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## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 6, no. 3)

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# The Kentucky Warbler

Volume VI.

Bowling Green, Ky., July 1930

Number 3

**OUR APRIL MEETING**—The seventh annual spring meeting, held in the ballroom of the Watterson Hotel, Louisville, Friday, April 18, at 2:00 P. M., was well attended. Under the direction of Miss Emilie Yunker, Director of School Gardens and Nature Study of the Louisville Schools, an interesting bird program was rendered by the children of the schools of Louisville. Favors, in the form of bouquets of flowers grown in the school gardens, and birds mounted on perches, the work of the children in their manual arts shops were presented to all who attended. Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, the President, outlined some of the purposes and achievements of the society and introduced Professor Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green, who talked on **Birds of the Jackson Purchase**, giving the geographical backgrounds for the wide range of bird life in that little-known part of the state. Dr. Frazer very enthusiastically invited the members to attend the fall meeting at his home town, Marion, early in the fall. Professor L.Y. Lancaster told very interestingly of his experiments, during the winter of 1929-30, with Crows and their food. Professor Lancaster indicated that at present he was unable to pronounce the Crow either markedly harmful or beneficial, since his investigations cover only the winter food; he promised to continue his investigations at other seasons and report to the society from time to time the results.

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**FALL MEETING**—The sixth annual fall meeting will be held at Marion, Kentucky, the home of our President, Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, on Friday and Saturday, October 3 and 4. Before the meeting a printed program, either in the form of a regular issue of this little leaflet or a postal card, will be mailed to every member. This announcement is just to remind all of our members to begin to make plans to attend this meeting. From year to year these fall meetings have

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grown in attendance and importance and have served to remind our friends out in the state of the purposes and achievements of our little society. While a complete program cannot at present be stated, the following have promised have something for us: Dr. Frazer, Miss Yunker, Miss Wyman, Mr. Ray, and Professor Wilson. As usual, our members will appear before schools on Friday morning; programs, open to the public, will be held in the afternoon and evening, with some promised local talent, such as the poet of Marion, Mr. Hollis Franklin. Saturday will be devoted to an all-day trip, comparable to our wonderful trip to the Todd County Cliffs last year and to Devil's Fulpit in 1927. Dr. Frazer indicated that he will take us to his famous Panther Hollow, which we have heard of through his inimitable imitations of wild animals and birds heard there at night. Plan to come early and remain through the field trip.

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**NEWS**—Our neighboring state society, The Tennessee Ornithological Society, is now publishing a six-page bulletin called **The Migrant**. The first copy of this state bulletin appeared in June, 1930, and contains articles by Mr. A. F. Ganier, Mr. Harry C. Monk, and others whom our society remembers from pleasant associations at our meetings. We wish the society and its new publication every possible success.

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Our Professor L. Y. Lancaster, head of the Biology Division, Ogden Department of Science, Western Teachers College, is now in Ohio State University, completing work for his Ph. D. He has spent the summer at the university's biological station at Put-In-Bay, Lake Erie, where he has done extensive work in Ecology and Ichthyology.

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Our former President, Gordon Wilson, received his Ph. D. degree on June 10 at the annual commencement at Indiana University. His thesis, as all will recall was entitled **Alexander Wilson: Poet-Essayist-Ornithologist**.

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Mr. Fred E. Huhlein, son of Mrs. Charles Huhlein, Louisville, (one of our charter members), has recently been appointed Assistant Trade Commissioner for the United States Department of Commerce, at Lisbon, Portugal. Mr. Huhlein, though a young man, has already had much service as a consul in South America and Cuba.

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Our Secretary-Treasurer, Edward M. Ray, has spent his summer in graduate work in Indiana University. He will return in September to be principal of the Francis High School, Crittenden County.

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**STARLING NESTING AT BOWLING GREEN**—On May 2 I found the Starling nesting in a hollow walnut tree on the farm of Mr. C. C.

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Davenport; three miles northwest of Bowling Green, near Stevens Chapel Schoolhouse. This is the first time I have found this species here in the nesting season, though it is rather plentiful in the fall and winter months.

The Cedar Waxwing, a bird I have always regarded as only a winter resident, though I have found it as late in the spring as June 12, has been here all summer, feeding on mulberries as long as they lasted and then on wild cherries. I have seen from three to ten nearly every day on the campus of the Teachers College, where there are many wild black cherries. I have been unable, however, to locate any nests.

On two occasions, this summer, during the hottest and driest weather, I have had Hummingbirds come down in the spray from the hose when I would be watering my flowers. I would throw the water on the birds and also on the leaves of lilac bushes. It was fairly common to see them sipping the water from the leaves. One bird was panting as if were almost dead from thirst. The long-continued drouth must have caused great inconvenience and even suffering among the birds.

—Gordon Wilson.

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**DOWN THE RIVER**—I know few joys quite so appealing to the outdoor naturalist as trips down creeks and rivers in a small boat. The river is a natural passage-way for many other things besides man; hence it is possible for the observer to find nearly everything along its course. Though any season is appealing along the stream, late summer and early fall have more charms for me. First of all, this is a time when birds are to be seen rather than heard and when they seek the water courses in greater numbers because of the scarcity of water in many places where they nest. Birds at this season have less energy than in spring and do not so easily fly beyond the sight of the traveler. Many of the land birds frequent the thickets along the shores and at early morning give a faint echo of their wild spring songs. But it is the birds of the water that are then so appealing. Along in the mud at the edge of the water the Louisiana Water Thrush and the Spotted Sandpiper "teeter" along, the former sometimes breaking forth into its wild song, which has always reminded me of the wildest cliffs and streams. Always in sight, sitting on driftwood or flying low over the water, is the Green Heron, much tamer at this season than usual. I have had one or more of these birds fly before my boat for miles before they would turn back up the stream. The Belted Kingfisher, "all dressed up," appears around nearly every bend, rattling away whenever he leaves his

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perch. Rarely he plunges into the stream after his food; he is not a voracious eater. One would think he frequents the river quite as much for the joy he gets out the stream as for the food he catches. On sandy or muddy beaches he I often find a flock of Killdeer, probably a whole family group, rather lazily seeking their quota of the food the river yields. Sometimes in late summer and early fall I find a few Little Blue Herons in their full plumage of pure white, a sight that always dignifies any stretch of a creeg or river. Rarely I find the Great Blue Heron, a perfect picture of the spirit of the remotest wilds of forest and stream, rising gracefully from its perch, its long legs trailing, its long neck gradually drawing into a loop. Sometimes the various birds I have mentioned form a sort of procession that keeps up hour by hour, added to by others of the same species as the boat floats or is propelled down stream. Thus I once followed two Little Blue Herons down stream in a pouring rain until they had added eight more to their number, the whole flock rising before the boat, stopping on a sandbar for a while until the boat would come near. The whole trip by boat down our streams at this season is lazy and dreamy, the very birds sharing in the general feeling of lassitude which so often characterizes the season.

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### THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April, 1923

President ----- Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, Marion  
Vice-President ---- Miss Mary May Wyman, 1040 Mary St., Louisville  
Secretary-Treasurer ----- Mr. Edward M. Ray, R. F. D. 4, Fredonia  
Meets annually in the spring in Louisville during the week of The  
Kentucky Educational Association; in the fall at some town in  
the state.

Dues for K. O. S. membership: adult, 50c a year; child, 25c. Address  
Warbler correspondence to Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.