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The Kentucky Warbler

Volume IX

Bowling Green, Ky., April, 1933

Number 2

Our Spring Meeting—The eleventh annual meeting at Louisville will take place on Friday, April 21, 1933, in our usual place, the ballroom of the Watterson Hotel. Our secretary, Mr. Ray, has worked out the following program:

1. A Bird Program given the Ellen C. Semple School.
2. Birds of Spring Lake Sanctuary, B. C. Bacon, Madisonville.
3. Bird Calls (by special request), Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, Marion.
4. An Appreciation of Bird Study, Dr. L. Otley Pindar, Versailles.
5. Six Summer Trips, Professor Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.

Some of the outstanding features of this program will be the following: 1. the presence on the program of the three founders of the society: Dr. Pindar, Mr. Bacon, Professor Wilson; 2. a decision as to the time and place for the fall meeting; 3. Dr. Frazer's inimitable bird and wild-animal calls. Every year we have had a good attendance and are eager to keep up this fine morale.

* * * *

Miss Yunker over WHAS and Elsewhere—On March 10 Miss Emilie Yunker gave an illustrated lecture at the Louisville Y. M. C. A. as a part of a series of programs on conservation. On March 29 she lectured over WHAS on the work of the school gardens of Louisville. School, an educational leaflet published by the public school system of New York, has in its January 5, 1933, issue an article by Mrs. Thomas A. Edison on "The Need for School Gardens," in which she pays high tribute to the school gardens of Louisville, our Miss Yunker's work since they began in 1915. Miss Yunker also had an article on "Pictures in the Garden" in the March, 1933, Bulletin of the Louisville Council of Parent-Teachers Associations.

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"Common Birds of Central Kentucky"—The November, 1932, issue of *The Kentucky School Journal* contained an article by Professor Gordon Wilson entitled "Common Birds of Central Kentucky," a plea for the teaching of the common species by beginning bird study in the fall and winter, when the species are relatively few in number and easily seen. The city teachers of Louisville had mimeographs made of the lists of residents, summer residents, winter residents, and migrants and have used them extensively in motivating their study of birds.

* * * *

Another Christmas Census—Here is an interesting Christmas

A SUMMARY OF CHRISTMAS CENSUSES TAKEN AT BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY, 1918-1932

		1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932
Canada Goose	M															43
Mallard	M			4					19							
Turkey Vulture	R	1				1				1		2				6
Black Vulture	R	11		20				8		1		3		4		22
Sharp-shinned Hawk	W			1		2			1	1						1
Cooper's Hawk	R					1	1	1	1		2					1
Red-tailed Hawk	R				1		2	1			1	3	2	1	1	1
Marsh Hawk	W		1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		2	1		4
Sparrow Hawk	R		1		1	2	1		2	1	2	3	3		3	9
Broad-winged Hawk	R				1											
Bobwhite	R					30	1	6	28	1	25	15				11
Killdeer	R		7			9		1			5	4	3			70
Wilson's Snipe	M							1							1	
Mourning Dove	R		27	10	1	110	57	32	8	32	64	1	113	49	58	60
Screech Owl	R										1					
Barred Owl	R				1											
Kingfisher	R	1	1						1			1				
Pileated Woodpecker	R		2			1					1		6		4	2
Flicker	R	4	1	16	20	22	11	29	4	20	10	8	25	7	33	25
Red-bellied Woodpecker	R		7	11	10	3		6	4	1	10	4	6			10
Red-headed Woodpecker	R					18	7	8	1	1	4	8	2			26
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	W	1						2	1	2		2	5		1	1
Hairy Woodpecker	R	3	1	5	6	1	3	1	2	1	1		2	5	2	2
Southern Downy Woodpecker	R	6	1	25	15	16	8	11	13	10	11	12	19	28	16	24
Prairie Horned Lark	W	9	29	26	26	103	142	42	17	13	6	651	88	79	466	
Blue Jay	R	15	13	17	28	40	18	40	32	37	33	36	13	6	11	74
Crow	R	125	250	450	500	500	650	226	44	535	895	2500	104	101	6000	1250
Carolina Chickadee	R	60	50	68	68	79	93	32	37	42	79	20	56	113	47	131
Tufted Titmouse	R	50	25	97	74	34	65	30	20	28	80	24	45	9	34	89
White-breasted Nuthatch	R	2		1	7	5	4			2	10	4	2	4	5	8
Brown Creeper	W		4	4	4		8	1		7	1	2	3		1	6
Winter Wren	W															3
Bewick's Wren	R	1	1	3	5	1	2	1	1	6	1	5			6	7
Carolina Wren	R	3		1	8	14	25	14	20	20	26	11	16	20	17	45
Mockingbird	R	4	10	14	41	38	28	29	21	38	43	25	23	9	40	28
Robin	R				1	245	2	28	3	25		1	21		105	119
Hermit Thrush	M															6
Bluebird	R	47	14	35	38	24	14	58	6	93	18	91	64	13	31	69
Golden-crowned Kinglet	W		8		2	5	19	1		10		6	12		8	7
Cedar Waxwing	W	25	5	5		35	2	24	5	16	4					133
Migrant Shrike	R				1	2			1				1		1	2
Starling	R												17		21	3.8M
Myrtle Warbler	W	8	3	23	59	15	27	125	41	133	25	13	1	64	15	4
Pine Warbler	M												1			
Meadowlark	R		30	115	73	179	55	14	5	89	103	33	75	60	25	86
Red-winged Blackbird	S					1										1
Rusty Blackbird	M					95							90	6		6
Bronzed Grackle	S					100			1	2	2	1			13	27
Cowbird	S					3		2				22			250	
Cardinal	R	75	50	60	88	78	63	62	214	54	177	30	158	102	92	140
Purple Finch	W	30	14	13	74	74	51	25	82	32	75	18	5	65		58
Goldfinch	R	30	2	25	4	21	11	2	3	2	20	12	7	58	9	132
Towhee	R	7	4	24	21	27	16	40	26	15	38	10	22	9	30	62
Savannah Sparrow	M															1
Fox Sparrow	M							3				3		1		
Slate-colored Junco	W	150	250	255	160	120	125	314	218	195	275	93	501	180	135	390
Field Sparrow	R	5	3	3	71		11			5	8	1	13		118	8
White-crowned Sparrow	W	40	12	75	71	25	55	72	9	62	91	11	43	36	139	48
White-throated Sparrow	W	8	25	36	54	86	64	17	30	2	3	18	1	9	31	41
Tree Sparrow	W	3	16	63		14	29	117	44	79	32		92	13		167
Swamp Sparrow	M			5									20			31
Song Sparrow	W	11	20	57	58	90	70	20	66	37	60	9	135	62	35	131

In this table R indicates all-time residents; W, winter residents; M, migrants that are behind or ahead of the regular numbers of the species; S, summer residents that occasionally remain until Christmas or later. Many species are not to be judged by the figures shown here, since they are erratic, often appearing in numbers or being entirely absent. Owls are usually hard to see or hear in the daytime; hence the scarcity of them in the censuses. The finding of the Hermit Thrush in 1931 and 1932 is not an indication of a change in its habits but of a census in the area where it probably is to be found in other winters. M in the table indicates 1,000.

It is significant that sixteen species were more numerous in 1932 than in any previous census. The most astonishing thing in 1932 is the large number of Red-headed Woodpeckers, absent from so many of the censuses.

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census from our new member Mr. F. S. Carpenter, which arrived too late for our January issue.

Jan. 2—Shepherdsville, Bullitt County, to West Point, Hardin County; road on north side of Salt River, road within sight of river for about two miles, rest of way at foot of knobs from one quarter to one mile from river, except for two miles over some knobs. Entire distance on foot, about 24 miles. Observers together. 7:30 A. M. to 5:47 P. M. Temp. 30 at start, 41 at return. Partly cloudy; river flooded; ice on some of the backwater. Pintail Duck, 67; Killdeer, 1; Bobwhite (three covies), 25; Mourning Dove, 5; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Flicker, 26; Blue Jay, 10; Crow, 40; Meadowlark, 9; Starling, 6; Purple Finch, 1; Goldfinch, 18; English Sparrow, 55; Vesper Sparrow, 10; Junco, 111; Tree Sparrow, 22; Song Sparrow, 6; Towhee, 13; Cardinal, 32; Mockingbird, 9; Carolina Wren, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Tufted Titmouse, 8; Carolina Chickadee, 18; Robin, 14; Bluebird, 12; others seen at a distance but not identified, 75. Total, 30 species, 615 individuals. Other species seen since December 26: Herring Gull, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Sparrow Hawk, Kingfisher, Migrant Shrike, Prairie Horned Lark, Brown Creeper, Great Blue Heron (January 8).

—F. S. Carpenter and E. J. Schneider.

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NOTES

Blue Geese at Bowling Green—On the night of the Nashville tornado, March 13, three Blue Geese came to the McElroy Farm, in the southern part of Warren County, some ten miles from Bowling Green. I first saw them on the afternoon of March 17. The next morning I studied them for a long time, making them fly in order to see all their colors. They were quite tame for wildfowl and could be approached to within fifty feet. Two were mature birds, the other an immature one. On March 20 two more, an adult and an immature, arrived and joined the three. I saw the five on March 24 and again March 31. They would fly when disturbed and would sometimes settle on the temporary lake in the cornfields near the barn. In flight they often gave their rather weak cry, not to be compared with the wild, ringing note of the Canada Goose. On the same farm are three Canada Geese, two of them wing-tipped, the other perfectly normal but preferring to remain on the farm. The two species would not fraternize but were quite hostile to one another. Some twenty-five wild Mallards raised in captivity also fought the newcomers, though they were peaceful toward the Canada Geese.

—Gordon Wilson.

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Bald Eagle and Sandhill Crane at Louisville—On March 19 Burt Monroe and I saw, along the Prospect car line between Big Goose and Little Goose Creek bridges, thirteen Sandhill Cranes. They assumed the V position in flight and kept it as long as we could see the flock. On four consecutive Sundays and two other times we have recently seen a Bald Eagle. There are at least two, for one is mature and the other immature. We used good binoculars and studied one at close range. Once it failed to fly until we stopped the car and scared it away to see its marks. Other birds, such as the Sparrow Hawk, the Crow, and several Starlings, perched in the same tree with it and did not seem afraid. The Crow called the Eagle a lot of hard names but with no results.

—Floyd S. Carpenter, Louisville.

