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The Kentucky Warbler

Volume V.

Bowling Green, Ky., July, 1929

Number 3

OUR SPRING MEETING—The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its sixth annual meeting at Louisville, April 20, at 2:00 in the Ballroom of the Watterson Hotel. Miss Emilie Yunker had the room decorated in true fashion, for there were bird baths, habitat groups, bird boxes, and posters in abundance, all of them work of Louisville school children. The pupils of Johnston School gave as favors bird sticks, with the birds in natural colors. Mr. Edward M. Ray, principal of the Frances High School, Crittenden County, discussed **Camping and Hiking, or An Outdoor Philosophy**, in which he emphasized the poise and growth one gets by living in the woods. Mr. Ray has camped often in the wildest parts of the state and knows unusually well how to get the most enjoyment out of forest life. John Hauss, of Du Pont Manual Training High School, and Jack Miller, of I. N. Bloom School, gave numerous bird calls. The pupils of Parkland School exhibited a great many bird houses and feeding boxes, and the pupils of Finzer and John H. Heywood schools showed several habitat groups they had made. The president, Gordon Wilson, told in detail the experiences of Alexander Wilson in 1810, when he made his famous journey down the Ohio to Louisville and across Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi to New Orleans. On this trip he discovered the bird whose name is used for our little leaflet, the Kentucky Warbler, as well as the Prairie, Nashville, Tennessee, and Magnolia Warblers and the Mississippi Kite. His letters are full of descriptions of famous places he visited along the way. Our attendance was exceptionally large, too large for our room. A great deal of interest was shown in the fall meeting at Elkton. Several of our members agreed to take places on the program there and expressed an eagerness to see the famous Clifty Creek country, where we are to hold our field trip.

* * * *

OUR FALL MEETING—Though this leaflet will reach our members in midsummer, we hope they will not forget to make plans for our fall meeting at Elkton, October 25 and 26. Friday morning, October 25, will be devoted to talks by our members before the schools of Elkton and neighboring places. The public programs will be held at the Community House in Elkton on Friday afternoon and evening, October 25. Mrs. John M. Street, the chairman of the Woman's Club of Elkton, hearing of our plan to meet in that city, wrote the president at once offering the use of the Community House. Of course, we gladly accepted and hope to make the meeting a great one. On Saturday morning, October 26, all who wish to do so will go to the

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Cliffs, twelve miles north, for an all-day field trip. In years of camping-out the president has not seen such a wild place as the cliff country of Todd County. It stretches for more than fifteen miles through northern Todd County and into western Logan County, with numerous side valleys. In many ways it is virgin territory, with flora like that of New England or our own Kentucky mountains. We hope that a very large number of our members will plan to meet us at Elkton and also see the wonders of this wild canyon.

* * * *

SPRING LAKE WILD LIFE SANCTUARY—On several occasions we have mentioned the Spring Lake Wild Life Sanctuary at Madisonville, which is supervised by our good friend B. C. Bacon. Here are some extracts from the Bulletin of the Spring Lake Hunting and Fishing Club for March 1, 1929:

“The Spring Lake Fishing Club and Wild Life Sanctuary, comprising a partly wooded tract of 57 acres, on which there is an artificial lake, is located on the southwest limits of Madisonville. It is bordered by open fields interspersed with groves of oak, elm, and sycamore, making it an ideal location for a fishing club and a wild life sanctuary.

“This tract has been left much as it was originally so far as the trees and undergrowth are concerned, although trails have been laid out around the lake and a few additional trees and shrubs, with flower beds, have been planted.

“The lake of 14 acres is crystal clear, being fed by seven springs. Large-mouth black bass, crappie, bream, and sunfish are numerous, and fishing is excellent.

“Aquatic vegetation is abundant, and all plants common to this locality may be found growing in profusion. The large variety of trees include many berry-bearing trees, which provide food in abundance for the birds. In many places these form dense thickets often overgrown with coral honeysuckle. Crab apple trees are numerous everywhere, and in April, when these are in full bloom, the air is laden with their fragrance.

“Nesting boxes and feeding tables for the birds have been erected at intervals throughout the sanctuary, and in winter suet and seeds are supplied. This is the greatest place in Hopkins County for birds, and the number of residents as well as migrants is unusually large. During the migrations the lake always has its quota of ducks. The more common of these are Mallard, Lesser Scaup, Pintail, and Teal. A list of more than a hundred species of birds observed on this sanctuary will appear in a future bulletin.

“All lovers of nature and the great out-of-doors should be interested in the Spring Lake Sanctuary, for there nature makes her ap-

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peal irresistible. The trees, the foliage, the inspiring crystal lake, the bubbling springs, and the shady nooks have a charm all their own."—B. C. Bacon.

* * * *

OUR MEMBERS—Our Vice-President, Miss Emilie Yunker, on July 3, spoke on *School Garden Activities in Louisville* at the School Garden Association of America, which met with the National Educational Association at Atlanta, Georgia. She also spoke on *Nature Study in Kentucky* at the joint luncheon of the School Garden Association of America and The American Nature Study Society. Miss Yunker was honored (and so was the K. O. S.) by being elected Vice-President of both of these great organizations.

Miss Mary May Wyman, head of the science department of the Louisville Normal School, is doing further graduate work in Chicago University this summer.

Professor L. Y. Lancaster, of the Ogden Science Department of the Teachers College, Bowling Green, is spending his summer in graduate study at Gibraltar Island Field Laboratory, Put-In Bay, Ohio.

Our President, Mr. Wilson, expects to return to Bowling Green in late August to resume his work in the Teachers College. He is now revising his thesis—*Alexander Wilson: Poet-Essayist-Ornithologist*—for its final form, having finished all his course work.

Mr. Edward M. Ray, our camping enthusiast, was married on July 12 to Miss Joanna Mason of Sonora, Kentucky. After a honeymoon consisting of automobile tours and camping in the Cliffs of Todd County, Mr. and Mrs. Ray have returned to Fredonia, where Mr. Ray is principal of the Frances High School and Mrs. Ray is one of the teachers.

Readers of the *Sunday Courier-Journal* have often seen poems and pictures by our excellent member Kalfus Kurtz Gusling. Mrs. Gusling was recently elected poet-laureate of the Imbeciles Club, fostered by Mr. Anthony Woodson, "Old Homefolks" of the *Courier-Journal*. Mrs. Gusling is an excellent photographer and is noted for the artistry of her tinted pictures. Those of us who have seen her suburban home in Louisville can understand her fondness for great scenery.

Just before our spring meeting Dr. T. Atchison Frazer spoke before W H A S, the broadcasting station of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, on *Birds of the Night*. Here are some extracts from his speech:

"To most people night seems darkness and gloom, a time when hobgoblins and ghosts stalk from their lairs, ready to pounce upon any innocent passer-by. To a man who can interpret nature and the wild things of the night, it is a time of joy and delightful experiences, a time when we can go into the great open spaces and commune with nature and nature's God. The air is charged with the most wonderful music and entertainment; but, if we have no aerial and no

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receiving set to bring it to us and utilize it for our pleasure, we are none the wiser.

"The song of the Whip-poor-will does not have much music in it, but it has a wild quality that is refreshing.

"All of the owls are nocturnal. Of the many species we have three kinds are fairly well known in Kentucky: the Screech, the Barred, and the Great Horned. Everybody knows the wailing song of the Screech Owl. This bird is a friendly little fellow and often comes near our houses to rear his young. Since his food consists of mice and other small rodents, he is a very useful bird. The Great Horned Owl is a bird of the forest: he likes deep woods and thick undergrowth for his hunting ground. He is a delightful bird that remains in seclusion during the day and looks very stupid, but at night he is very much awake and wakes up all who are near him."

Dr. Frazer gave, in his inimitable way, the calls and cries of all these species and other night birds.

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THE STARLING IN KENTUCKY—It has now been three years since the Starling was first seen near Lexington. During the recent winter Professors L. Y. Lancaster and Charles L. Taylor, of the Teachers College, Bowling Green, recorded this species in that part of the state and secured one specimen for the college collection. The editor insists that every one of our members be on the lookout for the Starling and promptly report when any are seen. Be sure to report any nests also.

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 Warbler correspondence to the President.