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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 XVII

AUTUMN, 1941

Number 4

SEVENTEENTH FALL MEETING

On October 11 and 12 more than sixty enthusiastic members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society met at Beula Villa Hotel, Sulphur Well, Kentucky, for the seventeenth fall meeting. At the informal luncheon which opened the meeting, each person present was introduced by the one sitting next to him. During the afternoon field trips were conducted by Mrs. F. Everett Frei, Mr. Cal Rogers, and Dr. Gordon Wilson, the big find of all being a Lincoln Sparrow. Myrtle Warblers were abundant.

More people had arrived by dinner time. After an introduction of the late-comers Miss Evelyn Schneider read letters from members who were unable to attend: Dr. George R. Mayfield, Mr. A. F. Ganier, Mr. J. D. Figgins, Miss Beulah Marsh, Mrs. Dorothy Madden Hobson, John A. Patten, and Oscar McKinley Bryens. Dr. Wilson gave a brief account of his visit in 1934 to our northmost member, Mr. Bryens, and of the marvelous assiduity of this really great ornithologist. Miss Schneider read a letter from Miss Margaret Knox, president of the Central Indiana Ornithological Society, concerning a projected joint field trip with the K. O. S. Mr. Leonard Brecher reported that the Winter Feeding Committee had stocked parks with grain and still had storage bins full for distribution during the coming winter. The suggestion from Miss Lucy Furman that the society assist in getting a law passed to prohibit the sale of B-B guns was referred to a committee, which was first to investigate what is being done in other states. A motion was carried to appoint the K. O. S. members who planned to attend the Kentucky Conservation Council at Mammoth Cave on October 21 and 22 as special representatives of our society.

The nominating committee's report was given by Miss Amy Deane. The secretary was instructed to cast one vote for the committee's selection of officers for 1941-'42: President, Dr. Harvey Lovell, University of Louisville; Vice-President, Miss Mabel Slack, Atherton High School; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. F. Everett Frei, Glasgow; Councillors, Virgil D. King, Georgetown, and Miss Thelma Gentry, Madisonville. Mr. Leonard Brecher, Louisville, was retained as councillor. A hearty cheer of approval for the work of Miss Evelyn Schneider, retiring president, for her work was given by the society; Dr. Lovell, the new president, was introduced. Dr. Wilson was authorized to write an article for *IN KENTUCKY*, requested by the editor of that magazine; pictures are to be furnished by various members of the society. The secretary-treasurer was instructed to renew the membership of the K. O. S. in the Kentucky Conservation Council.

Miss Gentry gave the following financial report:

RECEIPTS—

Balance on hand at close of 1940 report	\$ 55.99
39½ Memberships @ \$1.00	39.50
48 Memberships (from chapters) @ 75c	36.00
18 Student Memberships @ 25c	4.50
Interest on Endowment	10.50
Sale of back issues of the WARBLER	3.50

TOTAL.....\$149.99

DISBURSEMENTS—

For Printing, including covers, four issues of

WARBLER	\$ 80.00
Membership in Kentucky Conservation Council	2.00
Sacks for winter feeding project	4.48
K. E. A. Luncheon deficit60
Printing of stationery	7.40
Stamps	5.00
Mimeographing	1.40

TOTAL.....\$100.88

Balance on hand October 11, 1941\$49.11

Following the business session Mr. Leonard Brecher gave an illustrated lecture on "Makers of American Ornithology," a scholarly resume of the activities of many of the famous scholars who have contributed to ornithology as a science in America. Mr. Brecher has done much valuable research work in finding and photographing valuable old works on birds and has read enormously on the lives and achievements of scientists. His kodachrome studies of rare volumes were among the best contributions ever made to our society. Mrs. F. Everett Frei gave some intimate personal experiences that she and Mr. Frei have had with birds in a charming talk on "Birds in the Hand." Her account of Philip Charles, the wounded Cardinal that they kept for more than eight months until he could rejoin his mates in the woods, formed a scientific and emotional presentation of bird study that none of us is likely to forget.

At the round table on kodachrome activities brilliant scenes and intimate photo studies were given by Dr. Harvey Lovell, Dr. W. M. Clay, Mr. William M. Walker, and Mr. Floyd J. Carpenter. Miss Mabel Slack reported some interesting data on her bibliography of Kentucky ornithology, covering papers or references from very early times until within the last few years. Dr. Wilson gave an account of three Prothonotary Warbler nests in mailboxes in Fulton County and Warren County. Mr. Roger W. Barbour, of the Kentucky Fish and Game Commission, read a short paper on the birds observed or collected by him on the summit of Big Black Mountain in the summer of 1939.

Several of the members got up early and had a brief field trip before breakfast. Immediately after breakfast three parties again went forth, led by Dr. Wilson, Mr. Rogers, and Mr. Frei. A composite list of the species observed in the two days follows: Bluebird, Red-winged Blackbird, Indigo Bunting, Cardinal, Carolina Chickadee, Cowbird, Crow, Mourning Dove, Flicker, Goldfinch, Bronzed Grackle, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Sparrow Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Great Blue Heron, Blue Jay, Slate-colored Junco, Belted Kingfisher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Meadowlark, Mockingbird, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Screech Owl, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Robin, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Lincoln Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow,

White-Crowned Sparrow, White Throated Sparrow, English Sparrow, Summer Tanager, Tufted Titmouse, Hermit Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Red-eyed Towhee, White-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Western Palm Warbler, Yellow Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Starling. Total, 64 species.

The following people attended the meetings: Lexington—Misses Ethel Young, Mamie Love, Helen Harms, Helen Fry, and Ann Graham; Glasgow—Mr. and Mrs. Everett Frei, Mr. and Mrs. Cal Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Nuckols, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent R. Jones, Mrs. W. C. Moss, and Mitchell Rogers; Bowling Green—Judge and Mrs. John B. Rodes and Dr. Gordon Wilson; Knoxville, Tennessee—W. M. Walker, Jr.; Smiths Grove—Dr. Byron C. Gibson; Hopkinsville—Mrs. Ellen S. Lyon, Dr. Cynthia Counce; Sulphur Well—King C. Crenshaw; Grenada, Mississippi—E. W. Counce; Frankfort—Roger W. Barbour; Madisonville—Thelma Gentry; Paducah—Edith Pearson and Hazel Kinslow; Center—Mrs. Edna Wood Kinnaird and Hazel Swartz; Louisville—Evelyn J. Schneider, Helen Pell, Amy Deane, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brecher, Ruth Brecher, Lena Ruth Towles, Mrs. Baylor O. Hickman, Mabel Slack, Dorothy Sternberg, Beatrice Strenberg, Mary Seargent, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thacher, Betty Thacher, Florence Hagman, Dr. Harvey Lovell, Dr. W. M. Clay, Mrs. Mamie Boulware, Helen Browning, Esther E. Mason, Mrs. Boone Porter, Audrey A. Wright, Erma Fust, Lyda R. Boyd, Mrs. Alice Moore, Evelyn Moore, Martha Moore, Naomi McNulty, Mrs. Frank Carpenter, Floyd J. Carpenter, Arthur J. Unglaub, Mrs. A. J. Unglaub, Evelyn Dale, Henrietta Link, and Mrs. D. Wilkins.

—THELMA GENTRY, Secretary-Treasurer

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PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS NESTING IN MAILBOXES

In August, 1941, Mrs. Elvis Stahr, of Hickman, wrote me about a strange pair of "wild canaries" that were nesting in her mailbox. Her description was so accurate that I knew the bird could be only the Prothonotary Warbler, but I was afraid to trust my own impression. I sent the letter on to Mr. A. F. Ganier, who not only confirmed my identification but added that this species often nests in bait cups left accidentally by fishermen at Reelfoot Lake. I began to investigate in my own area and discovered that in 1940 a Prothonotary nested in the mailbox of Mr. and Mrs. Embry Smith, who live on a bluff near Barren River, just outside of Bowling Green, and that another one preempted a can on the porch of Mr. Charles F. Taylor, whose house is situated on another high bluff overlooking Barren River. Other items about the semi-domestication of the Prothonotary would be appreciated.

—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green

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ALBINO ROBIN AT MARION

While I was eating my lunch in early May, 1941, Harry McKinney called me by telephone to tell me that he had a strange bird in his yard. I drove at once and found a perfect albino immature Robin. It was out of the nest and able to fly a few feet. Its legs, bill, and eyes were pink; all its feathers were white. Its parents were normal birds and seemed much disturbed when we approached the little fellow too closely.

—T. ATCHISON FRAZER, Marion.

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS WILD LIFE REFUGE

A great area for bird students is the newly established Kentucky Woodlands National Wild Life Refuge, located in Trigg and Lyon Counties, "between the rivers." This heavily wooded area was formerly the property of the Hillman Land Company and numerous owners of small farms. For years it was jointly policed by the land company and the state but was taken over by the national government some two years ago. Originally kept as a "coaling," an area to grow wood for charcoal to refine iron ore, it has preserved since pioneer days a flock of Wild Turkeys and almost always has had a strain of Virginia Deer. The latter were killed out once and have been restocked in recent years. There are now said to be something like a thousand deer and approximately the same number of turkeys. A small force of rangers patrol the area, which also abounds in other forms of wild life. Three lakes have been built, one of them covering a hundred acres. Firetowers overlook the whole area.

Russell Starr and I spent August 30 and 31, 1941, in the area, camping at Hematite Lake, the largest one of the three. The naturalist, Mr. Eugene Cypert, showed us around and assured us of his great interest in ornithology. In his two years at Woodlands he has listed more than 150 species of birds. The construction of the lakes will doubtless bring in several other species. On Hematite Lake the Pied-billed Grebe has nested this year. We saw more than twenty of this species, including two very small immature ones. Unfortunately we saw no turkeys or deer but hope to find their haunts on our next trip.

The following birds were listed during our camp: Bluebird, Bobwhite, Red-winged Blackbird, Indigo Bunting, Cardinal, Carolina Chickadee, Crow, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Mourning Dove, Black Duck, Flicker, Acadian Flycatcher, Goldfinch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Pied-billed Grebe, Green Heron, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Blue Jay, Kingfisher, Nighthawk, White-breasted Nuthatch, Barred Owl, Wood Pewee, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Egret, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, English Sparrow, Summer Tanager, Tufted Titmouse, Towhee, Red-eyed Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Maryland Yellow-throat, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Turkey Vulture.

One of the most memorable things was the sight at early morning on Hematite Lake of 25 Egrets, 10 Little Blue Herons, and 6 Great Blue Herons, already a part of the landscape, taking possession, as was planned, of the artificial lake.

—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

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THIRD ANNUAL FIELD DAY AT OTTER CREEK

By ESTHER E. MASON

The Beckham Bird Club held its annual Spring Field Day at the Otter Creek Reservation, in Meade County, on Sunday, May 18, 1941. This was the third field day of this sort, the first having been held in 1939. It was impossible to obtain overnight accommodations in the cabins at Otter Creek, but 23 members and guests arrived early at the reservation and spent a long and busy day making a bird census. Those participating in this field day were: Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brecher, Mrs. Brecher, Sr., Ruth Brecher, Floyd Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Doelckner, Amy Deane, Vera Henderson, Helen Pell, Dorothy Pell, Harvey Lovell, Esther Mason, Emma O'Neil, Dorothy Sternberg, Beatrice Strenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Stamm, Audrey Wright, Mabel Slack, Evelyn Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon C.

Rossmann. Mr. and Mrs. Rossmann are from Waukesha, Wisconsin, and are active members of a bird club there. They seemed keenly interested in the Kentucky birds, many of which they were seeing for the first time. Many of us had a new thrill as we watched their interest and pleasure in the Cardinal, which we have, alas, come to accept as commonplace.

It should be said, perhaps, that Otter Creek was made a recreational area in 1934. Since that time farm buildings have been torn down, and the country has been allowed to grow up again. Much that was open country is becoming brushy or wooded, and we might expect the field birds to be less abundant than those of the woodland. This was actually found to be the case. There are still open areas within the reservation, however, and an effort was made, by splitting the party into several small groups, to cover as much of the reservation and as many kinds of country as possible. It may be due to this fact that we found 81 species this year, as against 75 in 1940. On the other hand, our good record may be due to the calm, sunny day this year.

One of the small groups had an opportunity to observe an albino Field Sparrow. The bird was almost entirely white, the feathers having a soft, almost downy appearance. The same or an exactly similar albino Field Sparrow was observed in almost the same place in October, 1940. Interested searchers should go beyond the Bird Ring and down all the steps to the bottom of the hill. There, in the brush or small cedars at the bottom of the hill, our albino was last seen.

Here is our list, made between 7:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M.: Turkey Vulture, 5; Black Vulture, 1; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 6; Mourning Dove, 7; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Whip-poor-will, 3; Chimney Swift, 12; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Kingbird, 2; Crested Flycatcher, 10; Phoebe, 1; Acadian Flycatcher, 4; Wood Pewee, 6; Olive-sided Flycatcher, 1; Rough-winged Swallow, 2; Purple Martin, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 8; Tufted Titmouse, 10; Blue Jay, 10; Crow, 10; House Wren, 1; Bewick's Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 2; Catbird, 3; Brown Thrasher, 2; Robin, 4; Wood Thrush, 4; Olive-backed Thrush, 6; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 2; Veery, 2; Bluebird, 12; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 6; Cedar Waxwing, 20; Starling, 2; White-eyed Vireo, 8; Yellow-throated Vireo, 4; Red-eyed Vireo, 10; Warbling Vireo, 1; Prothonotary Warbler, 1; Tennessee Warbler, 4; Yellow Warbler, 4; Black-throated Green Warbler, 1; Cerulean Warbler, 4; Blackburnian Warbler, 2; Sycamore Warbler, 4; Bay-breasted Warbler, 2; Blackpoll Warbler, 2; Prairie Warbler, 2; Oven-bird, 2; Louisiana Water-thrush, 2; Kentucky Warbler, 4; Maryland Yellow-throat, 4; Yellow-breasted Chat, 8; Wilson's Warbler, 1; American Redstart, 2; English Sparrow, 10; Meadowlark, 4; Red-winged Blackbird, 12; Orchard Oriole, 2; Baltimore Oriole, 2; Bronzed Grackle, 3; Cowbird, 6; Scarlet Tanager, 3; Summer Tanager, 6; Cardinal, 6; Indigo Bunting, 12; Goldfinch, 10; Red-eyed Towhee, 10; Chipping Sparrow, 8; Field Sparrow, 10; Song Sparrow, 1. Total 81 species, 364 individuals.

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NEW OFFICERS OF BECKHAM BIRD CLUB

Dr. W. M. Clay is the newly-elected president of the Beckham Bird Club for the coming year. Mrs. F. W. Stamm is the vice-president, and Miss Esther E. Mason is the secretary. The first fall meeting was held on September 16, 1941, with the program consisting of illustrated talks on the summer's experiences with birds. Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Lovell discussed their summer adventures in Maine,

and Miss Evelyn Schneider gave impressions of a short vacation in Florida.

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SOME UNRECORDED WHITE-FEATHERED BIRDS

By JOHN B. LOEFER, Berea College

Nature sometimes exposes certain animals of various species by depriving them of their normal quota of pigment. They are known as albinos and are often seen among wild as well as among domesticated animals and human beings. The familiar pink-eyed white mice, white rats, white guinea pigs, and white rabbits developed by selective breeding are examples of complete or total albinism. Partial albinos lack the pink eyes and usually possess some pigment.

Among birds all degrees of albinism have been reported. Even the crow, that proverbial brave bird, sometimes shows a white feather. In many cases it may be difficult to identify a totally white bird with certainty, since normal distinguishing colors are absent. If the bird happens to be of a gregarious species, it may be possible to identify it on the basis of "birds of a feather" flocking together. White-feathered birds are very conspicuous, and even a single one is easily distinguished in a very large flock of normally-pigmented birds. For this reason observers generally make reports of white Blackbirds and Blue Jays, such bits of information being considered unusually newsworthy.

So frequently were albinos reported that some years ago the editor of a well-known ornithological journal requested that no more contributions about albinos be sent in unless they were accompanied by "observations of significance." He added, "We might further suggest that such albinos as are met with had much better be left alive than collected. The intrinsic value of an albino Blackbird, for instance, is much greater for potential information alive than when turned into a study skin. Normally colored birds make far more instructive specimens from nearly every point of view." (Grinnell, 1923).

The frequency of such reports belies the abundance of albinos. Actually they are rare. Frazer (1926) suggested that "there is perhaps one white Crow to ten million black ones." Davis (personal communication) found only one off-color individual, although he banded several thousand Chimney Swifts. Stevens (1930) had trapped some seven hundred Juncos before he found a partial albino. Some bird students said that they had never noticed any albinos, although they had been making field observations for a long time.

Although the phenomenon is relatively rare, nevertheless, it has been observed quite consistently by many observers over a period of years. One ornithologist with whom I corresponded stated that over a period of many years he had seen more than a hundred individuals representing about thirty-five species. It seems to occur most often among gregarious birds, for there are more reports in the literature of albino English Sparrows, Starlings, Robins, Crows and Quail than for any other species. In one case (Edson, 1928) 40% of a large flock of Brewer's Blackbirds were reported to be albinistic.

Observations made in this vicinity over a period of a half dozen years have revealed a fair number of albinos. A list of the albinos seen about the Berea campus was submitted at the spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. Considerable interest was evidenced in the subject by attending ornithologists, and many told of having seen albinos on several occasions. Correspondence with others revealed a rather long list of unrecorded albinos. With the consent of these observers, for which permission I am very grateful, their reports have been combined with our local records to form the list given below. It represents a total of fifty-four reports for

twenty-seven species. No reports of albinism for seven of these species, viz., the Northern Red-shouldered Hawk, the Southern Flicker, the Blackcapped Chickadee, the Brown Thrasher, the Eastern Field Sparrow, the Eastern Song Sparrow, and the Mississippi Song Sparrow, were found in the literature.

LIST OF UNRECORDED ALBINOS

(The observer's name and the number of birds seen are indicated after the name of the avian species. Descriptive remarks follow. Except when otherwise noted, reports are from Kentucky. Albinos have not previously been reported for the species designated with an asterisk.)

TURKEY VULTURE. *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*. Wied. J. A. Patten, 1 partial albino.

EASTERN RED-TAILED HAWK. *Buteo borealis borealis*. (Gmelin). A. F. Ganier (Tenn.), 1 partial albino?; B. L. Monroe, 1 partial albino immature bird; A. G. Wright, 1 partial albino.

†**NORTHERN RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.** *Buteo lineatus lineatus* (Gmelin). J. A. Patten, 1 partial albino.

EASTERN BOB-WHITE. *Colinus virginianus virginianus* (Linnaeus). D. O. Hicks, 1 partial albino, with about six brown feathers on its back; B. L. Monroe, 1 pure white.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT. *Phasianus colchicus torquatus* Gmelin. H. Wilson (Wis.), 4 seen, 3 of them appeared white all over, one with darker spots on each side of the head.

CHIMNEY SWIFT. *Chaetura pelagica* (Linnaeus). R. Davis (Ill.), 1 partial albino, with top of head and neck white; A. F. Ganier (Tenn.), 1 seen in flight in a flock.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (Linnaeus). E. Wright (Ill.), 1 all white except for pinkish head.

†**SOUTHERN FLICKER.** *Colaptes auratus auratus* (Linnaeus). J. B. Loefer, 1 partial albino, about a dozen white feathers visible on its back, seen in 1941.

EASTERN KINGBIRD. *Tyrannus tyrannus* (Linnaeus). O. M. Bryens (Mich.), 1 partial albino, seen in 1941.

NORTHERN BLUE JAY. *Cyanocitta cristata cristata* (Linnaeus). A. F. Ganier (Tenn.), 1, a captive bird, was pure white at first but began to show a bluish tint at eight months.

EASTERN CROW. *Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos* Brehm. A. F. Ganier (Tenn.), 2, 1 creamy buff, another white with a few small black feathers on head; V. King, 1 white, seen repeatedly in a flock one season; H. Wilson (Wis.), 1 almost totally white seen often in 1934 and 1935 and apparently the same one again in 1940.

†**BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE.** *Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus* (Linnaeus). O. M. Bryens (Mich.), 2 partial albinos banded in 1934 and 1935.

EASTERN MOCKINGBIRD. *Mimus polyglottos polyglottos* (Linnaeus). G. Wilson, 1 partial albino, with extra white in tail and wings.

CATBIRD. *Dumetella carolinensis* (Linnaeus). L. Brecher, 1 partial albino with white wings, nested in 1932, young were all normal.

†**BROWN THRASHER.** *Toxostoma rufum* (Linnaeus). E. Schneider, 1 partial albino? seen in 1939 and 1940; B. L. Monroe, 1 "pure albino," with "pink eyes," thought to have been nesting in the neighborhood.

EASTERN ROBIN. *Turdus migratorius migratorius* (Linnaeus). W. R. Allen, 1 partial albino male recorded for three years on premises where its mate nested, also recorded odd-colored young believed to be its offspring; R. Davis (Ill.), 1 partial albino, all white with dark wings, nested one season; T. A. Frazer, 1 immature, pure white with pink bill, legs, and feet; J. B. Loefer, 1 partial albino, with

numerous white feathers, seen in 1938, 1939, and 1941; E. Schneider, 1 appeared entirely white, found nesting in 1937; H. Wilson (Wis.), 2 partial albinos, one in 1932 and one in 1936.

STARLING. *Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris* (Linnaeus). O. M. Bryens (Mich.), 1 partial albino banded in 1936; E. G. Wright (Ill.), 1 all white.

ENGLISH SPARROW. *Passer domesticus domesticus* (Linnaeus). O. M. Bryens (Mich.), 19 partial albinos, most of them banded in 1940 and 1941, previous to 1940 many with white feathers were killed; R. Davis (Ill.), several partial albinos; A. F. Ganier (Tenn.), several partial albinos?; J. B. Loefer, 1 that appeared all white seen frequently during the winter of 1939; E. Mason, 2 partial albinos, especially white in wings; J. A. Patten, 2 that appeared all white, one in 1932, one in 1933; G. Wilson, 2 partial albinos, one with one white feather, another almost half white; H. Wilson (Wis.), 2 partial albinos were trapped.

EASTERN RED-WING. *Agelatus phoeniceus phoeniceus* (Linnaeus). J. A. Patten, 1 which appeared all white from a distance; E. G. Wright (Ill.), 1 all white except for pink wings.

BRONZED GRACKLE. *Quiscalus quiscula aeneus* (Ridgway). O. M. Bryens (Mich.), 2 partial albinos, 1 male, 1 female, seen in 1930 and 1938; R. Davis (Ill.), 1 completely white in a migrating flock in 1940; A. F. Ganier (Tenn.), 1 partial albino, creamy buff; J. B. Loefer, 1 partial albino, with left and right tail feathers with broad white bands; D. Spillman, 1 partial albino, with half of tail feathers white.

EASTERN COWBIRD. *Molothrus ater ater* (Broddeart). O. M. Bryens (Mich.), 12 partial albino adult males, one retaken in a trap.

EASTERN CARDINAL. *Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis* (Linnaeus). R. B. McGhee (Tenn.), 3 (1 female and 2 young) completely white, except for a coral tinge to the wings and with pink eyes, normal in size but weak in flight; J. A. Patten, 1 all white.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO. *Junco hyemalis hyemalis* (Linnaeus). G. Wilson, 1 partial albino with solid white tail seen in 1936.

†**EASTERN FIELD SPARROW.** *Spizella pusilla pusilla* (Wilson). A. F. Ganier (Tenn.), 2 partial albinos with white in tails; J. A. Patten, 1 partial albino with white feathers in the upper part of each wing.

EASTERN FOX SPARROW. *Passerella iliaca iliaca* (Merrem). G. Wilson, 1 partial albino with white spots scattered all over the body.

†**EASTERN SONG SPARROW.** *Melospiza melodia melodia* (Wilson). O. M. Bryens (Mich.), 2 partial albinos, one seen in 1925, the other banded in 1934.

†**MISSISSIPPI SONG SPARROW.** *Melospiza melodia beata* (Bangs). A. F. Ganier (Tenn.) 1 partial albino, about one-half white and one-half normal.

The majority of these reports refer to birds which are not entirely devoid of pigment and hence are designated as partial albinos. As is true for most records of white-feathered birds, very few represent cases of total albinism. Pink eyes, along with flesh-colored feet and white feathers, designate total absence of pigmentation. In the above list we can readily pick out the reports which refer to total albinism. Monroe reported a pure white Quail, and in reference to a Brown Thrasher he says, "This bird was a pure albino and, as far as I could ascertain, certainly had pink eyes." Frazer's immature Robin was pure white with a pink bill, pink legs, and pink feet. Although he did not mention eye color, this bird may have been totally albinistic. Immature totally white birds, however, may later develop pigment, as Ganier found for a young Blue Jay. It was all

white when first captured but after eight months developed a bluish tint. Most of the other reports of all-white birds fail to mention eye color, and hence one cannot say whether or not they were total albinos. In some cases traces of the dominant color persist, e. g., McGhee mentions a coral tinge to the wings of the Cardinal he saw. Wright also observed the pinkish head of a Red-headed Woodpecker that was otherwise quite white.

It is worth noting that many of these reports mention birds seen in the same locality from year to year. The female Cardinal reported by McGhee had nested in the same locality for several years. Mr. H. Wilson believed he saw the same white-feathered Crow in a flock during the summer of 1934, 1935, and 1940. Miss Evelyn Schneider thought she saw the same partially albino Brown Thrasher in two successive years. Here on our campus for three of the last four years a partial albino Robin which has quite a few white feathers, except on its head, has been repeatedly seen, although its nest has never been located. Such records indicate that many albinos are not overcome in the struggle for existence and, in spite of being exposed by their conspicuous white feathers, manage to hold their own.

There is considerable evidence to indicate that in most animals albinism is inherited as a recessive factor. This would explain the interesting findings of McIlhenny (1940) on Mockingbirds, and it may also account for the reports describing large numbers of white-feathered birds in a given flock, e. g., Edson's (1928) report that 40% of a large flock of Brewer's Blackbirds were albinistic. Also it explains why Wayne (1922) found an uninterrupted strain of albinism for twenty-two years in Sharp-tailed Sparrows in a certain vicinity.

On the other hand there are some reports indicating that certain environmental factors may be a cause of importance. The unusual experience of Hegeman (1931) is interesting. Several normally feathered Robins were trapped and banded. One, recaptured two years later, was pure white and had also acquired a white mate. The other, also retaken after two years, had many white feathers. Bryens recaptured a Sparrow a year after banding it and found it had two more white feathers than when banded. This is difficult to explain on a purely genetic basis.

It is fortunate that ornithologists generally are collecting fewer of the albinos they see and are resorting to other methods of study, particularly banding. Such studies should point the way toward a more direct application of experimental methods in the study of albinism.

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A PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE SUMMER BIRDS OF THE SUMMIT OF BIG BLACK MOUNTAIN

By ROGER W. BARBOUR, Frankfort

During the summer of 1939 I spent approximately a month in Harlan County, Kentucky, making a study of the vertebrate animals of that region. We established a base camp on the Poor Fork of the Cumberland River at Ross Point, four miles from the town of Harlan, and a secondary camp on the top of Big Black Mountain, elevation 4100 feet, the highest point in Kentucky, thirty miles away. Two periods, July 19-22 and August 3-12, were spent on the mountain. Though I did not set out to determine the breeding birds of the mountain, I collected many species there and kept a fairly accurate daily bird list. I knew that Dr. Alexander Wetmore had a considerable amount of data on the birds of the mountains and intended publishing it shortly and that the late Dr. Arthur H. Howell had published a study of the birds there in 1910.

Here is the list of the birds that I observed plus the ones which have been recorded in publications:

1. Sharp-Shinned Hawk—One was observed high over the mountain on August 11.
2. Eastern Red-Tailed Hawk—One seen flying across a logging road on August 9.
3. Canada Ruffed Grouse—None seen but the species reported as fairly common by residents on the mountain. It is assumed that the northern sub-species is the common form.
4. Eastern Bob-White—One specimen collected at the summit of the mountain and a covey of half-grown young seen.
5. American Woodcock—One specimen collected; common in the cool, damp coves about the summit; evidently breeds.
6. Ruby-Throated Hummingbird—Fairly common.
7. Northern Flicker—None collected and few seen.
8. Eastern Hairy Woodpecker—None seen by me but recorded by Wetmore.
9. Northern Downy Woodpecker—Common.
10. Northern Crested Flycatcher—Rare; only one sight and voice record.
11. Eastern Phoebe—Not common; three nests were located at about 3800 feet.
12. Eastern Wood Pewee—Fairly common.
13. Northern Blue Jay—Not seen by the writer but recorded by Wetmore.
14. Carolina Chickadee—Very common. According to Wetmore this is the northernmost point where the Carolina Chickadee is known to breed. His specimens show a slight tendency toward the Northern Carolina Chickadee, the common Kentucky form.
15. White-Breasted Nuthatch—Fairly common.
16. Eastern Winter Wren—Rare. A juvenile male was collected on August 6.
17. Carolina Wren. Not recorded by me but listed by Wetmore.
18. Catbird—Common.
19. Eastern Brown Thrasher—Not uncommon. Five were seen in a laurel thicket on two occasions at about 3800 feet. Another was seen at about 4000 feet.
20. Southern Robin—Relatively uncommon; only three were recorded.
21. Wood Thrush—Common in suitable areas.
22. Veery—Abundant; theirs is one of the commonest bird songs.
23. Eastern Bluebird—Not seen by me but recorded by Wetmore.

24. Cedar Waxwing—Recorded by Wetmore on June 25; I found it abundant after August 5.
25. Mountain Solitary Vireo—Relatively abundant.
26. Red-Eyed Vireo—Common.
27. Black and White Warbler—Observed on numerous occasions.
28. Worm-Eating Warbler—Observed but a few times.
29. Cairns's Warbler—Common. Often we saw ten or fifteen in one hour.
30. Black-Throated Green Warbler—I saw only one warbler that seemed to be of this species, but Howell recorded it from the mountain.
31. Cerulean Warbler—Recorded only by Howell.
32. Blackburnian Warbler—Only one recorded.
33. Chestnut-Sided Warbler—One of the commonest of the warblers.
34. Northern Pine Warbler—Not common.
35. Oven-Bird—Relatively uncommon.
36. Northern Yellow-Throat—Very common.
37. Yellow-Breasted Chat—Relatively uncommon.
38. Hooded Warbler—Rather common in suitable areas.
39. Canada Junco—Not seen by me but recorded by both Wetmore and Howell.
40. Redstart—Common.
41. Eastern Meadowlark—Not at all common. I believe that only two pairs nested on the summit of the mountain in 1939.
42. Scarlet Tanager—Not common.
43. Rose-Breasted Grosbeak—Relatively common.
44. Indigo Bunting—Uncommon. I saw only one bird.
45. Eastern Goldfinch—Relatively common.
46. Red-Eyed Towhee—Common in suitable areas.
47. Carolina Junco—Probably the commonest bird on the mountain. Along the road one can scarcely get out of sight of these interesting little birds.
48. Eastern Chipping Sparrow—Recorded only by Howell.
49. Eastern Field Sparrow—Abundant in suitable areas.
50. Mississippi Song Sparrow—Not common. Only two were observed by me.

By way of contrast I should like to give a list of birds that are to be seen at the base of the mountain but have not yet been recorded from the summit: Eastern Green Heron, Eastern Sparrow Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Southern Screech Owl, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Eastern Belted Kingfisher, Acadian Flycatcher, Rough-winged Swallow, Purple Martin, Eastern Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Parula Warbler, Eastern Yellow Warbler, Northern Prairie Warbler, Louisiana Water Thrush, Kentucky Warbler, House Sparrow, and Eastern Cardinal.

Certainly this list from the summit is far from complete. Undoubtedly there are more than fifty species there in the summer. If I ever get back to Big Black Mountain, I suspect that my list of birds will again be incidental, but I do expect to increase my list.

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SECOND KENTUCKY WILDLIFE AND NATURAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

By HARVEY LOVELL, University of Louisville

The Second Kentucky Wildlife and Natural History Conference was held at the Otter Creek Recreational Demonstration Area on September 26, 27 and 28, 1941. About two hundred different people attended all or part of the activities, including about thirty members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. Cooperating organiza-

tions included the National Park Service, the W. P. A. Recreation Project, the Natural History Club of Louisville, the Kentucky Ornithological Society, the Beckham Bird Club, the Louisville Astronomical Association, and the Municipal Hiking Club of Louisville.

There were two papers devoted to ornithology: one, by Harvey B. Lovell, entitled "The Nesting Birds of Otter Creek Area in Relation to Habitats" and the other by Gordon Wilson on "The Nesting Birds of Southern Kentucky." Dr. Wilson presided at the general meeting on Saturday afternoon, which included such well-known speakers as Dr. W. R. Allen, University of Kentucky; Dr. Paul Kolachov, of Seagram's Distillery; Tom Wallace, editor of THE LOUISVILLE TIMES; Kenneth Taylor, of the Sports Department of THE COURIER-JOURNAL; and Jack Raymon, herpetologist of Park City. The feature speaker of the conference was Julius Johnson, whose talk, "From Ozone to Silt," was illustrated by magnificent slides of the Rocky Mountains, the Grand Canyon, and other Western wonders. Kenneth Taylor also devoted his Saturday-noon Wild Life Program over WHAS to the conference, in which he interviewed Dr. W. M. Clay, Mrs. Alice Moore, and Mr. F. H. Bunce.

An informal meeting of the K. O. S. was held on the grass Saturday at noon at a call from President Evelyn J. Schneider, to discuss the fall meeting at Sulphur Well on October 11 and 12. Equally informal was the folk dancing Saturday evening to the accompaniment of rural orchestra.

Leonard Brecher led a short field trip from six to eight Saturday morning, but few birds were seen because of a dense fog. Miss Evelyn Schneider led another trip on Sunday from nine to one, during which time the weather was warm and sunny. A strong breeze, together with the dense foliage, already showing the beginning of autumn colors, again made bird finding anything but easy. This trip went over the cliffs at Lover's Leap with the aid of the pipeline, along the railroad track to Rockhaven, and then along the clear stream to Morgan's Cave. We then detoured to the store, ostensibly to look for orioles and wrens, but we managed to find time to stop for cold drinks; then back across the fields to Flomingo. The warblers in fall plumage were as much alike as two peas, but Floyd Carpenter was able to identify many of them with the aid of his key to the warblers in fall plumage (THE KENTUCKY WARBLER, Vol. XI, No. 4, 1935). On a patch of touch-me-not we saw hovering an animal which we nearly took to be a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, but closer inspection showed it to be a Sphinx moth.

K. O. S. members and friends participating in the bird census included Leonard Brecher, Jeff Buchanan, Floyd Carpenter, William Clay, Amy Deane, Jack Goodykuntz, Vera Henderson, H. B. Lovell, Ruth Marcum, Miss McRae, John Moore, Helen Peil, Dorothy Peil, Kent Previette, Hollis Rogers, Evelyn Schneider, Mabel Slack, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Dorothy Sternberg, Beatrice Sternberg, and Audrey Wright.

Here was our species list: Turkey Vulture, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Sparrow Hawk, Bob-white, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe, some unidentified flycatcher, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Wood Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Water-Thrush, English Sparrow, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Goldfinch, Red-eyed Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow.