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## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 8, no. 1)

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## The Kentucky Warbler

Volume VIII

Bowling Green, Ky., January, 1932

Number 1

**Our Christmas Censuses**—The Christmas Bird Censuses of The Kentucky Ornithological Society have come to be a very distinctive part of our society. The reports this year indicate that birds and bird food are alike very plentiful. Here is an interesting census taken from a window, throughout a single day, December 23. Mr. Hibbs, because of a recent attack of influenza, was unable to get out for his census; consequently, he sat by his window, overlooking a berry patch, a grape arbor, and the front yard of his home, where he has numerous devices to attract birds.

Cox's Creek, December 23. All day; cloudy, southwest wind; temperature 38 at start, 46 at close. Screech Owl, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Southern Downy Woodpecker, 3; Redbellied Woodpecker, 2; Flicker, 4; Crow, 14; Mourning Dove, 5; Goldfinch, 7; Slate-colored Junco, 3; Tufted Titmouse, 2; White-crowned Sparrow, 36; White-throated Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 2; Bluebird, 4; Cardinal, 4; House Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 2; Carolina Chickadee, 6; Robin, 1; Meadowlark, 27; Killdeer, 3; Starling, Cowbird, and Rusty Blackbird, in flocks, about 500. Total, 25 species, 632 individuals.

—G. D. Hibbs.

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From the far-away northern peninsula of Michigan comes this interesting census, which will indicate the species found there by Mr. Bryens, a faithful member of our K. O. S.

McMillan, Luce County, Michigan.—Dec. 25; 9:30 A. M. to 1:15 P. M. and 2:18 P. M. to 3:45 P. M. Weather overcast most of morning, clear most of the afternoon. Temperature 14 to 26; wind, north, light. Observers together on first trip, O. M. B. alone on last trip. Forests of hardwood, evergreens; cut-over land; lakes; fields, etc. Lakes frozen over, small streams open in places; a little old snow in scattered places. Seven miles on foot. Canada Ruffed Grouse, 9; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 5; Northern Blue Jay, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 17; White-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 24; Brown Creeper, 1; Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; Canadian Pine Grosbeak, 6; Common Redpoll, 17; Northern Pine Siskin, 3; Eastern Goldfinch, 23; Red Crossbill, 26; Eastern Snow Bunting, 75. Total, 15 species, 223 individuals. Also English Sparrows, 27. The cone and beechnut crops are fairly good and account largely for some species wintering.

—Oscar McKinley Bryens and David Fritz.

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From Hopkinsville comes this census, with this comment: "I am enclosing a bird list that I made this afternoon under what one would think to be perfect conditions. Yet for some reason there was a scarcity of birds. Also I covered approximately three times the territory of the past censuses."

Hopkinsville (Five miles east of the city).—Dec. 26; 1 to 4 P.M. Wind, east, strong and cold; weather, fair; temp. 50. Bluebird, 3; Cardinal, 8; Carolina Chickadee, 14; Crow, about 40; Flicker, 2; Junco, 50; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Prairie Horned Lark, 3; Mockingbird, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Robin, 1; Field Sparrow, 18; Savannah Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 3; Tufted Titmouse, 12; Towhee, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 4; Southern Downy Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Turkey Vulture, 1. Total, 22 species, 173 individuals.

—W. M. Walker.

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Professor Charles L. Taylor of the Western Kentucky State Teachers College and the editor had very favorable conditions for their census, the fourteenth annual one from Bowling Green and in many ways the best one ever taken in that area.

Bowling Green, Kentucky (Lost River, Chaney and McElroy Farms).—Dec. 23; 6:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Cloudy, light rain at times; wind, southwest, light; temp. 55 at start, 60 at return. Fifteen miles on foot. Observers together. Killdeer, 70; Mourning Dove, 58; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Southern Downy Woodpecker, 16; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 4; Flicker, 32; Prairie Horned Lark, 79; Blue Jay, 11; Crow, 6,000 (numerous large flocks seen and a large roost visited late in the afternoon); Cowbird, 250 (a flock and one single individual); Meadowlark, 25; Bronzed Grackle, 13; Tufted Titmouse, 34; Carolina Chickadee, 47; White-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 17; Bewick Wren, 6; Winter Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 40; Hermit Thrush, 2; Robin, 105; Bluebird, 31; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 8; Cedar Waxwing, 133; Migrant Shrike, 2; Starling, 21; Myrtle Warbler, 15; Goldfinch, 9; White-crowned Sparrow, 139; White-throated Sparrow, 31; Chipping Sparrow, 4; Field Sparrow, 114; Slate-colored Junco, 135; Song Sparrow, 35; Towhee, 30; Cardinal, 92. Total, 41 species, 7644 individuals. Savannah Sparrow and Red-bellied Woodpecker seen December 19.

—Charles L. Taylor and Gordon Wilson

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Our president, Dr. Frazer, reports a good census from Marion, but he was unable to walk as much as he would have liked. He feels he might have doubled his numbers if he could have walked normally. It seems a bit of poetic injustice that a man who loves to walk as well as Dr. Frazer does should have to suffer from a crippled foot. We all hope that it will gradually grow strong again, so he can walk as he used to.

Marion—Dec. 27; 9:00 A. M. to 3 P. M. Low clouds all day; high wind; temperature 44-54. Bluebird, 38; Cardinal, 31; Carolina Chickadee, 10; Cowbird, 37; Crow, 14; Mourning Dove, 2; Flicker, 1; Goldfinch, 11; Bronzed Grackle, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Blue Jay, 1; Junco, 390; Killdeer, 2; Meadowlark, 14; Mockingbird, 14; Screech Owl, 1; Robin, 3; Chipping Sparrow, 13; Field Sparrow, 27; Fox Sparrow, 4;

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Lark Sparrow, 12; Song Sparrow, 41; Swamp Sparrow, 1; White-crowned Sparrow, 14; Tufted Titmouse, 7; Towhee, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 24; Southern Downy Woodpecker, 1; Bewick's Wren, 3; Carolina Wren, 3; Winter Wren, 1; Marsh Wren, 2. Total, 32 species, 745 individuals.

—T. Atchison Frazer.

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Since our secretary, Mr. Ray, did not get to accompany the editor on his regular census, we planned another one, which appears below:

Munfordsville (along Green River and through the adjoining country below and above the highway bridge on U. S. 31W).—Dec. 30; 8:20 A. M. to 1:30 P. M. (rained out). Wind, southwest, strong; cloudy, turning to showers; temperature 55-60. Observers together; about eight miles on foot. Bluebird, 22; Cardinal, 104; Cowbird, 4; Crow, 300 (a large flock over a high knob, besides smaller groups); Mourning Dove, 5; Purple Finch, 2; Flicker, 12; Goldfinch, 147; Blue Jay, 11; Junco, 69; Killdeer, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Meadowlark, 4; Prairie Horned Lark, 4; Mockingbird, 17; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Robin, 10; Chipping Sparrow, 7; Field Sparrow, 31; Fox Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 138; White-crowned Sparrow, 47; White-throated Sparrow, 92; Tufted Titmouse 17; Towhee, 51; Myrtle Warbler, 8; Southern Downy Woodpecker, 7; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Carolina Wren, 38; Winter Wren, 1; Black Vulture, 3; Turkey Vulture, 2; Starling, 2; Carolina Chickadee, 24. Total, 35 species, 1236 individuals.

—Edward M. Ray and Gordon Wilson

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Our vice-president, Miss Wyman, and our former secretary, Miss Yunker, report the birds seen at Louisville during the Christmas season.

Louisville (Cave Hill Cemetery).—Dec. 30; 8:30 A. M. to 11:00 A. M. Cloudy; no wind; temperature 40. Robin, 4; Carolina Chickadee, 3; Tufted Titmouse, 3; Cardinal, 10; Cedar Waxwing, 6; Blue Jay, 11; Kingfisher, 1; Junco, 5; Mockingbird, 3; Crow, 8; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Flicker, 17; Starling, 40; Winter Wren, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1. Total, 15 species, 116 individuals.

—Mary May Wyman and Emilie Yunker.

Miss Wyman and Miss Yunker add, "The sky was overcast with no promise of sunshine. Yet we had but entered Cave Hill Cemetery when we heard Robins calling as though it were springtime. No finer sanctuary than that of Cave Hill Cemetery, with its great variety of trees and evergreens and shrubs, can be found. What a variety of winter berries: hawthorn, Japanese barberry, viburnum, high bush cranberry, coral berry, Regal's privet, dogwood, and holly. Magnolias, oaks, pines, cedar, arbor vitae, and other evergreens yielded a rich harvest of seeds for our winter birds. In looking for Cedar Waxwings we were rewarded by seeing a small flock, not nearly so many as we expected. The Starlings have no doubt proved disastrous to the Winter Wrens and Bluebirds, and there was but one Wren in evidence. The Flickers were a sorry lot, deprived of their old homes; trees too decayed to be left standing were being cut down one by one. If ever birds had "Heimweh," they had. The birds, bemoaning their fate, came back again and again, cast a longing look at their favorite abiding place, now cast on the ground."

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**Birds Mated in the Winter**—Dr. T. Atchison Frazer reports that several species of birds, including Carolina Wrens, Robins, and Bluebirds, were mated at Christmas and seeking nesting sites. Numbers of species have been singing their spring songs around Bowling Green. English Sparrows were observed building their nests even before Christmas Day. The very mild weather we have had up until now seems to be responsible for this unusual condition.

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**Pipit in Summer**—Mr. G. D. Hibbs, Cox's Creek, Nelson County, reports the nesting of the Pipit there last year. The editor found several in 1927 late in the summer, on the McElroy Farm, ten miles south of Bowling Green. This species, associated in the nesting season with the far north, seems to be changing its habits. In a later number we hope to print a paper on the Pipit prepared by Mr. Hibbs, which is too long for our remaining space this time.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch Antics**—I had a very interesting observation of a Red-breasted Nuthatch in December, 1931. I first noticed it with a beechnut, and it was searching for a place where it could be placed in order to remove the shell. It finally found a place on an old maple near the foot of the tree; the nut was then broken open, a few bits taken and eaten, then a piece was taken out of the shell and carried up the trunk to a suitable place behind the bark, where it was stored for future use. Then another very interesting performance took place. It went a few inches on the trunk from where the particle was stored and pecked off a small piece of bark; this it took and packed against the stored particle of nut, I suppose to keep it from view of others. It then flew to other near-by trees, and in a few minutes back to the nut, from which it took another particle, and then stored it away again in the same manner.

—O. M. Bryens, McMillan, Michigan.

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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, Teachers College, Bowling Green

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.