

Fall 1940

Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 16, no. 4)

Kentucky Library Research Collections
Western Kentucky University, spcol@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler



Part of the [Ornithology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kentucky Library Research Collections, "Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 16, no. 4)" (1940). *Kentucky Warbler*. Paper 63.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler/63

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kentucky Warbler by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

. . . The . . .

Kentucky Warbler



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

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

Vol. XVI

FALL, 1940

Number 4

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL FALL MEETING

More than seventy bird enthusiasts were at Hemlock Lodge in Natural Bridge State Park on October 5 and 6, 1940. After luncheon on October 5 four parties set out for Natural Bridge on trails bordered with mountain laurel, rhododendron, trailing arbutus, wintergreen, partridge berry, clintonia, huckleberry, and many other interesting plants. A mild temperature rendered coats unnecessary, and early morning showers had taken out most of the crackle from the fallen leaves; thus with little noise we wandered along as we chatted with old friends and peered through the beautifully tinted autumn foliage for our bird friends.

Soon after returning to Hemlock Lodge from the bird walks, we held our business session. Leonard Brecher presented the report of the committee on constitutional revision. After the reading of each section, a vote was taken. Every section was adopted as read except Section 3 of the By-Laws, which was deleted. The secretary read a letter from R. C. Soaper, who asked to be reimbursed for \$10.00 he had advanced to woodcutters in the fall of 1937 in order to save some big pecan trees in the John James Audubon Heronry of Henderson County. Mr. Soaper expressed a willingness to accept either the \$10.00 or a life membership in the K. O. S. Colonel Lucien Beckner asked whether the constitution contained a provision for life membership and was advised by the president that it did not. Major Victor K. Dodge moved that Mr. Soaper be reimbursed immediately. This motion was carried unanimously.

The nominating committee, composed of Mabel Slack, chairman, Beulah Marsh, and Dr. Gordon Wilson, recommended the following officers:

President—Evelyn J. Schneider, Louisville.

Vice-President—Virgil D. King, Carlisle.

Secretary-Treasurer—Thelma Gentry, Madisonville.

Councillors—Mrs. John H. Mayer, Cynthiana; Leonard Brecher, Louisville; Mrs. F. Everett Frei, Glasgow.

No nominations were made from the floor, and the report of the nominating committee was accepted.

The president read a telegram from Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, who expressed regrets at not being able to attend the meeting because

of serious illness in his family and extended his best wishes for a successful meeting. Suggestions for the 1941 fall meeting included Mammoth Cave, Henderson, Diamond Springs, Dawson Springs, and the Coalings area between the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers, the last-named area being especially noted for its wild deer and wild turkey. Mrs. Alice Moore told of the meeting of the Kentucky Wildlife and Natural History Conference at Otter Creek on September 20-22, which was attended by more than 200 people. She also told of the formation of the Kentucky Conservation Council at the Ridge Farm, near Pineville, of which Tom Wallace, editor of the LOUISVILLE TIMES, was elected president. Club membership in the council is \$2.00 a year. A motion was made and seconded that the K. O. S. secretary apply for membership in the council. Mr. Albert F. Ganier invited the K. O. S. members to the 25th anniversary meeting of the T. O. S. in Nashville on October 19-20. A discussion of how membership fees should be collected was held, but as no decision was reached, the matter will be left to the discretion of the secretary-treasurer. After this discussion the business meeting was adjourned, and dinner was served.

In the evening our group enjoyed a varied program. Mrs. F. Everett Frei gave a delightfully entertaining talk on "Bird Banding and Adventure." She described the methods employed in trapping and banding birds, the behavior of various species when in the hand, and the elaborate way she and Mr. Frei, assisted by Boy Scouts, had banded several hundred Chimney Swifts. Dr. Gordon Wilson in his usual pleasing manner spoke on "Sparrows and Warblers." From his records for the last twenty-five years he told which of these birds have been recorded in the Bowling Green and Mammoth Cave areas as permanent, summer, winter residents, or as migrants. Mr. Albert F. Ganier, with the aid of study skins, gave an instructive talk on "Something about Woodpeckers." He gave some of the peculiarities of the anatomy of woodpeckers, their range, their feeding and nesting habits, and how to identify the various species. Mr. Floyd S. Carpenter illustrated his talk on "Effect of Environment on Bird Distribution" with beautiful natural color slides which were representative of many different habitats and all the four seasons. The slides included scenes taken all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Gulf of Mexico to Alaska.

On October 6 both an early-morning and a mid-morning walk were made, and a surprisingly large number of birds were reported. Many of the crowd drove to Sky Bridge, in the Cumberland National Park, fifteen miles away. After a delicious chicken dinner the crowd began to break up. Every one who attended the meeting agreed that it was the best fall meeting in the history of the K. O. S.

The following people were present at all or part of the meeting: Louisville—Mabel Slack, Dr. William M. Clay, Dorothy Peil, Helen Peil, Amy Deane, Audrey Wright, Marie Peiper, Emma O'Neal, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thacher, Betty Thacher, Evelyn J. Schneider, Esther Mason, Floyd S. Carpenter, Kathryn Montgomery, Nancy M. Warren, Vera Henderson, Mrs. Alice Moore, Evelyn Moore, Olga Tafel, Lucien Beckner, Grace Schneider; Lexington—Dr. and Mrs. J. D. Figgins, Major Victor K. Dodge, Amy Bergmann, Ethel Young, Maud A. Foy, Vivian Starns, Mary Didlake, Nancy Didlake, Mrs. Charles J. Smith, Emily Barnes, Mrs. Bullock, Mrs. Gratz, Mrs.

Lewis, Isabel Clay, Helen Harms, Dr. Gladys Southwick, John A. Patten, H. A. Olsen, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene R. Simpson; Hazard—Mrs. T. E. Moore; Cynthia—Mr. and Mrs. John H. Mayer, Beulah Marsh; Carlisle—Virgil D. King; Bowling Green—Gordon Wilson; Detroit, Michigan—Mrs. George Kelly; Nashville, Tennessee—Mrs. F. C. Laskey, A. F. Ganier; Madisonville—Thelma Gentry; Shelbyville—Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Mrs. Stanley G. Bandeen; Glasgow—Mrs. F. Everett Frei; Berea—James Arthur, John S. Bangson, Nellie I. Crabb, Miriam Evans, Nellie I. Floyd, Shelby Gay, John Haun, Joseph Haun, Carl Jenkins, John B. Loefer, Ruth Loefer, Fred Perry, Beatrice Richards, Daniel Thorington, Hoy Wesley.

Birds seen on our hikes were the following: Bluebird, Indigo Bunting, Catbird, Cardinal, Carolina Chickadee, Crow, Brown Creeper, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Flicker, Crested Flycatcher, Goldfinch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Pigeon Hawk, Blue Jay (the most distinctive bird of the park while we were there), Kingfisher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Nighthawk, White-breasted Nuthatch, Oven-bird, Screech Owl, Phoebe, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, English Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Gray-checked Thrush, Wood Thrush, Tufted Titmouse, Towhee, Blue-headed Vireo, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Ruffed Grouse.

—VIRGIL D. KING, Secretary-Treasurer

* * * * *

GLASGOW BIRD CLUB ORGANIZED

After a preliminary meeting in March, 1940, at which the ground work for a bird club was laid, a group of twenty bird students of Glasgow met on the evening of April 25 to perfect an organization. The name chosen was The Glasgow Bird Club, nothing particularly startling. A constitution was drawn up, by-laws suggested, and the following officers elected:

President—F. Everett Frei.

Vice-President—Dr. F. Edwards.

Secretary-Treasurer—Clayton Gooden.

A board of directors composed of the officers together with Dr. E. L. Palmore, Mrs. Kyle J. Taylor, and Miss Lennie Britt was also chosen. Program, publicity, and membership committees were appointed and purposes and objectives discussed. The regular meeting date was set for the fourth Thursday evening in each month, and the temporary meeting place is by invitation to the various homes. A field meeting is to be held each month, the date being set at the preceding regular meeting. Most of the field trips have been held at 4:30 on Sunday mornings, the group returning in time for Sunday School. A number of members have done some distinctive photography of nests and birds. The membership is now twenty-eight with some dozen others who have signified their intention to join.

* * * * *

NEWS

Our former secretary-treasurer, now our vice-president, Virgil D. King, took his A. M. degree at the University of Kentucky this spring. He did the latter part of his work on Saturdays, since he

has been stationed as biologist with the Soil Conservation Service. In early May he helped make a breeding bird census on the Indian Creek Project, just out of Hamilton, Ohio. He also took numerous pictures for the Service there and elsewhere.

Otis W. Allen, of Bowling Green, received his master's degree this summer from Ohio State University. Mr. Allen has studied every summer recently at Stone Laboratory, at Put-in-Bay, the biological station of Ohio State.

Dr. Wilfred A. Welter, long a member of our society, was killed last Christmas in an automobile accident near Chicago. Dr. Welter had been in the Biology Department at Morehead Teachers College since 1932 and had been head of the department since 1935. Besides his studies of the Long-billed Marsh Wren growing out of his doctor's thesis at Cornell, Dr. Welter had published eleven other studies in ornithology and biology. Our society has lost a great scientist and a charming gentleman.

An active bird club is developing at Berea College under the supervision of Professors Loefer and Bangson. John A. Patten, one of the original members, is now doing graduate work at the University of Kentucky.

Humphrey A. Olsen, who some years ago taught at Caney Junior College, is now doing graduate work at the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Cynthia Counce, formerly at the Eastern State Hospital, at Lexington, is now connected with the Western Hospital, at Hopkinsville.

Mrs. L. G. Hobson, since the death of her husband, has returned to Indiana, her old home, and is now teaching in high school in Indianapolis.

Mrs. George Kelly, of Detroit, reports a very active bird club recently organized there. Mrs. Kelly seldom misses a fall meeting in her native Kentucky.

Dr. A. L. Pickens, of Paducah Junior College, has recently issued a check-list of vertebrates of Western Kentucky.

William M. Walker, Jr., formerly of Hopkinsville but for a long time connected with T. V. A., is now the president of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

* * * * *

WARBLERS IN MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

Early this spring I determined to list as many warblers in Mammoth Cave National Park as possible. During the last four years I have studied the park area most of my spare time, but I had never seen the area in warbler migration time. Beginning with our K. O. S. meeting there on April 6-7, I have had thirteen field trips there to date (late October), a total of twenty days. In that time I have camped in six different places and roved over some of the wildest parts of the park. On May 5 I found nineteen species of warblers; on May 12, twenty-five. All told, my warbler list there for 1940 is twenty-nine. By careful observation through the spring and summer I determined that the following species nest in the area: Yellow-breasted Chat, Oven-bird, Louisiana Water-thrush,

Black and White, Blue-winged, Worm-eating, Cerulean, Hooded, Kentucky, Maryland Yellow-throat, Redstart, Sycamore, Yellow, Prairie, Prothonotary, and Parula. The four of these that I had not previously proved as nesters—Cerulean, Blue-winged, Parula, and Worm-eating—were found nesting or else feeding their young. The Bachman's should be in the area, since it has been known to nest in southern Kentucky. On two widely-separated trips I thought I had seen this species, but I could never get a good enough look to decide. That will leave me something to look hard for in 1941.

—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green

* * * * *

"AS OTHERS SEE US"

(Editor's Note—Sometimes it is good to see how we impress others, particularly people who know nothing about birds. Ernie Pyle, who conducts a column called "The Roving Reporter," ran into our Mr. and Mrs. John H. Mayer in Brown County State Park near Nashville, Indiana. He went with them and some others on an early-morning bird hike and good-humoredly reported his experience to his newspapers. Here is his report, a good sample of his charming wit and good humor:)

John Horton came past my cabin at 4 o'clock in the morning and honked 'til I woke up. I could have killed him.

But that was the agreement; so I somehow staggered out into the world and got myself dressed. It was just getting daylight.

Every morning for a week I had been awakening naturally just before dawn and standing in the doorway to watch the first faint dawn come up over the green ridges.

But this morning, of course, knowing I was going on a trip, I was in an agony for sleep. I don't know what ever made me agree to it. But the boys had said something about taking a dawn hike through the state park, and I, thinking at the time about the state of my soul or something equally vague, had said, "Oh, sure." And now I was.

Five of us gathered at the big Abe Martin Lodge up in the middle of the state park: John Horton, Johnny Wallace, the park naturalist, a couple from Louisville (Cynthiana—Ed.) who come up here very summer for a vacation, and myself.

Johnny Wallace had orange juice for all of us, which we drank out on the terrace. And I practically nauseated everybody by drinking a bottle of milk, right on top of the orange juice. But a man in my condition has to have some kind of bracer at dawn.

So we started out.

And do you know what this thing turned out to be? A bird hunt. No, I do not mean we were hunting with guns. These people were all bird fanatics, and they just go out hiking at dawn to listen to birds sing and try to see how many kinds of birds they can identify. I could have killed the whole bunch—people, birds, and all.

We drove several miles; then parked the car. Each took a pair of field glasses and started walking. The rest of them started seeing birds right away. Each time they'd give a little scream and stop dead in their tracks like pointer dogs and then talk to themselves.

Johnny Horton wrote down in a notebook every kind of bird they saw, and when we returned two hours later, he had 32 different kinds on his list. As for me, I saw only two.

In the first place, I was so sleepy I couldn't have seen a bird if one had lit on my nose. And, in the second place, I've already seen a lot of birds in my lifetime.

The only thing that kept me awake at all was marveling at the strange talk of these bird fanciers. Once we were all standing in a little group, quiet as mice, waiting for a bird to come along, when Naturalist Johnny Wallace said, not to any one of us, but just unconsciously and out into space: "Tufted Titmouse—tapwee, tapwee, tapwee!"

I would have answered his remark, except what would you say?

Now and then the group would suddenly stop and somebody would question, "Hear it? See-Toe-hee. See-Toe-hee!"

And Johnny heard a black-throated warbler that sings, "Trees, trees, murmuring trees."

Except he told about having a fellow along one morning who couldn't make anything out of the warbler's song except "Cheese, cheese, Limburger cheese." There was a man I know I could love.

Those people saw birds in trees where I couldn't even see a tree. And they constantly heard birds where I heard nothing but a ringing in my ears.

The only two birds I ever saw were a Kingfisher and a Scarlet Tanager. The Kingfisher was sitting on a fence along a lake, watching the fish in the water. And since he didn't move for five minutes, I finally did get a focus on him. The Scarlet Tanager flew past and was such a streak of violent red that even a man in a stupor couldn't help seeing it.

Fortunately, we found a few other things besides birds, or they would have had to carry me home. We found a tree toad and a frog, and Johnny Horton caught them in his hands and showed the feminine section of our caravan something about their eyes.

And Johnny Wallace found a locust, about the size of your little finger, whose body had been half eaten away by some insect, yet the locust was still alive, and his wings were going a mile a minute.

And we heard the bell that gets the CCC boys up at 6 (the lucky loafers) in their camp somewhere off through the brush. And we saw some poison ivy and walked around it.

Somehow, around 7 o'clock, we got home, and I went back to bed. It would be nice if there weren't such things as birds; but then I suppose people would want to go looking for tree-leaves or drops of glistening dew at 4 o'clock in the morning.

* * * * *

JUST TO REMIND YOU

Since a large number of our members have come into the K. O. S. within recent years, it seems desirable to review the history of our organization for their enlightenment. The society was organized

in April, 1923, the founders being Dr. L. Otley Pindar, Versailles; Mr. Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green, and Mr. B. C. Bacon, Madisonville. These three became the first officers of the organization, Dr. Pindar as president, Mr. Bacon as vice-president, and Mr. Wilson as secretary-treasurer. The first program meeting was held at Louisville in April, 1924. Among other matters considered at this session was a fall meeting; the one planned for 1924 was abandoned after it became known that the Wilson Ornithological Club would meet that fall at Nashville. A number of the members of our society attended this meeting and planned for future meetings in the fall. Spring meetings have been held regularly at Louisville since the organization of the society. Beginning in 1925 fall meetings have been held in various parts of the state: 1925, Bowling Green; 1926, Henderson; 1927, Murray; 1928, Hodgenville; 1929, Elkton; 1930, Marion; 1931, Bowling Green; 1932, Madisonville; 1933, Madisonville; 1934, Wickliffe; 1935, Mammoth Cave; 1936, Franklin; 1937, Henderson; 1938, Lexington; 1939, Paducah; 1940, Natural Bridge State Park.

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER made its bow to the public in January, 1925, and has appeared quarterly ever since. Dr. Wilson has edited it all this time except for two years, when Mr. Burt Monroe ably conducted our publication. Beginning with the October, 1934, issue, the four-page leaflet was changed to one of eight pages; this in turn became twelve pages with the winter, 1938, issue, when our magazine took on the attractive cover drawn by Mr. A. F. Ganler, the godfather of the K. O. S.

Our officers have been as follows:

PRESIDENT—

- Dr. L. Otley Pindar—1923-25.
- Dr. Gordon Wilson—1925-29.
- Dr. T. Atchison Frazer—1929-33.
- Mr. B. C. Bacon—1933-38.
- Mr. Burt L. Monroe—1938-39.
- Miss Evelyn J. Schneider—1939-.

VICE-PRESIDENT—

- Mr. B. C. Bacon—1923-25.
- Miss Emilie Yunker—1925-29.
- Miss Mary May Wyman—1929-33.
- Dr. T. Atchison Frazer—1933-34.
- Mr. Edward M. Ray—1934-36.
- Dr. Gordon Wilson—1936-37.
- Mr. Burt L. Monroe—1937-38.
- Mr. Raymond J. Fleetwood—1938-40.
- Mr. Virgil D. King—1940-.

SECRETARY-TREASURER—

Dr. Gordon Wilson—1923-25.

Mrs. Charles McBride—1925-29.

Mr. Edward M. Ray—1929-33.

Miss Mabel Slack—1933-36.

Miss Evelyn J. Schneider—1936-38.

Mr. Edward M. Ray—1936-38.

Mr. Virgil D. King—1938-40.

Miss Thelma Gentry—1940.

Our field trips at the time of the fall meeting have been distinctive; practically every year there has been an excellent spring field-trip at Louisville. In 1925 we visited Mr. Carl D. Herdman's bird sanctuary near Bowling Green; in 1926 we had with us on our outing at Atkinson Park, Henderson, Miss Harriet Audubon, the grand-daughter of the famous naturalist; in 1927 we visited Devil's Pulpit, in eastern Calloway County; in 1928 the Lincoln Farm near Hodgenville was the scene of our outing; in 1929 we investigated the Todd County cliffs; in 1930 Dr. Frazer led the crowd to his favorite Panther Hollow, in Crittenden County; in 1931 Drs. Wilson and Lancaster introduced the society to the wild country at the edge of the Mammoth Cave National Park, near Brownsville; in 1932 and 1933 we remained a whole day at Mr. Bacon's Spring Lake Sanctuary at Madisonville; in 1934 we spent the week-end after our meeting at Reelfoot Lake; in 1935 we wandered over much of the Mammoth Cave National Park area; in 1936 we joined the Tennessee Ornithological Society at Red River, just below the Kentucky-Tennessee state line; in 1937 we returned to Henderson and spent an afternoon and a morning in visiting the Audubon Memorial State Park and the heron rookery under our auspices near Diamond Island; in 1938 Major Victor Dodge led us over the rich bluegrass Simms Farm, near Lexington; in 1939 Mr. Raymond Fleetwood introduced us to Lake Genevieve, near Paducah; and in 1940 we wandered here and there over Natural Bridge State Park and in the Cumberland National Forest near Sky Bridge. To have associated with all the fine people who love birds and to have walked with them in such beauty spots have been worth all the time and money necessary to organize and promote the K. O. S. Outsiders can never know how much this association means to all of us on the inside.

From a tiny group of three members we have grown to a respectable society of more than a hundred regular members. Many others have come and gone, but a nucleus of the faithful ones have kept the K. O. S. full of interest and out of debt, two highly desirable things for any club. We appreciate our old-timers and welcome to our club all those who have entered in recent years. We hope this review of our accomplishments as a society has not seemed condescending in tone, for it was intended to make all of us informed about this group of people whom we like to work with.

PRAIRIE HORNED LARKS NESTING IN GRANT COUNTY

On June 7, 1940, Mr. David S. Clarke, of the Soil Conservation Service, found a Prairie Horned Lark's nest in a bluegrass pasture near Dry Ridge, Grant County. On June 11 I photographed this nest after flushing the adult bird. Two days later I went back with a blind to photograph the adult on the nest but found that hogs had destroyed the nest. The nest, containing five eggs, was located in a small depression in a closely grazed pasture. An old cornstalk lay along the side of the nest. Although Prairie Horned Larks were commonly seen by me in the ridgetop pastures of Grant and Pendleton Counties, this is the only nest that I ever saw.

—VIRGIL D. KING, Carlisle.

* * * * *

OUR CHRISTMAS CENSUSES

Not long after this issue comes to you, you will need to be planning your Christmas census. In order to make the best possible showing for your area, take some preliminary surveys, trying to locate all the possible species, so that you can come back later and list them for your census. Spend a whole day and get as many bird students as you can to join you. Go in several parties if you can get enough trained observers to lead them, and, most of all, set up some goal from your previous experiences to make you exhaust all possibilities to find all of the birds. After the day is over, tabulate your finds, by species and individuals, and send them to the editor for the next issue. There ought to be so many censuses that some new method of printing them would have to be resorted to. Nothing would please the editor more than to have to use ingenuity to get all the reports into one issue. While you are sending your census, also enclose some field notes. We are always in need of notes.

* * * * *

OUR NEW CONSTITUTION

The new constitution, adopted at Natural Bridge State Park, is in many ways better than our old one. Provisions are made for active participation in conservation drives in our state, for publications as funds become available, for student membership, and for sustaining membership for those who would like to give the society a small financial lift. All the old features that have proved valuable were reincorporated in the new constitution. Members who did not receive a copy can secure one by writing the president.

* * * * *

SILVER ANNIVERSARY T. O. S.

On October 19 and 20, 1940, the Tennessee Ornithological Society celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. On the afternoon of October 19 there were field trips near Nashville, ending with a trip to Mr. A. F. Ganier's "Hobby House," at his home at 2112 Woodlawn Drive. In the evening at the B. & W. Cafeteria, in downtown Nashville, a spirited program was given by local and out-of-state members, the highlights being brief speeches by the three living founders of the T. O. S.: Dr. George R. Mayfield, Mr. Dixon Merritt, and Mr.

A. F. Ganier. Visiting members spent the night at the cottages of Dr. Mayfield, Mr. Ganier, and Dr. Vaughn, at Idlewild Wood, ten miles from Nashville, on Stone's River. The next morning they were joined by local and other people for a morning field trip. Some ninety people were present. Luncheon was served out-of-town guests by the Nashville Chapter. A list of 41 species of birds was turned in by the various parties.

We, of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, congratulate our elder sister society and wish long and happy years ahead. But for the T. O. S. and its success there would have never been a K. O. S. as such. We have profited by every activity of the neighboring group and have felt free to borrow ideas almost every year of our existence. Eight years hence, in 1948, our own group will be celebrating its silver anniversary and is right now inviting to participate in our celebration the members of the T. O. S.

* * * * *

THE EFFECT OF LAND USE ADJUSTMENTS ON WILDLIFE POPULATIONS IN THE OHIO VALLEY REGION

By C. A. DAMBACH, Regional Biologist

(Editor's Note—The following extracts from an address by Mr. C. A. Dambach before the Fifth North American Wildfowl Conference should be of interest to all of us. Much good work has been done in the state and neighboring states in reforestation. Our own vice-president, Virgil D. King, has cooperated in wildlife censuses in one of the areas mentioned in this article, which was furnished the society by our Mr. Forrest Durand, of Paducah).

The definite relation of land use to wildlife populations has been recognized by economic biologists. Moss found that in Connecticut, as the area in cultivation was reduced, population of Bob-white quail, pheasants, and cottontail rabbits dropped off rapidly. For instance, during the 50-year period from 1880 to 1930 quail declined in abundance and disappeared over much of its range. During approximately the same period crop acreage decreased from 1,600,000 to 550,000 acres.

Through the activities of state agencies and the various bureaus of the Federal Government millions of acres of land subject to erosion, when cultivated, are being protected by permanent cover of grass, trees, or shrubs or so farmed that erosion is reduced to the barest minimum. It has been estimated that only about 39% of the present crop land of the United States can be safely cultivated under prevailing practices, while under good conservation practices an additional 43% can be cultivated safely. The remaining 18% of the present crop land should be retired from cultivation to permanent vegetative cover. Should such retirement actually take place, it would place an additional 76,000,000 acres under permanent vegetative cover. It follows logically that biologists should consider the effect of such adjustments on wildlife populations.

Readjustments in land use and in farming methods are being demonstrated through several types of programs, including watershed demonstration projects, Soil Conservation CCC Camps, and Soil Conservation Districts. The plan is a formal written agreement

between the farmer and the cooperating agency for a five-year period or longer, during which, working together, a permanent soil-conserving program is established in keeping with the abilities of the man and the land.

As has already been pointed out by Moss, changes in crop acreage materially affect populations of certain game species. This is equally true of non-game species. Studies made in southwestern Ohio, for instance, indicate that meadows average about 50 pairs of breeding birds per 100 acres compared to an average of 10 pairs per 100 acres in small grains (wheat, rye, oats). In corn, populations were found to average slightly over 3 pairs per 100 acres. In this area meadow populations were found to be 4.5 times as great as those in small grain and 15 times as great as those in corn. Any material shift in acreage from corn and small grain to meadow thus makes for potential conditions that may result in a material increase in the population of farm breeding birds.

Rearrangement of farm layout to permit introduction of conservation practices such as strip-cropping, contour cultivation, and crop acreage changes also affects farm wildlife populations. On the Indian Creek Project Area of the Soil Conservation Service in Butler County, Ohio, contour strip cropping resulted in an increase of breeding birds on meadow and small grain crops of approximately twice the populations on large fields of the same crops. Cornfields in strips showed no significant difference over non-stripped fields. On the negative side of the picture, however, is the fact that establishment of strip cropping often reduces the total length of permanent border on a farm. Loss of populations due to loss of field border varies with the quality of vegetation in the border.

Areas retired to woodland or for permanent wildlife cover rapidly become havens for many game and non-game species. One badly eroded area near Dry Ridge, Kentucky, which was planted to black locust in the spring of 1937, illustrates clearly the ability of an area to revegetate itself and become reinhabited by wildlife after protection. On this area of 3 acres there were found during the summer of 1939, 15 occupied nests of 6 different species of birds. Later in the season an additional 8 nests were located which had evidently been occupied by fledgelings during the summer.

Other conservation practices affecting farm wildlife populations, such as sod waterways in cultivated fields, meadow and shrub buffer strips, woodland borders, windbreak plantings, live shrub dams, vegetated terrace outlets, and so on, might be cited. That their application is becoming widespread is evident from the spread of these practices to farms outside of work units and the interest of farmers in organizing districts to facilitate soil conservation planning on their farms.

On the Indian Creek project in Butler County, Ohio, breeding bird censuses conducted for 3 years indicate that major land use changes on farms planned result in increased populations per farm of a little over 38%. This change is due mainly to a decided increase in protected woods, new woodland plantings, meadow and pasture, and a corresponding reduction in crop land.

Biologists should be aware of the influence land use changes have on farm wildlife populations and the land use changes being

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)

planned in the future. To meet new problems introduced by necessary agricultural adjustments, compensatory or complementary practices beneficial to wildlife use may be needed. On the whole, however, it appears that these changes point to improved farm biotic conditions.

* * * * *

NELSON'S SPARROW

We were walking along the abandoned car track in Indian Hills, near Louisville, bent on reaching an overflowed cornfield, when our attention was attracted by a tiny sparrow. It crept along the ground or flew so low a few feet at a time that at first we thought it must be injured. We then noticed its unusual markings and realized that we were adding a new life record, April 30, 1940.

The sparrow had a lot of yellow on the sides of its head, and a sharp-pointed tail. Its breast was streaked very lightly, the lines seeming to form a necklace across its breast. All these points showed clearly that it was a Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Since Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni*) is the only subspecies to be expected so far from the coast, there would seem to be little doubt that the bird belonged to this subspecies. The Acadian Sharp-tailed is described as a "decidedly pale bird," whereas our specimen was rather distinctly marked, especially on the back.

The Nelson's Sparrow in question was very tame and crept along in the weeds quite unafraid, allowing us to approach within eight or ten feet. It finally flew to a low limb, where it posed while we made notes on its breast markings. Its fluttering flight close to the ground and curious mouse-like creeping were especially interesting features of this rare sparrow.

—FLOYD S. CARPENTER AND HARVEY LOVELL, Louisville.

* * * * *

PRAIRIE HORNED LARKS

Mr. King's note on Prairie Horned Larks in this issue suggests that we ought to determine the summer range of this subspecies in our state. Please write the editor any record you have of this bird in summer, with exact dates, and especially send any accounts of its nest that you have.