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The Kentucky Warbler

Volume VIII Bowling Green, Ky., April-July, 1932 Numbers 2 and 3

Our Spring Meeting—The spring meeting of The Kentucky Ornithological Society was held in the ballroom of the Watterson Hotel, Louisville, on Friday, April 15, beginning at 2:30 p. m. Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, the president, presided. It was voted to accept the invitation of Mr. B. C. Bacon, of Madisonville, to hold the fall meeting of 1932 there, at a time to be arranged later by the officers.

The contribution to the program by the Louisville schools consisted of a meeting of the Nature Club of the Isaac Shelby School; some original poems—"Message of Spring" and "Harbinger of Spring"—by Miss Amelia Layer; a bird play by Grade VI of the I. N. Bloom School; and a display of bird sticks, posters, charts, bird houses, and feeding stations by children from the Isaac Shelby and I. N. Bloom Schools. Beautiful programs were furnished by the children of the Oakdale School.

Dr. L. Y. Lancaster, of the Ogden Department of Science, Western Kentucky State Teachers College, discussed "The Origin of Birds", with numerous slides representing the prehistoric birds and their petrified remains. He showed how these remains compare with the skeletons of birds now living.

Mr. Edward M. Ray, graduate student at Western, gave numerous slides to show "Radial Adaptations in Birds." With the earliest bird skeleton as a basis, he showed how swimmers, runners, fliers, and other adaptations have developed.

The concluding address, "The Birds of the Mammoth Cave Area," was given by our editor, Dr. Gordon Wilson. He pointed out the leading physical features of the area, summarized his studies there, and indicated how the park is to be restocked with species of birds and other animals formerly found there.

The attendance was excellent. From year to year we have kept up a steady growth in attendance and feel that our society is meeting a need in the state. In these hard times it is urgent that all our members keep up their connections with the K. O. S., for it would be easy for us to lose all we have gained in our years of fine growth.

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Our Fall Meeting—Madisonville, where we are to meet on Friday and Saturday, October 14 and 15, is the home of the Spring Lake Wild Life Sanctuary, started four years ago by our former vice-president, Mr. B. C. Bacon. The editor spent the afternoon of May 20 with Mr. Bacon on the lake and in the surrounding region and found it one of the most delightful places ever visited. The immediate area around the lake comprises 57 acres, with a 14-acre pond that vies with glacial lakes in beauty. All told, there are 2500 acres in the

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bird refuge, where shooting is prohibited. An attractive clubhouse, beautiful flowers, boats, trails through the woods, rustic bridges, trees of many kinds, and hosts of birds make the place one not soon forgotten. Several wild ducks are nesting on the area. It was a real thrill to see seven nests of wild Mallards in the afternoon of my visit. Mexican Quail, Virginia Quail, numerous Fox and Gray Squirrels, and English Ring-Necked Pheasants have been released on the area and are being rigidly protected. This delightful haven of wild fowl is where we are to have our fall outing, on Saturday, October 15. Mr. Bacon assures us that we are to be entertained with a barbecue. That, with the joys and sports of the lake and the wild areas, ought to make our attendance a record one.

Hotel Madison will be our headquarters. On Friday morning, October 14, we are to speak before the schools of Madisonville and the county. That afternoon we are to have a meeting to which all school children and adults will be invited, the place to be announced in the programs sent out just before the meeting. In the evening we are to have a meeting for everybody, with lantern lectures on wild life. The following are already on the program for the meeting as a whole: Dr. Frazer, Mr. Ray, Miss Yunker, Miss Wyman, Dr. Lancaster, Mr. Bacon, and Dr. Wilson. Several local numbers have been promised. It is our hope that we can reach every child in Madisonville in our morning lectures; we shall make as many country consolidated schools as possible.

While we are in that part of the state, it would be a good idea to visit also the wild life refuge in Hopkins County, not far from Dawson Springs. This part of the state is rapidly assuming a leadership in conservation that is enviable. We members of the K. O. S. ought to feel fortunate in having such a good meeting place for our fall sessions. Mr. Bacon and his local organizations have long been cultivating this field; we shall be among friends, friends to us and to all phases of wild life.

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Some General Notes—This spring I have traveled extensively in western Kentucky going to and from high school commencements. Though I have not always had a chance to study birds along the way, I have taken notes on most of my trips and have been pleased with the great number and variety of birds seen. The Starling is now a common bird in the central and west central part of Kentucky, but I found it scarce west of Hopkinsville and Madisonville. Mr. Bacon and Dr. Frazer report that it is seldom seen in their localities: Marion and Madisonville. In northern Todd County, in Grayson County, and again in Crittenden County I found the Prairie Horned Lark along the roads, which leads me to believe that it nests in these areas. Also in Crittenden County, near Ford's Ferry, I found while out with Dr. Frazer many Rough-winged Swallows, which he finds regularly every summer. I was pleased to find in many localities our Kentucky Warbler, certainly a bird that we can be proud of for its wild song, its proud appearance, and its bright feathers.

Any one who travels over our Kentucky roads must be impressed with the many birds that have been killed on the highway. Though the Dove is the species I have most often found on the road, I have never seen one that had been killed by an automobile. The commonest victims are Red-headed Woodpeckers, Flickers, and Robins. This spring has been a great one for snakes to be run over. I have counted one for every thirty or forty miles I have traveled, most of them black racers or chicken snakes. I suppose the reason for the numbers of Woodpeckers as victims is that they are clumsy in taking flight from the ground.

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On three of my trips I was able to get a real walk in bird territory. On May 5 I went with the Caneyville High School on a daybreak picnic to the gulch at Big Clifty in Grayson County on U. S. Highway 62. In that wild area I found numbers of Warblers and such shy birds as the Acadian Flycatcher and the Pileated Woodpecker. On May 20 I wandered around over the Spring Lake Sanctuary at Madisonville with Mr. Bacon, finding several interesting species. On May 21 I spent the forenoon at Ford's Ferry, Crittenden County, with Dr. Frazer, wandering along the wooded banks of the Ohio River. The Rough-winged Swallow was the great find of this trip. On one of my trips I stopped for some time at the head of the cliff country in Todd County, where the wilder birds of the woods were seen.

Everywhere I have been, in twelve different places and through more than twenty-five counties, I have found fine sentiment for bird protection. I was quite amused when at one place I was asked, half seriously, to talk on birds as a commencement address. The temptation was pretty strong, but I stayed by the conventional philosophical type of address. There is no doubt that our organization and our individual members have done much to cause people to think about birds and protection.

—The Editor

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Mr. Bacon Improving—Through almost the whole month of June Mr. B. C. Bacon was confined to his bed with influenza-pneumonia. For several days it seemed doubtful whether he could recover. Toward the end of the month he took a turn for the better, and, as this leaflet goes to press, he is rapidly gaining strength. At the same time he was sick his whole family was also down with influenza, a late spring epidemic that struck Madisonville. All of us are glad to know that the family are better and that Mr. Bacon is out of danger.

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"Birds that Sing at Night"—The July, 1932, issue of Nature Magazine contains an article by the name given above, written by the editor of *The Kentucky Warbler*. The illustrations, he is sorry to say, are not his own. They add greatly to the article and represent some ability on the part of the editors of Nature Magazine, for they look as if they might have been taken for the article itself.

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Collecting—In a modest but thorough way Dr. L. Y. Lancaster and Mr. Edward M. Ray are now collecting skins for the museum at the Western Kentucky State Teachers College. Both of them hold United States permits and are trying to make the collection representative of the whole central Kentucky area. There is nothing more badly needed than a good collection available for bird students. Rightly conducted, this phase of bird study becomes the basis of all other phases. It helps to correct many hazy or inaccurate records, it furnishes reliable types for study and comparison, and it opens to many people the storehouse of the great out-of-doors. Collecting is rigidly guarded today by the government, and thus wasteful methods of study are discouraged. Only a very few birds are killed in this way, and the value of well-prepared skins will more than repay the labor and the necessity for taking bird life. While the general public must be discouraged in its wanton destruction of bird life, we must not lose sight of the value of museum specimens that are available for hundreds of bird students.

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Our Double Issue—Some of our members may have wondered why they have not received an issue of *The Kentucky Warbler* before now. Our society, like many other things, has been hit by the depression. Consequently, Dr. Frazer advised the editor to combine the April and July issues to save money. We hope that all of our members will stay with us during these hard times and enable us to continue publishing this little leaflet, which unquestionably holds us together better than any other device and with relatively little expense.

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Dr. Frazer Honored—On June 4 the Spring Lake Wild Life Sanctuary held its annual field day at the lake at Madisonville. Dr. T. Atchison Frazer was asked to be on hand to represent our K. O. S. He reports a very delightful occasion and says that we may all expect great things at our fall meeting, with these same fine men and women present. Dr. Frazer spoke on the occasion mentioned and was warmly received.

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Mr. Ray Receives Degree—At the June commencement at Western our secretary-treasurer, Mr. Edward M. Ray, was one of the four to receive the A. M. degree. He took Education as a major, Biology as a minor.

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A Killdeer's Nest—On Decoration Day this year the Outdoor Art League of Louisville conducted the memorial services for Zachary Taylor Place, now a National Cemetery. Half way to the monument, on a rock-screened road, near the curb, was discovered a Killdeer's nest. The four eggs were the exact color of the limestone rocks. A few bits of dried grass—nothing more—were the only indications of a nest. There were acres in the lawn where the Killdeer could have been far more comfortable, but she seemed to think of safety first for her young. Mr. James W. Dell, the keeper, guarded the spot so well that the eggs were perfectly preserved.

—Emilie Yunker, School Garden Director.

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Mrs. Pindar Dead—We regret to announce to our members that the wife of our Dr. L. Otley Pindar, of Versailles, died on July 1. She has been in bad health for several years, but it was thought for a long time that she would slowly recover her strength. The K. O. S. extends its sincerest sympathy to Dr. Pindar. Dr. Pindar was one of the three organizers of our society and has been since his boyhood a great bird student. His "Birds of Fulton County, Kentucky" was a pioneer in the field of bird articles concerning the Jackson Purchase. He has had a wide and interesting experience as an army physician and has studied birds wherever he has been stationed.

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.