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## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 2, no. 1)

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# The Kentucky Warbler

Volume 2.

Bowling Green, Ky., January, 1926.

Number 1

**THE SPRING MEETING**—Begin planning right now for our spring meeting, which will be held April 23 and 24, 1926. The evening of April 23 will be devoted to lectures and papers; early the next morning the members will take a hike in Cherokee Park, holding afterwards an informal meeting at one of the pergolas in the park. A feature this year will be a series of informal discussions of problems which have arisen in the study of birds. Please bring along some field notes for this part of the program.

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**NEW MEMBERS**—It is always a great problem to keep up our membership. No one person can keep this going. Suppose every member, in sending in his dues, send also a new membership. There are dozens of people all over the state who would gladly join if one of us would ask them. Why not send a membership as a present to some enthusiastic lover of the out-of-doors? Since the last report of new members the following have been received: Miss Alice Anderson, Miss Tommie L. Baker, Professor John S. Bangson, O. M. Bryens, Miss Jennie Cosby, Mrs. L. N. Davis, Mrs. E. B. Fedora, Professor J. T. Glenn, C. L. Gresham, Miss Edna Harlow, Dr. Charles W. Hibbitt, Miss Sue Hill, N. T. Hooks, Mrs. H. O. Hurley, Mrs. L. T. Logsdon, Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Morrell, Miss Florence Ragland, Alonzo H. Ross, Mrs. Alonzo H. Ross, William R. Ross, Miss Myra Sanders, Miss Lucy B. Sargent, Mrs. E. J. Seppenfield, Mr. and Mrs. G. Norton Sharpe, Professor G. D. Smith, Miss Olla Stuber, Miss Frances Taylor.

**CENSUSES**—The severe weather during Christmas week kept several of our members from taking censuses. We have made a start, at least,—a rather good start. Hereafter we may expect to have many more. The census by our member in Michigan is interesting as a contrast between different sections of the country.

**HOPKINSVILLE**—December 26; 120-acre farm; 11:30 a. m. to 2 p. m.; temp. 33; wind, strong N. W.; cloudy; observer alone. Dove, 1; Turkey Vulture, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Southern Downy Woodpecker, 11; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Flicker, 3; Prairie Horned Lark, 51; Blue Jay, 15; Crow, 4; Meadow Lark, 9; Purple Finch, 250; White-crowned Sparrow, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 15; Field Sparrow, 20; Slate-colored Junco, 100; Fox Sparrow, 1; Towhee, 6; Cardinal, 12; Mockingbird, 2; Carolina Wren, 2; Brown Creeper, 3; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 10; Carolina Chickadee, 30; Robin, 43 (one flock contained 40); Bluebird, 5; Total, 28 species, 605 individuals.

—W. M. WALKER, Jr.

**THREE RIVERS, MICHIGAN**—December 24; Schoolcraft to

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Three Rivers; 8:00 a. m. to 2:00 p. m.; temp. 26 at start, 36 at return; wind light W.; overcast; two to three inches of snow, ponds frozen over; observer alone; 5X field glasses used; about 19 miles on foot. Cooper's Hawk, 1; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 4; Red-headed Woodpecker, 8; Prairie Horned Lark, 10; Blue Jay, 6; Crow, 48; Snowflake, 5; Lapland Longspur, 2; Tree Sparrow, 136; Slate-colored Junco, 15; Cardinal, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Black-capped Chickadee, 2. Total, 14 species, 242 individuals. English Sparrow, 360. Other birds seen within a few days of the census:

December 20, Northern Flicker, Pigeon Hawk; December 23, Golden Eye; December 27, Bob White. —O. M. BRYENS.  
Three Rivers, Michigan.

**BOWLING GREEN**—December 23; 7:15 a. m. to 4:45 p. m. Clear; ground covered with snow; wind S. W., strong; temp. 12 at start, 28 at return. Nashville Pike to Lost River, along Pea Ridge, along Barren River from Thomas's Landing to Bowling Green—20 miles on foot, observers together. Mallard, 19; Bob-white, 28; Dove, 8; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Southern Downy Woodpecker, 13; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Flicker, 4; Prairie Horned Lark, 42; Blue Jay, 32; Crow, 44 (500 had been seen three days before); Meadowlark, 5; Bronzed Grackle, 1 (seen again January 2); Purple Finch, 82; Goldfinch, 3; White-crowned Sparrow, 9; White-throated Sparrow, 30; Tree Sparrow, 44; Slate-colored Junco, 218; Song Sparrow, 66; Fox Sparrow, 3 (very unusual at this time of the year); Towhee, 26; Cardinal, 214 (the greatest surprise of the trip; they were hardly ever out of sight the whole day); Cedar Waxwing, 5; Migrant Shrike, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 41; Mockingbird, 21; Carolina Wren, 20; Bewick Wren, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 20; Carolina Chickadee, 37; Robin, 3; Bluebird, 6. Total, 40 species, 1061 individuals. Other species seen within a week before the census and the week after: Killdeer, Turkey Vulture, Black vulture, Pileated Woodpecker, Field Sparrow, Brown Creeper, White-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Winter Wren.

—GORDON WILSON AND L. Y. LANCASTER

**THE CANOE AND THE NATURALIST**—One needs only to read the history of Marquette, Joliet, or other early explorers to find that the canoe was their most important piece of equipment. The canoe is of equal importance to those who study nature in a thickly settled region like Warren County. There is no way to leave so easily the scenes created by man. The streams in Warren and adjacent counties are cut in limestone and have precipitous banks on one side and a narrow flood-plain on the other. The steep bank is covered with a heavy growth of both deciduous and evergreen trees; the other bank is lined with such a heavy growth of softwood trees and shrubbery that the canoeist is led to believe that he is far from human habitations. There is much talk of late of parks and forest preserves. Many of the enthusiasts behind these movements know little of the beautiful parks already established. These natural parks are far more economical, because the land cannot otherwise be utilized, and they are far more beautiful than the parks prepared by man.

**REWARDS OF BOATING**—The stream affords the only chance for the complete study of wild life, because both the terrestrial and the aquatic forms may be observed. In the study of ornithology, land birds will be found on the banks and water birds on or near the

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stream. To me the water birds are the more interesting. Take, for instance, the Pied-billed Grebe, a bird quite common at this season. They swim with all the body submerged except the head, and dive when approached. They usually stay under water until the boat has passed; on one occasion one misjudged the speed of our boat and came up within a few feet of us. I have seen dozens of these queer birds but have never had the pleasure of seeing one on the wing.

EXTRACTS FROM BOAT TRIPS ON BARREN RIVER AND  
DRAKE'S CREEK, by Professor L. Y. LANCASTER, TEACHERS  
COLLEGE, BOWLING GREEN.

### FIELD NOTES

Rather amusing things often happen because of the resemblances of birds. Recently there was reported to the editor a queer story of how a Mockingbird sat on a fence post near where some men were shucking out corn from shock fodder. When a mouse ran out of the shock, the Mockingbird, as the men thought it to be, pursued the mouse, captured it, and ate it. The man who told the incident feared he would not be believed, but it is easy to see that the bird was our rather rare bird the Migrant Shrike, which looks superficially so much like our songster.

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The Pine Siskins, which attracted so much attention during the winter of 1924-1925 by roosting in such large numbers in Central Park in Bowling Green, appeared again in October, 1925. The police, thinking them English Sparrows, fired on them but were roundly scolded by Mr. Carl D. Herdman. Even after this effort to dislodge them, the Siskins stayed on for several weeks, but every one had left before Christmas.

—GORDON WILSON

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The last time I was at home (Hopkinsville) we ran across a flock of Horned Larks but were not sure of the identification because of their wildness. This past Saturday (December 26) the entire flock circled over my head and alighted within twenty-five to forty yards of me. With my glasses I could seemingly reach out and touch them. I tried my best on my Christmas Census to locate a Tree Sparrow but could find nothing of the kind.

—W. M. WALKER, Nashville, Tennessee.

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It might be of interest to the society to know that I had the pleasure of seeing a pair of Connecticut Warblers on the campus this summer. The birds were seen in a thicket on August 17 and were seen at the same place five days successively. They seemed to be feeding on pokeberries, I got within ten feet of them on three occasions. The white eye-ring and dark gray neck ending abruptly above the yellow breast seem to leave no question. Both birds uttered a warning "kwir", between which came a single cluck much like of the Bronzed Grackle. The birds were not seen after August 23.

—W. A. WORTHINGTON, Annville Institute, Annville,

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There are a good many things that are absolutely necessary if one is trying to increase the number of birds. The first thing is congenial surroundings, such as shrubs, trees, and water. The second is to get rid of bird enemies, such as cats, squirrels, crows, and English Sparrows. The Screech Owl is out of the question in the breeding season, though he will catch more mice than two cats. The erection of boxes for nesting requires considerable judgment and patience. You cannot expect to have very many birds of the same species on too small an area. Bluebird boxes should be two or three hundred

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yards apart, if possible; Titmice require a greater distance. The House Wren and the Robin will nest much nearer each other than Titmice and Bluebirds. In erecting boxes place them facing the rising sun if possible. Most boxes should not be more than seven feet above the ground. Many birds prefer boxes lower than this. Do not be discouraged if you fail to get roomers the first year; move your boxes when the birds will not accept them and be patient. Do not go too near the boxes after they are occupied. Every one can have birds around his home by taking a little trouble.

—G. D. HIBBS, Cox's Creek.

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December 30, 1925—Shawnee Park, 9-10:15 a. m. temperature 28; near the river. The river was filled with ice floes. I saw four Cardinals perched on the topmost boughs of the trees; three wild ducks were floating down on the ice but flew away out of sight. A Brown Creeper began at the bottom of a cottonwood and crept to the very tiniest limbs at the top. I saw in addition a Southern Downy Woodpecker, a Flicker, a Blue Jay, and a Carolina Chickadee.

—MISS EMILIE YUNKER, Louisville.

I took a walk in Cherokee Park December 28 from 9:30 to 10:45 a. m. It was a beautiful sunny morning. Cracked corn and peanuts had already been scattered at the different feeding stations along the road. I saw a pair of Cardinals, 2 White-breasted Nuthatches, several Flickers, a Brown Creeper, 3 Tufted Titmice, and several Carolina Chickadees. All along the road, past the Daniel Boone monument, were squirrels. One followed me; when I offered him cracked corn, he ate out of my hand, as I never had one to do before. The Brown Creeper was busy picking the caterpillar eggs from the maples and beeches.

—MRS. MERIT O'NEAL, Louisville.

## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April, 1923

President ..... Professor Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green

Vice-President ..... Miss Emilie Yunker, Louisville

Secretary-Treasurer ... Mrs. Charles McBride, 1106 S. Fourth St.,

Louisville

Meets annually in the spring at Louisville, during the week of The Kentucky Educational Association; in the fall at some Kentucky college.

Dues for K. O. S. membership: local or state members, 50c annually; affiliate, \$2.00.

Address Bulletin correspondence to the President.