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The Kentucky Warbler

Volume II.

Bowling Green, Ky., April, 1926.

Number 2

PROGRAM OF THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, LOUISVILLE, APRIL 23-24, 1926

Friday Afternoon, April, 23, 2:o'clock

General Topic: Bird Study in the Schools

1. A Bird Program by the Children of Grades 4 and 5, Louisville Normal School, Miss Bertha Currant in charge.
2. Planting Food for Birds, Miss Emilie Yunker, School Garden Director, Louisville.
3. The Children and the Birds, Mrs. Merit O'neal, President of the Outdoor Art League, Louisville.
4. General Discussion.
5. Business session.

Friday Evening, April 23, 8:o'clock.

1. Travels at Random, Charles F. Huhlein, Chairman of the Board, B. F. Avery & Sons, Louisville.
2. Animal Tracks, Professor L. Y. Lancaster, Teachers College, Bowling Green.
3. The Audubon Pictures and Birds of America, Mr. J. T. Berry, Louisville.
4. Election of Officers.

Saturday Morning, April 24, 5-8 o'clock.

Hike in Cherokee Park. Full announcements will be made at the evening meeting.

Note—There will be an exhibit of bird posters and bird boxes by the pupils of the Louisville Normal School.

Note 2—The places of meeting will appear on the program issued by The Kentucky Educational Association and on our final printed program.

Our Program—Here is the program for our third annual spring meeting at Louisville. In every way it will appeal to those who love the out-of-doors. Quite an interest has been created by the bird-

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

house contest held by the pupils of the Louisville Normal School. The same children who are to exhibit the boxes will give a beautiful program such as can be adapted to schools everywhere to create an interest in birds. Miss Yunker and Mrs. O'Neal, because of their activity in the club, need no introduction to our members. Both have been exceedingly effective in the schools of Louisville in promoting bird study and outdoor hikes. Professor Lancaster is also too well known to need further comment, except that he has a new hobby closely connected with his old one of ornithology. Mr. Berry has a wide knowledge of Audubon, and in recent years he has spoken frequently about the great Kentucky naturalist. Mr. Huhlein has recently made a tour of the world, studying conditions and all phases of rural and scenic life. There are other features which have not yet definitely developed, when this leaflet goes to print. Come and see for yourself what the K. O. S. is and what it is trying to do.

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Dr. Funkhouser Honored—Our loyal member, Dr. W. D. Funkhouser, head of the Zoology department of the University of Kentucky, has recently been elected Dean of the Graduate School of that great institution.

* * * *

Our Henderson Meeting—Though the exact date for our fall meeting at Henderson has not been set, some of the officers and members think September 17 and 18 would be rather appropriate, as the schools would be in session and there would not likely be such changes in weather as the one which materially crippled our meeting last fall at Bowling Green. Among the things already promised for the program is "Audubon in Kentucky", by Miss Susan Towles, Librarian at the Henderson Public Library, the one person of the state who knows most about the famous ornithologist. It is planned to offer the services of several of our members to the city and country schools on the day before our first meeting. Begin planning to come to Henderson for the fall meeting.

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FIELD NOTES

Quail in Shawnee Park—January 14, at 2:40 p. m., I called my aunt, Miss Emilie Yunker, to see some birds feeding on the terrace of Shawnee Park, near the Ohio River. We went to see what they were. To our surprise, they proved to be Quail, about fifteen in all. This is the first time I have seen Quail in Shawnee. I have missed seeing the Red-headed Woodpecker this winter.—Billy Brock, Louisville.

* * * *

A Birds' Christmas Tree—We children of the J. B. Atchinson School decided we would enjoy the Christmas holidays better if we would do something for some one else. We decided to decorate a tree for the birds. We strung popcorn, cranberries, and suet. The boys put the tree into a hole in the yard and then we all did the decorating. During the holidays our teacher, Miss Sesmer, and our class kept a record of the birds that came to the tree. The following species of birds came to the tree:

Sparrows, Blue Jays, Pigeons, Crows, and an Owl. We liked the tree so well we planted a permanent tree on January 5.—5B Class, J. B. Atchinson School, Louisville.

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THE WOOD THRUSH AS KNOWN IN BOWLING GREEN.

Ten or fifteen years ago the wood thrush was occasionally seen

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

about our lawns in the spring, soon after his return from his winter sojourn in the south; again in the fall he would be seen at intervals before starting on his winter migration. He was at all times a shy bird, feeding suspiciously in the mulch of flower beds as if listening for a footstep, and taking wing at the approach of man. He gladdened our hearts with his flutelike notes in the early morning and at evening, but it was difficult to catch sight of the singer.

Gradually a change has taken place. At first it was observed that the notes of the wood thrush were heard more frequently in a neighborhood where there were several very large lawns and many forest trees. Then a nest was found on a limb of a large oak tree almost at the back door of a certain cottage. Yes, the nest was decorated with the usual string, or rather a rag, hanging from it as if it got there entirely by accident and was ready to fall. This was about ten years ago; since then this lovable bird has from year to year become more and more familiar, singing and feeding about our lawns, cheering us with his liquid notes, and nesting in the large trees of many lawns. Last summer he was seen just two blocks from the public square, as far as the lawns extend. No doubt, if we had observed closely, he might have been seen in the little park which occupies the center of our public square.—Florence Ragland. March 22, 1926.

* * * *

The delight with which my pupils enter upon this subject of bird study is due in a large measure, I believe, to the simple, zealous manner in which it is presented. The only equipment required of them is a lead pencil and a small note book, the kind that is given away at insurance offices and stores. Students are often cluttered with too much detail. The small book is preferred because the boys like to carry them in their hip pockets in a business-like way, you know. Parenthetically, the teacher is provided with a bird guide and other books; Government Bulletins No. 630, 621, and 609. She is fortunate also in having mounted specimens of the Flicker, the Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, the American Crossbill, and the Cedar Waxwing, which she uses to good advantage.

Only two lessons on birds are given each month, though much material is brought out in the recitation period of language and geography. For instance, if the night-hawk, or the bullbat, is the subject for discussion, I write this topic on the board, while the children go likewise in their booklets. There is so much to be said about this wonderful bird, and so little is actually known to the average person, that only the salient points are written briefly: as color, song, food, habit, eggs and others. We soon discovered that it is altogether an insect eater, as are so many of our well known birds; that it is likewise the friend of the farmer and the city gardener. As the subject develops fully with many other illuminating thoughts, is there any wonder that the disposition of the predatory boys to shy rocks at their innocent friends and rifle their nests is changed to admiration and good will?—Miss Tommie L. Baker, Princeton.

—Extracts for The Outdoors and Birds.

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Gulls at Owensboro—While I was attending the Second District Educational Association at Owensboro, March 12, I visited the new government dam opposite the city. In the water above the dam and on the completed portions of the dam I counted two Laughing Gulls and three Herring Gulls, birds very rare on our small inland

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

streams but probably common on the Ohio. I wish some of our members along the Ohio would contribute some information about Gulls in the winter as seen there.—Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.

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OUR MEMBERS

The census accredited to Mrs. Merit O'Neal in the January WABLER should have borne the name of Miss Emilie Yunker.

Mr. Ben. J. Blincoe, our ex-Kentuckian who is now a florist at Dayton, Ohio, was reelected Treasurer of The Wilson Ornithological Society at its annual meeting, at Kansas City, Missouri, during the Christmas holidays. Gordon Wilson at that time resigned as secretary of the W. O. C. in order to devote more time to the K. O. S.

Mr. A. F. Granier, Nashville, Tennessee, who is an honorary member of the K. O. S., was recently elected president of the Tennessee Academy of Science.

Professor G. D. Smith, of the Teachers College, Richmond, who was injured in an automobile wreck some time ago, is now much better and will soon be well again.

Mrs. W. C. Sumpter, of Bowling Green, who has a lecture called "God in a Garden", has had the fourth call for the lecture from a local college.

James Suthard, formerly of Madisonville, is now assistant curator of the Field Museum, Chicago.

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.