakes.

**CANVASBACK** (*Aythya valisineria*). I used to find them quite abundant, but for the last three or four years they have been scarce. They usually are associated with Redheads.

**LESSER SCAUP** (*Aythya affinis*). Not too common, but sizable flocks can be found every year.

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE** (*Bucephala clangula*). Several seen each year. I saw nine of these ducks at one time at close range, a thrilling experience.

**BUFFLEHEAD** (*Bucephala albeola*). Only rarely seen.

**RUDDY DUCK** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*). Even rarer than the Bufflehead.

**HOODED MERGANSER** (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). Only two or three records.

**COMMON MERGANSER** (*Mergus merganser*). This species, like the other mergansers, is only an occasional visitor.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** (*Mergus serrator*). One record, but I feel that it is more common than that would indicate.

**TURKEY VULTURE** (*Cathartes aura*). Occasionally seen flying over.

**BLACK VULTURE** (*Coragyps atratus*). Occasionally seen flying over. No doubt both species of vultures would nest near the lakes if there were suitable hollow logs, but I have never found a nest.

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK** (*Accipiter striatus*). I see these birds occasionally but would consider them rare. I have never found a nest of this species, at the lakes or elsewhere in Daviess County.

**COOPER'S HAWK** (*Accipiter cooperii*). I consider this bird rare at the lakes, but it should be seen more often, as the habitat and food supply are adequate.

**RED-TAILED HAWK** (*Buteo jamaicensis*). This is one of my favorite birds. It is numerous enough that I can count on two or more for each hike.

**RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** (*Buteo lineatus*). Only recently, March 20, 1960, my wife discovered new material being piled on an old nest of sticks that has been in the fork of a tree for several years. The female is now on the nest (April 6, 1960).

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK** (*Buteo platypterus*). I have seen this hawk much less frequently than the two other buteos. The last time I saw one it was being worried in flight by a Kingbird.

**MARSH HAWK** (*Circus cyaneus*). I have seen this hawk more often in the vicinity of the private lakes than at Carpenter's proper. Where the cattail marsh has a telephone wire stretching across one end, I watched this hawk perch, with great difficulty, on the wire.

**OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*)**. Although I have not found the nest of this species, I am sure that it is a breeding bird in this area, as I have seen it during the summer months. March and April always bring a number of these birds to the lakes.

**SPARROW HAWK (*Falco sparverius*)**. One of the most abundant hawks, particularly in the farm lands near the lakes. The competition for nesting sites with the Starlings does not seem to have hurt this species.

**BOBWHITE (*Colinus virginianus*)**. When we first moved out to Milbert's Gardens, we had a pair of Bobwhites that would feed in our yard, but we haven't seen one here for years. In the area we have found several coveys and an occasional bird or two. The reasons for the scarcity of this species are, apparently: 1. the burning off of lands by the farmers, and 2. the large number of dogs that run loose.

**KING RAIL (*Rallus elegans*)**. Near the cattail marsh, at the northern end of Carpenter's Lake, I saw six King Rails cross a little road in single file. As this was early summer, I assumed that they had been raised there. A systematic search, often on hands and knees, of nearly all the marsh failed to reveal any sign of a nest. These birds are so secretive that I cannot say for certain how common or uncommon they may be.

**SORA (*Porzana carolina*)**. This bird is usually found wading in the area mentioned above. I think it nests here, but no nests have yet been found.

**COMMON GALLINULE (*Gallinula chloropus*)**. I see this bird every spring in migration and believe that it nests here.

**AMERICAN COOT (*Fulica americana*)**. Though I have seen this bird at all seasons and have sometimes seen individuals acting as if I were close to a nest, I have not yet found a nest. The bird is common.

**KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*)**. This bird, which always typifies shore birds to me, nests here, no doubt, but I have not as yet found a nest in the vicinity of the lakes, though I have found several in other places in the county.

**AMERICAN WOODCOCK (*Philohela minor*)**. I have often listened for its characteristic mating song but have not succeeded. I flush two or three a year and on occasion have seen it fly across my place to the wet bottoms behind the house.

**COMMON SNIPE (*Capella gallinago*)**. Two or three records on Carpenter's Lake proper. One dead bird, apparently struck by a car, was found on the shore. Numerous records of the species on the private lakes, as the habitat there is more suitable. Not common, however, anywhere.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularia*)**. It can be seen in season along the shores of the lakes and also in Pup Creek bottoms.

**SOLITARY SANDPIPER (*Tringa solitaria*)**. Recorded every spring and fall but never in great numbers. The lakes do not have enough mud flats to attract many shore birds.

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS (*Totanus melanoleucus*)**. Three or four are seen in migration each year.

**LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Totanus flavipes*)**. Rather rare. Oc-



asionally I see this one and the Greater together, always an interesting event.

**RING-BILLED GULL (*Larus delawarensis*).** Once in a while, in a strong wind from the Ohio River, a few of these birds will "blow in" for a while. Never common.

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## A NEST OF THE GREAT HORNED OWL

By Harvey B. Lovell

Although the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) occurs in the forested areas and breeds in much of Kentucky, very little is in the literature about nesting sites and food habits of the species. Therefore, the following should be of some significance to record.

On March 8, 1959, I took Dr. Vero Wynne-Edwards, a visiting professor from Scotland, who at the time was occupying the Tom Wallace Chair of Conservation at the University of Louisville, to visit the Bernheim Forest Reservation. The forest is located in Bullitt and Nelson Counties, four and a half miles south of Shepherdsville on Ky. 245. The area covers some 10,000 acres, is typical Kentucky knobland, and has been very briefly described previously (See 'A Visit to the Bernheim Reservation,' by Mrs. F. W. Stamm, *Kentucky Warbler*, XX (1944): 11-12). As we walked from the forest edge out into the clearing at the upper end of Lake Nevin, we flushed an owl from a large 40-foot sugar maple stub; the large bird, with a wing-spread of almost five feet, flew silently through the air, and Wynne-Edwards identified it as a Great Horned Owl. We looked beneath the stub and found some owl pellets, and we believed the tree contained a nest.

On March 23 the area was again visited. On looking through a 20X telescope we saw the head and one eye of a young owl in the depression on the top of the stub. I told Richard B. Henley, park naturalist, to investigate the nest if possible. Two days later he climbed the tree and wrote that he found two young birds "completely covered with down, with only the first beginnings of feathers." He found "quite a bit of rabbit fur at the bottom of the nest."

The nest tree was located at the edge of a wooded area on a sloping hillside overlooking a very narrow portion of the lake; directly behind was a thick stand of cedars; in the foreground Virginia pines grew here and there. Mr. Henley suggested that the tree may have been hit by lightning, for the main trunk stood about 40 feet high and had a jagged, broken top. The tree was not dead; four large branches stemmed from the trunk and were in blossom. Another large sugar maple tree almost as tall and with the main trunk also broken off at the top stood about 300 feet away; it may have been used as a roost, for on two occasions pellets consisting chiefly of rabbit fur were found beneath it. These trees were fairly well out in the open.

On April 5, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm went with me to photograph the nest and perhaps band the young. We found two fluffy young owls sitting in the depression of the trunk looking down from the sharply-pointed 40-foot stub. As we watched, they lowered their heads as if to hide from view. Mr. Henley was not present, and without a ladder it was impossible to reach the nest; a shower

prevented us from taking pictures. We searched the area, but the adult birds could not be found.

Two days later, April 7, we returned, and Henley provided a long ladder and brought the owls down for banding. Mrs. Stamm placed band numbers 498-34401 and 498-34402 on the stout legs of the birds; and they were put back into the nest. Their legs were feathered all the way to the claws, and the feet and "ankles" were very large. As I climbed up the long ladder to put one of the young back and look at the nest site, a very strong offensive odor of decayed animal matter came from the "cavity."

The nest was large, flat, and without twigs; it contained a large pellet, the head of an adult male Mallard, and numerous bones scattered about. Several pellets found at the base of the tree were examined and contained the skulls of mice.



Two Young Great Horned Owls  
Bernheim Forest, April, 1959

Photograph by R. B. Henley

As the birds were banded, I took movies of this process, and during this time the owls snapped their bills loudly and fought us, but not viciously. In view of the notorious ferociousness of Horned Owls we were cautious and apprehensive as we ascended the ladder to replace the birds. For example, friends in a northern state had been attacked when inspecting nests of this species, and wounds were inflicted on their backs, even though they had worn heavy leather jackets. We were surprised that neither adult bird was seen. Perhaps the large number (5) of persons present discouraged the adults from attacking us. Mrs. Stamm recalled a previous occasion when, in Iroquois Park,

Joseph Croft found a young of this species out of the nest and they had seen an adult bird watching from a nearby tree.

The nest site appeared to be well chosen, for it provided the adult birds an open place to hunt for field mice and rabbits; water for drinking, bathing; and a place to catch an unwary fish, as well as water birds.

The area was revisited this spring (1960), but the place was unoccupied. Perhaps the birds moved to a more remote area in the reservation.

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## FIELD NOTES

**Black Snake Visits Nest of Pileated Woodpecker.**—The article "Pileated Woodpecker Attacks Pilot Black Snake at Tree Cavity," by Val Nolan, Jr. (WILSON BULLETIN, December, 1959) caused me to look at my records made on May 30, 1957. Three days prior to that date young Pileated Woodpeckers (*Dryocopus pileatus*) were heard calling in the woods near our residence on Indian Hills Trail. The nest was located at 2:30 P. M. on May 30, by the presence of a young bird in an opening, which was in a 40-foot stub of a dead, practically barkless, hackberry tree, three feet in diameter. It was 30 feet from the ground; ten inches above it was a similarly-shaped old hole. At the very moment that the nest cavity was discovered, a 3-foot black snake (species unknown) started crawling up the tree and, despite efforts to deter it, reached the hole and entered quickly. After forty minutes, during which there was no sign of the snake, a young bird appeared in the opening, hesitated a few seconds, and flew off. Ten minutes later the snake stuck out its head, just as the adult male arrived on the scene. He immediately went to the nesting-hole, entered it halfway, and began jabbing furiously inside. On resuming observations at 4:00 P. M., I found that the adult male was at the hole jabbing inside and chipping the lower rim as though trying to enlarge it. Then as he moved around the tree and rapped, perhaps hoping to make a new opening, a second young bird appeared at the entrance and flew off. Then the adult female came into view but took no part in the operation. At 4:30 P. M. the male desisted in his efforts and left the immediate area, followed shortly by the female. Soon after their departure the head and a few inches of the snake's body were visible in the hole.

Observations were again interrupted for an hour. At 5:30 P. M. a third young bird was seen at the opening. It called, apparently wanted to leave, but instead backed down into the cavity. This action was occasionally repeated for forty-five minutes, while the adult female remained quietly nearby, not attempting to feed the young bird or enter the nest. The snake was not visible during the time. It is unknown whether the third nestling left after 6:30 that evening. The nest appeared deserted at 7:00 the following morning. There was considerable calling of young birds until dark. It is not known whether the snake ever left the nest cavity. It apparently was unable to inflict injury. In this instance, it is assumed attempted predation was unsuccessful because of the maturity of the young. At least the young appeared to be fully matured and ready to leave. Other departure

dates in the area are as follows: May 31, 1954; May 30, 1956; and June 7, 1959.—CATHERINE HOPE NOLAND, Louisville.

(Ed. Note: The article referred to describes an apparently fatal attack by a male Pileated Woodpecker on a large black snake which had entered a cavity used by a pair of birds near Bloomington, Indiana.)

\* \* \* \*

**Nests of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron near Lexington.**—As far as I know, there is only one published record of a nest of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) for the Lexington area (Ky. Warbler, XXXII:62). In view of this, I would like to submit the following nesting notes.

On May 4, 1958, while on one of the scheduled Sunday-afternoon walks of the Kentucky Audubon Society, we discovered three nests of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron on the C. V. Whitney Farm, about five miles from Lexington. The nests, two of which were occupied at the time, were about 40 or 45 feet from the ground in large sycamores along a branch of North Elkhorn River. (The Elkhorn is referred to as a "river" because of its being so designated by early historians.) Loosely constructed of sticks, with a small depression for the eggs, the nests followed no particular pattern.

On May 9, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Reece, Jr., reported that they saw another nest under construction. On May 10, the site was again visited with Al. Mayfield and Dr. William T. Maxon, and all nests seemed to be occupied. On a return visit on June 7, with Mayfield and Reece, we again saw the nests and the young birds in them.

On June 12, Maxon, Mayfield, and I visited a fifth nest about three fourths of a mile from those on the above-mentioned farm. This nest was approximately 45 feet from the ground and located in a walnut tree on the lawn of Mrs. Preston Johnson. One of the young birds was in the nest, another was standing on the nest, and two more were standing on a limb about three feet from the nest. The two adults were just below and near. This is the same farm where a nest was found in 1956 (See reference above).

On September 25, 1958, I observed two immature birds on the shore of Lake Ellerslie on the Richmond Road, near Lexington. On September 28 one adult was at the same lake.

On May 10, 1959, I saw one adult bird on a small creek on the Burns Farm on the Athens-Walnut Hill Road but did not locate a nest. I was accompanied on this date by Mrs. G. L. Burns, Barbara Burns, and Mr. and Mrs. Reece. In the afternoon the bird club visited the C. V. Whitney Farm again, and the story was about the same as the year before.

On May 17, 1959, another nest was located high in a sycamore tree on South Elkhorn River, Fayette County, near the Bar-Y Camp. One adult bird was standing beside the nest. On May 23, 1959, I visited the Bar-Y Camp again but found no new nests.—CONLEY WEBSTER, Lexington.

\* \* \* \*

**Four Sight Records of Scoters at Louisville.**—During the fall of 1959 scoters were observed along the Ohio River at Louisville on four dates. Two species were positively identified.

**SURF SCOTER (*Melanitta perspicillata*).**—A single Surf Scoter

was identified on November 7, 1959, on the Ohio River at the mouth of Beargrass Creek near downtown Louisville. The author watched this bird from about 100 yards for several minutes with a 20X telescope. The scoter was in either juvenile or female plumage, with two distinct white patches on the sides of the head. One of the most remarkable aspects of the bird was the bill, which was noted at the time as being swollen peculiarly near the base. The uniformly dark wings were seen clearly when the scoter flew.

The Surf Scoter did not associate with the large rafts of diving ducks that were resting on the water in the middle of the river, but remained alone relatively close to shore. Several minutes after a barge coming up the river had forced these large flocks to take off, the scoter, staying close to the water, flew alone out toward the middle and down the river.

**COMMON SCOTER (*Oidemia nigra*).**—On November 15 Mr. Roderic Sommers identified a single Common Scoter in female or juvenile plumage near the Indiana side of the river opposite Towhead Island.

In addition, unidentified scoters were seen on two dates. The writer saw briefly a scoter with dark wings flying past Cox's Park, four and a half miles from downtown Louisville, on October 24. Three unidentified scoters were seen by Mr. Sommers in the Harbor underneath the railroad bridge on November 1.

Two previous Kentucky records for each of the two identified species have been published. Wilson (*Ky. Warbler*, XVI (1940):18) observed four Surf Scoters in Warren County on March 2, 1934, with a flock of White-winged Scoters (*Melanitta deglandi*). A female Surf Scoter shot on the Ohio River near Brandenburg, Meade County, on October 16, 1949, was reported by Monroe and Mengel (*AUK*, LX (1943):282). Two Common Scoters in female plumage were killed in Carroll County on November 9, 1938 (Monroe and Mengel, *Ibid.*; *Ky. Warbler*, XV (1939):41). A more recent record of the latter species has been published by Sommers (*Ky. Warbler*, XXXIII (1957):56-57) of two juvenile scoters seen on February 17, 1957.

The 1959 records appear to represent the third published occurrences of both the Surf and the Common Scoter in Kentucky.—HAVEN WILEY, Louisville.

(Ed. Note: A record of a White-winged Scoter seen on February 23, 1960, in the Louisville area by Leonard C. Brecher has been received).

\* \* \* \*

**Another Record of the Oregon Junco.**—At the suggestion of Mr. Burt L. Monroe, Sr., I am adding the following observation of an Oregon Junco (*Junco oreganus*) to the previous records of this species at Louisville. On the afternoon of April 13, 1958, I noticed a very brown-looking junco fly into my yard and begin feeding. I went outside with my binoculars and observed the bird for several minutes at a distance of about 25 feet, in bright light. The back and sides of the junco were a rich brown, the head a dark slate color; and there was a sharp line of demarcation between the hood and the sides, very unlike the mixture of brown and gray sometimes seen in the Slate-colored Junco (*J. hyemalis*). After about 20 minutes the bird flew off, and I did not see it again.—JOSEPH CROFT, Louisville.

**Catbirds Wintering in Eastern Kentucky.**—I have had two reports from reliable observers in eastern Kentucky that they have seen the Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) spending the winter here. One of these reports came from my son, Harold F. Reed, who observed a Catbird in a tree near Elkhorn City, Pike County, on February 3. Another observer, Germer Evans, told me that a Catbird had been spending the winter in a deeply sheltered ravine at his home at Lovely, Martin County.—RUFUS M. REED, Lovely.

\* \* \* \*

**An Upland Plover in July.**—We have few summer records of the Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*); therefore I would like to report a sight record of an individual bird sitting on a fence post along the roadside on July 9, 1959, near Shepherdsville, Kentucky. This is about thirty miles south of Louisville. The bird may have been one of a breeding pair in that area, or it may have been an early migrant. So far as I know, we have only one breeding record in the state, a nest with four eggs, in Boone County, on June 4, 1950 (*Ky. Warbler*, XXVI (1950):49). Emerson Kemsies told me, in conversation, that a few breed regularly at Oxford, Ohio, airport, which is located thirty miles north and west of Cincinnati. He said that they breed there along with Bobolinks (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) and Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). It was not possible at the time to search the Kentucky area for a nest.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

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**Rough-legged Hawk at Louisville.**—Although Louisville, Kentucky, lies well within the accepted winter range of the Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*), few actual observations have been reported. The following notes may therefore be of interest.

On December 29, 1958, I was walking through Cherokee Park with a classmate, casually watching birds, when a large hawk appeared overhead, only about ten yards above the ground. Apparently we startled the bird, for when it was almost directly above us, it turned and flew back in the direction from which it had come. Using my binoculars, I had time to note the bird's very white underparts, as well as the white at the base of the tail. My friend saw these marks also, commenting especially on the rather wide, sharply defined black band at the end of the tail. He remarked that the tail gave the appearance of having been "dipped in ink." This type of tail pattern, of course, is typical of the light-phase Rough-leg; however, I was puzzled at the bird's very pale-colored belly. On checking in Peterson's *FIELD GUIDE*, I found that this variable species is sometimes so marked.

I was able to verify the identification a few days later, on January 3, 1959, while driving on Chenoweth Lane in St. Matthews, about two miles from the spot of the first observation. At that time I saw what was evidently the same hawk, flying along the road, just above the level of the housetops. I was traveling slowly enough to observe the tail pattern and the pale belly; I was also able to see clearly the black "wrist marks" so characteristic of the Rough-legged's light phase. Occasional visits to the Cherokee Park area during the remainder of the winter failed to produce any further sightings of this hawk.

My only previous observation of this species at Louisville was on December 27, 1953, when I was with a Christmas Count party that

found a black-phase Rough-leg at the edge of Cherokee Park (Ky. Warbler, XXX (1954):10).—JOSEPH CROFT, Louisville.

\* \* \* \*

**September Nesting Record of the Black-crowned Night Heron.**—On September 26, 1959, my wife, Anne L. Stamm, and I were at the Falls of the Ohio to observe shorebirds, but very few were seen. I was especially interested in photographing egrets; one flew from the dike to a group of willow trees at the lower end of the Falls. As I crossed over to the wooded area and trudded through the shrubbery and mass of tangled vines, my attention was diverted to a nest of the black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) containing a seemingly fully-feathered young bird. This aroused my curiosity, and upon further investigation I found two more occupied nests. I called my wife; we searched the immediate area and found three additional nests, each containing young birds. As we approached the trees on which the nests were located, some of the young herons climbed out and perched on near-by branches.

All six nests were in willow trees and placed near the main trunk. They were 12 to 15 feet from the ground. They were bulky and made chiefly of rather heavy twigs and sticks approximately one quarter of an inch in diameter, and scantily lined with finer twigs. Three nests were within a radius of 20 to 25 feet. The other three were 60 to 80 feet east of the above nests, and relatively close together. Willow trees are the dominant species here, although there are some poplars. Smith (Ky. Warbler, XXVI (1950):6-9) described the area more fully when he visited the rookery in 1949.

Twelve young were observed; all were feathered and were perhaps a month old. The young heron in the sixth nest fell from the tree, and although unable to fly, ran for a short distance and hid in the heavy undergrowth; in trying to capture it, my wife encountered swarms of mosquitoes and insects as she made her way through the briars and undergrowth; droppings were heavy in certain areas, presumably from the adult birds.

As we remained in this wooded area, an adult heron alighted on the dam, and then it flew to a tree within 50 feet of where we stood as we photographed the young on the nest. Later another adult approached the area carrying a twig in its bill.

Apparently this is a rather late date for Black-crowned Night Herons to be in the nest.—F. W. STAMM, Louisville.

\* \* \* \*

**An Unusual House Sparrow Nest.**—On April 26, 1960, Mrs. Edward Stout, who lives ten miles north of Bowling Green, called me to report a very unusual nest in a syringa bush (*Philadelphus coronarius*) in her yard. I drove up at once and saw a female House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) leave the area of the nest as I stopped my car in the driveway. The nest was oblong, about 20 inches in length and 8 inches in diameter, with the opening in the end next to the porch of the house, and was about 8 feet above the ground. All the outside was of grass, very fresh-looking and rounded into the shape, as we said, of a watermelon. The bird returned, shyly, a number of times, always with catkins from oak trees in her beak. She would pause behind some leaves for a long time before darting to the nest itself. Though I have often found large, bulky nests of this

species in trees and shrubs, I cannot recall having seen one so large or with a side opening before this year.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

\* \* \* \*

**A Suburban Bird Sanctuary.**—At the northwest edge of Bowling Green is Grider's Limestone Lake, a deserted stone quarry that has been incorporated into a bird sanctuary, planned and operated by the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Grider. Ten years ago the Griders bought the 24-acre tract, which was rather desolate after a quarter of a century of use as a stone quarry. The underground streams had posed such a problem of keeping the water out that the original owner decided to sell the quarry proper—seven and a half acres and the open fields and thickets adjoining it. The Griders, with the help of their artist daughter, designed a modern home overlooking the lake and began what seemed then like a hopeless task of bringing some order out of the chaos of the area. They have succeeded far beyond any one's expectation, and the tract is now a veritable bird sanctuary. Thousands of flowers and shrubs have been set out, unsightly heaps of stone have been leveled off or covered with sod, and a great many feeding and nesting boxes and shelves have been built. The lake and its surrounding fields have become a pleasure resort for many fishermen, for the lake—25 to 35 feet deep—is stocked with large-mouthed bass, crappie, bluegills, sunfish, and rock bass. Fed by the underground streams that caused the area to be given up as a quarry, the lake is nearly always at the same height, clear, cold, and clean.

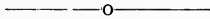
Because there are so few ponds of a permanent nature in my area, I have come, in the last five years, to watch this lake for all sorts of waterfowl in migration. In late fall and early spring I can expect to find a few of the rarer ducks there, such as Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*), Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*), and Redhead (*Aythya americana*). Since most of my observations of these three species have had to be made at the Chaney and McElroy Lakes, when they are at their highest, it is a real treat to stand on the limestone cliffs and observe these at very close range for as long as I wish. The Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) is the one seen in the largest group at any one time—44 in a single flock. I have sighted as many as 22 Lesser Scaups (*Aythya affinis*), but these two large flocks mentioned are exceptional. Mr. Grider tells me that often large flocks come in at dusk and leave before sunrise, when visibility is very poor. The Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) comes regularly in small numbers and sometimes remains practically all winter. On several winter counts I have found one or two of this species at the lake. Without doubt many other species of ducks use the lake as a resting place, but I have records of only 2 American Widgeons (*Mareca americana*) and 1 Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*).

The most memorable finds have been of the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) in three of the five seasons I have watched the lake and the Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*) in one season. The Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) appears in small numbers every year and at almost any time except mid-summer. The only Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) I have ever seen in my territory appeared for a day only on December 28, 1958, and swam within very close range for hours. Since there are no mud flats, wading and shore birds are virtually absent; only the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) appears on my records. Mr. Grider has described the visit of gulls, probably the Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), on several occasions. Though this list—14 species—is small, it has given me, especially on bleak



winter days when there was no open water on the horse ponds around here, a chance to keep an acquaintance with several water species, sometimes rare ones.

The land birds are numerous in the sanctuary. In winter this tract is one of the three or four favorite habitats of the White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) in my whole area of observation. The Purple Martin (*Progne subis*), the Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*), and the Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) are most often recorded first in spring at Grider's. The Rough-winged Swallows nest in the old cliffs there. They and the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) are constantly skimming over the lake in search of insects. Long ago, before the stone quarry was even begun, the place was so full of song in early spring that I named it Mockingbird Field; it would still be a good name for it. In our last three spring field trips of the Kentucky Ornithological Society most of our members have visited the lake and marveled at such sights as a Common Loon at close range. Mr. and Mrs. Grider have always extended an invitation for us birders to visit the place whenever we can and stay as long as we wish.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.



## ANNUAL SPRING MEETING, APRIL, 1960

By Helen Browning

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its thirty-seventh annual spring meeting at Bowling Green, Kentucky, April 22-24, 1960, with headquarters at the Lost River Motel. This was the fifth consecutive field study in this area. Sixty persons attended part or all of the meetings.

On Friday evening K. O. S. members were invited to The Kentucky Building, Western Kentucky State College, to see the BACON-SUTHARD COLLECTION of bird nests and eggs. Mr. Gayle Carver, Curator, was most gracious and helpful to K. O. S. visitors to the museum.

Dr. Gordon Wilson led the Saturday field trip to McElroy and Chaney Lakes.

At noon Saturday members enjoyed picnic lunches at a roadside park just north of Lost River Motel.

At 4:00 P. M. Saturday afternoon an executive board meeting was held in Cottage No. 12.

The dinner meeting was held at the Helm Hotel, Bowling Green, Saturday evening at 6:45 o'clock, Mr. James Hancock, President, presiding. After the introduction of guests and officers of the Society, President Hancock asked Dr. Wilson to present the speaker of the evening, Mr. Albert F. Ganier of Nashville, Tenn. Mr. Ganier is a past president of Wilson and Tennessee Ornithological Societies and an elective member of the American Ornithological Union. His subject "Hi-Lites along a Birder's Trail." Members were highly enthusiastic and appreciative of this informative and entertaining talk.

Announcements were made that the Wilson Ornithological Society would meet at Gatlinburg, Tennessee, May 5-8, 1960, and that the

K. O. S. fall meeting would be held at Henderson, Kentucky, October 7-9, 1960, with headquarters at the Soaper Hotel. Dr. Hunter Hancock informed members that Mr. Paul Sturm, manager of Kentucky Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, had asked that K. O. S. go on record as favoring the replacement of land, inundated by the Barkley Dam, as agreed on between the U. S. Corps of Engineers and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Dr. Hancock requested that members write favoring this to Senators Cooper and Morton and Congressmen Stubblefield and Natcher. Dr. Robert Pace also asked that our group favor this agreement. The meeting adjourned.

On Sunday morning members went to the cottage of Dr. and Mrs. L. Y. Lancaster on the Gasper River. From there field trips were led by Dr. Wilson and Dr. Lancaster. At noon picnic lunches were enjoyed at the cottage. Dr. Wilson announced that a total of 107 species of birds were found during the meeting.

#### ATTENDANCE AT ONE OR MORE SESSIONS OR FIELD TRIPS

**BOWLING GREEN:** Mrs. Mildred Allen, Gayle Bowman, Mrs. Harry Bowman, Mrs. Virginia Garrett, Mrs. H. W. Gingles, Margie Helm, Dr. L. Y. Lancaster, Dr. and Mrs. Robert N. Pace, Steven Pace, Frances Richards, D. C. Riley, Emily Wilson, Mrs. Eugene Wilson, Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilson;

**BURKESVILLE:** Mrs. John W. Brake;

**CLARKSON:** Mrs. Walter T. Kelley;

**DANVILLE (and Jackson, Tennessee):** John A. Cheek;

**FLOYD KNOBS, Indiana:** Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Curtis Webster;  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Wolking;

**FORT KNOX:** Chaplain Norman Liss;

**FRANKLIN:** Mary Ellen Richards;

**GLASGOW:** Dr. and Mrs. George McKinley;

**HENDERSON:** Malcolm Arnett, W. P. Rhoads;

**HORSE CAVE:** Rev. Sam Steward, Sonny Steward;

**LEITCHFIELD:** William Grant;

**LOUISVILLE:** Dr. and Mrs. Austin Bloch, Jim Bloch, Bill Bloch, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Helen Browning, Amy Deane, Evelyn J. Schneider, Mrs. Beatrice Short, Mabel Slack, Roderic Sommers, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Mrs. Elsie P. Stewart, Haven Wiley;

**MACEO:** Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Powell, Wilton Powell;

**MADISONVILLE:** Mr. and Mrs. James W. Hancock, Brenda Hancock;

**MURRAY:** Dr. and Mrs. Hunter Hancock, Dr. Clell Peterson;

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE:** A. F. Ganier;

**ROCKFIELD:** Mr. and Mrs. Roy Millikin.

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437  
birds

# The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. XXXVI

AUGUST, 1960

No. 3



"Pinnated Grouse (Prairie Chicken)

"That the curious may have an opportunity of examining to more advantage this singular bird, a figure of the male is here given as large as life, drawn with great care from the most perfect of several elegant specimens shot in the Barrens of Kentucky. . . . At first sight, instead of shooting them down, I sketched their attitude hastily on the spot; while concealed in a brush-heap, with seven or eight of them within a short distance." — Alexander Wilson, AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY, Volume III (1811), Plate XXVII. The two smaller figures are of the Blue-green Warbler (upper right, really an immature female Cerulean) and the Nashville Warbler (upper left).

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## NEWS AND VIEWS

### THE FALL MEETING

A joint meeting is being planned with the Indiana Audubon Society for October 7, 8, and 9 at Henderson. It is interesting that the K. O. S. should hold its annual fall meeting there, as it also marks 150 years since John James Audubon arrived in Henderson on a flatboat. A committee is busy at work planning a program, field trips, and other features for the meeting. Plan now to attend the meeting; it will give you an opportunity to meet Indiana ornithologists and to renew acquaintances among our own members.

\* \* \* \* \*

### A NEW K. O. S. CHAPTER AT MURRAY

The K. O. S. wishes to welcome the members of the new Murray chapter and to extend best wishes for a very active club there. Eleven members make up the new chapter, with Dr. Clell T. Peterson, of Murray State College, as president; Mrs. Arlo Sprunger as secretary; and Miss Alta V. Presson as vice-president. Dr. Hunter M. Hancock is acting as advisory counsellor. The secretary writes that the club has already had three meetings, several field trips, and is now ready to be affiliated with the state group.

\* \* \* \* \*

### NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Another welcome is in order, for we have three new Life Members: Dr. Robert M. Mengel and Mr. and Mrs. John W. Lemons. Dr. Mengel was granted his Ph. D. in zoology by the University of Michigan in 1958, his thesis being "A Study of the Distribution of the Breeding Birds of Kentucky." In 1951 and 1952 he served as chairman of the committee on illustrations for the Wilson Ornithological Society; presently he is on the staff of the University of Kansas Natural History Museum. He is a member of many ornithological societies and is one of our own products, since he was reared at Louisville. Mr. and Mrs. Lemons are both teachers; Mr. Lemons has taught for the past fourteen years in Christian County, Mrs. Lemons for the past eight years in Crittenden County; both were students at Murray State College this year and members of Dr. Hunter Hancock's class in Field Biology. They are to travel abroad for the school year 1960-'61.

## THE 1959-60 WINTER SEASON AND ITS EFFECT ON KENTUCKY BIRDLIFE

By The Editors

Kentucky's winter of 1959-'60 will long be remembered for its unprecedented snowfalls during February and March, and how these storms brought adverse conditions and death to such species of birds as the Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), and others.

Late February and March are usually mild months in Kentucky, but such was not the case the past season. Balmy weather marked the picture on February 10; on that date clouds of Texas dust came over the central section of the state and, mixed with rain, left cars and window panes spattered with mud. This picture was short-lived, as a quick change came when the temperature dropped 26 degrees by midnight. An interesting note here is that the barometer reading at Louisville fell to 28.99 at 2 p. m., only the second time the reading had gone below 29 since records were started in 1871. At midnight the barometer was .44 higher (29.43) from the afternoon low. Wind gusts at 4 p. m. were 52 miles per hour and at 2 a. m. 60 miles per hour. Intermittent rain fell from midnight until it stopped at 2 p. m. and totaled .85 of an inch. On February 13, a snowstorm lashed into central and eastern Kentucky. The eastern sections had the heaviest snowfall, with London and Corbin reporting six inches and Frankfort four. Snow ten inches deep was reported in the following counties: Adair, Casey, Cumberland, Clinton, Green, Hart, Metcalfe, Monroe, Pulaski, Russell, and Wayne. Paducah and some western parts were not covered. The strong winds caused the snow to drift in some places up to five feet. That was just the beginning.

A second storm, on February 18, brought up to eight inches of fresh snow in some areas of the state, and some of this was to sections where heavy snows had fallen previously. Bourbon, and some southern counties bordering Tennessee seemed to get the worst of the storm; Tompkinsville, Monroe County, was hard hit and was all but isolated.

March brought additional snows and cold weather; on March 9, the heaviest snowfall, probably the worst ever for March, caused the Governor to proclaim an emergency, and National Guards were ordered to isolated areas. The eastern mountain communities were practically isolated; snowfall ranged from seven inches in Pikeville, eighteen at London and Corbin, to twenty inches at Harlan and the Somerset areas, the latter having drifts up to two feet in some places and nearly four feet of snow since February 13. Henderson had as much as sixteen inches on the ground. Bowling Green's big snow was 23.9 inches, the heaviest ever recorded since the Weather Bureau set up its instruments. The total for Bowling Green was 54 inches after January 1. Pine Mountain residents, Harlan County, said snow remained on the ground from the first snow of the year until April. Snow remained on the ground in the central sections in protected areas until March 28, when all of it melted as the temperature went up to 84.7 degrees. In Louisville, March low temperatures were broken on six days; on March 6, the temperature dipped to 1.4 degrees below zero, an all-time low for the month of March. A maximum of 32 degrees or below was recorded there on nine consecutive days. According to Louisville's Weather Bureau March was the third "snowiest" month

in the Bureau's 87-year-old records. On March 5, Bowling Green and London had overnight lows of five below zero, with Lexington and London having two below.

This unusual weather picture made food supplies hard to get and almost unavailable for quail and some species of song birds; it caused conservationists and ornithologists much concern. At the request of individuals, local bird groups, garden clubs, Fish & Wildlife Service, Sportsman's clubs, and others: radio, television stations, and newspapers advocated feeding the birds during the severe weather conditions. In some areas many thousand pounds of grain were donated to those interested in saving seed-eating species of birds. It was interesting, too, that even the casual observer was attracted to the birds' plight as they came in large numbers to dooryards and protected areas in search of food and shelter.

Bird mortality directly or indirectly attributable to the cold and the deep snows was rather widespread throughout the state. It was not, however, until the spring migration was over and the nesting season begun that the winter's destruction was fully realized. Species that seemed to have been hardest hit and whose numbers are considerably reduced are the Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*), Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), and the Eastern Bluebird. There seems to be general agreement among field observers that these species have been far below their normal numbers.

The following notes from various sections of the state give some indication of the effects of the severe winter.

**Murray, Calloway County**—There is a marked decrease in the Bluebird and the Carolina Wren since the unusual cold weather of last March. Dr. Hunter M. Hancock reports that he has failed to observe American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) in his recent field biology trips to Murphy's Pond, and he fears that this species, ordinarily seen there, may have been a victim of the prolonged cold.—Clell T. Peterson.

**Marion, Crittenden County**—The birds that suffered most because of the severe winter appeared to be the Starlings. I found 10 to 12 dead ones around our farm, and also one Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). The Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) seem to have survived well; we fed four coveys during the worst spell. During the big snow I saw a Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) on three different days and also a Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*).—C. L. Frazer.

**Madisonville, Hopkins County**—Two Carolina Wrens had been coming to our feeders; one was found dead on March 3. The other one also disappeared. A Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) was found dead at our mail box on March 12. Both casualties occurred during the deep snow. It is quite likely that many other tragedies went unnoticed. There is a definite decrease in Carolina Wrens, and Bluebirds are extremely scarce. I am deeply concerned over the Bluebirds and fear what might happen if the winter of 1960-61 were another severe one.—James W. Hancock.

**Henderson, Henderson County**—Robins seem to have been hardest hit during the deep snow that covered the ground from March 2 to March 25. Sometimes there was as much as sixteen inches on the ground. Elliott Cates found more than 50 Robins dead under a road bank. Others reported one now and then. Quite a few Eastern

Meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*) were reported, too. Many people mentioned the many kinds of birds around stables and feedlots, especially Starlings, the blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), Mourning Doves, and quite a few Bobwhites. There are several livestock feeding operations around the county and well distributed in the immediate Henderson area. One brilliant idea that resulted in the saving of many of the Bobwhites and other grain-eaters was evolved by Frank Kolinski of the Southern States Co-operative Stores. There was a large stock of outdated seeds on hand. Kolinski appeared on Radio Station WSON and Television Station WEHT, and put notices in the *GLEANER AND JOURNAL* to state that he would give the seed free if people would come and get it and would even furnish sacks free. The people responded, between 500 and 600 of them; 9,000 pounds of seed, such as rye, wheat, lespedeza, Sudan grass, grain sorghums, and some other small seeds were furnished. Some of the other dealers supplied some, as did the grain elevators, with some cracked grain. Many people noticed, especially along the highways that had been cleared, such birds as Meadowlarks and Bobwhites eating in the small lespedeza strips or where grain had been spilled. Large quantities of both corn and soy beans are moved along these highways. Frank Sauerheber, local agent of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Conservation, bought a considerable amount of feed and, with the approval of Sergeant J. D. Browning of the Highway Patrol, put a sack of feed in each of the cruisers and asked each of the troopers to clear a place and put out feed where birds were seen. All troopers were gratified to pass these spots day after day and find birds feeding. Many individuals, as well as Superintendent Sherman Combest, kept feed out at Audubon State Park. William H. Rhoads made regular trips into some of the back areas of the park to feed the birds. Nearly everybody put out feed around the house, and several have reported bringing in a Robin in the late afternoon, giving it food, and releasing it the next morning.—W. P. Rhoads.

**Maceo, Daviess County**—I feel that the Bluebirds suffered severely during the cold weather. Before the deep snows the species was very common; not a Bluebird has been seen since the snows. We fed the birds all the time and feel that we saved the lives of many. Even a Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata*) came and ate chick feed, in full view of the family. Carolina Wrens, Carolina Chickadees (*Parus carolinensis*), Tufted Titmice (*Parus bicolor*), and many other species ate about six quarts of peanut butter. Cardinals (*Richmondia cardinalis*) were abundant in the yard. Fox Sparrows (*Passerella iliaca*), Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*), Tree Sparrows (*Spizella arborea*)—nearly every species of the area were fed; and they ate 100 pounds of grain, meal mixed with 75 pounds of lard and bacon grease, and countless loaves of bread. We hope we saved a few from dying.—Bert Powell.

**Bowling Green, Warren County, and Mammoth Cave, Edmonson County**—Bluebirds, already scarce, were not found from early January until early June, and then only two individuals just outside Mammoth Cave National Park. Many observers, including Park Naturalist Willard Dilley, have corroborated this observation. Mr. L. E. Stahl, who owns a farm that includes part of the Chaney Lake, told me that he found 23 dead Mourning Doves huddled together between bales of alfalfa in one of his storage barns. Rather oddly, Bobwhites seem to have got through the winter unhurt, as they are widely distributed. Mr. Rufus Grider, who owns Grider's Limestone Lake, thinks that many of the Bobwhites in his area sought refuge under the many

cars in an auto graveyard near the lake and were thus sheltered and could find weed seeds also. I was out on field trips many times while the severe winter was in progress and always found feathers where some birds had been captured and eaten by predators, especially Rufous-sided Towhees, Cardinals, Slate-colored Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) and White throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). The Carolina Wren has practically disappeared from the Mammoth Cave National Park. I found it regularly and in normal numbers throughout January and until February 11, but I have not seen a single one since then, even though I have spent many days in various parts of the park. In Bowling Green the species survived well and was full of song, even in the time of the deepest snow. The Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), in spite of its ground feeding, seemed to have survived with no apparent changes in numbers of winter residents or actual nesters. Eastern Meadowlarks have done well, too. Dozens of people, in the city and in the country, fed the birds and were rewarded by seeing at close range in their yards or windows most of our common winter and resident species.—Gordon Wilson.

**Louisville, Jefferson County**—Bluebirds: Richard Irwin found six dead Bluebirds, two in one box and four in another. He has 90 boxes erected and usually has about 25 or 30 nesting pairs; this is about 15 pairs below the record for last year. William G. Duncan, 519 Ridge-wood, found four dead adults in a nesting box in Garnettsville Cemetery, Meade County, and five dead in a box in the Ten Broeck area, Jefferson County. He also reports that he "found any number of dead Bluebirds, perhaps as many as forty, all within twenty miles of Louisville." On April 2, a visit to Otter Creek Park by Mr. and Mrs. Roderic Sommers, Haven Wiley, and the writer only one Bluebird was found, in contrast to the 15 found there on the 1959 Christmas Bird Count.

**Robins:** Twenty-five dead Robins were found by Ira Mitchell, vice-president of Cave Hill Cemetery; he had a flock of about 200 in the cemetery and was not successful in finding anything they would eat. The Robins and the Starlings ate the fruit of the *Sophora* trees; normally these trees supply food for the 300 to 400 Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) that stop on their flight northward. This spring he did not see the great flocks of waxwings and believed it may have been because this particular fruit had been eaten by the Robins. From the *Courier-Journal* we learned that William Davis of Charing Cross Road had 400 to 500 Robins feeding on his hollies, which "extend 10 feet high and more than 100 feet along one side of his property." The birds stripped the hollies clean in two days. "Davis and his neighbors said some were noticeably weak from hunger."

**Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*):** Mr. Mitchell found "three or four" dead Mockingbirds; the birds fed on the holly trees, and this species tried to keep the Robins from feeding on the berries.

**Myrtle Warbler (*Dendrocia coronata*):** Frank Krull found two dead Myrtle Warblers beneath the juniper trees in his yard at Jefferson-town.

**Carolina Wren:** Numbers appear to be down considerably in this area.

**American Goldfinch:** A single American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) was observed by Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm feeding on a group of Spanish needle (stick-tights) plants that peeped above the deep snow; the bird was reluctant to leave until it was approached to



within a few feet, and even then it returned within a few minutes. The seed pods were picked clean.—Anne L. Stamm.  
pods were picked clean.—Anne L. Stamm.

**Campbellsville, Taylor County**—We have learned from William G. Duncan of Louisville that Marvin Elmore, Route 5, Campbellsville, found dead Bluebirds in nest boxes and pumphouses on his farm. In Mr. Duncan's "Bluebird Letter," which he circulates, he quotes Mr. Elmore as saying, "This year, 1960, in all this area, some 250 acres, I have seen only one pair of Bluebirds, nor have I found them nesting. But in another area adjoining this one, I noticed a pair of Bluebirds around an old hollow mulberry gate post, where they have nested for many years." Mr. Elmore also reports that "Starlings died wholesale in the snow, but there are plenty left."

**Fusonia, Perry County**—Herman Campbell indicated that from his observation the Bobwhite population was down considerably because of the heavy snows. He said that many persons there bought chick feed and scattered it "to save the small birds."

**Hindman, Knott County**—According to Paul Earp, Meadowlarks were hit hardest; one was found dead, others could walk, but they seemed in a weakened condition. He reported feeding the birds mixed grain and cornbread, and that many species of birds that normally do not feed in backyards were frequent visitors at these feeding places.

**Lovely, Martin County**—I fed the birds during the cold weather in March. A single Meadowlark came to our yard, scratched, pushed away pieces of frozen ground with its bill, while it scratched for feed; it seemed quite gentle and trustful and fed with Slate-colored Juncoes, Cardinals, and various sparrows.—Rufus M. Reed.

**Ashland, Boyd County**—Several birds were found dead due to the severe winter, such as the Bobwhite. Still in this area we did not record a great number of such deaths. Birds flocked into town to take advantage of the numerous bird feeders located everywhere. Also people who do not have feeders threw out bread crumbs and scraps to help take care of the hungry birds.—Walter W. Forson.

## FIELD NOTES

### SNOW BUNTING IN MARTIN COUNTY

A Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) appeared in our immediate area in November and remained until the latter part of February. I saw only one. It spent most of the time on the ground scratching like a chicken and was often seen in the company of Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*) and American Goldfinches (*Spinus tristis*). I thought it strange that it would be here alone, since it is usually to be found in flocks. I have learned that in the winter of 1959-'60 there was a large movement southward into the southern part of the Appalachians and the Middle Western prairie region.—Rufus M. Reed, Lovely, Martin County.

\* \* \* \*

### NEST OF A YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO

My partner, Mr. Chapman, and I (We own a Nature Sanctuary) found the nest of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), with the female incubating the eggs, on June 26, 1960. The location of this nest disproves the reputation of the cuckoo of being shy and elusive.

We found the nest within 200 feet of the house and right beside the trail, much used, leading to the cemetery. The nest was placed in the forks of a shrubby red elm bush five feet nine inches from the ground. It contained two eggs, which almost filled up the flimsy structure, which was made of twigs and bark placed loosely in the bush. The eggs were of a delicate light-blue color, heavily spotted with shades of light brown. The adult cuckoo merely flew a short distance away when we approached the nest. She sat in a bush, uttering protesting "kuks" and "kowps" as long as we remained around the nest. We sighted a stray cat near the nest and chased it off. We are hoping that no snake or cat will find the two young, for we are desperately in need of more cuckoos in our region, since the tent caterpillars, measuring worms, and cankerworms have made heavy inroads on our woodlands this season, in many places stripping completely such trees as black locust, wild cherry, and white oak.—Rufus M. Reed, Lovely, Martin County.

\* \* \* \*

### TWO INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS IN THE LOUISVILLE AREA

My own feeling is that the spring migration in the Louisville area this year seemed unusually productive of a variety of species, even though the total numbers of birds seemed to be below average. The two most notable of my records occurred within a six-day period in May.

On May 7, 1960, 9:30 a. m.: The Caperton swamp area just south of River Road and east of the city limits, is one of the more productive areas on any Louisville birding itinerary. I had hoped to find a few spring transients along my customary route around the edge of the water area that borders Indian Hills Trail. As I turned at the northerly end of the small dyke that lies along the west edge of the pond, I caught sight of a good-sized brownish land bird sitting approximately 20 feet above the swamp in a tree no more than 50 feet from me. A quick look with my 8X40 binoculars enabled me to identify the bird as a female Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*). I watched the bird in good light for over a minute while a couple of nearby goldfinches (*Spinus tristis*) provided a wonderful size comparison. The bird sat very still while I noted the typical grosbeak bill and the two light "chocolate" wing bars which are characteristic of this species. While I was trying to get into position to view the bird from another angle, she flew off in a northwardly direction.

There are several reputable sight records of this species in Kentucky, including two others in the Bowling Green area by Dr. Gordon Wilson this spring, but to date there has been no state specimen, nor has the bird been found nesting.

May 12, 1960, 8:15 a. m.: I parked my car as usual at the north end of Fourth Street by the Ohio River. The Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*) and Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) had been putting on a bit of a show for me for the past few mornings before work, and I had been able to enjoy them for several minutes each day without the benefit of binoculars. This particular morning the birds were flying right along the shore line and even over the cobblestone paving in places; so it was not difficult to detect that a single gull approaching me from the direction of Third Street had an all black head. As it wheeled about 100 feet from me, I was able to see the distinguishing field mark of the Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*), the white "win-

dows" which are located in the wings between the black wing tips and the gray of the rest of the wing. The bird was still present when I departed for work five minutes later; so I asked Mrs. Frederick Stamm if she would mind "seconding" my sight record. She was able to observe the bird under even better conditions later the same morning; a further check below the Falls of the Ohio on the Indiana side revealed two Franklin's Gulls, which Mrs. Stamm felt sure were additional birds.

None of the three birds were seen again after this date. There are a few good late fall and winter records, including the flock of eight birds found by Wiley (Ky. War., Vol. 36:17), but as far as I have been able to determine, this is the first spring record for this species in this area.—RODERIC W. SOMMERS, Louisville.

\* \* \* \*

### SNOWY AND LONG-EARED OWLS VISIT MARION

Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*) visit Kentucky so rarely that a few comments on one seen at Marion, Crittenden County, this past winter may be in order. The owl was first observed on March 9, 1960, as it flew out of a cedar about 3:00 p. m. It appeared to be in search of food, as it flew along a fence row at a low level; it was also seen in the late afternoon of March 11 and 13. It should not have had any trouble in securing food, for there were plenty of rabbits, quail, starlings, and sparrows nearby. I recall that during the last large ice storm, five or six years ago, I saw a Snowy Owl in the same cedar; it permitted me to walk within twenty feet and did not so much as fly. I understand that a large flight of Snowy Owls reached Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri this past winter, and one was also reported at Roanoke, Virginia. During the cold and snowy weather of March a Long-eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus*) sat in a red oak tree which is within a hundred yards of our house. I also saw one of these birds last year at about the same time and place.—Chastain L. Frazer, Marion.

\* \* \* \*

### SECOND RECORD FOR THE FORSTER'S TERN AT BOWLING GREEN

As we were driving to the Chaney Lake on our K. O. S. field day on April 23, 1960, we spotted a tern sitting on a fence post at the edge of the pond on the Albert Cox Farm, south of Bowling Green. We stopped, along with others, to check on the species and found it to be a Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*). An interesting point in observing the bird was that it seemed unafraid and permitted us to approach to within about twenty feet. Suddenly it would make a few rasping notes and fly across the pond, dip into the water for a fish or insect, and return to the fence post. We watched about an hour, and this pattern was constant. The fact that it was reluctant to fly seemed to indicate that it had just arrived and was tired from its long migratory flight; its actions were unlike those of the terns we have seen at the Falls of the Ohio. According to Dr. Gordon Wilson, this is the second sight record for the species in his long years of observation in that area, the other one being for December 28, 1958, at Grider's Limestone Lake, just outside Bowling Green. Proper habitat seems to be the only reason why the species has not appeared oftener. — Anne L. Stamm and Haven Wiley.

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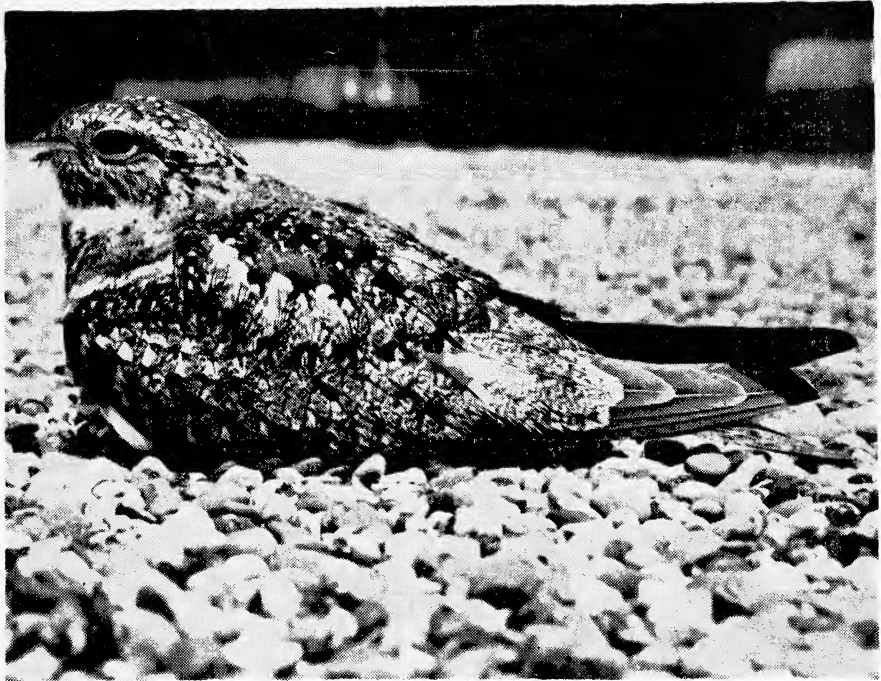
# The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. XXXVI

NOVEMBER, 1960

No. 4



Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) nesting on the roof of the Atherton High School, Louisville, May, 1959. (Photograph by Mabel Slack.)

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## NEWS AND VIEWS

### MRS. RINGO IS NEW LIFE MEMBER

Mrs. W. P. Ringo, of Frankfort, is one of our two newest Life Members, the other one being Oscar McKinley Bryens, of White Pigeon, Michigan. Mrs. Ringo began her career by teaching in the elementary grades in Daviess County; at present she is librarian of the Kentucky Department of Highways. She belongs to the Garden Club of Frankfort and is actively engaged in presenting talks on birds to garden clubs, Boy and Girl Scouts, veterans' hospitals, etc. She was instrumental in organizing a chapter in Frankfort and served as its first president. She is at present a sponsor for bird study for the Boy and Girl Scouts. K. O. S. is grateful for her assistance as recording secretary and as a member of our executive board. Besides her interest in bird study she also enjoys archaeology as a hobby. We welcome this busy person to our ever-growing membership of Life Members.

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### MR. BRYENS IS NEW LIFE MEMBER

At our Henderson meeting, Oscar McKinley Bryens, our faithful Michigan member, became our thirty-first Life Member since the society was organized. Mr. Bryens, a skilled worker in fruit orchards in his native Michigan, has long been a member of our society and has often come the long way down to be with us at our meetings. He is noted for his meticulous daily records of species and individual birds that he has seen and for his very active work as a bird bander. No more active ornithologist lives today than he, for his every day is devoted to his hobby, regardless of his work. He has honored us by showing this faith in our society. And we gladly write his name among the growing list of Life Members.

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### SOME SUGGESTED CHRISTMAS GIFTS

1. A membership in the Kentucky Ornithological Society to a friend that you know is interested in birds.
2. A Life Membership in the society.
3. Check lists—prices range from \$1.00 for 75 cards to \$5.00 for 500 cards.
4. Ornithological books—order them through the society.

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### SOME BIRDS OF THE OWENSBORO LAKES—II

By A. L. Powell

COMMON TERN (*Sterna h. hirundo*). I have seen this species only once, and that was under rather odd circumstances. I was swimming in Trail-away Lake, which is only a few hundred yards from Kingfisher Lake No. 2, when I saw a sizable flock of these birds circling around and every now and then diving. The owner of the lake had poisoned the water to get rid of the many little fish in the water;

the terns were attracted to these minnows that were coming to the top and dying. I do not know where the birds came from but probably from the river islands; as it was July, I will rule out migration.

**LEAST TERN (*Sterna albifrons*).** I have seen this species on the lakes a number of times but not enough at any one time to call it anything but rare.

**BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*).** There is just one record for the ten years that I have been keeping notes on the lakes and area.

**MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaidura macroura*).** Very common in the area and throughout Daviess County. I have records of their nesting from March until October. We have always been amazed at the variety of the places that this species chooses for a nesting site. We have found them as close as two feet to the ground and all the way up to an outstretched limb in the very top of an oak.

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus a. americanus*).** We had the experience of watching a pair of these birds build their nest and raise their young in our yard. It is a common summer resident in the lake area.

**BARRED OWL (*Strix varia*).** Certainly one of the most abundant owls in this area. I have found them in Pup Creek bottoms and all around the lakes. For two seasons they nested almost at our back door, close enough for a number of photographs. We have had as many as five Barred Owls behind our house at one time. While standing on the shores of the lake across the road from me this very year I heard an owl calling from each of the four points of the compass. I think it strange that during the four years we have lived here we have not heard or seen a single Screech Owl (*Otus asio*). They must be here near by but are probably discouraged by the Barred; I have found them at the Boy Scout camp, two miles away. As the Barred's diet is varied, it is not unreasonable to guess that his lesser cousin might sometimes provide a rather tasty meal.

**LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus wilsonianus*).** Harry Berkshire has in his taxidermy shop the skin of this species taken a year or two ago in the Yelvington-Maceo area. Since these little towns are very close to Carpenter's and Kingfisher Lakes, I feel it should be included in this list. In this same shop was the skin of a Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*), taken near Lewisport, Kentucky, in a very cold spell of weather in the winter of 1958-59; since Lewisport is only five miles away, there is, of course, a possibility that the Snowy visits the lake area. The heavy growth of trees and the nearness of the Ohio River make this area a likely place to find the Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), but I have never seen or heard one. The Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) appears in fair abundance in other parts of Daviess County but not close enough to the lakes to add to this list.

**CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*).** On April 20, 1960, my wife and I almost stepped on a Chuck-Will's-Widow in the trail behind our house. The bird "exploded" right under our feet, flew to a near-by limb, and began to call its characteristic notes. We would call the species fairly common, as we see and hear it every year.

**WHIP-POOR-WILL (*Caprimulgus vociferus*).** In spring it is often heard from the latter part of April to early June; after a period of silence it appears again in July. This year, 1960, it has been rare. I have never found a nest of this species.

**NIGHTHAWK (*Chordeiles minor*).** Rather abundant in Owensboro but not often seen at the lakes. The gravel roofs of the city offer better nesting places than the fields and woods of the lake area.

**CHIMNEY SWIFT (*Chaetura pelagica*).** A number of these birds seem to be resorting to older habits by roosting in hollow trees in our area as well as in chimneys. The swifts are very numerous over the lakes and the residential areas. Probably the presence of many old houses with large chimneys as well as vacation cottages with large fireplaces make the habitat appealing to the swifts.

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus colubris*).** On June 18, 1960, we found the beginning of a Hummingbird's nest in a beech tree. The birds had been feeding on the nectar of jewelweeds and had also been gathering fuzz off sycamore leaves. They come to the chicken coop and gather bits of spider web. This nesting material would be woven and wound into the tiny cup of the nest. This species is common in this area and is seen almost everywhere around the lakes.

**BELTED KINGFISHER (*Megaceryle alcyon*).** This species seems to survive, no matter how long the lakes stay frozen. After the extreme cold period of March, 1960, I fully expected to find few, but they seem as numerous as ever. Each lake or pond supports one or more pairs. We have found the species nesting in a number of places in the area and have seen young birds on numerous occasions.

**YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER (*Colaptes auratus*).** Fairly common in the area; a few may be seen on every hike. In the very cold winter the species came to our yard where we were feeding the birds.

**PILEATED WOODPECKER (*Hylatomus pileatus*).** To have this magnificent bird in our own back yard is really a treat; one even alighted on the side of a big oak near our window while my wife was looking out. Fairly common all around the lakes and in the bottoms. In the immediate vicinity I estimate that there are about four pairs.

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Centurus carolinus*).** One of the most abundant woodland species and probably the tamest. We had a pair to nest in the big oak that seemed to regard our feeding shelf as their own personal property. Every year the adults bring their young to the shelf and poke peanut butter down their throats. This species appear in every wooded section around the lakes and often nest rather closely together. In my own yard two pairs were not more than 200 feet apart.

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*).** For three years we were able to find a pair of these birds in the woods at the north end of Kingfisher Lake No. 1, but after the severe weather of the 1959-60 season I have not seen one. I wish the species were common, but it is always rare; on two occasions it has been in our yard, and there are two records of it on the far side of Carpenter's Lake.

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*).** We have this species in our pines nearly all winter, and the trees are pocked by its skill as a sap-sucker. Last year a dogwood was completely girdled, but it is still hardy. I would consider this species as a fairly common winter resident.

**HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopus villosus*).** This species is certainly not so abundant as the Downy and Red-bellied but common

enough to be seen several times each year. We had the Hairy and the Downy feeding at the window shelf at the same time, which gave an excellent chance to compare the two. I have never found the nest of this species or seen the young here. In fact, my notes do not show a record of the species for the summer months.

**DOWNY WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopus pubescens*).** The companionable little Downy is a common bird in the lake district, in every kind of habitat. I have found numerous nesting holes and many young birds. During the heavy snows of the winter of 1959-60 the Downy was constantly at the feeding shelf.

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### BIG SPRING LISTS

Our 1960 Big Spring Lists are, as usual, too few in number. We need as many, at least, as of the Christmas Bird Counts. The editors thank all participants for this season and urge a continued interest in this annual big day or weekend spent in counting species.

A \* means that the species was recorded near but not on the count; a — after MC means species was recorded on the count period outside the Mammoth Cave National Park; Mu—Murray, Ma—Marion, H—Henderson, BG—Bowling Green; MC—Mammoth Cave National Park; L—Louisville, A—Ashland.

**MURRAY** (East of Murray from Clark's River to Blood River: low, damp woodlands and river bottoms)—May 21; weather bright and warm.—Clell T. Patterson, Compiler.

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### NOTES FROM MURRAY

The Dickcissel has not been observed in this area before this count for many years, if at all. At least, this is the first record to be found.

The Bobolinks were observed in such numbers in the Murray area on May 14-16 as to constitute a record—more than 50 individuals.

The Red-headed Woodpecker and the Catbird are definitely on the increase around Murray.

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**HENDERSON** (Audubon Memorial State Park and many areas around Henderson)—May 1; 6:00 A. M. to 4 P. M., CDT. Clear; 35-65; barometer 30.2, rising; wind W, 10-20 m.p.h. Total, 117 species.—W. P. Rhoads, Compiler; Malcolm Arnett, Marilee Arnett, King Benson, Brother Charles (of Evansville), Mrs. Lora Clark, Al Huffman, Mrs. Ross Parsons, Frank Sauerheber, Virginia Smith, Mrs. George Stanley, Mrs. Nat Stanley, Sr.

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### NOTES FROM HENDERSON

Rhoads, Huffman, and Benson worked in the park all day. We had hoped to go to the bend of the river to get shorebirds in the sloughs, but a heavy rain on the preceding night stopped this; our list of such species is, therefore, rather short.

Eighty-nine of the 117 species were recorded in the park; sixty-four species, all told, were recorded elsewhere; removing the duplications, we have the total given above.

MARION (Many types of habitats, in many parts of Crittenden County)—May 28-29. Total, 76 species.—C. L. Frazer.

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BOWLING GREEN (McElroy and Chaney Farms, Mouth of Gasper area)—April 23-24. Very warm, low humidity, strong winds. The lakes were very low and unrewarding, in general. Probably the best records were made inside the Chaney Swamp. Total, 107 species; in period, 10 species; total, 117 species.—Gordon Wilson, Compiler; more than 50 K. O. S. members participated; see list in May, 1960, WARBLER, p. 36.

#### NOTES FROM BOWLING GREEN

The big event was the finding by Mrs. F. W. Stamm and her party of a Forster's Tern on a small farm pond between Rich Pond and Woodburn; Mr. A. F. Ganier later collected the bird. (See KY. WARBLER, XXXVI (1960), 45).

Not a single Bluebird was seen on the two days.

The Bachman's Sparrow, a species now becoming very rare because of the Green Pastures Program, was recorded on the Hadley Ridge by Roderic Sommers.

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MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (A large part of the park on both sides of Green River, especially in the Central Area, the Doyle Valley-Chaumont area and the western end)—April 29-30, May 1; overnight camp at Houchins Ferry. Clear, cool, light wind. Total, 112 species.—Gordon Wilson, Compiler; Dr. Robert N. Pace, Dr. George McKinley, Dr. Robert McKinley, Dr. and Mrs. Russell Starr, Mrs. James Gillenwater, Cleo Hogan, Cleo Hogan, Jr., Geneva Hogan.

#### NOTES ON MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

Just outside the park area, between Pig and the edge of the park, there were hundreds of swallows feeding over the fields and resting on telephone wires. All five species were represented, with Cliff Swallows making up about half the whole number, one of the largest concentrations of that species ever recorded in the Bowling Green-Mammoth Cave area.

The American Bittern was found in a small swamp near Stovall's Crossing and near the home of the Hogans.

The warblers—30 in number—were within one species of the highest number ever found inside the park area in spring. Dr. Starr found the Swainson's, near old CCC 4, and was able to show it to all of us in the party at that time. This establishes a third area for the species, the other two being on separate sections of Mill Branch, about a mile and a half from CCC 4.

The Blue Grosbeak, recorded by Wilson at the edge of the new parking area near the Visitors' Center, is the second record for the park. (See "Blue Grosbeak in Mammoth Cave National Park," KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXXV (August, 1959), 55). It was feeding among the catkins of a tall white oak in very plain view. On May 12 and again on May 16 the species was found at the Chaney Camp. On the latter date the male was singing as it fed. This song definitely



determined that the strange bird song I have so long tried to recognize belonged to this species. (ED).

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LOUISVILLE (Louisville and its environs, including Ohio River, woodlands, meadows, and Caperton's Swamp)—May 1; 6:00 A. M. to 8:30 P. M., CDT. Total, 131 species.—Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Compiler; members of the Beckham Bird Club participating.

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ASHLAND (On Wolf Creek and Upper Twin of White Oak, Martin County)—April 30. Partly cloudy to bright, wind about 5 m.p.h., temp. 45-60. Total, 41 species.—Walter W. Forson, Compiler; Rufus Reed, Bob Chapman, Dr. Anna Waystaff, Okie S. Green.

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#### NOTES FROM ASHLAND

This is not a very impressive list, but our very unusual winter must have been responsible. Migrating birds did not seem to have come through our area in as large numbers as previously. However, our nesting individuals seem to be much ahead of the normal numbers.

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#### THE WOODBURN LAKES, SEASONS OF 1959 AND 1960

Both the 1959 and the 1960 seasons at the Woodburn Lakes were poor as compared with average years. The water was never very high, and the hard winter of 1959-60, followed by the early dropping of the water table, also played a large part in the total picture.

In 1959, on 19 field trips, only 32 species of water birds were found. The lakes were up enough to be measured by January 24 and were gone by June 8. Only one species of grebe appeared, three species of herons, and twelve shorebirds; fourteen of the commoner ducks were seen, but only the Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) numbered as many as 100 at one time. Nearly all the ducks were gone before March 25. Even the Coot (*Fulica americana*) was scarce. Of the sandpipers only the Pectoral (*Erolia melanotos*) appeared in numbers up to 100, the White-rumped (*Erolia fuscicollis*)—3 seen on June 5—was the only unusual shorebird for the season. On our K. O. S. field trip on April only 11 water species appeared.

The 1960 season was almost equally poor, with 1 grebe, 3 herons, 15 ducks, 2 rails, and 11 shorebirds. The lakes lasted from January 19 to May 12 and were visited 17 times. The melting of the great snows—more than 54 inches, all told—raised the lakes to their greatest heights for the season—about 200 acres at McElroy's and 100 at Chaney's. The water table soon fell again, however, and when our K. O. S. field trip, yielding 13 water species, occurred on April 23, there was very little water in either lake. Two thousand Pintails (*Anas acuta*) appeared on March 22, as the largest find of any water species. The Redhead (*Aythya americana*), normally very scarce, was up to thirty on April 4. The Coot approached 100 only on April 9. The Pectoral Sandpiper numbered nearly 250 on April 9, and the two species of yellowlegs combined approached 100 on May 3. The big find—the Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*)—was on a farm between the two lakes and can hardly be counted for the lakes themselves. (See KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXXVI (1960), 45. Most of the years since the mid-forties have brought 50 or more water species to the lakes; maybe 1961 will restore the more nearly normal numbers.—Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.

## BIG SPRING LISTS, 1960

- Pied-billed Grebe—Ma, H  
 Great Blue Heron—Ma  
 Common Egret—H, L  
 Green Heron—Ma, H, BG, L  
 B-c. Night Heron—BG, L  
 Y-c. Night Heron—BG, L  
 American Bittern—MC-  
 Canada Goose—H  
 Mallard—Ma, BG, L  
 Black Duck—BG  
 Gr-w. Teal—H  
 Bl-w. Teal—BG, L  
 Wood Duck—Ma, H, BG, L  
 H. Merganser—BG\*, L  
 T. Vulture—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 B. Vulture—BG, MC, L  
 Sharp-sh. Hawk—Ma, MC  
 Cooper's Hawk—Ma, H, BG, L  
 R-t. Hawk—Mu, Ma, BG, MC, L  
 R-s. Hawk—Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 B-winged Hawk—H, MC, L  
 R-legged Hawk—A  
 Osprey—L  
 Per. Falcon—H  
 Sparrow Hawk—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 Ruffed Grouse—A  
 Bobwhite—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 R-n. Pheasant—BG\*  
 Amer. Coot—BG\*, MC-, H, L  
 Semip. Plover—BG\*  
 Killdeer—H, BG, MC-, L  
 Amer. Golden Plover—Ma  
 Amer. Woodcock—H  
 Common Snipe—Ma, BG, L  
 Sp. Sandpiper—Mu\*, BG, MC, L  
 Sol. Sandpiper—BG, L  
 G. Yellowlegs—BG  
 L. Yellowlegs—BG, L  
 Pec. Sandpiper—BG  
 Least Sandpiper—BG\*  
 Herring Gull—Ma, H, L  
 Ring-billed Gull—L  
 Forster's Tern—BG  
 Common Tern—Ma  
 Caspian Tern—L  
 Black Tern—L  
 Mourning Dove—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 Yel-billed Cuckoo—H, MC  
 Bl-billed Cuckoo—MC  
 Screech Owl—Ma, H  
 Horned Owl—Ma, H, BG  
 Barred Owl—Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 Chuck-will's-widow—L  
 Whip-poor-will—Ma, MC, L  
 C. Nighthawk—Ma, Mu\*, H, BG, MC, L  
 Ch. Swift—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 R-t. Humm'bird—Mu, H, BG, MC\*, L, A  
 Bel. Kingfisher—Ma, H, BG, L  
 Y-sh. Flicker—Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Pil. Woodpecker—Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Red-b. W'pecker—Ma, Mu, H, BG, MC, L  
 Red-h. Woodpecker—Mu, H, BG, MC, L  
 Y-b. Sapsucker—H, BG  
 Hairy Woodpecker—Ma, H, MG, MC, L  
 Downy Woodpecker—Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 E. Kingbird—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 Gr. Cr. Flycatcher—Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 Phoebe—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Yel-b. Flycatcher—MC  
 Acad. Flycatcher—H, MC  
 E. Wood Pewee—Mu, Ma, H, BG, L  
 Horned Lark—Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 Tree Swallow—Ma, MC-, L  
 Bank Swallow—Mc-, L  
 R.-winged Swallow—H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Barn Swallow—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC-, L  
 Cliff Swallow—MC-, L  
 Purple Martin—Ma, H, BG, L, A  
 Blue Jay—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Com. Crow—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Car. Chickadee—Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 Tuft. Titmouse—Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Wh-br. Nuthatch—H, MC, L, A  
 Red-br. Nuthatch—H, L  
 House Wren—Ma, H, BG, MC-, L  
 Bewick's Wren—Ma, H, BG, MC-

- Car, Wren—Ma, H, BG, MC-, L  
 Catbird—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Mockingbird—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 B. Thrasher—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Robin—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 Wood Thrush—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Swainson's Thrush—H, BG, MC, L  
 Gray-ch. Thrush—H, MC, L  
 Veery—H, BG, MC, L  
 Bluebird—Ma, H, L  
 B-g. Cnatcatcher—Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 R-c. Kinglet—MC, L  
 Cedar Waxwing—Mu\*, Ma, H, L  
 Log. Shrike—Mu, H, L  
 Starling—Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 Wh-eyed Vireo—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 Y-th. Vireo—H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Solitary Vireo—MC, L  
 Red-eyed Vireo—Mu, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Phil Vireo—H, MC  
 Warb. Vireo—Ma, H, BG, L  
 B-and-w Warbler—BG, MC, L, A  
 Pro. Warbler—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Swainson's Warbler—MC  
 Worm-eating Warbler—H, MC, A  
 Gol-winged Warbler—MC  
 Bl-winged Warbler—Mu\*, H, BG, MC, L  
 Tenn. Warbler—Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Nash, Warbler—H, BG, MC, L  
 Parula Warbler—H, MC  
 Yel. Warbler—Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 Mag. Warbler—H, BG, MC, L  
 Cape May Warbler—H, BG, MC, L  
 B-th. Blue Warbler—H, L  
 Myrtle Warbler—H, BG, MC, L  
 B-th. Green Warbler—H, BG\*, MC, L  
 Cer. Warbler—Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Blackburnian Warbler—H  
 Yel-th. Warbler—Mu\*, H, BG, MC, L  
 Chest-sided Warbler—Mu\*, BG\*, MC, L  
 Bay-br. Warbler—H  
 Blackpoll Warbler—H, BG, MC, L  
 Pine Warbler—MC  
 Prairie Warbler—BG, MC, L  
 Palm Warbler—H, BG, MC, L  
 Ovenbird—H, MC, L  
 N. Water-thrush—Ma, MC-, L  
 La. Water-thrush—H, BG, MC, L  
 Ky. Warbler—H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Y-br. Chat—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Hooded Warbler—BG, MC, L, A  
 Wilson's Warbler—H  
 Canada Warbler—MC  
 Redstart—H, BG\*, MC, L, A  
 House Sparrow—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 Bobolink—Mu\*, MC-, L  
 E. Meadowlark—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 R-w B'bird—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Or. Oriole—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 Bal. Oriole—H, BG, MC, L  
 Rusty Blackbird—L  
 C. Grackle—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Br-h. Cowbird—Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Sc. Tanager—H, BG, MC, L  
 Sum. Tanager—Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Cardinal—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Rose-br. Grosbeak—H, BG\*, MC, L, A  
 Blue Grosbeak—MC  
 Ind. Bunting—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Dickcissel—Mu, H, BG\*, MC-, L  
 Purple Finch—BG, MC, L  
 Pine Siskin—L  
 Amer. Goldfinch—Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 R-s. Towhee—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Sav. Sparrow—BG, L  
 Grass Sparrow—Ma, BG, L  
 Bachman's Sparrow—BG  
 Slate-col. Junco—H  
 Chipping Sparrow—Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 Field Sparrow—Mu, Ma, H, BG, MC, L  
 Wh-cr. Sparrow—H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Wh-th. Sparrow—H, BG, MC, L, A  
 Fox Sparrow—H  
 Swamp Sparrow—H, BG, L  
 Song Sparrow—Ma, H, BG, L, A

### THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL FALL MEETING

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its thirty-seventh annual fall meeting on October 7-9, 1960, at Henderson, Kentucky, in conjunction with the Indiana Audubon Society, with the Henderson Audubon Society as hosts. Registration began at 4:00 P. M. on Friday at the Soaper Hotel, headquarters.

At the Friday evening program James W. Hancock, president of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, and Robert H. Cooper, president of the Indiana Audubon Society, made welcoming addresses, and Mr. Cooper presented the speakers. Mrs. Harry W. Thixton, of Henderson, who, along with Miss Susan Starling Towles and others, had worked toward the establishment of the Audubon Memorial State Park and Museum, read a paper on "Audubon in Henderson." Miss Edna Banta, resident naturalist at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary at Connersville, Indiana, spoke on "The Status of the Saw Whet Owl in Indiana." Mrs. Anne L. Stamm, of Louisville, gave an account of "Observations at the Falls of the Ohio," illustrated with color slides taken by Mr. F. W. Stamm and of the birds found there. J. Dan Webster, of the faculty of Hanover College, Hanover, Indiana, discussed "A Method of Taking a Bird Census."

On Saturday morning, groups went to Camp Breckenridge and to the Lone Cypress Nursery for field trips and lunch. At 2:00 P. M. Mrs. William Krieger (formerly Amelia Klutey), who had for many years been a member of the staff of the Audubon Museum, conducted tours through the Museum.

The business session was called to order by the president, James W. Hancock, at 4:00 P. M. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. The treasurer's report by Mr. F. W. Stamm was read and approved. (See later in this report.)

Article II, Section A of the by-laws was amended by adding the following sentence: "The Board of Directors shall have the power to change dues of each class of membership hereafter if necessary." The section amended now reads:

"ARTICLE II—DUES: Sec. A. The annual dues for active membership shall be three dollars (\$3.00); for contributing membership five dollars (\$5.00); for student membership two dollars (\$2.00); for corresponding membership two dollars fifty cents (\$2.50). The fee for life membership shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00). The Board of Directors shall have the power to change dues of each class of membership hereafter if necessary."

Mrs. Stamm raised the question of the cost to be charged for back issues of THE KENTUCKY WARBLER, since dues had been raised from two to three dollars to cover the cost of publication. Mr. A. L. Powell moved that single issues be sold at one-fourth the cost of annual dues, except that in the case of previous requests the old price of fifty cents (50c) be charged. The motion was carried.

The president asked for suggestions for the location of the 1961 fall meeting for the benefit of the Board of Directors. Mammoth Cave National Park and Camp Earl Wallace were mentioned.

Mr. Leonard C. Brecher, chairman of the endowment committee, reported four new life members: Mrs. William Krieger, Dr. Robert M. Mengel, and Mr. and Mrs. John W. Lemons.

Floyd S Carpenter, chairman of the auditing committee, reported that the treasurer's books were in order.

The report of the nominating committee was given by A. L. Powell, chairman, the other members of the committee being Virginia Smith, Don Summerfield, and Dr. Robert N. Pace. The following slate was proposed:

President—W. P. Rhoads, Henderson

Vice-President—Al H. Mayfield, Winchester

Recording Secretary—Helen Browning, Louisville.

Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer—F. W. Stamm, Louisville

Councillors:

Mrs. J. Kidwell Grannis, Flemingsburg

Don Summerfield, Valley Station

(Virginia Smith and Conley Webster continue to serve another year.) The motion that the secretary cast one ballot for the slate was approved.

The matter of the date for the spring meeting was mentioned by Dr. Wilson, who questioned the necessity of holding the meeting during the K. E. A. weekend or whether it might be better to hold it when the water in the lakes is up and the birds more numerous. The date is to be determined by the Board of Directors.

It was moved that a rising vote of thanks be given James Hancock for a fine year and for his activities as president.

Mr. Stamm moved that the meeting adjourn.

The annual dinner was held at 7:00 P. M. at the Soaper Hotel, with Evelyn Schneider as toastmistress. The Reverend C. G. Leavell gave the invocation. After the dinner, Miss Schneider introduced those at the speaker's table. Mr. John Collins, executive secretary of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, spoke briefly of the plan for an aviary in Audubon State Park and asked the endorsement of the Kentucky Ornithological Society and the Indiana Audubon Society. Mr. Frank Sauerheber, of the State Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, spoke of the plan to purchase ten sloughs in Henderson County to make sanctuaries for waterfowl, and also asked for the support of the two societies.

Dr. Irving W. Burr, professor of mathematics and statistics of Purdue University and newly elected president of the Indiana Audubon Society, introduced the speaker, Harold Mayfield, of Toledo, Ohio, who discussed his studies of the Kirtland's Warbler, made over a period of twenty-two years, both in its nesting area in the jack pine regions of Michigan and its wintering area in the Bahamas. His talk, illustrated with charts and colored slides, on this rare and perhaps vanishing species was inclusive and was presented with charm and enthusiasm.

Mr. Brecher moved that the two matters brought up by Mr. Collins and Mr. Sauerheber be referred to each of the two societies (K. O. S. and I. A. S.) for such action as they wished to take.

On Sunday morning field trips were taken in Audubon State Park. For the field trips on the two days 80 species were recorded, one of the greatest records for the annual fall trips.

—Evelyn Schneider, Recording Secretary Pro Tem.

**REPORT OF TREASURER**  
**GENERAL FUND**

Bank balance as shown by last report, October 1, 1959.....\$ 183.90

**Receipts**

Membership dues .....	795.00
Life Membership (4) .....	200.00
Contributions to the Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology.....	90.00
Dividends—Jefferson Federal Savings and Loan Association....	28.00
Sale of check lists, bibliographies, etc. ....	23.95
Sale of sleeve patches .....	12.50
Sale of KENTUCKY WARBLER .....	1.50
Receipts, fall meeting, Mammoth Cave .....	316.00
Receipts, spring meeting, Bowling Green .....	86.00
Donations ..	2.00
<b>Total receipts .....</b>	<b>\$1554.95</b>
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>\$1738.85</b>

**Disbursements**

Printing costs, THE KENTUCKY WARBLER .....	\$ 632.49
Treasurer's Expenses:	
Postage, envelopes, stationery .....	74.92
Programs, printing costs, etc. ....	34.55
State of Kentucky, corporation filing fee .....	2.00
Expenses, fall meeting, Mammoth Cave .....	280.00
Expenses, spring meeting, Bowling Green .....	84.00
Transfer to Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology .....	90.00
Transfer to Endowment Fund .....	200.00
<b>Total disbursements .....</b>	<b>\$1397.96</b>
Balance on hand, in Lincoln Bank and Trust Company, Louisville, Kentucky, on October 1, 1960 .....	\$ 340.89

**ENDOWMENT FUND**

Balance in savings account by last report, dated October 1, 1959, Jefferson Federal Savings and Loan Association.....	\$375.00
Seven (7) full-paid shares, Jefferson Federal Savings and Loan Association ..	700.00
<b>TOTAL, PRINCIPAL OF FUND, OCTOBER 1, 1960 .....</b>	<b>\$1075.00</b>

**Receipts**

Life memberships, 4 .....	\$200.00
Dividends on savings account.....	16.15
Dividends on full-paid shares .....	28.00
<b>Total receipts .....</b>	<b>244.15</b>
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>\$1319.15</b>

**Disbursements**

Transfer of dividends on full-paid shares to General Fund.....	\$ 28.00
	<b>\$1291.15</b>

Balance in Endowment Fund, October 1, 1960  
    (Seven (7) full-paid shares, \$700.00; savings account  
    balance, \$591.15; Jefferson Federal Savings and Loan  
    Association, Louisville, Kentucky)

### GORDON WILSON FUND FOR ORNITHOLOGY

Balance in savings account as shown by past report, dated  
 October 1, 1959 .....\$ 466.56

#### Receipts

Contributions to fund, 1960 .....\$ 90.00  
 Dividends on savings account ..... 20.02  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total receipts .....\$ 110.02

Balance in savings account, October 1, 1960, in Greater Louis-  
 ville First Federal Savings and Loan Association, Louis-  
 ville, Kentucky .....\$ 576.58  
 (Principal of fund, \$548.00; accumulated interest, \$28.58)

#### BALANCE SHEET as of October 1, 1960

##### Assets

Cash in bank .....\$ 340.89  
 Endowment Fund ..... 1291.15  
 Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology ..... 576.58  
 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ASSETS .....\$2208.62  
 NET WORTH OF SOCIETY .....\$2208.62

F. W. Stamm, Treasurer.

\* \* \* \*

#### CORRECTION

In our membership list in the August, 1960, issue the name of Miss Virginia Windstanley, 815 Vincennes Street, New Albany, Indiana, was omitted. The editors apologize for this mistake.

\* \* \* \*

#### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Our Christmas Bird Counts have been distinctive for many years. The only quarrel with our members that the editors have about these counts is that there are not several more areas covered. We need to add, especially, the southern mountain area and Northern Kentucky. Be sure to send in your reports early, as soon after Christmas as possible, checked on our check-list cards for the convenience of the editors. Let's make our 1960 lists total 20 for a new record of places surveyed.

## ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING

INDIANA—**Anderson:** Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Velie; **Connersville:** Edna Banta; **Culver:** Dr. and Mrs. R. N. McElwain; **Fort Wayne:** Catherine Pusey, Mabel Thorne; **Hamlet:** Dorothy Buck; **Hanover:** Dr. J. Dan Webster; **Huntington:** Mrs. Henry Storey; **Indianapolis:** Henry C. West, Michael West; **Lafayette:** Dr. Irving Burr, Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Webster; **Logansport:** Betty J. Muelhausen, Gordon D. Muelhausen; **Madison:** David A. Remley; **Manchester:** Mr. and Mrs. Dale Strickler; **Muncie:** Kathleen Rudd Allen, Dr. Robert H. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Zimmerman; **Oakland City:** Mary J. Brown; **Pendleton:** Mr. and Mrs. Jose Brinduse, Fred Miller, Helen Miller, Steve Smith; **Richmond City:** Mrs. C. S. Snow; **Union Mills:** Fredda O. Wakeman.

ILLINOIS—**Mt. Carmel:** Mrs. Nellie Thorton.

KENTUCKY—**Bowling Green:** Dr. and Mrs. Robert N. Pace, Dr. Gordon Wilson; **Corydon:** Malcolm Arnett, Maralea Arnett; **Danville:** Mr. and Mrs. W. Scott Glore, Jr.; **Frankfort:** Mrs. W. P. Ringo; **Glasgow:** Mr. and Mrs. James Gillenwater; **Henderson:** Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Klutey, Mrs. Walter Alves, Robert Alves, Matt Brown, Mary H. Carroll, Bertha A. Harting, Lillian Hoffman, Reverend and Mrs. C. G. Leavell, Mrs. James McConathy, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Meade, Mrs. R. E. Parsons, W. H. Rhoads, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Rhoads, Katherine Reuter, Louise Reuter, Frank Sauerheber, Mrs. R. C. Soaper, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Virginia Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Stiles, Mr. and Mrs. C. Summers, Mrs. Harry W. Thixton, Edna Vogel, Mrs. Watson, Helen Watson, James Wilke, Ruth Williams, Catherine Zeller; **Lexington:** Mrs. G. L. Burns, Mrs. J. A. Heaton, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Reece, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Simpson, Conley Webster; **Louisville:** Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Floyd S. Carpenter, Mrs. Alex Chamberlain, Marie Pieper, Evelyn Schneider, Mrs. F. P. Shannon, Mrs. Eugene Short, Mabel Slack, Mrs. Elsie P. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, Dr. and Mrs. Harvey C. Webster; **Maceo:** Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Powell, Jr.; **Madisonville:** Mr. and Mrs. James W. Hancock; **Reed:** Mrs. Nat Stanley; **Richmond:** Mr. and Mrs. Dan Schreiber; **Valley Station:** Mr. and Mrs. Don Summerfield; **Winchester:** Mr. and Mrs. Al H. Mayfield.

MICHIGAN—**White Pigeon:** Oscar McKinley Bryens.

NEW JERSEY—**Tenaflly:** Mrs. William Krieger.

OHIO—**Waterville:** Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mayfield.

TENNESSEE—**Nashville:** Albert F. Ganier.



## FIELD NOTES

**Thousands of Swifts Roosting in Abandoned Smokestack.**—If you should be walking along the state highway just above the Kermit, West Virginia, toll bridge, on the Kentucky side of Tug River, Martin County, any August evening just before dusk, you would see the air literally filled with hundreds of circling, chipping Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*). Soon you would see them dropping like bees into a hive, as they go to roost in the huge, abandoned smokestack about 100 feet below the highway. This smokestack, which is about four feet in diameter at the top, was once used by the Kermit Gasoline plant when it manufactured many products from natural gas and petroleum. The swifts, young and adults, are congregating into big flocks; they may be coming from all directions, and their ceremony of going to roost lasts for about twenty minutes. It is estimated that as many as 2000 swifts are roosting in the smokestack every August night. No doubt many of them reared their young in the same chimney the past summer. By thick dusk the circling, chipping, and diving ceremony is over, and every swift has dropped inside the big smokestack.—Rufus M. Reed, Lovely.

\* \* \* \*

**Fall Migration of the Common Nighthawk Began Early.**—On August 29, 1960, while driving home from work about 6:20 P. M., my attention was drawn to a large flock of Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) circling and whirling about over the Valley Station area in Jefferson County. They were moving in a southerly direction. I should judge the birds numbered over one hundred in the flock. My records on Nighthawk migration date back to 1948, and this is the earliest fall record of my seeing a large flight.—Donald Summerfield, Valley Station.

\* \* \* \*

**Evidence of Common Nighthawk Migration.**—I counted 71 Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) on September 5, 1960, at 6:00 P. M., while visiting the Burns Farm, near Athens, Fayette County. I was accompanied by Mrs. G. L. Burns and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred M. Reece, Jr., and it was our belief that many birds had passed before we saw them. They were flying toward the southwest.—Conley Webster, Lexington.

\* \* \* \*

**Birds in the Starry Sky.**—Of the eighty-eight star groups spread over the entire sky, including both northern and southern hemispheres, internationally recognized as constellations, nine are named for birds: Apus, the Bird of Paradise; Aquila, the Eagle; Columba, the Dove; Corvus, the Crow; Cygnus, the swan; Grus, the Crane; Pavo, the Peacock; Toucana, the Toucan; Vulpecula et Anser, the Fox and the Goose; and, for good measure, Phoenix, the legendary bird. Star nomenclature dates back to remote antiquity, much farther than the period of the Greeks. The valley of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers is believed to be the locale where the names of the earliest designations for constellations originated, the terms being given by the Akkadians

and Sumerians about 3500 B. C. The Greeks borrowed from the Akkadian starlore, changed the names, and substituted their own myths for the Euphratian legends. Of the forty-eight constellations listed by Ptolemy about 150 A. D. three bear the names of birds: Aquila, the Eagle; Corvus, the Crow; and Cygnus, the Swan.

No new names were added until the geographical discoveries of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries opened up the southern skies and star groups. These new constellations were named as indicated above. The Dove honors the dove sent out by Noah from the ark to find out whether the Flood had subsided; Toucana bears the name of a fruit-eating tropical bird. Pleiades, strictly speaking, is not a constellation but a part of the constellation Taurus, the Bull; it reflects honor on the flock of doves the Greeks associated with it.

When we take into consideration that most of the constellations represent different kinds of wild life, we may consider the firmament a huge celestial museum, though we have mentioned only the ornithological section of it. Considering the relation of the birds to all other forms of life, they fare rather well in the constellations bearing their names.—Charles Strull, Louisville.

(In addition to my own observation, the following sources were consulted:

STAR LORE OF ALL AGES, by Tyler Olcott.

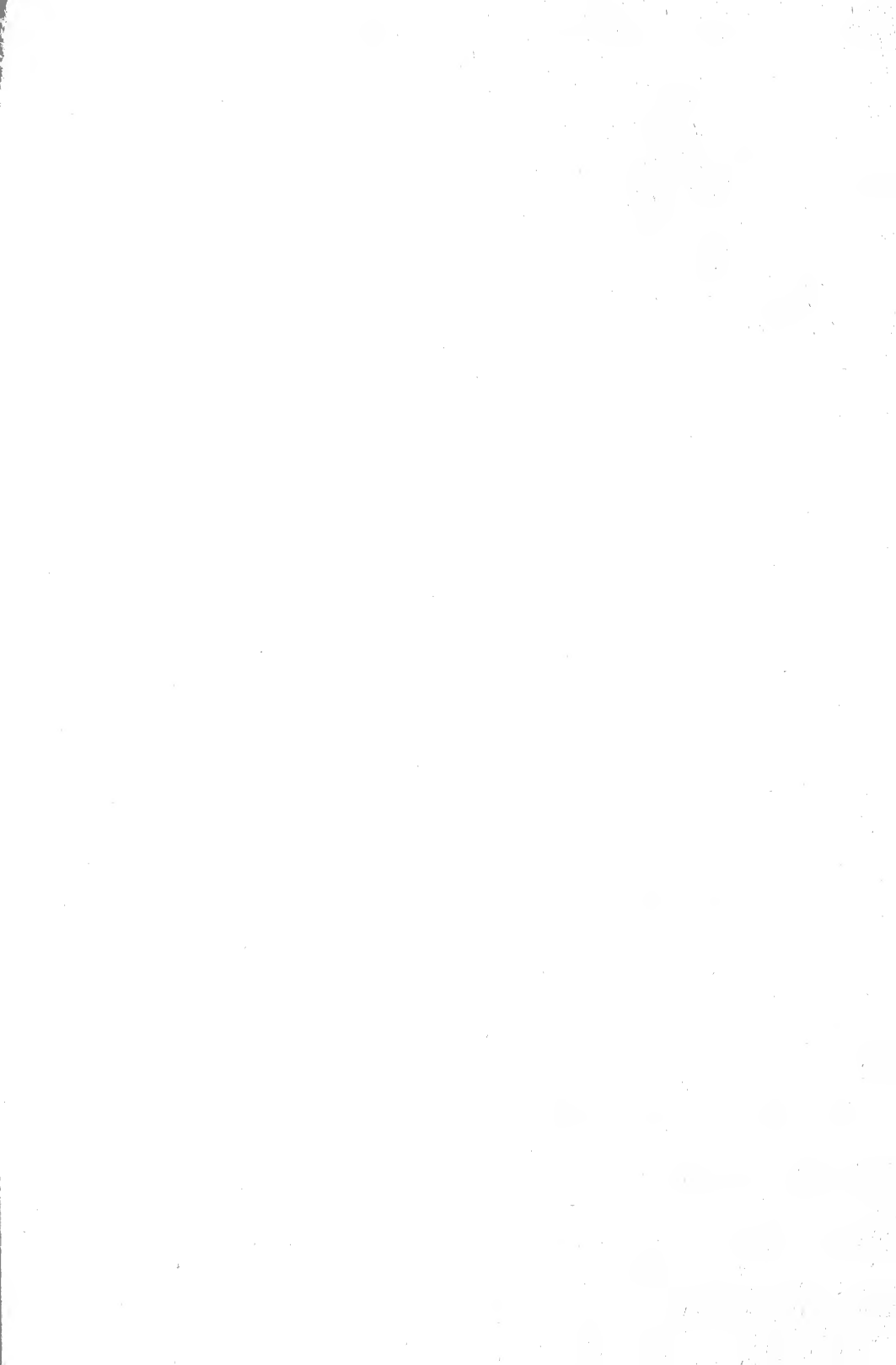
STAR MAPS, by I. M. Levitt and Ray K. Marshall.

A GUIDE TO THE CONSTELLATIONS, by Barton and Barton.)

\* \* \* \*

#### SIGHT RECORD OF THE SANDHILL CRANE AT LOUISVILLE

On the afternoon of September 17, 1960, Mr. Roderic Sommers and I identified a single Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) on the Falls of the Ohio at Louisville. The bird was first noted shortly after 4:00 CDT when Mr. Sommers heard it calling overhead. The crane flew in from up the river, circled slowly low over the rock shelf below the dam, and landed just out of sight near the channel. The enormous size, the extended neck and legs, and the red patch on the head, which contrasted with the general gray-brown coloration of the body, were carefully seen with 7X binoculars and a 20X telescope. During the afternoon of the next day the crane was observed feeding and preening on the Falls; both a group of Beckham Bird Club members and a group from the Cincinnati Bird Club had excellent views on this second day.—Haven Wiley, Louisville.





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#### SIGHT RECORD OF CATTLE EGRET AT BOWLING GREEN

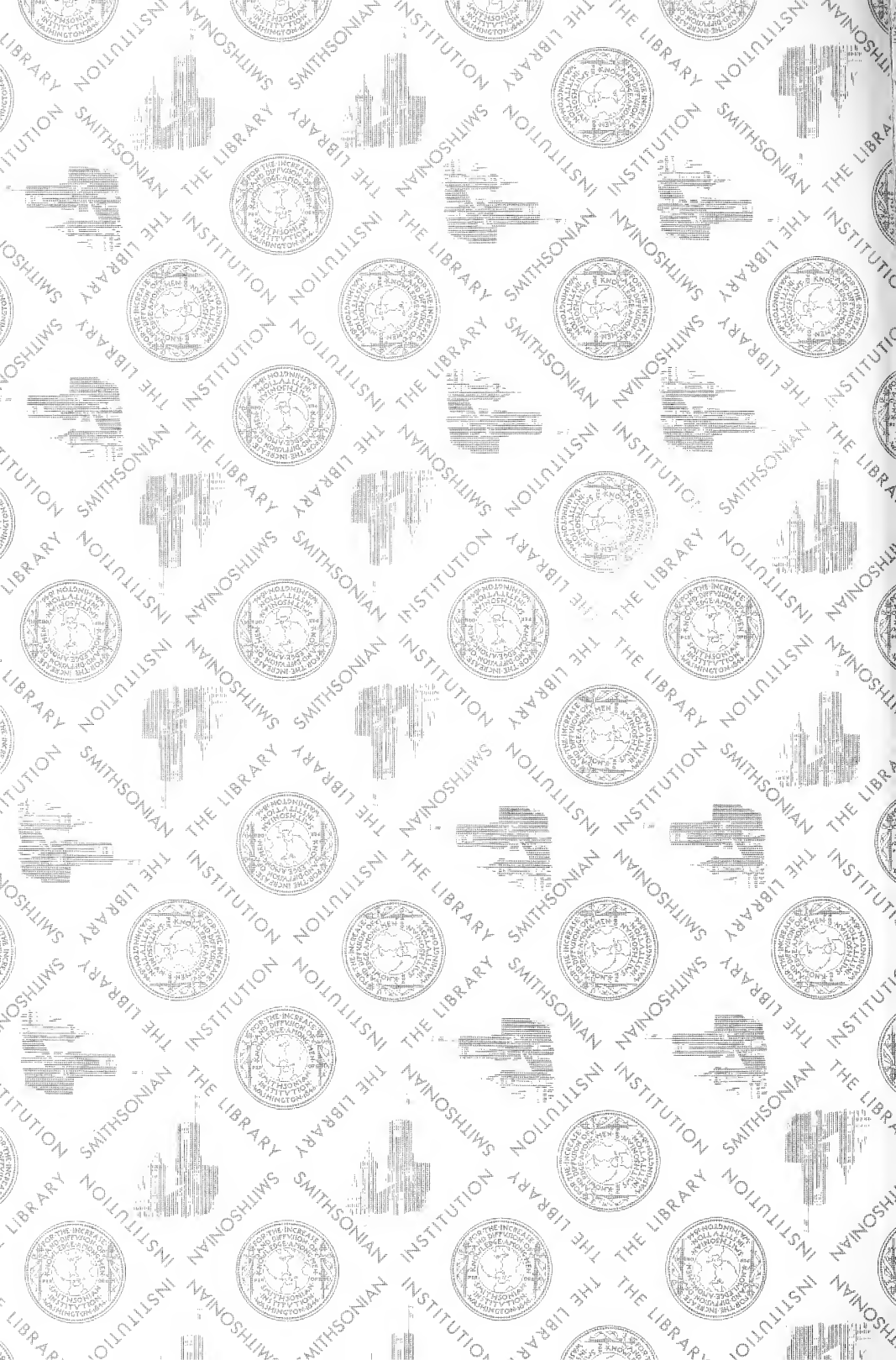
Mr. Rufus Grider, owner of Grider's Limestone Lake, at the edge of Bowling Green, called me in the late morning of November 9, 1960, to say that a strange white, small, fuzzy-headed heron was out at the lake close to his house. I went at once through a pouring rain and heavy wind and could see the bird well from inside of the house, a little better from the front porch. The small size, the yellow beak, the buff wash on the head, the all-white plumage except for the head, and the dark legs ruled out such species as the Common Egret (*Casmerodias albus*), the immature Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*), and the Snowy Egret (*Leucophox thula*), all of which I have known for many years. I called Dr. L. Y. Lancaster, who came in a few minutes. We watched the bird from all sorts of angles, often getting within fifty feet or less from it. I even had to scare it up so that we could see it in flight. It lighted on a small tree on the far side of the pond but soon returned to the small fishing boat and the driftwood out in the pond near the house. Miss Marjorie Claggett, French teacher at Western, who is a skilled amateur photographer, was unable to get a good shot of the bird in the rain and the rather dim light. The bird remained until darkness came on but has not been seen since that day. From color plates of the species, I believe it to be an immature or non-breeding Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*). In addition to the color of the bird, it showed all the other recognized marks of the species: posture, flight, motions of the head. So far as I know this is the first Kentucky record of the species.—Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.

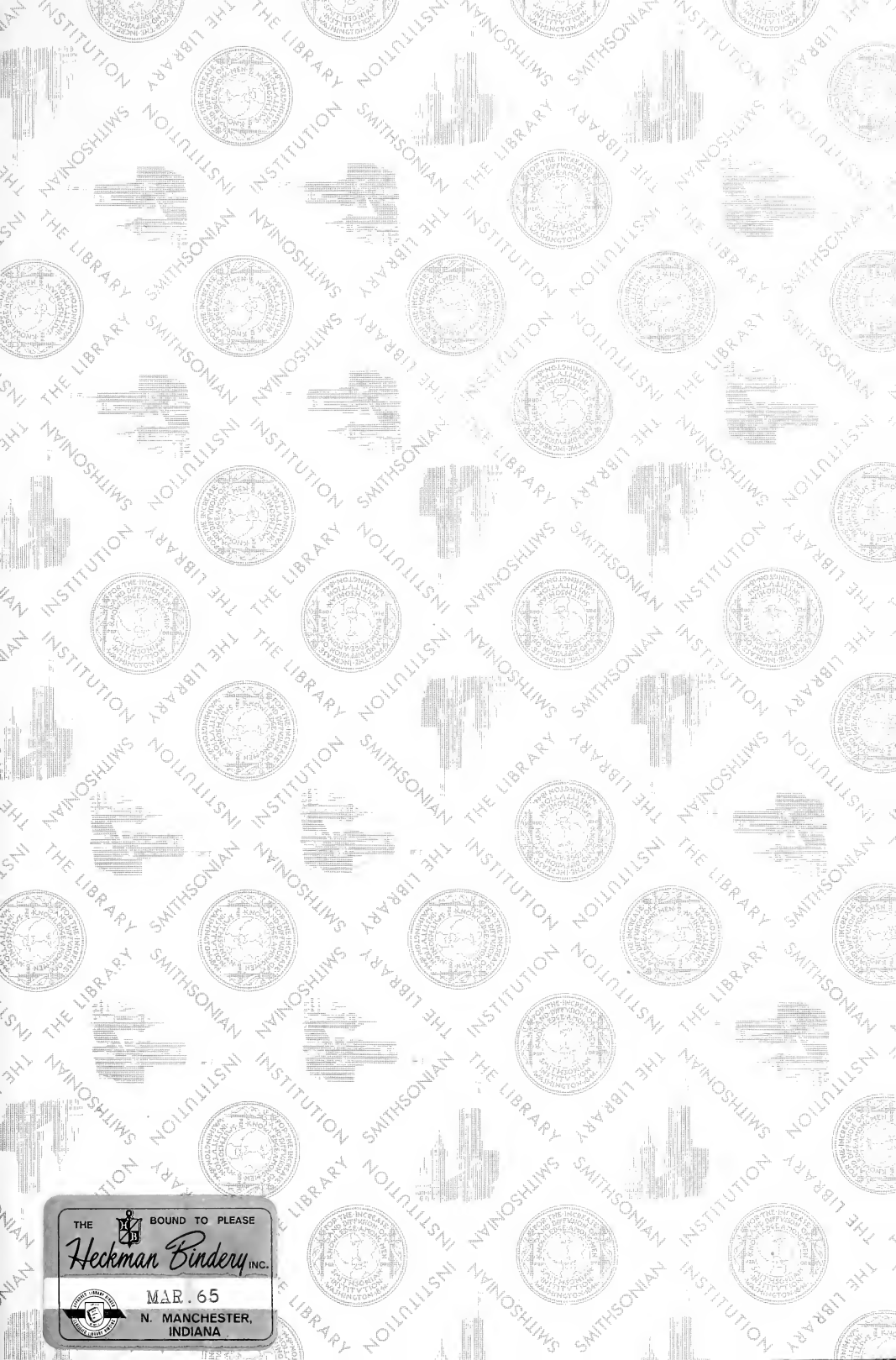













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