. . . The . . .

Kentucky Warbler



"To sift the sparkling from the dull, and the true from the false, is the aim of every Ornithologist."

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EVIDENCE OF THE HISTORY AND FORMER DISTRIBUTION OF THE RAVEN IN KENTUCKY

By Robert M. Mengel

While the 1931 Check-list of the American Ornithologists' Union gives the range of the Raven (*Corvus corax*) in the eastern United States as ". . . south. . . in the higher Alleghenys to Georgia," it does not go into further detail in regard to its distribution in the southern mountains. In the literature there is abundant documentation of the occurrence of Ravens, past or present, in South Carolina (Caesar's Head), Georgia, Tennessee (Great Smokies, Unaka Chain), North Carolina (Great Smokies), Virginia (Blue Ridge), and West Virginia. A general summary of this distribution is given by Bent (1946), and there is no need for a more detailed review here. A study of the records indicates that (as has been pointed out by numerous authors) the southern Ravens are predominantly birds of the higher mountains. There is evidence, however, that this has not always been the case. The shyness and retiring disposition of the Raven in the face of man's activities have apparently resulted in its relatively early disappearance from areas of the Cumberland Plateau to the west of the mountains. Here, by contrast, its former presence is virtually undocumented ornithologically. My purpose is to present the existing indications of this former range that I have encountered. I shall confine the discussion to Kentucky, as the details for similar areas in Tennessee and elsewhere have received attention from such able workers as Albert F. Ganier.

In the strict ornithological sense, there is not a single, authentic record of the Raven from Kentucky. No competent ornithologist has, to my knowledge, observed any in

the state, nor does there appear to be an extant specimen. Nevertheless, after ten years of intermittent field work in some 20 counties of eastern Kentucky, I am confident that the Raven occurred in a considerable portion of the eastern section of the state, and that it disappeared relatively recently, if it is, in fact, entirely gone. I have accumulated the data which follow mainly as a by-product of a study of the breeding distribution of the Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus*) in Kentucky. My search for Duck Hawks has quite naturally led me into the wilder, more rugged sections, which are also the preferred haunts of Ravens.

In the lack of established records, the only thing that we have to go on is the accumulation of reports and eye-witness accounts from residents of the remote regions where the Ravens presumably occurred. It is fortunate that the Raven has been so prominent in folklore and fable that it is of more than average interest to ordinary folk. The impressive appearance of the bird, its characteristic calls and mannerisms, and the picturesque nature of its favored habitat, combine to create an impression which is not soon forgotten. It is, I believe, for these reasons that the Raven has left a mark on the memories of the hill people that is too widespread and significant to be ignored.

The singular thing about mountaineers' accounts of the Raven, one which not only lends a high degreee of authenticity to their words, but which is also a tribute to their powers of observation, is the remarkable sameness of all. They could scarcely do better after careful reading of the most pertinent literature.

When talking to mountain people I have taken great care to introduce the subject of Ravens casually and without apparent special interest. I have never described the bird first; instead, by manipulation of the conversation, I have attempted to receive an unsolicited description. On several occasions I have not needed to broach the subject. Mountaineers have sometimes brought it up themselves as soon as the conversation turned to birds. In some places it was not necessary to seek out a native who had heard of, or remembered, Ravens. Their history was often *a matter of common knowledge*. In these cases I have had only to find a narrator whose veracity and judgment I felt I could trust, and who was blessed with a clear memory. Almost needless to say, I have not credited any accounts where there seemed to be the slightest possibility of confusion with the crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). It is interesting

to note that the Duck Hawk, which is probably little reduced in numbers from early times, is completely unknown to many residents of the areas where it still occurs.

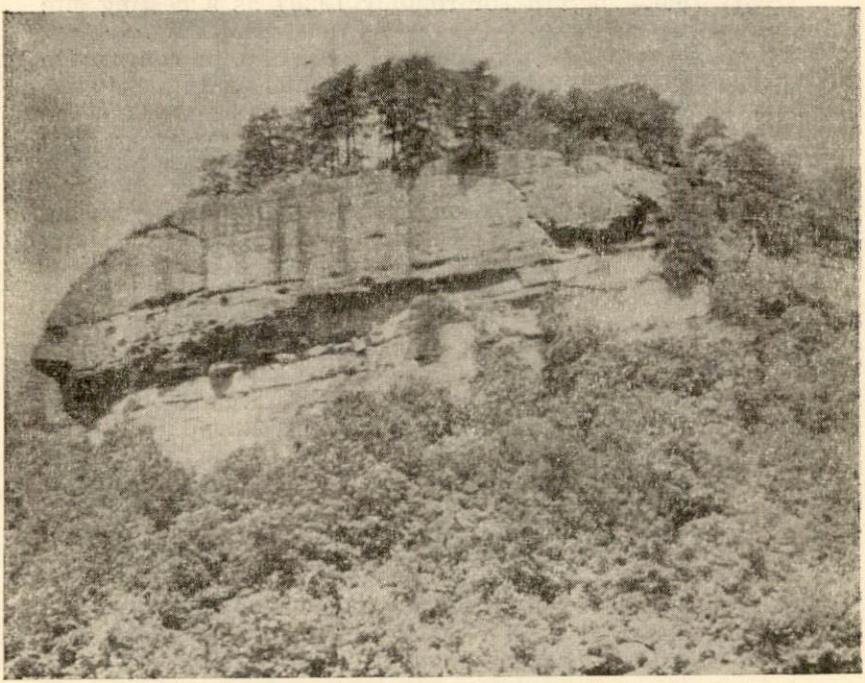
Mr. "Harv" Black, for many years one of the oldest and best-known residents of Laurel County, and a fine, typical mountain man, has given me perhaps the most interesting story. Until recently Mr. Black lived in a small cabin on a high ridge near the Rockcastle River, which there occupies a gorge more than 300 feet deep, and largely escarped with sandstone cliffs. I was searching for nesting Duck Hawks when I first talked to Black in 1939, and it was only incidentally that I learned of the Ravens. He had told me of a great, yellow bluff at the head of Rockcastle Narrows (a turbulent rapid in the river), which he said was occupied each year by "bluff hawks," of which he contributed, unprompted, a classical description. He went on to add that the same ledge had been used until "about twenty years" before (or roughly 1920) as a nesting site of Ravens. He described the birds well, remarking on their large size, soaring habit, heavy heads, and, of course, the unique voice. They had been regular and well-known residents along the Rockcastle, he said, but seldom left the gorge, although occasionally one would fly, croaking, over his cabin. He had not seen one for "about fifteen years."

Mr. Frank Harris, a long-time resident of neighboring Pulaski County, has supplemented Black's account, telling of watching the Ravens soaring above the Rockcastle River while he was on boyhood fishing trips. He contributed a creditable imitation of the call. Harris told me that a cliff on Dry Fork, a tributary on the Pulaski County side of the Rockcastle, is still known to residents as "Ravens' Nest," and was a widely-known haunt of the birds in the old days. In 1946 he estimated he had not seen a Raven for "forty years," but admitted he had not been to the river much between his early trips and later years when the country was more settled.

Space does not permit me to give further detailed accounts, nor does it seem necessary at this time. The foregoing has been related to illustrate the type of information I have gleaned. In the remaining pages I shall list the areas in which the species is said to have existed.

In the vicinity of the three forks of the Red River (a tributary of the Kentucky River) in Powell, Wolfe, Estill, and Menifee Counties, there is good reason for believing the Raven to have been a regular and conspicuous member

of the fauna. I have explored this region rather extensively, and nearly every resident with whom I have talked remembers the birds and describes them well. Some, when talking with me in 1948, were surprised to hear that the birds were gone; but upon reflection they could not remember having seen or heard one for "a few years," or "nine or ten years." There are hearsay reports from a year or two back. Three young men, aged 18 to 25, who have impressed me as being reliable, can remember Ravens clearly, fixing their presence up until roughly 1935, or perhaps even later. One magnificent cliff in Powell County, appropriately called "Raven Rocks," is widely alleged to have been a nesting site. No less than six persons have described to me the Ravens "denning" in the face of this sandstone monolith (See photograph). The surrounding country, extremely wild and rugged, with countless tall cliffs, also appears to be excellent for Ravens.



"Raven Rocks", former haunt of Ravens in Powell County
From Kodachrome by Jane S. Mengel

There are reasons for regarding the year 1935 as significant for an approximate last date, for it was about then that the Civilian Conservation Corps began constructing roads through the country for use by workers in the Cumberland National Forest. Dr. S. S. Dickey (MS) is quoted by Bent (*loc. cit.*) as pointing out that frequent human disturbance, particularly blasting for road construction and the like, will frighten Ravens away from a locality. I could find no Ravens in the Red River country, but certain evidence, upon which I prefer not to elaborate at this time, suggests that a very few may possibly remain. It is also probable that Ravens formerly dwelt along the craggy reaches of the upper Kentucky River and nearby Devil Creek in this same general area. Intensive lumbering activity probably precludes their presence there today.

The Rockcastle River area, already mentioned at some length, almost certainly furnished sanctuary for Ravens. The available accounts are all concerned with the area bounded by Laurel County and Pulaski County, but the similar country along the Cumberland River above and below its confluence with the Rockcastle is also to be considered. The Raven apparently left that area somewhat longer ago than it did the preceding counties,—possibly as far back as 1920.

My friend, Mr. A. F. Ganier, informed me in 1937 that natives of Pickett County, Tennessee, near the Kentucky line (Wayne and McCreary Counties, Ky.), had told him recently that the precipitous gorge of Rock Creek (flowing northward into the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River in McCreary County, Ky.) had been occupied by Ravens "until a few years ago." A logging railroad was built through the canyon about that time, and the Raven appears to be gone. A great deal of the extensive wild terrian of southern Wayne and McCreary counties is physiographically ideal for Ravens, with many fine, inaccessible cliffs.

In reviewing the present data it is immediately apparent that all reports are from the country along the rugged, western edge of the Cumberland Plateau, with elevations ranging from 700 to 1800 feet above sea level. The particular sections concerned are those affording the plentiful, high, sandstone cliffs of the Pottsville Escarpment. It is impossible to say to what extent, if any, the Kentucky Ravens nested in trees. All reports refer to cliffs. It is interesting in this connection that Howell (1910) and Stone

(1921), who investigated, respectively, the Black Mountain ridge in 1908 and the Pine Mountain ridge in 1910 (both in Harlan County), at a time when there must have been Ravens in the state, failed to note the species. These are the only high mountain ridges in the state, but there are no cliffs of any size there, nor is there much of the coniferous growth which is said (Bent, *loc. cit.*) to be preferred when tree nesting occurs.

In conclusion, it might be appropriate to review two published reports of Ravens for the state. Funkhouser (1925) reports a Raven seen near Corbin, Whitley County, in 1920. Corbin lies in the general vicinity in which Ravens might have been expected, and not over 30 miles from parts of the Rockcastle River. While there is a good chance that this record is authentic, no details or arguments are presented, and there is no evidence that the author considered the record in any way exceptional. Therefore it must be considered a tentative record. As for Figgins' (1945) record of American Ravens (*C. c. sinuatus*) in Marshall County in September, 1941, all we can conscientiously do is to disregard it. The chances of Ravens appearing there are slight at best. It is hardly necessary to say that it is impossible to identify Ravens to subspecies in the field, and Figgins' reputation does not warrant acceptance of the record without supporting specimens. His added suggestion that the birds might have bred there is untenable.

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SWALLOWS AT REELFOOT LAKE

By Fan B. Tabler, 2923 Riedling Drive, Louisville

Before attending the fall meeting of the K. O. S. last year, we stopped overnight at Reelfoot Lake. We had reservations at Walnut Log Lodge and upon arrival found the

place virtually deserted. An air of peace pervaded the ground, with tall stately cypresses keeping watch. There was no sign of Reelfoot Lake from the Lodge porch, the only water visible being a slough that led away through a thick growth of rushes.

As soon as we were settled, we engaged a boat and started out toward the lake. As we glided quietly through the slough we found the rushes swarming with blackbirds, which we heard rather than saw. Because they were elusive, it was some time before we identified them as Redwings. Farther ahead on the bank and very near the water an American Egret stood in stately silence until we drew fairly near. He then spread his huge wings and flapped off into the distance, looking snowy white against the blue sky.

The slough turned, and the lake lay before us. As there were other sloughs leading away from the lake, we had to note "landmarks" in order to find our way back to the Lodge, which was entirely hidden from the lake. The shore, with its dense growth of rushes, looked the same as far as we could see. The water in some places was choked with a rank growth of lotus. The lake was formed back in 1811, 1812, when an earthquake shook the whole area violently, causing the land to settle in this region. The trees that had been caught in the lake have rotted away to the level of the water, leaving submerged stumps.

As we progressed, we saw Great Blue Herons, more Egrets, and for some time watched Wood Ducks coming and going. We rowed quite a distance out into the lake, where there was a heavy growth of cypress. We took pictures, especially of the cypress trees beautifully silhouetted by the setting sun.

As we were heading back toward the hotel, we came upon the swallows. We had left the cypress and had reached a part of the lake that had some growth of lotus and had high stumps out of which grew stunted trees. At first we saw a few swallows, then hundreds, then thousands—literally thousands of Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor.*) We stopped spellbound at the sight. Some of the birds were wheeling about with their gorgeous coloring flashing in the evening light, their iridescent, greenish-blue backs, pure white underparts, and wings touched with black, presenting a picture of breath-taking beauty. They were interspersed with Barn Swallows, which added glossy steel blue, chestnut, and red to the color scheme. There were so many

of the birds that they had difficulty finding perching places. Every lotus seedpod bore the weight of one little bird, while some of the leaves that were bent over supported a row of them. The small trees growing from the stumps looked like glorified Christmas trees, decorated with an endless array of ornaments. The trunk and few remaining branches of a dead tree lying on its side were lined with the brightly colored swallows.

Dusk forced us back to the hotel, but we were out before sunrise next morning. The swallows were still there. We rowed in slowly so as not to frighten them. They were not timid, enabling us to take pictures of them when the light grew stronger. We stayed for some time to enjoy to the fullest such an interesting display. The birds wheeled around and around very close to our boat, catching their food on the wing. One bird flew so close that we ducked our heads. We saw several birds fly very close to the water as though they were scooping up a drink on the wing; we decided they were catching insects from the surface. As the sun came up, the pure white breasts of the Tree Swallows took on a rosy glow, and the light glinted blue and green from their iridescent backs.

We considered ourselves fortunate that we and the swallows chose the same time to visit Reelfoot Lake. They would not and we could not linger long before departing upon our respective ways.

THE REDWING FLIGHT AT REELFOOT LAKE

By Eugene Cypert, Paris, Tennessee

The late afternoon flight of Redwing Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) at Reelfoot Lake during the fall and winter has received very little publicity, but it is certainly one of the nation's most impressive wildlife spectacles. Literally millions of these birds swarm in to roost in the thickets of giant cutgrass (*Zizaniopsis miliacea*), willow (*Salix nigra*), and buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), which cover a large part of Reelfoot's shallow water areas, and swarm out again next morning. During a period of an hour or more, from before sunset until dusk, one may see these birds stream by, not in little flocks, but in a continuous, seemingly endless cloud, from which a few all along can be seen dropping into the thickets.

The roosting habits of the Redwing appear to be closely associated with the cutgrass. In 1927, cutgrass was nearly wiped out at Reelfoot Lake by weather and water

conditions, and residents of that vicinity say that very few blackbirds roosted there after that. But as the cutgrass once more began to encroach upon the shallow water areas, the blackbird numbers increased. Now there are nearly 2000 acres of shallow water areas there covered by this plant.

In traveling through the country surrounding Reelfoot Lake during the day, not many Redwings are to be seen. Only a few comparatively small flocks will be seen, here and there, feeding in the stubble fields. One wonders where the great concentration that gathers at the lake to roost comes from. The answer is that these birds fly farther to roost than we would ordinarily believe. Mr. Johnson A. Neff, of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, states that he has trailed Redwings to their roost for as much as 23 miles, and he believes it not unlikely that they travel as much as 40 or 50 miles to the limits of their feeding range. Assuming that these birds feed over an area with a radius of 40 miles, this would mean that they would have more than 5000 square miles of feeding territory. A lot of blackbirds can feed on the stubble fields on 5000 square miles.

Then the question arises: Why should the blackbirds be tied down to Reelfoot Lake or any other single place at all? Why don't they go where the search for food takes them and just roost in the grasses, weeds, and bushes where the night finds them? The answer is doubtless tied up with the physical characteristics and feeding habits of the species. To begin with, the Redwing has long been a dweller among reeds and brushy growth and is probably not equipped to withstand the exposure associated with roosting in treetops. Since it is gregarious in its feeding habits, it would be very vulnerable to its natural enemies if it roosted in the grasses and shrubbery of the upland. The large flocks of birds roosting in the upland vegetation would be an obvious attraction and easy prey to every night-prowling predator. To avoid such predators, the Redwing nearly always roosts over water. Here its enemies are stymied. Most of the predators will not go very far into the water, and those that do would be at a disadvantage in catching the blackbirds. Reelfoot Lake, being the only place in the vicinity that has extensive patches of large marsh grasses growing in water, as is required by these birds for proper protection while roosting, serves as the single roosting place for all of that part of the country.

Blackbirds, including the Redwing, are so numerous in parts of the country that their depredations on grain fields

are at times serious. Because of this, they have recently been removed from the list of birds protected by federal law. However, they are still protected by state laws in many states.

SOUTHERN INDIANA RECORDS OF THE CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW

By Leonard C. Brecher, 1900 Spring Drive, Louisville

In the spring, 1944, issue of *The Kentucky Warbler* Miss Evelyn J. Schneider offered proof that the Chuck-will's-widow is advancing northward with respect to its breeding grounds, as outlined in the A. O. U. Check-list. The last four years have testified to the permanency of this advance, as each year since then the Chuck has been found consistently in the same spots around Louisville.

There seems to be only one published reference to the breeding occurrence of this bird in Indiana; so I am giving the following notes for the sake of the record.

1. On July 4, 1946, I visited the Harrison County State Forest, which lies just south of State Road 62, and about five miles due east of Leavenworth, Indiana. Dusk was falling as I prepared to leave, and the fireflies were rising from the grass in the open fields. As I descended into a wooded valley, I heard a Whip-poor-will call just ahead. I stopped the car to listen, wondering if, by chance, I would hear a Chuck-will's-widow. After the Whip-poor-will had called some thirty times without ceasing, the call of the Chuck came through the falling darkness. Fourteen times the call sounded before it ceased abruptly, as did the song of the Whip-poor-will. Both birds changed their positions, for a moment later the Chuck's call came from a point some fifty yards ahead, while the Whip-poor-will apparently, from the sound, retreated in the opposite direction. After a short time the Whip-poor-will became silent, although the Chuck's voice was heard three times during the next five minutes; then it, too, was silent.

2. On May 14, 1948, a group of the Beckham Bird Club members on a field trip were at the Winstandley cabin, in the knobs north of New Albany, Indiana, located about 38°20' N. latitude. This cabin is situated on a hill, with a heavily wooded slope descending rather steeply some 200 feet to a watercourse in the valley below.

As evening fell, a number of Whip-poor-wills began to call, and a group of us decided to move to a clearing so as to hear the birds more distinctly. We discussed the possibility

of hearing a Chuck-will's-widow. Shortly thereafter, Miss Evelyn Schneider, who had been ahead of the Group, farther down toward the edge of the field, came back to report that she had heard the Chuck close at hand and that the bird had then flown over her head. We followed her, to verify its presence, which we were able to do very soon. The Chuck began calling again from approximately the same spot. Later, as I drove home, I counted 14 different Whip-poor-wills calling, but I heard no further calls of the Chuck-will's-widow, although I was, of course, listening for it.

Incidentally, during the afternoon, we flushed a female Whip-poor-will from her nest. She feigned a broken wing and fluttered in a semi-circle about the nest, never flying very far. At times we approached as close as ten feet from her. Mr. Louis Giesel, Jr., took kodachrome pictures of the two eggs, which measured 1.25 x .82 inches.

The Indiana record, as well as two Illinois records, with one from Ohio, are farther north than the two here described. It is further interesting to note that Dr. Wetmore, of Washington, D. C., stated that he has found the species fairly common in southern Maryland and has heard it fairly well north along Chesapeake Bay. This is approximately the same distance north as the Illinois record at Olney.

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MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1948

Edited by Gordon Wilson

MORGANFIELD (Same territory as covered last year). Dec. 27; 9:00 A. M. to 11:30 A. M. and 12:30 P. M. to 5:00 P. M. Partly cloudy; fair most of the afternoon; wind SW, 5-20 m. p. h.; some ice under foot; temp. 26-42. One observer; 7 hours; total miles, 40 (3 on foot, 37 by car). Total: 38 species, 3558 individuals.—ROBERT L. WITT.

KENTUCKY LAKE (Extending from Egner's Ferry Bridge southward to New Concord and Murray, northward to Kentucky Dam, eastward across the Kentucky Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge to the Cumberland River; fields and field borders 31%; lowland deciduous woods 22%; upland deciduous woods 22%; open water and lake shoreline 20%; urban area 1%). Jan. 1; 6:15 A. M. to 5:15 P. M. Cloudy; temp. 30-35; wind, NW to SW, under 5 m. p. h. Eleven observers: 2 separate, four parties of 2 to 4 each. Total hours, 48 (on foot, 28; in car, 11; in boat, 9). Total miles, 222 (on foot, 30;

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1948-'49	Morganfield	Kentucky Lake	Marion	Madisonville	Pennyrile S. P.	Bowling Green	Mammoth Cave	Otter Creek	Louisville	Pikeville
Horned Grebe		2							*	
Pied-billed Grebe				4					1	
Double-cr. Cormorant		15								
Great Blue Heron		17	2							
Canada Goose	50	933	24	*						
Snow Goose		1								
Mallard	2900	3298	750				*		107	
Black Duck		1134	37				8		516	
Baldpate		50							1	
Pintail		54							*	
Green-winged Teal									1	
Wood Duck						*			1	
Redhead									2	
Ring-necked Duck		1003	2	24					1	
Canvas-back	9	3							2	
Lesser Scaup Duck		105	28	*					60	
Am. Golden-eye		4							68	
Buffle-head		8							7	
Old-squaw		1							4	
Ruddy Duck					2				1	
Hooded Merganser		59							15	
Am. Merganser	10	48	2						7	
Turkey Vulture			1						1	
Black Vulture		3	3		4		20		24	
Sharp-sh. Hawk			1		1	1			1	1
Cooper's Hawk		*		1		*			3	
Red-tailed Hawk	1	10	4		1	2	3	1	2	
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	6			2	*	2	1	3	
Rough-legged Hawk	1					1			1	
Golden Eagle									*	
Bald Eagle		6						1	1	
Marsh Hawk	1	2	50	*		1			1	
Osprey			1							
Sparrow Hawk	1	12	2	4		3			13	1
Bob-white		31	9	26	6		*	30	12	
Wild Turkey		*								
Coot		102	3						1	
Killdeer	1	12	4	*		2			4	
Woodcock		1								
Herring Gull		8						1	54	
Ring-billed Gull		2239						1	48	
Bonaparte's Gull			60							
Rock Dove		8								
Mourning Dove	1	201	14	*		84		20	48	4
Screech Owl									3	*
Horned Owl		5							1	
Barred Owl		2		*		1	1		4	
Belted Kingfisher		5	1	1					1	*
Flicker	8	44	8	11	6	13	2	2	23	
Pileated Woodpecker		17	2	2		8	3	2	1	

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1948-'49	Morganfield	Kentucky Lake	Marion	Madisonville	Pennyrile S. P.	Bowling Green	Mammoth Cave	Otter Creek	Louisville	Pikeville
Red-bel. Woodpecker	7	19	1	7	3	16	1	8	19	*
Red-h. Woodpecker		4	1	2					1	1
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	4	12		2	1	5	3	5	2	*
Hairy Woodpecker		8	4	2		6		5	12	*
Downy Woodpecker	11	28	12	8	2	38	2	9	32	1
Phoebe						1				
Horned Lark	25	12	100	4		82			34	
Blue Jay	2	168	9	28	17	30	9	9	38	2
Crow	42	111	500	18	72	755	9	30	499	2
Carolina Chickadee	32	197	24	17	22	96	16	35	101	8
Tufted Titmouse	4	59	12	21	3	41	18		80	7
White-br. Nuthatch		12	1	*		3	3	13	18	*
Red-br. Nuthatch					1				2	
Brown Creeper		5		*		1	2	4	2	*
House Wren			1							
Winter Wren	1			*	1	*			6	
Bewick's Wren	2	1	2	1		2			1	
Carolina Wren	9	13	4	10	1	21	2	12	28	8
Mockingbird		21	2	10	3	10	2	5	37	*
Brown Thrasher		3			1					
Robin	1	12	2	2	5	30	61	1	*	
Hermit Thrush	1	2		3	1	*	3	5		1
Bluebird	11	37	42	12	18	17	4	16	42	
Golden-cr. Kinglet					9		5	4	7	
Ruby-cr. Kinglet		1	10							*
Cedar Waxwing		35		*	15		1		24	
Pipit			200							
Migrant Shrike	3	4				2			1	
Starling	130	55	150	41	27	1548			10,000	20
Myrtle Warbler				*		13	11	3	7	*
English Sparrow	34	178	50	227	12	327	*	1	224	140
Meadowlark	46	42	6	2	3	*			54	
Red-wing			156	260		1			*	
Rusty Blackbird		150				4				
Bronzed Grackle			6	2		*				
Cowbird			100							
Cardinal	75	360	84	77	51	181	18	37	307	18
Purple Finch		47		1	34	34	17	15	2	
Goldfinch	6	82	48	16	4	108	7	62	68	26
Eastern Towhee	3	205	6	32	30	11	9	2	28	2
Savannah Sparrow		1								
Vesper Sparrow									2	
Slate-colored Junco	38	312	60	87	45	255	148	101	377	7
Tree Sparrow	36	40	54	44	5		3	5	84	
Chipping Sparrow									1	
Field Sparrow		58	4	38	14	79	43	4	7	43
White-cr. Sparrow	33	15	6	11	1	92			37	
White th. Sparrow		79	11	31	5	84	20	1	19	11
Fox Sparrow		5		2		15		1	2	
Swamp Sparrow	2	10	2	6	3	10	1	1	2	
Song Sparrow	14	51	12	30	11	27	14	12	103	19

in car, 161; in boat, 31). Total, 75 species; approximately 11904 individuals.—GRACE WYATT, CLARENCE CALHOUN, JOHN MORSE, NANCY MORSE, EUGENE CYPERT, TOM BUTLER, L. D. THOMPSON, GROVER ELGAN, TALBOT CLARKE, JOHN DELIME, and JOHN H. STEENIS.

MARION (Around Marion and in Ohio River bottoms). Dec. 26; 8:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Cloudy; wind brisk; temp. 3 at start. Observers usually separate. Total, 56 species; 3580 individuals.—C. L. FRAZER and DR. T. ATCHISON FRAZER.

MADISONVILLE (W. W. Hancock farm, seven lakes at Madisonville and Earlington, woods, streets, and fields). Dec. 22; 6:45 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Cloudy; wind NE, 8-12 m. p. h.; temp. 31-35. Total hours, 9¾; total miles, 8 on foot, 14 by car. In addition to the species recorded on the census and during Christmas week I suppose the Golden-crowned Kinglet is here, but is evidently scarcer than it was last winter. Total, 41 species; 1127 individuals.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

PENNYRILE STATE PARK (Deciduous and pine woods and fields within the park area, Pennyrile Lake, and adjoining farmlands). Dec. 27; 7:00 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Partly cloudly; wind SW, 1-7 m. p. h.; temp. 18-35. Observers together. Total miles, 16 (8 on foot, 8 by car); total hours, 9½. The Brown Thrasher was in tall weeds in company with Cardinals and Towhees. Total: 38 species, 442 individuals.—KENNETH WEIR and JAMES W. HANCOCK.

BOWLING GREEN (Schneider, McElroy, and Chaney Farms and Sally's Rock; open farmland 25%, woods and thickets 50%, stream banks 25%). Dec. 26; 6:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear; temp. 10-24; wind NE, 1-7 m. p. h.; all vegetation covered with heavy sleet; still water frozen over. Four observers in two parties. Total hours, 20, on foot; total miles, 14. Total: 44 species, 4061 individuals.—L. Y. LANCASTER, CHARLES L. TAYLOR, J. R. WHITMER, and GORDON WILSON.

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (Sloan's Crossing, Katy Pace Valley, Service Area, Cabins and Campground Area, Three Springs, New Entrance, Chaumont; woods 65%; along stream banks 10%; old fields 25%). Dec. 29; 7:00 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Rain early in day, then clear, later cloudy; temp. 55 to 35; ground bare. Three observers in one party. Total hours, 9½, on foot; total miles, 8. Nearly all species occurred in disappointingly small numbers. Total: 34 species, 471 individuals.—Park Naturalist HENRY W. LIX, JIMMY LILES, and GORDON WILSON.

OTTER CREEK PARK (Including the park area and adjacent farmlands: farm lands 10%; brushy fields 10%; Ohio River banks 10%; deciduous woods 70%). Jan. 1; 9:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Cloudy; light snow falling in morning; temp. 26-30; wind, 1-7 m. p. h.; ground nearly bare; ponds frozen but river open. Five observers in two parties. Total hours, 11, on foot; total miles, 17. Total: 37 species, 495 individuals.—MR. and MRS. FRED W. STAMM, DONALD SUMMERFIELD, FLOYD CARPENTER, HARVEY B. LOVELL.

LOUISVILLE (Ohio River from Louisville to Twelve Mile Island and inland about twelve miles to Prospect, Anchorage, and Valley, including Cherokee, Iroquois, Seneca, and Shawnee Parks: Ohio River and banks 30%; fields and farmland 25%; brushy fields and new growth 30%; deciduous woodland 15%). Dec. 26; 5:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear and very cold; ground covered with snow; wind, N, 8-12

m. p. h.; only large streams and Ohio River open; temp. 6-24. Twenty-four observers in eight groups. Total hours, 111; total party miles, 132. The Coot was found dead. The Rough-legged Hawk and the Chipping Sparrow were reported by Don Summerfield; the Bewick's Wren and the Vesper Sparrows by Walter H. Shackleton and Carl C. Cornett. The absence of many song birds, such as Robin, Hermit Thrush, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet was evidently due to the extremely cold weather. Total: 77 species, approximately 13,354 individuals.—MRS. JAMES BARTMAN, LEONARD C. BRECHER, FLOYD S. CARPENTER, JAMES CONKIN, CARL C. CORNETT, JAMES COVERT, JACOB P. DOUGHTY, LUCILLE FRANCE, PAXTON GIBBS, HARVEY B. LOVELL, JOHN H. LOVELL, BURT L. MONROE, JR., BURT L. MONROE, SR., LOUIS PIEPER, MARIE PIEPER, EVELYN SCHNEIDER, WALTER H. SHACKLETON, JERRY SMITH, ROBERT STEILBERG, CHARLES STRULL, DON SUMMERFIELD, MRS. WILLIAM TABLER, DAVE WILSON, VIRGINIA WINDSTANLEY, JAMES B. YOUNG (BECKHAM CHAPTER, K. O. S.)

PIKEVILLE (Three miles down Levisa Fork of Big Sandy River and return). Dec. 22; 11:00 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Partly cloudy; no wind; temp. 50.—HUMPHREY A. OLSEN.

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The 25th anniversary of the K. O. S. has been celebrated and the progress the society has made during a quarter of a century was reviewed at our fall meeting. The founding fathers wisely nurtured the infant until it was strong enough to carry on. We are now entering an important period in the life of the K. O. S., our second quarter century. What is needed that we may continue to progress—for we must advance or perish by the wayside? Surely only a greater measure of the same qualities that fashioned our proud traditions. A keen enthusiasm for bird study, whether in the field, laboratory, or library, is indispensable. We must support our organization and its officers by obtaining new members and keeping in friendly touch with old members, by attending the spring and fall meetings, by striving for bigger and better bird counts in all sections of the state. But above all we must make a wider use of our publication, **The Kentucky Warbler**, for this is the tie that binds all corners of the state. Never forget that the simplest note may contain the very information that has long been sought; at the same time strive to accumulate complete information upon all the birds in your locality. Send in also personal notes on your nature activities to help us keep in touch with each other as friends—because K. O. S. is a friendly organization, a live organization, and we must keep it that way. May that spirit of friendliness, so well exemplified by our most active founder, Gordon Wilson, continue to pervade and animate the K. O. S. throughout the coming years of PROGRESS.—MARY LOU FREI, Horse Cave.

FIELD NOTES

ANOTHER SWAINSON'S WARBLER RECORD

Sometimes climbing the spoil banks, sometimes along the edge of the low woods, I headed south in Hopkins County on May 31, 1948. In a dense growth of cane along a small stream in the vicinity of Pond River, a warbler song attracted me. At first I thought it might be a Louisiana Water-thrush, but I soon began to suspect that it was a much rarer bird. I searched him out, and in a few minutes I had the bird in my field glasses. There he sat in the lower growth, an olive-brown bird with white underparts, a white line over the eye, and a very brown crown, pouring out a loud, musical song. It was a Swainson's Warbler (**Limnothlypis swainsonii**). Three weeks later, on June 21, I again recorded two Swainson's Warblers in the same area. I have one other record for this county, in the week of April 23-30, 1936, a bird in full song at Clear Creek. Of course these are only sight records, but, in my own mind, I feel very certain of them. Pond River bottoms are typical habitats, and I suspect other individuals could be found if one made a long and thorough search.—JAMES W. HANCOCK, Madisonville.

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YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON AT LOUISVILLE

On May 24, 1948, as Jerry Smith and I were standing on the old earth dam of the Indian Hills swamp in Jefferson County, east of Louisville, we saw a heron spring up from the pond and fly into some trees at the far end. Following it with our glasses, we noticed that it was different from any Heron we had ever seen before. It had black on the side of its face, a mark peculiar to only one of the herons, the Yellow-crowned Night Heron (**Nyctanassa violacea**).

After a short time the bird flew over into some trees to the south that could easily be reached by way of the old railroad bed. By walking down the trunk of a fallen sycamore, we were able to approach within 25 yards of the bird as it perched 17 feet up in a small tree. After creeping as close as we dared, we sat down to watch it. It did very little outside of a little preening and looking about in all directions.

In identifying this species, the best field mark is the black on the side of the face and the white cheek-patch. The color of the crown of the bird we saw was a far cry from yellow, in fact more like a light cream.

This bird was later seen by Robert Mengel and Burt L. Monroe, both of whom verified the original identification. This is the first Kentucky record of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron north of Bowling Green, where, however, it has been recorded several times.—ROBERT STEILBERG, 4539 Meridale, Louisville.

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CEDAR WAXWINGS NESTING AT MAYSVILLE

Since there are few if any published records of the Cedar Waxwing (**Bombycilla cedrorum**) breeding in eastern Kentucky, it seems of interest to publish the following observations from Maysville.

On July 24, 1947, I observed a young Cedar Waxwing, evidently just out of the nest, being fed by its parent. This was on Second Street a mile east of the center of Maysville. A number of adult birds were seen in this area during my visit there.

On July 4, 1948, while walking on Second Street near the high school, I heard the lisping note of the Waxwing again. In a short time the nest was located in a maple tree, where the parent bird was feeding young. The nest was on a much larger tree and at a greater elevation (approximately forty feet from the ground) than the two found by the Zimmers near Louisville in 1946 (**Auk, 65: 461-462, 1948**). Two other nests have been reported from Louisville: one by Monroe (**Ky. Warbler, 22: 45-46, 1946**), and the other by Mrs. Tabler (**Ky. Warbler, 24: 54, 1948**).

The only other nest from Kentucky was reported by Van Arsdall (**Ky. Warbler, 24: 29-30, 1948**) from Woodford County in July, 1947. The present nest, therefore, appears to be the most eastern record from the state. It shows that the summer range of the Cedar Waxwing in Kentucky is greater than formerly supposed and that all ornithologists should be on the watch to add this species to their breeding list.—MRS. ANNE L. STAMM, 2118 Lakeside Drive, Louisville.

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A WINTER LIST FROM BEREA

Berea (a very short distance along a highway to Silver Creek, a short distance along the creek, through pastures bordered by cornfields, into deciduous and pine woodland at the foot of Twin Mountain). December 23, 1948; fair and unseasonably warm, temp. 45. Turkey Vulture, Sparrow Hawk, Rock Dove (Pigeon), Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Starling, English Sparrow, Cardinal, Goldfinch, Slate-colored Junco. Total, 20 species. Other species observed the same week: White-breasted Nuthatch, Mockingbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, White-throated Sparrow.
—MARGARET R. FOWLER, Box 618, College P. O., Berea.

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A WINTER LIST FROM MICHIGAN

Three Rivers, St. Joseph County, Michigan. (Territory included some of city suburbs, fields, and parts of St. Joseph, Rocky, and Portage Rivers). December 31, 1948. 8:15 A. M. to 12:00 noon. Weather, partly cloudy; temp. 18 to 30; moderate northwest wind; 6½ miles on foot. Most ponds frozen over; rivers frozen only on edges at few places. Ground covered with about one to two inches of snow. Mallard, 82; Rock Dove (Pigeon), 59; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Horned Lark, 1; Blue Jay, 6; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; Tufted Titmouse, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Starling, 47, English Sparrow, 138; Cardinal, 4; Vesper Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 2; Tree Sparrow, 40; Song Sparrow, 4. Total species, 19; total individuals, 401. Other species observed: Dec. 1, Canada Goose, 165 (A flock of between 40 and 50 remaining in city); Dec. 18, Snow Bunting, 200; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Dec. 28, Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Brown Creeper, 1; Goldfinch, 24; Crow, 2; Dec. 30, Robin, 1; Jan. 1, 1949, Sparrow Hawk, 1; Mourning Dove, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1.—OSCAR McKINLEY BRYENS, 231 South Main St., Three Rivers, Michigan.

NEWS AND VIEWS

BIRDS OF CINCINNATI AND SOUTHWESTERN OHIO, by Emerson Kemsies, Ohio Audubon Society, Cincinnati, Ohio, December 1948. 60 pages. Mimeographed. The records are concerned with Hamilton, Clermont, and Butler Counties, and the adjacent Ohio River. Since records from the river are also Kentucky records, the work is of special interest to all Kentuckians. This list resembles rather closely the one published by Woodrow Goodpaster in the **Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History** in June, 1941 (Vol. 22, No. 3, pp. 6-40). The chief differences are in subspecies, which have undergone considerable increase during the last seven years, and in the addition of more records often supported by specimens for some of the rarer species. Among the more interesting records are the discovery that the Southern Robin is the breeding form at Cincinnati; the collection of a Pine Siskin by Kemsies in Hamilton County, April 4, 1947; four Lapland Longspurs observed by Kemsies and Victor Sloane, Dec. 15, 1946. Five subspecies of the Savannah Sparrow have been identified by Aldrich from skins taken in the southwestern Ohio region. A Bohemian Waxwing was reported by Haven Spencer in Hyde Park on March 13, 1939. An Eastern Goshawk was seen by Kemsies and Sloane on April 8, 1945 near Green Hills; they also report a Holboell's Grebe on the Ohio River, March 8, 1947. In regard to Goodpaster's listing of the Dunlin, a European bird, on the basis of a record by Langdon and Dury in November, 1879, Kemsies refers the record to the Red-backed Sandpiper, the closely related subspecies of North America. In listing records on the Saw-whet Owl from the area, he overlooked the one recorded by Mabel Slack in THE KENTUCKY WARBLER (15: 5, 1936) for November 8, 1935. This bird was caught and photographed by Dr. A. A. Allen of Cornell on a field trip of the Ohio Audubon Society. The list is almost exclusively concerned with distribution and time of occurrence of rare forms. Very little is said about breeding habits other than to list a species as a summer resident. It would, of course, be impossible to write much about the habits of so many forms of birds. However, the reviewer wished frequently while reading the paper that more data on the nesting of certain birds had been included.—H. B. L.

JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE WINTER BIRD COUNTS

The winter bird counts of the Junior Academy are sponsored by the Kentucky Ornithological Society, many of whom accompanied members of the high school science clubs on their field trips. This year some unusually good lists were compiled. We are happy to publish some of the better ones with a partial list of the birds seen.

Anchorage High School—Dec. 26. Total 50 species, 1,429 individuals. Black Duck, 279; Canvasback, 2; Bufflehead, 5; Bald Eagle, 1; Mourning Dove, 12; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 2; etc.—BURT L. MONROE, JR., Honorary member to A. A. A. S. from Junior Academy.

Atherton High School—Dec. 28 and Jan. 8. Total 36 species, 1,197 individuals. Bufflehead, 8; Golden-eye, 18; Ruddy Duck, 1; Canvasback, 12; Old Squaw, 1; American Merganser, 3; Robin, 8; etc.—HARRIETT CLARK, FLORENCE WIEGAND, SABRA HANSEN, JO CARTER, DALEEN PHERRE, ROBERTA BURCKHART (Bunsen Club).

Cane Run School—Jefferson County. Dec. 26, 27 and Jan. 3. Total 9 species, 139 individuals. Cardinal, 1; Bobwhite, 8; Blue Jay, 2, etc.—BOBBY KAISER, Louisville.

Central High School—Madison County. Dec. 27 and Jan. 3. Total 14 species, 465 individuals. Turkey Vulture, 2; Starling 37; Crow, 204; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; etc.—MADAM CURIE SCIENCE CLUB, Richmond.

Estill County High School—Dec. 27, 28. Total 14 species, 142 individuals. Junco, 16; Meadowlark, 2; Bluebird, 11; Robin, 3; etc.—HAROLD WISEMAN.

Valley High School—Jefferson County. Dec. 23. Total 20 species, 246 individuals. Mourning Dove, 9, Bobwhite, 9; Horned Lark, 50; Marsh Hawk, 1; Hermit Thrush, 1 (shores of Wallace Lake); etc.—JO ANN SHIPLEY, MARY LEE NICHOLS, ROBERT HAYES.

Warblers to be bound. Many members have expressed their intention of having the last four volumes of the KENTUCKY WARBLER bound with the index and title page published with the October, 1948, issue.

Dr. J. W. Clotfelter of Paris writes that dogs caught an unusual bird for the area which a farmer brought into the County Superintendent of Education, Dr. Taylor. The bird proved to be an American Coot, or mudhen. It was later released.

Frances Howard, of the Collegiate School, Louisville, spent two weeks at the Audubon Nature Camp in Texas, located 60 miles northwest of San Antonio in limestone hill country. She described her trip and showed Kodachrome slides of the camp and its activities at the December meeting of the Beckham Bird Club. The cost for two weeks was $85.00.

Mrs. Fan Tabler spent her vacation on French River in Canada. Here in the boggy coniferous forests she saw many northern birds, such as the American Three-toed Woodpecker, Northern Shrike, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Loon, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Wilson Warbler, and many others. The Cedar Waxwings were called Canada Robins. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker had a band of holes all around a birch tree which he visited regularly.

Season reports in Audubon Field Notes. The territories of the field notes editors have been revised and enlarged to include Kentucky. Central and western Kentucky is now included in the Middle Western Prairie Region to be written by Harold Mayfield, 2557 Portsmouth Ave., Toledo 12, Ohio. Mr. Mayfield has recently subscribed to the KENTUCKY WARBLER to help familiarize himself with this area. The mountains of eastern Kentucky are included in the Appalachian Region territory of Maurice Brooks, West Virginia University, Morgantown. All active field workers in Kentucky will now want to have Audubon Field Notes in their library. Subscriptions of $2.00 should be sent to 1000 Fifth Avenue New York, 28.

Painting of a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Mr. Howard Rollin, of Weldona, Colorado, presented another water color painting to the K. O. S. at Christmas time. This is the fifth painting Mr. Rollin has sent to the society. An exquisite male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, perched on a branch that bears evidence of his work, stands out strikingly against a pale blue sky. The painting, which is 10½ x 7½ inches, will be suitably framed and hung in the University of Louisville Library, where it will be under the care of Miss Evelyn Schneider, custodian of the K. O. S. Any member of the K. O. S. who may wish to own an original painting should write to Mr. Rollin for a list of available subjects.

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Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, 2918 Brownsboro Road, Louisville.

Editor, Harvey B. Lovell, 3011 Meade Ave., Louisville 13.

Notify the secretary promptly of a change of address.

Eugene Cypert writes that "the Canada Goose population at Kentucky Woodlands is building up very satisfactorily. This winter they have a wintering population of 1500. This is a large increase over the number reported by Atwood (**Ky. Warbler**, 24: 23-27, 1948).

Kentucky Academy of Science will hold its annual meeting at Cumberland Falls State Park on April 29 and 30. On Friday afternoon it will hold a symposium on "Fish and Streams." On Saturday morning Mr. Minor Clark will demonstrate the new electrical seine which has proved so successful in the study of fish. This is the first time that the Academy has held a spring field meet. An indoor meeting for the presentation of papers is being planned for the fall. Members of the K. O. S. have been given a special invitation to attend.

Dr. Cynthia Counce, who was elected vice-president at the Glasgow Meeting, has had to resign because of the illness of her husband. The executive committee has been fortunate to secure the services of Audrey Wright in this emergency.

SPRING MEETING OF K. O. S. will be held during the Kentucky Education Association on April 21 and 22 at Louisville. A program of activities is being arranged. Plan to be there.

Beckham Bird Club notes. The annual spring party of the club was held in Iroquois Park on Monday, June 14, 1948. Seventy-nine members and friends enjoyed the informal activities that highlighted this meeting. The picnic supper was prepared by a committee headed by Mrs. Otto Dietrich. Entertainment was planned by a committee directed by Mrs. Carl C. Cornett.

Audubon Screen Tours. Howard Cleaves brings the third lecture of the tour to Louisville, Feburary 23. It is an all-color picture entitled "Animals Unaware." After putting on the series entirely free to the public for four years, the Louisville clubs decided to charge admission this year. Prices are 65 cents for adults and 25 cents for students and children. On March 19, Saturday, at 8:00 P. M., Dr. Olin S. Pettingill will present his most recent film "In the Hills of Gold". Plan to be in Louisville that week end and attend the lecture.

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