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The Kentucky Warbler

Volume VII

Bowling Green, Ky., January, 1931

Number 1

CHRISTMAS CENSUSES—We are publishing in this issue the reports from our members of their Christmas censuses. In some parts of the state birds seem to be much more scarce this winter than they have since 1918-1919, the first winter after the unusually severe one. Many hunters have told the editor that quail are hard to find in their usual haunts. The long drouth caused the crop of weed seeds to be almost a failure in many parts of the state. One hunter told the editor that he found quail in numbers in beech woods, for there seems to have been an unusual crop of beechnuts this season. In central and southern Kentucky it will be hard for normal numbers of birds to survive this winter; bird lovers have the best opportunity of a lifetime to provide feeding shelves for the birds, to help them over a very severe experience.

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McMillan, Luce County, Michigan.—Dec. 25. Weather, overcast in forenoon, a little snow in afternoon; temperature 31 to 35; wind, southwest, moderate in first part of morning, becoming very light. Routes: (O. M. B.) from 8:12 a. m. to 11:20 a. m, through fields, woods, cut-over land, and edge of lake; lake frozen over; about 4½ miles on foot; (D. F.) to a small spruce and tamarack swamp in the morning on foot; latter, to McMillan and return, covering fields, woods; etc.; about 4 miles. Ground covered with snow, an average of 10 inches. Ruffed Grouse, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Blue Jay, 5; Evening Grosbeak, 1; Pine Grosbeak, 4; Snowflake, 50; White-breasted Nuthatch 4; Black-capped Chickadee, 9. Total, 8 species, 78 individuals. Also 1 English Sparrow. Birds are not very plentiful this winter, which I believe is largely due to the scarcity of cones.—O. M. Bryens and David Fritz.

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Dycusburg.—January 4; 10:00 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Temperature, about 40. Weather fair and still. Blue Jay, 114; Song Sparrow, 295; Winter Wren, 3; Towhee, 17; Slate-colored Junco, 538; Mockingbird, 31; Cardinal, 147; Crow, 73; Tufted Titmouse, 6; Bluebird 31; Field Sparrow, 4; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Chipping Sparrow, 28; Carolina Chickadee, 45; White-crowned Sparrow, 24; Fileated Woodpecker, 4; Mourning Dove, 15; Hairy Woodpecker, 7; Southern Downy Woodpecker 10; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 27; Goldfinch, 25; Purple Finch, 13; Bobwhite, 43; Sparrow Hawk 1; Kingfisher 1; Fox Sparrow, 5. Total, 28 species, 1237 individuals.—Edward M. Ray.

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Fredonia.—January 4. Brisk wind; cloudy; temperature 38. Bluebird, 29; Bobwhite, 39; Cardinal Chickadee, 51; Crow 13; Mourning Dove, 5; Flicker, 8; Goldfinch, 16; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Sparrow Hawk 4; Marsh Hawk, 1; Blue Jay, 11; Junco, 205; Meadowlark 4; Mockingbird, 1; Robin, 12; Migrant Shrike 1; Chipping Sparrow 31; Field Sparrow, 26; Fox Sparrow, 6; Song Sparrow, 119; Swamp Sparrow, 7; White-crowned Sparrow, 55; White-throated Sparrow, 17; Tufted Titmouse, 12; Towhee, 5; Southern Downy Woodpecker, 9; Fileated Woodpecker, 2; Bewick's Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 6 Starling 3. Total, 32 species, 718 individuals.

—Dr. T. Atchison Frazer and Chastain L. Frazer.

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Bowling Green, Ky.—December 28; 8:00 a. m. to 4:00 p. m. Cloudy at start, fair at return; ground frozen, bare; no wind; temperature 24 at start, 30 at return. Lost River, along Jennings Creek, near Rich Pond. About twelve miles on foot. Wilson's Snipe, 1; Mourning Dove, 49; Black Vulture, 4; Marsh Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Southern Downy Woodpecker, 28; Flicker, 7; Prairie Horned Lark, 88; Blue Jay, 6; Crow 101; Meadowlark, 60; Rusty Blackbird, 6; Purple Finch, 65; Goldfinch 58; White-crowned Sparrow, 36; White-throated Sparrow, 9; Tree Sparrow, 13; Slate-colored Junco, 180; Song Sparrow, 62; Fox Sparrow, 9; Towhee 9; Cardinal, 102; Migrant Shrike, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 64; Mockingbird, 9; Carolina Wren, 20; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Tufted Titmouse, 9; Carolina Chickadee, 113; Bluebird, 13. Total 31 species, 1125 individuals. Other species known to be here and seen within a week from the date of the census: Killdeer, Robin, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Turkey Vulture. The scarcity of

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birds may be due to the intense drouth, which has lasted from April to December.

—Gordon Wilson.

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Louisville.—January 2; 8:00 to 10:30 a. m. Cave Hill Cemetery, 8 to 9:15; Cherokee Park, 9:25 to 10:30. Early, windy and cold; later, Sunny and warmer. Temperature 24-30. Cardinal, 8; Mockingbird, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Southern Downy Woodpecker, 1; Robin, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Crow 4; Blue Jay 4; Towhee, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 15; Junco, 50; Bluebird 8; Carolina Chickadee, 1. Total, 14 species, 101 individuals. On January 6th about 8:30 a. m. a flock of fifty Starlings circled about near Miss Yunker's home and then flew toward Cave Hill Cemetery.—Mary May Wyman, Mrs. Bruner Greenup, and Emilie Yunker.

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SCHOOL GARDENS A SUCCESS—"In spite of the drouth," says an illustrated article in the Louisville Times for September 12, "this was a most remarkable summer in the school gardens." The article praises highly the work done by our Miss Emilie Yunker, Director of School Gardens and Nature Study for Louisville.

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BACON TALKS ON BIRDS—The daily paper of Madisonville for November 19 carried an excellent article on the activity of Mr. Brasher C. Bacon, who, during Book Week, had charge of the story hour on one evening. Mr. Bacon has also organized a Nature Study Club among the school children. He is also continuing his work in establishing game preserves, in addition to the darling of his heart, the Spring Lake Sanctuary. Recently he got some twenty-five land-owners, with more than fifteen hundred acres of land, to declare their property game reserves under the protection of the Kentucky Fish and Game Commission and the Kentucky Ornithological Society.

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The January number of the Kentucky School Journal contained an article by Professor Gordon Wilson entitled "Scenery and Wild Life in Mammoth Cave National Park." It points out many of the places of interest and lists a representative number of birds and mammals found in that great area.

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Professor L. Y. Lancaster of the Teachers College, Bowling Green, writes interesting letters of his work at Ohio State University on his

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Ph. D. During the summer of 1929 he took courses with Dr. F. H. Kreeker, head of the department of biology of Ohio University, on the bottom fauna of Lake Erie. The same study was continued last summer, and the results were written up to be published. Professor Lancaster is co-author of this study, which was given before the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Cleveland during the holidays and will soon be published in one of the biological journals. The title is "Population Studies on Typical Lake Erie Habitats down to Six Feet." In Professor Lancaster's thesis investigation he often goes to Lake Erie, regardless of the time of year. One of his late trips had many thrills, for he was on a boat designed to cut through the ice that covered the lake. Hard work kept him from doing much bird study, but he is resolving to take up this study again when he can. All of us wish him well and hope to welcome him back as Dr. Lancaster soon.

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THE MIGRANT, the organ of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, strikes us as one of the best leaflets we have ever seen. It contains short, interesting articles on many phases of bird study and is designed to aid all kinds of bird students, from professionals to mere novices. Mr. A. F. Ganier, who is an honorary member of our K. O. S., is the president of the T. O. S.

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.