

Summer 1938

Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 14, no. 3)

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Kentucky Warbler

*"To sift the
sparkling from the
dull and the true*

*from the false is
the aim of
every Ornithologist."*

Volume XIV

SUMMER 1933

No. 3

THE WATERFOWL OF KENTUCKY

By ROBERT M. MENGEL

The state of Kentucky has been singularly blessed with many hundreds of miles of waterways. A large segment of the Ohio River serves as the northern boundary; the Mississippi touches the western extremity; the Kentucky, Tennessee, Green, and other smaller rivers flow throughout the state; and over 300 square miles of lake surface are included. It is natural, with so much attractive water, that numbers of migrating waterfowl stop to rest; and many aquatic species remain to breed in the marshes which border the streams. Somehow there is a unique quality about all the wildfowl, for they possess a charm equalled by few other birds. What is more thrilling or inspiring than a high-flying "V" of Geese, or the whistling flight of the Golden-eye? With the purpose, therefore, of discussing the members of this fascinating group which occur within our boundaries, this paper is written.

One Swan, three Geese, and twenty-four Ducks are attributed to the state in recent years, and perhaps five more are hypothetical, or occurred formerly. Of the latter, the Trumpeter Swan is a good example. According to the accounts of Audubon, it occurred frequently, and there is no logical reason for doubting him. The present day bird student has indeed just cause for envying Audubon. To read his glowing descriptions of the clouds of wildfowl which darkened Kentucky's skies; of mile-long wedges of Geese clamoring above her streams; and of Swans by the hundred; is to set the imagination aflame. Despite the passage of more than a hundred years, however, we are yet far from losing all of this priceless heritage; for the Ducks and Geese, fewer to be sure, nevertheless still bob upon our waters and circle overhead.

It is fitting that those species which breed within our boundaries be entitled to first consideration. Only three species have actually been found breeding so far. Along many woodland streams in summer, we find the colorful Wood Duck occupied by family cares. It breeds even in Jefferson County, within a few miles of Louisville. The Mallard is known to breed in Ballard, Hopkins, and Henderson Counties, and there are questionable records for Jefferson and Oldham Counties. The third species is the Blue-winged Teal which has been recorded nesting on several occasions. All of these probably breed more extensively than thought at present, and should be looked for. Another breeding possibility is the Shoveller.

With the arrival of September, the great southward migration begins. First comes an influx of Teal and a few female Pintails. Before the month has gone, the first wave of Scaups is in evidence; and they are thick on the Ohio by October. In the first, crisp days of the latter month, the action quickens; for "Gray" and "Black" Mallards; Pintails and Ruddies, have joined the parade. With November come the Golden-eyes, the Buffleheads, the Canvasbacks; and then the first Mergansers indicate that winter is near.

The week of October 10, 1937, was unique in the abnormal flight of Geese which it brought. Near Louisville, on the 13th, upwards of 1500 Blue Geese, with a few Lesser Snow Geese and two Whistling Swans, were observed passing in scattered flocks.

If one is at a suitable place along the Ohio River on a cold January day, some of the less common winter Ducks may be seen. The sharp, cold wind lashes the muddy water into white-caps. Soon fleeting specks appear, flying just above the surface. Here they come! With swift, cutting wing-strokes, three stream-lined Oldsquaws shoot by our place of concealment. While we were watching them other Ducks have drifted into view, close inshore. There are three American Merganser drakes, handsome in their glossy black and white plumage. The chunky Golden-eye with them appears tiny by comparison. Still more species are seen in flight: Hooded Mergansers, the "little hairy-head" of the hunter; a pair of White-winged Scoters; and the ever-present Lesser Scaup, or "Bluebill."

February has passed when, without warning, the great spring flight begins. From early March to mid-April the Ducks are evident in numbers. Pintails, Shovellers, Baldpates, and the rarer Gadwall, flock on our rivers and ponds, while Mallards and Black Ducks grow fat in the corn-fields. At this season there are Ducks to be found on practically every suitable pond, in contrast to their behavior during the fall hunting season which they studiously avoided these for obvious reasons. By April the cold weather ducks have left, except for a few stragglers and non-breeders. From the sky comes the honking cry of the Canada Goose, and at times we see strings of these long-necked birds resting quietly in mid-river. Truly this period is enchanting; and it is all too soon that the Red-wing, piping to his mate, announces that the host of wildfowl has gone once more.

No paper on Kentucky's water birds would be complete without mention of the renowned McElroy Farm near Bowling Green. Rising each spring from a sink-hole to flood the surrounding corn-fields, is a miraculous wet weather lake. This comparatively small body of water has produced such finds as Blue Geese, and unusual numbers of Redhead Ducks, not to mention the many additional species which stop there. Other Warren County claims to distinction are records for the Surf and American Scoters, both of which are extremely rare in the central United States.

With the work that is now being done in re-creating marshes, and making safe breeding grounds, the wildfowl migrations of the future should prove even more interesting than at present. Obviously such steps are out of our range, but by giving the migrants all the protection within the law when they are with us, we can aid in decreasing the diminution of their numbers.

Following is a brief annotated list of the species of Swans, Geese, and Ducks, which have been recorded in Kentucky in recent years. It is hoped that this will be of some value as collective summary of those species.

Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) Rare Migrant, two recent Louisville records.

Canada Goose (*Branta c. canadensis*) Common migrant.

Lesser Snow Goose (*Chen h. hyperborea*) Uncommon migrant in the western part of the state.

Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) Tolerably common migrant in western Kentucky.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) Migrant, winter resident, rare breeder.

Red-legged Black Duck (*Anas r. rubripes*) Migrant, winter resident.

Gadwall (*Chaulelasmus streperus*) Rather uncommon migrant.

Baldpate (*Mareca americana*) Fairly common migrant.

Pintail (*Dafila acuta tzitzihoa*) Common migrant, rare winter resident.

Green-winged Teal (*Nettion carolinense*) Tolerably common migrant.

Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*) Common migrant, rare summer resident.

Shoveller (*Spatula clypeata*) Common migrant.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) Tolerably common summer resident.

Redhead (*Nyroca americana*) Increasingly rare migrant.

Ring-necked Duck (*Nyroca collaris*) Common migrant, rare winter resident.

Canvasback (*Nyroca valisineria*) Migrant, winter resident.

Greater Scaup (*Nyroca marila*) Rare migrant and winter resident in company with the Lesser. Doubtless more common than generally supposed.

Lesser Scaup (*Nyroca affinis*) Common migrant, winter resident.

Golden-eye (*Glouconetta clangula americana*) Common winter resident.

Buffle-head (*Charitonetta albeola*) Not uncommon winter resident.

Old-squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) Uncommon winter resident.

American Scoter (*Oidemia americana*) Very rare winter resident, a Warren County record.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*) Uncommon winter resident.

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) Very rare winter visitant, birds reported killed by hunters near Louisville; a Warren County record.

Ruddy Duck (*Erismatura jamaicensis rubida*) Tolerably common migrant.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) Winter resident.

American Merganser (*Mergus merganser americanus*) Winter resident.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) Migrant, winter resident.

Hypothetical List

White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) Probably a very rare migrant in western Kentucky.

Black Duck (*Anas rubripes tristis*) Doubtless both subspecies occur, but *r. rubripes* is more common. Here is a field where collecting is needed.

Elder (Species?) Eiders have occurred in Ohio and winter on the Great Lakes. Old and trustworthy duck hunters swear to have seen them on the Ohio. They should be watched for in very cold winters. If any, the King and American species would be most probable.

Louisville, Kentucky, June 10, 1938.

* * * * *

A CASTLE HAS BEEN BUILT

By ALLAN M. TROUT

(Reprinted Through the Courtesy of the Courier-Journal)

A castle has just been built at Henderson. It's so magnificent the good men and women who dreamed it can hardly realize their dreams have been transformed into brick and stone and great wooden beams.

It has been named the Audubon Museum. It is a repository of material items that have been prepared from the life and activities of John James Audubon, world-renowned naturalist who lived and worked at Henderson when the town was a cluster of log huts safe above flood waters of the Ohio River. It is situated in a tract of 480 acres of rugged timberland. The tract is called the Audubon State Park.

It may be called by some other name in distant days; all that now remains of John James Audubon's belongings may have rotted into dust, but unless an enemy bomber drops an infernal vial of destruction on it, the castle will be there still.

The Audubon Museum will be opened to the public some time in July. It is not quite completed. Some of the terraces haven't been laid, some of the steps haven't been made, and some of the floors haven't been sanded and stained.

Only the walls at the guest house have been raised, and the formal garden yet is to be laid out and planted.

A guest house and formal garden? To be sure. They are units of the Audubon Museum. The castle has been constructed on three levels, and the guest house and the formal garden are integral parts of the whole undertaking.

To reach the Audubon State Park, the visitor drives north from Henderson on U. S. 41, as if he were going on over the river to Evansville, Ind. He turns right into a shady lane two miles from the city. For all the visitor knows now, he is taking a rustic road that leads merely into a picturesque tract of timber.

You round a curve, and your eyes are drawn quickly to the left. Your heart misses a beat at the unexpected scene before you. If you obey your first impulse, you will stop your automobile on the spot and take a long, lingering look.

High on the wooded hill at the right of your vista is the massive museum of Provincial French architecture. It is made mostly of native stone. A huge round tower, stone two stories high and brick one story, dominates the structure. The tower is slitted with narrow

windows, irregularly placed. The brick super-structure is pocked with square niches to simulate portholes for defense. The tower is covered with a gray-domed roof that tapers high up to a sharp point, and the point is surmounted with an ornament of delicately wrought iron.

You catch glimpses of turreted roofs over rooms that extend from the main structure at odd angles. You see the tops of two enormous stone chimneys. You see covered terraces, balustrades of gray stone ornamented with red bricks.

Your eyes drop a level. The rectangular area 100 feet wide by 200 feet long you see is the formal garden, as level as a plane. It's to be landscaped and planted, probably all in roses. A huge concrete retaining wall bounds it on the back, a wall of stone in front. If you were standing on the main terrace of the museum, the formal garden would be directly in front and below you.

An enormous stairway of stone and brick connects the formal garden with the lowest level. On this level, below the fatherest end of the garden from the museum, stands the guest house. Chances are, if you stopped your automobile it would be standing in front of the guest house. This structure, too, is to be built of stone and brick in architecture harmonizing with the museum on the hill above.

Reverse the picture, and start from the lowest level. You have left your automobile and are strolling up. You pause at the guest house for refreshments, if you are thirsty and hungry; or for a bit of rest, if you are tired. Then you start out on a walk of irregularly laid and cemented stones. You turn sharp to the left and thence up the great stairway to the formal garden. You have entered the garden at its midpoint. A few steps ahead, and you are in the center of its delights. Below you, at the far end of the garden, are ridges of timberland that roll downward to flatlands on the west side of U. S. 41. To the north are still other timbered ridges that make the green bluffs of the Ohio. And to the east of you is the Audubon Museum.

There are five spacious galleries inside the museum, four on the first floor, and the fifth on the second floor. Already the abundance of material to be uncrated and displayed is a matter of worry to Miss Virginia Lockett, curator, and Miss Nell Dishman, her assistant.

The material includes forty-six original nature and bird paintings by Audubon and his sons, Victor Gifford Audubon and John Woodhouse Audubon; from twenty to thirty water colors by Audubon's granddaughter, thereby rounding out three generations of Audubon genius. There are books from Audubon's personal library; the chair in which he sat to paint; his portrait of Daniel Boone; his unfinished portrait of Mrs. Audubon; his silverware and silversmith's receipt for it from England; his watch, his turkey seal, and a lot of hair jewelry of the era, of which Audubon himself was an accomplished manufacturer. There is a set of Wilson's Ornithology, with Audubon's notations throughout, and numerous valuable works by contemporaries of Audubon.

There is a huge recessed log fireplace in the main gallery. The curator's office is in a room in the tower. In addition to the five galleries, there is storage space for excess material and exhibits to be shown only in special displays. Eventually, the museum will represent under one roof just about all the objects from John James Audubon's life that have been preserved.

While the museum adds spectacular interest to the park of 480 acres, this rolling tract of virgin and cutover timber was an attraction in its own right before the museum took shape. It long has attracted throngs of visitors, not only individuals, but organizations such as garden clubs, Boy and Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, luncheon clubs, historical societies and school groups.

They have come and are coming in ever-increasing numbers to study the botanical wonders in this treasure house of nature.

For example, in two weeks 1,068 automobiles visited the park, 767 from Kentucky and 301 out of the State. These motors brought in 4,014 visitors. Of these, 1,288 brought picnic lunches; 1,601 visited the sixty-five foot observation tower, and 502 hiked along the trails.

There have been catalogued fifty-one varieties of trees, thirteen of shrubs and seven of vines.

Custodian and master of this hoard of Nature's treasure is William H. Stites, of whom it truly can be said: "He is happy in his work."

For forty years a banker in Henderson, Mr. Stites now stands in the full glory of a lifelong study of agriculture and horticulture.

The park is replete with the traditional conveniences of trails, bridle paths, shelter houses and picnic grounds. There is the Wildlife Lake of five and half acres, dedicated to the sole purpose of giving a safe haven to waterfowl and fish. Already, two adult grebes and their family of young have moved onto the lake.

To be built immediately is Recreation Lake of sixteen acres, for boating, swimming and fishing. The shore is to be lined with guest cabins and a community house, the latter for convenience of clubs and organizations wanting a convention hall.

This majestic shrine to the memory of John James Audubon was not conceived overnight, because Henderson has been honoring Audubon so long it has become a tradition there. The Mother Audubon Society was formed there in 1898. In 1915, the site of the naturalist's mill on the bank of the Ohio was converted into a park and named in his honor. The stones in the gateway were taken from the old mill itself.

Efforts to erect an Audubon museum in the mill park in 1930 got as far as committee indorsement of a \$100,000 Congressional appropriation. Various interests converged in 1936, however, to insure success of the present undertaking. These agencies included the W. P. A., the Department of Interior, the C. C. C. and the State Division of Parks.

Susan S. Towles, historian and descendant of the pioneers who founded Henderson, wrote the simple words below about the Audubon State Park. They tell, best of all, the spirit that makes the park something more than just another picnic ground.

"This land," she wrote, "is rich in stories of John James Audubon. Here he hunted and made bird studies; here in 1814 he carved his name in delicate letters on a great beech; from this woods, tradition says, he cut the timber to build the 'infernal mill' that made him bankrupt, for he loved it far less than the woods and the birds.

"Here, he dreamed of giving to the world all the birds of America. In this woodland, Daniel Boone is said to have been captured by the Indians; here is the 'lost silver mine' from which coins were made by the early settlers.

"All these traditions, with the tree carving of the Turtle Indians, and the strange inscriptions made by a returned Confederate soldier

spending the night in Beech Grove, unable to reach his enemy-guarded home, now located by a lonesome pine—these things give to the land an air of mystery and interest.

"The entire tract is a part of the historical land grant of 1778 from Virginia to the Transylvania Company of 200,000 acres on which is founded the city of Henderson. Surely this wooded land, a relic of 'the beautiful, the darling forests of Kentucky,' is the fittest shrine for him who said, 'The highest title I desire is that of the American Woodsman.'

"And just within the forest stands the gray stone building, the only one in the world devoted to the memory of Audubon, designed to become the national shrine of him who, though a foreigner, left the country the rich heritage of his fame. 'America, my country,' was inscribed on his gun."

* * * * *

LEAST TERN BREEDING IN FULTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

In company with Mr. Woodrow Goodpaster and Peter Koch, both of Cincinnati, the writer spent the period of June 6th to 18th, 1937 at Reelfoot Lake studying and photographing birds. While there we frequently encountered Least Terns (*Sterna a. antillarum*) which flew overhead or rested on partly submerged logs.

On June 13th after half a day's search on an extensive sandbar along the Mississippi River in Fulton County, Kentucky we discovered a nest of two eggs of this species. The nest was a rather deep cup-shaped scrape. While examining the nest a pair of terns flew overhead and yipped excitedly. Their scolding attracted several other pairs before we departed.

Returning to the nest three days later we found the set still with only two eggs. Apparently the clutch was complete for the eggs were being incubated. Observing the nest from a blind which we had erected six feet away we saw that both parent terns shared in the duty of incubation. Though we have no notes to refer to it seems as though the two birds changed places on the nest at least three times during the morning we watched it. The tern which had just been relieved would at once fly out over the Mississippi and begin dipping for fish.

After photographing the nest with both a motion picture and a still camera we collected the eggs. On blowing them we learned that incubation was far advanced since we had to rot the embryos out of the shells to get them clean. The eggs are now in the collection of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History, and on the authority of Mr. Burt L. Monroe of Louisville, represent the first actual nesting record of this species for the state of Kentucky.

—KARL MASLOWSKI, 950 Glenwood Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.

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NOTES IN KENTUCKY

There are a few records in my 1937 notes that might be of interest to the readers of "The Kentucky Warbler." These notes are the highlights of sidelights of hurried trips over the week-end. Some incidents are not unusual except for the particular locality.

I quote from my notes of January 2, "Trip from Lewisburg, Ky. to Knoxville, Tenn., by way of Franklin, Ky. to Gallatin, Tenn.—Five Shrike in the seven miles between Russellville and Corinth (State route 100, Ky.) and one Shrike just out of Corinth towards

Franklin. Also on that stretch from Russellville to Franklin we saw about 2,000 Crows (700 by partial count as a basis for the estimate). They were in the wheat fields, meadows, barnyards, wood—in fact everywhere you looked you could see one or more Crows. All birds were more abundant on this route than on the main road, probably because of more bushes, briars, weeds, etc. along the fence rows and small streams."

A morning walk from 4:30 to 9 on June 7 gave me a list of 61 species near Hopkinsville. This is the locality covered by the censuses that have appeared in the earlier issues of the "Warbler." Of this list one record is of interest to me—a Lincoln Sparrow. The bird was first seen on June 5, and tentatively identified as a Song Sparrow. Since this to me was an unusual find for early June, I secured my field glasses and went to investigate. After about thirty minutes of chasing I had the opportunity of observing in detail the distinctive buffy band across the breast. The sparrow sat on a Persimmon sprout, four feet from the ground. With the sun to my back and the bird facing me I compared the markings with the picture and description given in Peterson. Since the Song and Swamp Sparrows do not nest in Christian County (to my knowledge) and since the Lincoln is usually confused with the immature of these two species, I feel this a positive record of a late migrant bird. This bird was seen on June 5, 6, and 7, within one hundred yards of the house. In fact the shrubbery in the corners of the flower garden was its favorite temporary habitat.

The Purple Martin furnishes the last incident to be recorded. On August 7, we were driving north and were some ten miles beyond Corbin, Ky., when small scattered groups of Purple Martin were noticed flying in the territory over and adjacent to the highway. I noted the speedometer mileage in order to orient the place with the next town. Fariston was the place and only one-quarter of a mile away. However, instead of passing thru the assembly of birds we were seeing more and more as we traveled along. We reduced speed to 15 or 20 miles per hour and began a partial count and estimate of numbers. The total went from 100 to 300 to 800 until we neared the entrance to Levi Jackson State Park (about four or five miles north of Fariston) where we found the air alive with Martins. Furthermore, a three-wire power line for two sections (or the distance between three poles) was the perching place for hundreds and hundreds of additional birds. They came and went by the dozens but the wires were always black and sagging under the load. East of the highway on a two wire power line the birds were perching in groups of 40 to 150 (actual rapid counts). From these counts we estimated 2,000 birds on the wires within binocular range, 500 in the air within sight, and an additional 500 to 800 from the Park to one quarter mile South of Fariston. We believe an estimate of 3,300 is conservative. To the best of our knowledge no Starling or Swallows were present in this flock.

The next day on the return trip we began to look for the Martins at Mt. Vernon. From there to as far South as Williamsburg (U. S. route 25) we saw only three Purple Martins; they were perched at a box in East Bernstadt.

—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville, Tenn.

November, 1937.

PIGEON HAWK AT HENDERSON

About five miles south of Henderson, Kentucky, during September of 1937, a fierce little hawk made a desperate effort to obtain a catch. The distress calls of an old hen to her chicks assured her owner that serious danger lurked near by. The alarmed farmer with gun in hand found a pair of fearless little hawks perched in a small tree in his back yard.

One shot netted one hawk and a second could easily have killed its mate. The farmer, however, desiring only the safety of his poultry did not try to kill the other bird. He knew that sparrow hawks are ordinarily beneficial and thought the one he had killed was merely a reprobate of this species. The mate which was spared was seen several times during the next few days, but after the first impetuous attack became quite wary.

Eat but do not be eaten is probably Nature's first law. The quest of food brought death to this killer. As I look at this specimen I like to wonder how many creatures it had killed before its turn came. The temerity of this bird was responsible for its life of plenty (it was very fat) and also its untimely death.

The farmer who shot this hawk is a neighbor of mine and knew that I had studied under Dr. A. A. Allen at Cornell University during the summer, so he brought me his kill thinking I would like to make a study skin of it.

I was amazed to learn that I had a Pigeon Hawk and that this is very likely the first authentic record of this species being taken in Kentucky. I was further amazed to note that there are five dark bands and six light ones across the tail of this bird which indicates that it may be *Falco columbarius richardsoni* rather than *Falco c. columbarius*. As this would be considerably out of the range of the former, it would be well to have the skin identified by Dr. H. C. Oberholser, of the U. S. Biological Survey.

VIRGIL D. KING, Henderson, Ky.

April 17, 1938.

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EARLY NESTING NOTES FROM MARION

Early in March, I noticed a pair of Bewick's Wrens (*Thryomanes b. bewicki*) about my place that seemed to be hunting a nesting place. I at once took my gourd, which has been the home of wrens for many years, hung it in a small mulberry tree in the garden where the wrens found it without delay. They immediately began preparations for housekeeping and on the fifteenth of March deposited the first egg. On the twenty-second, they began incubating and were feeding six small wrens by middle April.

On April 11th, as I was driving along the highway near Mexico, Ky., I saw some birds in the road. I slowed the car and to my surprise, I discovered an adult female Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) on the roadside with four young ones. I stopped my car as soon as possible and walked to the birds. The adult took flight but did not go more than fifty feet across the road. The young were possibly four or five days old and seemed to have no fear of me. I picked them up and examined them at my leisure, liberating them later at a spot near where the parent bird was last seen. This is, to my knowledge, one of the earliest known Kentucky records for young Woodcock.

—DR. T. ATCHISON FRAZER, Marion, Ky.

April, 1938.

NOTES ON SOME BREEDING BIRDS OF CARTER COUNTY

In view of the fact that such a few papers have been written on the bird life of this section, I am hopeful that this article will help fill in the gap for Eastern Kentucky records. I have not as yet had ample opportunity to visit all sections of my county as I have planned. Nor have I been able to enlist the aid of any other bird student in this region to help me carry on the work. These two facts coupled with my comparative newness at this sort of work makes the notes incomplete. However, from time to time I shall augment this paper as facts about the breeding status of the birds are unfolded. Several birds breeding here have been purposely left off the list until more data is secured. They will be appended hereto in later issues of the Kentucky Warbler.

The country in Carter County is composed of low hills with principally narrow but occasionally wide valleys. Very few of the hills can be called rough. Most of them are wooded; yet quite a few open field areas exist.

Most of these notes were gathered during my observations of this spring and early summer, beginning immediately after the spring migration had ended.

The one appalling result of my observations over the last few years is the rapid decrease in the number of hawks. The word "scarce" will apply to all hawks that inhabit this county. Due to ruthless persecution, they have decreased alarmingly during the last decade. Of the Order Falconiformes, the first bird under observation is (1) Turkey Vulture, now rather uncommon though common a few years ago. (2) Red-tailed Hawk, (3) Cooper's Hawk, (4) Sharp-shinned Hawk, (5) Sparrow Hawk and (6) Red-shouldered Hawk, all are scarce. I saw only one pair of the Red-tailed and only one Red-shouldered Hawk thus far this year. The smaller ones are a bit more numerous.

(7) Bob-white is a common bird with us but his cousin, (8) Ruffed Grouse is, to say the least, uncommon. I hope to have further notes regarding the latter bird later. The shore-bird family is represented by the common (9) Killdeer and the (10) Spotted Sandpiper which is just fairly common. (11) Mourning Doves are seen in very substantial numbers and (12) Yellow-billed Cuckoos are likewise common.

The (13) Screech Owl is the most abundant here of the owl family; yet the (14) Great Horned Owl is a fairly common resident. It's "ooot-too-hoo, hoo-hoo" is often heard in the night and it frequently makes visits to the chicken roosts of the vicinity. (15) Nighthawk, (16) Whip-poor-will, (17) Chimney Swift, and (18) Ruby-throated Hummingbird, all strong flyers, are commonly noted throughout the breeding season. (19) Belted Kingfishers are uncommon along our streams. Five woodpeckers, (20) Flicker, (21) Downy, (22) Hairy, (23) Pileated, and (24) Red-headed nest here. The Pileated, however, is an extremely rare bird for us. The (25) Kingbird, (26) Phoebe, (27) Wood Pewee and (28) Acadian Flycatchers are the nesting members of this family.

(29) Blue Jay, (30) Crow, (31) Carolina Chickadee, (32) Tufted Titmouse, (33) House Wren, (34) Carolina Wren, (35) Purple Martin, (36) Catbird, (37) Brown Thrasher, (38) Robin, (39) Wood Thrush, (40) Bluebird, (41) Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, (42) Starling, and (43) English Sparrow are numbered among the "everyday" birds which nest here. Of this category, we might say that the Blue Jay

is seldom seen in the hills except in the autumn when the fields and woodlands resound with their incessant squalls and that the Gnatcatcher, Brown Thrasher and Starling is not quite so plentiful as the others.

The Warblers listed include the (44) Black and White, (45) Yellow, (46) Prairie Warblers and the (47) Ovenbird, (48) Maryland Yellowthroat and (49) Yellow-breasted Chat. The Sparrows and Finches include the (50) Cardinal, (51) Indigo Bunting, (52) Goldfinch, (53) Red-eyed Towhee, (54) Chipping, (55) Field and (56) Song Sparrows. The (57) Summer Tanager is quite abundant while the (58) Scarlet Tanager is uncommon, further checking being necessary on this bird. The family Icteridae presents the (59) Eastern Meadowlark, (60) Orchard Oriole, (61) Red-wing, (62) Cowbird, and (63) Bronzed Grackle. Two Vireos, the abundant (64) Red-eyed Vireo and the uncommon (65) White-eyed Vireo, together with the (66) White-breasted Nuthatch complete the list to date.

In addition to the sixty-six birds listed, I have information regarding five or six more. However, as the information gathered to date is not quite sufficient to include them at this time, I have omitted them and will seek to definitely establish their status during next season.

—ERCEL KOZEE, Johns Run, Ky.

June 30, 1938.

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THE SEASON AT BEREA COLLEGE

The Berea Ornithological Society, recently organized, has been making splendid progress. Weekly morning trips are made around Berea, Ky., and lists made up to June 1st, 1938, total one hundred sixteen species. Rather rare or unusual finds include the Ruffed Grouse, Woodcock, Great Blue Heron, Sora, Philadelphia Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Canada Warbler, Parula Warbler, Least Flycatcher and Olive-sided Flycatcher.

We were unusually fortunate on the mornings of May 8th, and 15th, to see a large number of warblers during their migration. Twenty-four species were listed: Black and White, Worm-eating, Blackburnian, Nashville, Tennessee, Cape May, Yellow, Myrtle, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Black-throated Green, Prairie, Kentucky, Hooded, Canada, Black-poll, Parula, Caerulean and Blue-winged Warblers and the Ovenbird, Louisiana Water-thrush, Maryland Yellowthroat and Yellow-breasted Chat.

We were even more fortunate on May 29th, for we saw three Pileated Woodpeckers in the vicinity of the lower reservoir on the Big Hill Road. There were two adults and one young. We were able to approach the latter but were unable to catch and band it. According to the records in the files of the Curator of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, this is the first official breeding record for Madison County.

—JOHN B. LOEFELER, Berea, Ky.

June 16, 1938.

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EDITORIAL

When Dr. Gordon Wilson first started storing up in his note book the results of his trips afield among the birds, he perhaps did not contemplate a regular publication for them. He was merely gathering them for his own enjoyment and refreshment.

To glance through the pages of his many articles is to realize how far and wide he pursued the quest, into the fields, forests and

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Publication of the Kentucky Ornithological Society

Issued for the Seasons

Subscription Price.....\$1.00 Per Year
(Includes membership to state organization and local chapters)

swamps, along the banks of streams and shores of lakes and ponds; to realize the enthusiasm and energy which caused him to dream of a fraternity of bird students of this state.

"Two are better than one" is a truth applicable to the Kentucky Ornithological Society. The pleasure of bird study is greatly enhanced by knowing others with whom to share it. There is something so fascinating, so enlivening, about outdoor study of birds, that those who acquire the taste for it fall into a sort of natural fraternity. People who know the birds are acquainted the moment they meet. Different ones find different things. It is a special thrill to compare notes, a mutual pleasure to give and receive new information, to compare photographs of bird-subjects.

Dr. Wilson's efforts and inspiration has placed in all our hands the power to realize his dream—a society of bird students. Here in *The Kentucky Warbler* is furnished a bond of union between bird students all over the state. All can feel that though they may live in the remotest spots, they can easily, if they will, be in touch with kindred spirits in other sections. Through this publication anyone can have the privilege of alliance with the fraternity of those like-minded.

Let the reader browse but a moment and realize that success can be attained by all efforts being directed to one goal: the continuance of this publication and the strengthening of the K. O. S. What inspired the founders should set other pulses to beating. What stimulated and uplifted the officers from year to year should furnish others with the desire to end the struggle for existence because of financial difficulties. No one who intelligently tries to know the birds is working alone or in isolated groups.

A larger publication—a better society—a greater membership—such at least is the purpose of this editorial; such is the pious hope of all those who have the interests of the K. O. S. at heart.

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A new group for the purpose of studying Kentucky birds has recently been organized at Berea College, Berea, Ky. With such enthusiastic and capable leaders as John B. Loefer and Johnnie Patten, it is destined to become a real success. We hope that they will some day become affiliated with the Kentucky Ornithological Society as the Berea Chapter. Congratulations to them on the fine progress they have made thus far.

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Several requests for back numbers of the *Kentucky Warbler* have recently been received and any member having such numbers for sale are urged to forward such information to the Secretary.

REMEMBER THE FALL MEETING AT CYNTHIANA