

Winter 1940

## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 16, no. 1)

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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."*

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Volume XVI

WINTER, 1940

No.1

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## OUR FALL MEETINGS

The fifteenth annual fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held at Paducah on Friday and Saturday, October 20 and 21. On Friday evening at the Irvin Cobb Hotel we were greeted by representatives of the Paducah Junior Chamber of Commerce; to this greeting Dr. Gordon Wilson responded by giving a brief history of the society. Major Joseph Brown, the head of the Conservation Department of Kentucky, discussed the attitude of his department toward wild life in Kentucky. Mr. James Boswell Young read an interesting paper on "Bird Banding," enumerating many of his choicest experiences as a bander.

Saturday, October 21, was devoted to two outings and an evening program. The first outing took us to Lake Genevieve, a good-sized private lake near Reidland; in the afternoon we went to some reforestation projects, led by Mr. Forrest Durand, of the Soil Conservation Service. In spite of the very dry and warm weather we had good success in finding birds: Bluebird, Robwhite, Red-winged Blackbird, Catbird, Cardinal, Crow, Brown Creeper, Dove, Flicker, Goldfinch, Bronzed Grackle, Pied-billed Grebe, Sparrow Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Blue Jay, Junco, Killdeer, Kingfisher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Meadowlark, Prairie Horned Lark, Mockingbird, Phoebe, Robin, Solitary Sandpiper, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, English Sparrow, Tufted Titmouse, Hermit Thrush, Towhee, Myrtle Warbler, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Winter Wren, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Great Blue Heron, Blue Goose (a flock of 25, probably the first record for Paducah), Pintail, Rusty Blackbird, Starling, Canada Goose.

In the evening, again at the Irvin Cobb Hotel, Dr. Wilson discussed "Methods of Bird Study," and Mr. Forrest Durand spoke on "Efforts of the Soil Conservation Service to Improve Conditions for Bird Life in Kentucky."

Because there were so few of our members present, the business session was postponed until the meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club, in Louisville, on Friday, November 24, where the following officers were elected for the next year:

President—Miss Evelyn Schneider, Louisville.

Vice-President—Dr. L. Y. Lancaster, Bowling Green.

Secretary-Treasurer—Mr. Virgil D. King, Falmouth.

Councillors—

Eastern—Major Victor K. Dodge, Lexington.

Central—Mr. Floyd S. Carpenter, Louisville.

Western—Miss Shirley Durham, Paducah.

Former Presidents—Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, Marion; Mr. B. C. Bacon, Madisonville; Dr. Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green; Mr. Burt L. Monroe, Louisville.

A committee was appointed to revise the constitution and present it at the spring meeting. The Pindar Fund was authorized to be invested in Building and Loan stock. Numerous discussions were given about bird study and protection. There were twenty-five members present and voting.

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### CHRISTMAS CENSUSES

We have an excellent number of Christmas censuses, from our members within the state and from some of our members in Tennessee, Indiana, and Michigan. There are 86 species on the State lists, a new high for us. The editor wishes to thank every one of the contributors for making this our best census.

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Nashville Tenn. (Radnor Lake, Overton Hills, Warner Parks, Bellmeade, Westmeade, Hill Estate, River Road and bottoms, Paradise Ridge, Marrowbone Lake, and suburbs of Nashville). Dec. 24: 4 A. M. to 5 P. M. Ground bare and wet; no wind; temp. 34 at start, 41 at 4 P. M. Seventeen observers in 6 groups, as follows: Party I, 4 observers, 15 hours, 15 miles afoot; Party II, 4 observers, 9 hours, 5 miles afoot; Party III, 3 observers, 6½ hours, 2 miles afoot; Party IV, 3 observers, 5 hours, 3 miles afoot; Party V, 2 observers, 4½ hours, 5 miles afoot; Party VI, 2 observers, 7 hours, 3 miles afoot. Total miles afoot, 33; total hours afoot, 37. Horned Grebe, 2 (on Cumberland River); Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Common Mallard, 9; Black Duck, 21; Gadwall, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 23; Lesser Scaup, 10; American Golden-eye, 5; Hooded Merganser, 21; Turkey Vulture, 7; Black Vulture, 57; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 8; Marsh Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 24; Bob-white, 53; Killdeer, 34; Woodcock, 2; Wilson's Snipe, 3; Mourning Dove, 3; Barn Owl, 1; Screech Owl, 1; Great Horned Owl, 3; Barred Owl, 2; Kingfisher, 4; Flicker, 60; Pileated Woodpecker, 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 13; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 10; Downy Woodpecker, 40; Phoebe, 4; Horned Lark, 210; Blue Jay, 26; Crow, 350; Carolina Chickadee, 102; Tufted Titmouse, 60; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 10; Bewick's Wren, 7; Carolina Wren, 42; Mockingbird, 112; Robin, 684; Hermit Thrush, 4; Bluebird, 103; American Pipit, 53 (1 flock); Migrant Shrike, 1; Starling, 11,200 (5,000 at a roost in magnolias); Myrtle Warbler, 26; English Sparrow, 65; Meadowlark, 35; Rusty Blackbird, 314; Bronzed Grackle, 4 (a flock of 1,500 seen two days later); Cowbird, 30; Cardinal, 285; Purple Finch, 45; Goldfinch, 54; Towhee, 67; Savannah Sparrow, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 252; Field Sparrow, 62; White-crowned Sparrow, 14; White-throated Sparrow, 260; Fox Sparrow, 16; Swamp Sparrow, 59; Song Sparrow, 55. Total, 68 species; 15,007 individuals. A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen on December 26.

—Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Abernathy, Paul Bryant, John B. Calhoun,

Albert F. Ganier (compiler), Conrad Jamison, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Laskey, Mary Lee, Francis Lawrence, Arthur McMurray, C. E. Pearson, John Pritchett, Leo Rippy, Jr., J. A. Robins, William Simpson, H. S. Vaughn, and G. B. Woodring. (Twenty-fifth annual census of Nashville Chapter, Tennessee Ornithological Society).

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Johns Run, Carter County—December 26; 9:00 A. M. to 4:15 P. M. Cloudy, with about two inches of snow; temp. 28 to 34. About 8 miles on foot in wooded and open-field areas. Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Mourning Dove, 19; Flicker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Crow, 9; Carolina Chickadee, 22; Tufted Titmouse, 12; Carolina Wren, 7; Hermit Thrush, 1; Starling, 5; Cardinal, 22; Goldfinch, 4; Red-eyed Towhee, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 58; Tree Sparrow, 25; Field Sparrow, 20; Song Sparrow, 42. Total, 18 species, 254 individuals.

—ERCEL KOZEE.

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Anchorage, (Anchorage, areas around Worthington, O'Bannon, Harrod's Creek, and Gotton; Ohio River; and connecting roads). Dec. 23; 3 A. M. to 5 P. M. overcast, snow in afternoon; wind, light, south-east; temp. 29 at start, 35 at return. Observers in groups as follows: Party I, 1 observer, 7 hours, 5 miles afoot; Party II, 1 observer, 6 hours, 3 miles afoot; Party III, 2 observers, 7 hours, 2 miles afoot; Party IV, 2 observers, 5 hours, 4 miles afoot; each party also worked from cars at some times. Total miles afoot, 14; total miles by auto, 65; total hours, 25. Common Loon, 1; Horned Grebe, 3; Great Blue Heron, 1; Common Mallard, 1000 (est.); Black Duck (probably both races), 1500 (est.); Pintail, 7; Ring-necked Duck, 10; Lesser Scaup Duck, 34; American Golden-eye, 2; Bufflehead, 3; Ruddy Duck, 1; Hooded Merganser, 14; American Merganser, 10; Cooper's Hawk, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 4; Bald Eagle, 1; Marsh Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 35; Bob-white, 1 covey (number undetermined); Killdeer, 3; Herring Gull, 43; Ring-billed Gull, 3; Mourning Dove, 150 (est. of 1 flock); Screech Owl, 3; Great Horned Owl, 2; Barred Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Flicker, 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 14; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 34; Northern Horned Lark 25 (est.); Prairie Horned Lark, 275 (est. of one flock of about 300, mixed); Blue Jay, 22; Crow, 600 (est.); Carolina Chickadee, 83; Tufted Titmouse, 125; White-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Brown Creeper, 2; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 23; Mockingbird, 13; Robin, 1; Bluebird, 15; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 15; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3; Migrant Shrike, 1; Starling, 2000 (est.); English Sparrow, 400 (est.); Meadowlark, 44; Red-winged Blackbird, 3; Bronzed Grackle, 1; Cowbird, 1; Cardinal, 140; Purple Finch, 11; Goldfinch, 3; Towhee, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 550 (est.); Tree Sparrow, 175; Field Sparrow, 4; White-crowned Sparrow, 16; White-throated Sparrow, 31; Fox Sparrow, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 28. Total, 68 species; 7681 (est.) individuals. The following species were also seen during the week of the census: Baldpate (2) and Black Vulture (1) on Dec. 17 and Rough-legged Hawk (1) on Dec. 21. The Great Blue Heron was observed, with binoculars and 25x telescope at 250 yards, in flight over the river.

—E. C. Hume, Jr., James LaFollette, Robert M. Mengel, and Burt L. Monroe (Members of the Rafinesque Ornithological Club).

Falmouth (Watershed of Middle Fork of Grassy Creek in Grant and Pendleton Counties, a triangular area of 28,000 acres)—Dec. 30; 7:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Morning cloudy; afternoon clear; temp. 22 at start, 28 at return; ground covered with six inches of snow; 47 miles by automobile, 1½ miles on foot. Turkey Vulture, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 6; Killdeer, 1; (heard calling overhead after dark); Mourning Dove, 1; Screech Owl, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 15; Blue Jay, 1; Crow, 59; Carolina Chickadee, 112; Tufted Titmouse, 46; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 11; Mockingbird, 2; Bluebird, 7; Starling, 81; English Sparrow, 225; Bronzed Grackle, 1; Cardinal, 44; Purple Finch, 1; Goldfinch, 4; Red-eyed Towhee, 12; Slate-colored Junco, 168; Tree Sparrow, 78; White-crowned Sparrow, 12; White-throated Sparrow, 8; Swamp Sparrow, 5; Song Sparrow, 36. Total, 33 species, 949 individuals.

—VIRGIL D. KING.

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Bloomington, Ind. (from Madden Farm west to Adams Levee along the Wabash River and return by way of the Rockport Hills, all well within a 15-mile diameter). Dec. 26; 8:00 A. M. to 3.00 P. M., cloudy, wind, northeast, light; temp. 24 at start, 28 at return. On foot 6 miles, by auto 30 miles, observer alone. Mallard, 11; Wood Duck, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Flicker, 30; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 5; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 26; Prairie Horned Lark, 52; Blue Jay, 7; Crow, 415; Carolina Chickadee, 3; Tufted Titmouse, 21; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Carolina Wren, 1; Bluebird, 12; Starling, 115; English Sparrow, 126; Cardinal, 26; Goldfinch, 11; Slate-colored Junco, 53; Tree Sparrow, 165; Song Sparrow, 15. Total, 24 species, 1,107 individuals. Other species seen on the Madden Farm almost every day of the census period: Bob-white, Mourning Dove, Meadowlark, and Cowbird.

—DOROTHY MADDEN HOBSON.

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Tolu (McMurray and Hurricane Creeks; ten-mile area on Ohio River, in Crittenden County)—Dec. 28; 8:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Observer alone. Pied-billed Grebe, 4; Canada Goose, 52; Brant, 170; Mallard, approximately 5,000 on Ohio River nearly opposite Cave-Inn Rock State Park, Illinois; Pintail, 87; Lesser Scaup, approximately 500; Wood Duck, 20; American Merganser, 37; Cooper's Hawk, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 11; Bald Eagle, 3; Osprey, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 5; Bob-white, 154; Killdeer, 18; Wilson's Snipe, 23; (?) Sandpiper, 28; Mourning Dove, 90; Screech Owl, 4; Great Horned Owl, 4; Belted Kingfisher, 7; Flicker, 11; Pileated Woodpecker, 4; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 10; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Prairie Horned Lark, 40; Blue Jay, 22; Crow, 2500 (est.); Carolina Chickadee, 22; Tufted Titmouse, 14; White-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Brown Creeper, 3; Bewick's Wren, 6; Carolina Wren, 8; Mockingbird, 7; Bluebird, 15; Migrant Shrike, 4; Starling, 25; Myrtle Warbler, 10; Meadowlark, 3; Red-winged Blackbird, 21; Bronzed Grackle, 18; Cowbird, 14; Cardinal, 102; Purple Finch, 19; Goldfinch, 5; Slate-colored Junco, 24; Field Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 8; Fox Sparrow, 15. Total, 50 species, 9164 (est.) individuals.

—CHARLES JONES.

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Marion (Various sections of Crittenden County)—Dec. 17., temp. 46; no wind; clear. Mallard, 20; Black Vulture, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 6; Bob-white, 24; Dove, 2; Screech Owl, 2; Flicker,

10; Pileated Woodpecker, 7; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Hairy Woodpecker, 9; Prairie Horned Lark, 24; Blue Jay, 13; Crow, 65; Carolina Chickadee, 36; Tufted Titmouse, 45; Marsh Wren, 1; Bewick's Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 11; Mockingbird, 13; Robin, 2; Bluebird, 32; Migrant Shrike, 4; Starling, 22; Meadowlark, 5; Cowbird, 14; Cardinal, 69; Goldfinch, 2; Towhee, 5; Slate-colored Junco, 162; Field Sparrow, 16; Chipping Sparrow, 2; Tree Sparrow, 2; Vesper Sparrow, 2; White-crowned Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 3; Fox Sparrow, 4; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 7. Total, 40 species, 659 individuals.

—C. L. AND DR. T. ATCHISON FRAZER.

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Glasgow (Richey, Starr, Darter, Winger Farms; along Beaver Creek)—Dec. 24; 7:20 A. M. to 4:10 P. M. Clear, light snow on ground; wind, N. E., strong; temp. 31. Twelve miles on foot. Turkey Vulture, 8; Black Vulture, 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 22; Mourning Dove, 8; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 4; Pileated Woodpecker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Prairie Horned Lark, 5; Blue Jay, 11; Crow, 589; Carolina Chickadee, 38; Tufted Titmouse, 42; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 17; Mockingbird, 1; Bluebird, 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 8; Migrant Shrike, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 4; English Sparrow, 27; Cardinal, 41; Purple Finch, 13; Goldfinch, 46; Red-eyed Towhee, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 182; Tree Sparrow, 51; Field Sparrow, 21; White-crowned Sparrow, 5; White-throated Sparrow, 65; Fox Sparrow, 8; Swamp Sparrow, 7; Song Sparrow, 29. Total, 39 species, 1291 individuals. There had been a light fall of snow the night before, and the wind was still wild. There were few birds to be seen until near noon, when the sun became very bright. The oddity of the census was the failure to find two very common species, the Starling and the Meadowlark.

—RUSSELL STARR.

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Springfield, Tenn. (Large marshy area between Springfield and Cedar Hill)—Dec. 31; 9:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Fair in morning; cloudy in afternoon. No wind; temp. 13 at start, 25 at return. Observers in two parties, about six miles on foot. Turkey Vulture, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Bob-white, 9; Killdeer, 5; Mourning Dove, 19; Barred Owl, 2; Flicker, 37; Pileated Woodpecker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 22; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 30; Prairie Horned Lark, 11; Blue Jay, 51; Crow, 96; Carolina Chickadee, 23; Tufted Titmouse, 75; White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Brown Creeper, 2; Carolina Wren, 35; Mockingbird, 5; Robin, 3; Hermit Thrush, 8; Bluebird, 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Migrant Shrike, 2; Starling, 11; Myrtle Warbler, 21; English Sparrow, 16; Meadowlark, 147; Rusty Blackbird, 63; Bronzed Grackle, 18; Cardinal, 70; Purple Finch, 7; Goldfinch, 9; Red-eyed Towhee, 77; Savannah Sparrow, 8; Slate-colored Junco, 159; Tree Sparrow, 29; Field Sparrow, 21; White-crowned Sparrow, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 44; Fox Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 11. Total, 46 species, 1178 individuals.

—John B. Calhoun, Conrad Jamison, Jr., Arthur McMurray, A. F. Ganier, William Simpson, and Gordon Wilson.

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Louisville (Ohio River from Sixth Street to Taylor Creek; Cherokee Park, Cave Hill Cemetery, Indian Hills, Prospect area and adjacent territory, by car and on foot)—Dec. 17; 7 A. M. to 4 P. M.

Clear; wind, S. W., light; temp. 49 at start, 59 at return. Observers in groups as follows: Party I, 5 observers, 10 miles by car, 7 afoot, 8 hours; Party II, 1 observer, 30 miles by car, 3 afoot, 9 hours; Party III, 3 observers, 10 miles by car, 10 afoot, 15 hours; Party IV, 1 observer, 1 mile afoot, 1 hour; Party V, 1 observer, 3 miles afoot, 3 hours; Party VI, 1 observer, 4 miles afoot, 4 hours. Total miles by car, 50; total miles afoot, 28; total hours, 40. Pied-billed Grebe, 1 (first Christmas census record; seen on Ohio River near Indian Hills Road and watched through 24x glasses by Miss Slack and Dr. Lovell); Mallard, 6; Wood Duck, 8 (first Christmas census record; seen on lake at Sleepy Hollow by Miss Schneider and party); Lesser Scaup, 3; American Golden-eye, 5; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 4; Marsh Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 30; Bob-white, 8; Killdeer, 3; Wilson's Snipe (first Christmas census record; seen by Mr. Carpenter near Goose Creek); Herring Gull, 2; Mourning Dove, 1; Screech Owl, 1 (found dead); Barred Owl, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 8; Flicker, 7; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 13; Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 26; Prairie Horned Lark, 8; Blue Jay, 28; Crow, 154; Carolina Chickadee, 78; Tufted Titmouse, 82; White-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Brown Creeper, 8; Winter Wren, 6; Carolina Wren, 25; Mockingbird, 33; Robin, 8; Bluebird, 13; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3 (first Christmas census record; seen by Miss Schneider and party); Cedar Waxwing, 8; Migrant Shrike, 2; Starling, 14,000 (estimate of those roosting on buildings in downtown area); Myrtle Warbler, 2; English Sparrow, 109; Meadowlark, 20; Cardinal, 108; Purple Finch, 7; Goldfinch, 30; Red-eyed Towhee, 10; Slate-colored Junco, 250; Tree Sparrow, 92; Field Sparrow, 5; White-crowned Sparrow, 46 (3 flocks); Fox Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 38. Total, 52 species, 15,329 individuals. White throated Sparrows were seen during the census week, but are very rare this winter. The rarity of the ducks was due to the open winter thus far.

—Leonard C. Brecher, Floyd S. Carpenter, W. M. Clay, Amy Deane, James LaFollette, Vera Henderson, Harvey B. Lovell, Helen Peil, Evelyn Schneider, Mabel Slack, Audrey Wright, Emilie Yunker—Members of the Beckham Bird Club, Louisville Chapter of the Kentucky Ornithological Society.

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Hueysville, Floyd County (Along Beaver Creek and return by way of wooded mountainside)—Dec. 25: 9:00 A. M. to 3:00 P. M. Clear; six inches of snow; temp. 25 to 32. Total miles, 4; observer alone. Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 3; Mourning Dove, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Carolina Chickadee, 9; Tufted Titmouse, 5; Carolina Wren, 15; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Starling, 20; English Sparrow, 15; Red-winged Blackbird, 20; Meadowlark, 15; Cardinal, 20; Goldfinch, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 25; Field Sparrow, 8; Song Sparrow, 15. Total, 19 species, 186 individuals.

—JOHN A. PATTEN.

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Science Hill—Dec. 25; 8:00 to 10:00 A. M. and 1:30 to 3:00 P. M. Clear; two inches of snow; temp. 25 to 35; two miles through fields and swamp lands; observers together. Bob-white, 4; Mourning Dove, 20; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 2; Crow, 15; Carolina Chickadee, 9; Tufted Titmouse, 15; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Carolina Wren, 6; Mockingbird, 4; English Sparrow,

25; Meadowlark, 100; Cardinal, 11; Goldfinch, 5; Slate-colored Junco, 80; Tree Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 10. Total, 18 species, 312 individuals.

—BEN AND DAN WESLEY.

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McMillan, Luce County, Michigan—Dec. 25. Cloudy; 3 to 4 inches of snow; temp. 24 to 26; strong northwest wind; lake frozen over since December 15. Covered  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles, on foot, through cut-over land, woods, fields, and shore of McCormick Lake. Canada Ruffed Grouse, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 3; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Northern Shrike, 1; English Sparrow, 21; Common Redpoll, 1 (heard); Snow Bunting, 240. Total, 9 species, 275 individuals. Other species observed this month: Greater Prairie Chicken, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Starling and Canadian Pine Grosbeak. Weather conditions have been favorable for birds so far this season, since there have been no severe snow storms nor cold waves. The absence of Siskins, Crossbills, and others is due to a scarcity of cones on birches and evergreens, maple seeds, and beech nuts. Buds on birches, ironwoods, and hazel bushes—the favorite food for the Ruffed Grouse—are plentiful.

—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS.

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Bowling Green (Chaney, McElroy, Covington, Smith and Honaker farms; along Jennings Creek; along Drake's Creek)—Dec. 17; 6:45 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear; wind, southwest, light; temp. 45 at start, 60 at return. Observers in groups as follows: Party I, 2 observers, 12 miles on foot,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  hours; Party II, 2 observers, 12 miles on foot,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  hours; Party III, 2 observers, 12 miles on foot  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hours. Totals: hours,  $25\frac{1}{2}$ ; miles, 36. Diameter of area covered, 15 miles. Canada Goose, 11; Turkey Vulture, 25; Black Vulture, 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 5; Marsh Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Bob-white, 3; Killdeer, 2; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Mourning Dove, 40; Screech Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 25; Pileated Woodpecker, 8; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 15; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 33; Prairie Horned Lark, 98; Blue Jay, 56; Crow, 738; Carolina Chickadee, 94; Tufted Titmouse, 60; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown Creeper, 10; Bewick's Wren, 3; Carolina Wren, 44; Mockingbird, 36; Robin, 18; Hermit Thrush, 10; Bluebird, 81; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5; Cedar Waxwing, 137; Migrant Shrike, 1; Starling, 1088; Myrtle Warbler, 46; English Sparrow, 388; Meadowlark, 73; Red-winged Blackbird, 22; Bronzed Grackle, 5; Cardinal, 129; Purple Finch, 22; Goldfinch, 80; Red-eyed Towhee, 15; Savannah Sparrow, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 220; Field Sparrow, 4; White-crowned Sparrow, 75; White-throated Sparrow, 44; Swamp Sparrow, 16; Song Sparrow, 51. Total, 54 species, 2913 individuals. Other species recorded during Christmas week: Mallard, Tree Sparrow, Winter Wren.

—Jo Allen Bryant, Charles Jones, L. Y. Lancaster, Russell Starr, Charles L. Taylor, Gordon Wilson.

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### SOIL CONSERVATION AND BIRD LIFE By FOREST DURAND

(Given at Paducah Meeting of K. O. S.)

It is with considerable hesitance that I come to speak before your group tonight, for although I have been interested in birds from my earliest remembrance, I fully realize my short-comings as an ornithologist.



thologist. You have listened during this meeting to several very interesting addresses and discussions by people well versed in the field of bird lore, and I doubt if there is much that I can add to what they have said concerning the field of ornithology. Therefore, I wish to thank you for your courtesy in inviting me to speak at this time and also for the time which you have already allotted me today.

However, even though I might not be even an amateur ornithologist or be connected with this field of study in any way, I feel that through the service with which I am connected we have a common ground of thought and interest. As an ornithological group you are interested in bettering conditions for birds and related forms of wildlife. Primarily you are interested in the preservation of an adequate breeding stock and the maintenance of favorable environmental conditions of ample food, water, and cover. What is necessary for this? Land! And here is the common ground upon which we meet.

For land to be favorable to bird life it must be kept in a certain condition. The fertile topsoil must be held in place. It must not be allowed to wash down and choke up the streams and ponds where the Herons and Kingfishers live. The rolling hillsides must be kept in meadow and pasture to conserve the fertility of the soil and offer a home for Meadowlarks and Mourning Doves; the steep hillsides must be kept in woodland, which holds the land in place and furnishes a habitat for innumerable forms of wildlife; if gullies are present, they must be planted with trees and shrubs, which both rebuild the scarred soil and provide a home for Quail and Sparrows; if woodlands are unfenced, burned, and trampled by stock, they must be fenced in order to give young trees a chance to grow and furnish a haven for Warblers and Vireos; if fences cross the slope, they must be allowed to vegetate, form a barrier to erosion and a travel lane for the Mockingbird, the Cardinal, and the Catbird. If sheet-eroded pastures have been worn transparent by rain and overgrazing, they should be sown with sericea to rest and recuperate the tired earth and furnish food for birds. If ponds are being converted into stinking mud puddles, they must be protected from stock trampling and have their borders planted with vegetation in order that they may become healthful sources of drinking water for farm animals, things of beauty on the landscape, and homes for water fowl.

Soil conservation and wildlife conservation go hand in hand. They are inseparable. That thin, life-giving placenta, that source of all existence, both plant and animal, which spreads over the earth's surface and which has been worn through in far, far too many places—the soil must be restored and preserved. Without it there can be no birdlife or life of any other kind. Bare gullies produce no upland birds; sheet-eroded fields furnish no food for Killdeer, Quail, or Meadowlarks; passerine birds find scanty quarters in burned or stock-trampled woodlands; and sandpipers, grebes, or ducks find little encouragement in sand-clogged streams or muddy ponds.

These conditions must be improved, and, further than that, they must be improved on private lands, for most of the country still belongs to private individuals. If a state or federal agency sets up a refuge of one acre and private landowners clear off two acres of woodland, the total amount of land where birds might live has been reduced. If the State Conservation Department establishes a thousand-acre refuge and farmers throughout the state cut down or burn two thousand acres of bushy fence rows, the sum total of wild-

life area has been reduced. If a county builds a fifty-acre lake and on private land one hundred acres of ponds go dry or fill up with silt, our waterfowl and shorebirds have less territory than before. We may be able to go to these special public places and see interesting things, but it is the private land which must continue to produce the bulk of our birdlife.

It is here that the Soil Conservation Service comes into the picture, for this service, through its demonstration projects and CCC Camps, reaches out to the private landowner and the farmer and working with him establishes certain practices on his farm which both conserve the soil and improve conditions for wildlife. I have some figures which I would like to read to you. In the state of Kentucky on private lands cooperating with the Soil Conservation Service:

12,000 acres of trees have been planted. Many of these acres prior to planting were gullied shambles devoid of all life, both plant and animal. Usually borders of planting areas are set with trees and shrubs particularly suited to wildlife utilization.

Thousands of yards of cropland and pasture gullies have been set with shrubs and vines.

Approximately 4,000 acres of strip cropping have been established.

18,000 acres of existing woodlands, many of which were formerly devastated by the trampling feet of livestock, are now protected by fences.

Though these figures represent great improvements for birds and wildlife in this state, the farms upon which this work has been done are scattered. They are really only demonstrations. From this point on, whatever is accomplished depends largely upon to what extent private landowners adopt practices which have proved successful on these demonstration farms. I feel that organizations such as yours can accomplish much by encouraging such a spread of practice. Probably the Soil Conservation Districts Program, which has been started in thirty-six states, offers the greatest opportunity to date, for under this plan local landowners organize and administer a conservation program of their own.

These districts are authorized to call upon not only the Soil Conservation Service but any other federal or state agency which might be concerned for aid in carrying out their program. Every member of this society should acquaint himself with the possibilities of the Soil Conservation District Plan, for I sincerely believe that as these locally organized and administered conservation programs spread over the land, they will result in a great improvement of conditions for birdlife than anything which has been done since the white-man first landed on these shores. I would like to again call your attention to the fact that under a district plan this betterment of conditions would not be confined to scattered farms but would spread over all lands composing a district.

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### A BREEDING BIRD CENSUS

By VIRGIL D. KING

In the spring of 1937 the Soil Conservation Service planted black locust seedlings on a bare and badly gullied three-acre field on the farm of Francis S. Simpson (Grant County, Kentucky). Before the

locusts were planted, the field was fenced, and the owner agreed not to pasture the field for at least five years. These precautions were taken because over-grazing is closely associated with severe erosion; also, grazing often destroys the habitats of many forms of wildlife.

The field was so severely eroded and destitute of vegetation at the time of planting that few, if any forms of wildlife could have subsisted on it. The black locust seedlings have grown rapidly, and native vegetation has thrived under protection. As a result, a good cover has developed, and active erosion has been stopped.

The writer made a study during the past summer of the bird life on the field. The study attempted to determine how extensively the field was being utilized by birds. This information would indicate the extent to which the field had been made attractive to wildlife.

The first attempt to find nests was made on May 29. Five Field Sparrow nests, one Grasshopper Sparrow nest, and one Meadowlark nest were found. Subsequent observations of these nests and attempts to find other nests were made on June 2, June 10, June 20, July 13, July 21, August 9, and October 16.

Fifteen occupied nests of six different species were located: Field Sparrow, 7; Grasshopper Sparrow, 1; Indigo Bunting, 2; Meadow Lark, 1; Catbird, 3; and Yellow-breasted Chat, 1. The periodic observation indicated that young were successfully brooded in thirteen of these nests. The accompanying table gives additional data.

Eight unoccupied nests were found. Although unoccupied when found, there was evidence that most of these nests had been occupied by fledglings during the summer. The unoccupied nests were, for the most part, those of the Field Sparrow. Five of these nests were first found on October 16. These nests, together with two found on July 21 and August 9, respectively, indicate that at least seven different pairs of Field Sparrows reared two broods on the field.

Other birds observed feeding in the field were, Downy Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Red-eyed Towhee, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Goldfinch, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

It would be impossible to calculate the number of insects which the aforementioned birds consumed during the summer and even more difficult to estimate their value to the farmer. It can be safely concluded, though, that the bird-life-carrying capacity of the field has increased several hundred per cent since 1937.

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE SONG SPARROW IN KENTUCKY

The request of the editor in our summer issue has already borne some fruit. You will recall that you were urged to report on the seasonal status of the Song Sparrow in your particular area of the state. Leonard C. Brecher reports that the species is found the year-round at Louisville. Robert Mengel found it in July at London. Dr. Wilfred A. Welter reports that it breeds in the mountains to the Tennessee line. Other items about the Song Sparrow would be appreciated by the editor.

Nests and Species	DATE OF OBSERVATION AND CONTENTS										LOCATION		
	May 29	June 2	June 10	June 20	July 13	July 21	Aug. 9	Locust	Ground	Crata-egus	Yar-row	Black-berry	
Field Sparrow	3 young	3 young	empty						poverty grass x				
Field Sparrow	3 eggs	deserted							base of locust x				
Field Sparrow	2 eggs	4 eggs	2 eggs 2 young					1' up					
Field Sparrow	2 eggs 2 young	4 young	empty						base of locust x				
Field Sparrow	2 young	2 young	empty								x		
Grasshopper Sparrow	5 eggs	5 eggs	1 egg 4 young	1 egg infertile					x				
Meadowlark	3 eggs	4 eggs		4 young					x				
Indigo Bunting					4 eggs	4 young		6' up					
Indigo Bunting					3 eggs	4 eggs spilled on ground						x	
Catbird					3 eggs	3 eggs		4' up					
Catbird					2 young	saw 1 young empty		5' up					
Yellow-breasted Chat					4 eggs	1 egg 3 tiny young		empty		x			
Catbird						3 eggs		6' up					
Field Sparrow						3 eggs		empty				x	
Field Sparrow								3 eggs				x	

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## A SOUTHERLY RECORD FOR THE SONG SPARROW IN SUMMER

The confluent waters of the Ohio and the Tennessee tend to mingle life zones in a way that we rarely find so far from the mountains. Southern forms and northern are thus made neighbors. In the tangles below Barkley Park in Paducah, the Song Sparrow is found during the summer and has even been found in the act of caring for young. They are also found on the small island, or sandy bar, north of the Brookport and Paducah bridge over the Ohio. Near the mountains we should expect them, of course, further south but not in such a south-like location. In 1938 a Song Sparrow record was entered at Paducah on June 21, and on June 24 it was found at Knoxville, Tennessee, while I was passing through that city. More than once it has been noted in the valleys at the foot of the mountains in western South Carolina. Apparently the bird is a fairly good index of Upper Austral or Carolinian Life Zone conditions, and here at Paducah we seem near the boundary between that zone and the Austroriparian or Louisianian.

—A. L. PICKENS, Paducah Junior College.

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## VESPER SPARROWS IN SUMMER

Virgil D. King, our secretary-treasurer, reports that Vesper Sparrows are common in summer at Falmouth, where he has been stationed this summer with the Soil Conservation Service. Write the editor about the seasonal distribution of this species, please. At Bowling Green it is a migrant only, recorded regularly every spring and nearly every fall.

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## MR. KING'S WORK

Mr. Virgil D. King, now with the Soil Conservation Service, writes: "Our Service plants thousands of trees each year in Kentucky. The planting areas are fenced against grazing. In fact, we will not plant a field until it is fenced, and the farmer has to agree to keep livestock out for at least five years. You can see right away that this procedure will benefit wild life. My job is to recommend plants which will supply food and cover for wild life. So far most of our plantings have been of black locust stock, but there is a tendency to use more pines and food-bearing species. I have made a breeding census on a three-acre locust planting during the summer. This census was an evaluation study of the value to wild life of locust plantations. I found 14 nests during my observations. I recorded the location of the nest, species occupying it, and the date located. I also recorded data on each nest on successive visits until the young left the nests. My last nest was that of a Field Sparrow, which had three eggs in it as late as August 9. I have been unable to get back since that date. I had hoped to find one or more Goldfinch nests but failed to do so."