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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."*

Vol. XVIII

AUTUMN, 1942

No. 4

OUR ANNUAL FALL MEETING

By MARY LOU FRET

Beautiful Berea, nestled in the mountains of eastern Kentucky, was the location of the eighteenth fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society on October 9, 10, and 11, with Boone Tavern as headquarters. The glorious weather, the gorgeous autumnal coloration of the landscape, and the genial college atmosphere made this meeting a memorable occasion.

The opening session was held in the Biology Building on Friday evening, October 9, at 8:00 o'clock. E. M. Hoffman, of the Foundation School, was introduced to the audience of members and students by our president, Dr. Harvey Lovell. Mr. Hoffman enthusiastically presented his talk on "Birds of Manchuria," illustrating his lecture with pen drawings he had made during his years of Asiatic residence and first-hand acquaintance with these birds. "The Life of the Killdeer" was graphically portrayed by Miss Frances Winstanley, of New Albany, Indiana, with her colored moving pictures of that title. The characteristic poses of the parent birds in feigning wing injuries, making belligerent rushes toward the camera, and spreading and fanning their tails made a remarkable picture. Miss Mabel Slack, our vice-president, presided over the showing of Kodachrome Shorts that followed. Floyd Carpenter, Evelyn Schneider, and Dr. Harvey Lovell showed slides of Natural Bridge, Cumberland Falls, Sulphur Well, Lancaster Cabin, and other points of interest in Kentucky, while Kent Previette entertained us with a moving account of "How Not to Take Pictures."

Saturday, October 10, presented a full schedule, from the time of the early morning chimes to late that night. After a leisurely breakfast at Boone Tavern, our members divided into two groups, one to leave at 9:00 o'clock for a bird walk to Twin Mountains, the other to begin at 9:25 a tour of Berea College industries, dairy, hatchery, and farms, with guides furnished by the college. Most of the birds listed on the morning hike, led by Dr. Loefer, of Berea College, were observed in large trees bordering a small stream. Laurel, oaks, and wild cherry trees were filled with flitting warblers and phlegmatic young Cedar Waxwings, eating the wild fruit. When birds proved to be elusive, cameras were put into action. With the



The Kentucky Ornithological Society In Front Of Boone Tavern, Berea, October 11, 1942

First Row—Sitting, left to right: Mrs. F. Everett Frei, Mrs. Mame Boulware, Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, Thelma Gentry, Mrs. W. R. Allen, Dr. Cynthia C. Counce, Helen Peil, Amy Deane.

Second Row—Sitting, left to right: A. F. Ganier, Esther Mason, Helen Browning, Alice Horneman, Virginia Winstanley, Mabel Slack, Louise Isfort, Mrs. Leo Walkaw, Mrs. Charles Strull.

Standing—Left to right: Dr. Harvey Lovell, Dr. W. R. Allen, Dr. John S. Bangson, Audrey Wright, S. Charles Thacher, Leonard C. Brecher, H. Cal Rogers, Dr. John B. Loefer, Fred Stamm, Ann Stamm, Harold Strull, Evelyn J. Schneider, Floyd S. Carpenter, Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Clayton Gooden, Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Mrs. Eugene Doelckner, Mrs. Harvey B. Lovell, Dorothy Peil, Mrs. Nelson Nuckols.

assistance of a placid four-footed model, Kent Previette, expert, gave lessons on "How to Charm a Cow."

The afternoon session began at 1:00 o'clock in Room 208 of the Draper Building. Dr. John Loefer showed "Birds of the Pacific Coast," moving pictures in color taken by Miss Nellie Crabb, college librarian. The pictures of the Western water birds were good, and we were captivated by the excellent shots of Anna's Hummingbird that climaxed the reel. James J. Gilpin, Educational Director of the Division of Fish and Game, Frankfort, presented moving pictures in natural color of the work of the department in supplying quail, from the hatching of the eggs to the delivery of the birds to the farmer. He also showed pictures of birds and animals native to this state, the most appealing being the chipmunk and the red fox. "Identification of Birds," by A. F. Ganier, Nashville, Tennessee, concluded the afternoon session. Mr. Ganier, in an excellent discourse, gave many valuable hints on identifying birds in the field, equally useful for novices and advanced ornithologists. He illustrated his talk with bird skins.

At 3:30 the members of the Berea College Ornithological Club, Estil Dietz, president, led a short bird walk in the vicinity of the campus and along the railroad tracks. The find of this trip was a Long-billed Marsh Wren.

At 6:15 we gathered around the beautifully decorated banquet table prepared for us in the private dining room at Boone Tavern. We were fortunate to have Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland Grant with us. The business meeting scheduled was omitted so that we might be ready to attend the most important event of the whole meeting, the lecture by Mr. Grant, a feature presentation of Berea College. Promptly at 7:30 a large audience of townspeople, college students, and K. O. S. members assembled in the main chapel to be enthralled with the magnificent color movies taken by America's foremost wildlife photographer, Cleveland P. Grant, of the Baker-Hunt Foundation. The home life of the Bluebird and Scarlet Tanager, the parental excellence of the Blue Jay, the pompous strutting of the Prairie Chicken, the breath-taking courtship performance of the Ruffed Grouse, the exquisite flight of the Gannet, the grace of the deer, and agility of mountain sheep were all perfectly portrayed by Mr. Grant in "Adventures with American Birds and Big Game." Following the lecture the executive board held a meeting at Boone

Tavern. When this was concluded, the "night owls" held a late session around the skittle board in the lobby.

Although an "informal bird walk for the ambitious" was scheduled for 6:00 A. M. Sunday morning, there were few, if any, that ambitious. After breakfast the members gathered on the front steps of Boone Tavern for a group picture, reproduced here. A large number of bird students then left by car for Big Hill, a mountain several miles distant. Parking the cars by the side of the road, the crowd divided into several groups and, led by Drs. Bangson and Loefer, explored the surrounding woods, hills, and fields. Sparrows and warblers were plentiful. The Pine Warbler charmed many with its trill.

Following the final meal at Boone Tavern at 1:00 P. M. was the annual business meeting, with Dr. Lovell presiding. The report of the secretary-treasurer, audited and approved by Leonard C. Brecher, was read by Mrs. Frei. The report of the nominating committee was given by Miss Thelma Gentry, chairman. There being no nominations from the floor, the secretary was instructed to cast one vote for the following officers recommended by the committee for the year 1942-43:

President—Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, University of Louisville

Vice-President—Miss Mabel Slack, Atherton High School, Louisville

Secretary-Treasurer—Mrs. F. Everett Frei, Glasgow

Councillors—Dr. Cynthia C. Counce, Hopkinsville; Dr. John Loefer, Berea College; H. Cal Rogers, Glasgow.

Dr. Lovell was congratulated on his splendid work as president and for his untiring efforts to increase our membership. Leonard Brecher, chairman of the legislative committee, reported "all quiet" on this front. Dr. Lovell reported briefly on the conversation that the executive board had with Dr. Anna Schnieb regarding the affiliation of the Junior Academy of Science with our organization. After a short discussion Mr. Brecher moved that the K. O. S. invite the Junior Academies to affiliate with us, and that in addition to the two prizes we now offer for the best essay on birds, showing original observations, we give them \$10.00 this year to assist in the publication of their periodical. This was unanimously agreed. Dr. Lovell called attention to the fact that with our fast-growing membership more copies of the WARBLER must be printed, and asked that all back numbers not being saved be turned over to Miss Schneider. In the absence of Miss Audrey Wright, Miss Schneider read the report of the resolutions committee, thanking Berea College and all those who helped to make our stay in Berea so pleasant. Our only regret was that Dr. T. Atchison Frazer and Dr. Gordon Wilson, two of our oldest members in point of service, could not be present.

Birds seen on our hikes were the following: Turkey Vulture, 5; Black Vulture, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 1; Killdeer, 6; Mourning Dove, 5; Chimney Swift, 2,000 (up to several days before the meeting several thousand Chimney Swifts regularly went into one of the tall power plant chimneys that is not now in use. Mr. Floyd S. Carpenter and I waited on

Sunday afternoon, after the other members had left, to see whether these numbers again appeared, but none came.—John Loefer); Flicker, 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Wood Pewee, 3; Blue Jay, 12; Crow, 6; Carolina Chickadee, 20; Tufted Titmouse, 8; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 2; Bewick's Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 4; Mockingbird, 5; Catbird, 1; Robin, 4; Bluebird, 20; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 6; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 4; Cedar Waxwing, 60; Starling, 90; White-eyed Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 2; Black and White Warbler, 1; Tennessee Warbler, 1; Magnolia Warbler, 3; Myrtle Warbler, 9; Black-throated Green Warbler, 6; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 2; Pine Warbler, 3; Wilson's Warbler, 1; English Sparrow, 25; Meadowlark, 12; Red-winged Blackbird, 5; Bronzed Grackle, 200; Scarlet Tanager, 1; Summer Tanager, 1; Cardinal, 3; Indigo Bunting, 1; Goldfinch, 45; Red-eyed Towhee, 5; Savannah Sparrow, 12; Vesper Sparrow, 2; Lark Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 8; Chipping Sparrow, 5; Field Sparrow, 25; White-crowned Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 14; Swamp Sparrow, 6; Song Sparrow, 6. Total; 62 species, about 2,686 individuals.

The following people were present at all or part of the meetings: Louisville—Misses Alice Horneman, Mabel Slack, Thelma Gentry, Helen Browning, Evelyn Schneider, Sarah Virginia Rose, Audrey Wright, Helen Peil, Dorothy Peil, Amy Deane, Esther Mason, Louise Isfort, Leonora Johnston; Mrs. Mame Boulware, Mrs. Eugene Doelckner, Mrs. Thomas Johnston; Messrs. Floyd S. Carpenter, Kent Previette, Harold P. Strull; Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brecher, Mr. and Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Lovell, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Strull, Mr. and Mrs. I. Leo Walkaw; New Albany, Indiana—Frances Winstanley and sister; Lexington—Misses Amanda Harms, Vivian Starns, Gladys Smithwick; Mr. and Mrs. G. Norton Sharpe, Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Allen; Frankfort—James J. Gilpin; Berea—Ellen M. Frederickson, Nellie I. Crabb, Nellie I. Floyd, Ruth Faust, Mrs. Lois Haun, Messrs. John S. Bangson, John Loefer, Estil Dietz, Hobert Woodrum, Algie Hicks, E. Michael Hoffman; Richmond—Mrs. Mary E. Barnhill, Dr. Anna A. Schnieb, T. Harold Glover; Glasgow—Mr. and Mrs. H. Cal Rogers, Mrs. Nelson Nuckols, Mrs. Everett Frei, Clayton Gooden; Maysville—Mrs. Z. C. Layson; Hopkinsville—Dr. Cynthia C. Counce; Covington—Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland Grant; Nashville, Tenn.—A. F. Ganier.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

RECEIPTS—

Balance on hand at the close of 1941 report	\$ 49.11
70 Memberships @ \$1.00	70.00
85 Memberships @ 75c (from chapters)	63.75
12 Student Memberships @ 25c	3.00
Interest on endowment	10.50
Sale of back issues of WARBLER	20.35
Contributions for WARBLER cuts	9.84
Contributions for prizes	5.00
Profit on luncheon at spring meeting	2.00
TOTAL.....	\$233.55

DISBURSEMENTS—

For printing four issues of WARBLER (including covers)	\$108.32
Envelopes for mailing WARBLER (1000)	4.25
Stamps	12.00
Cuts for WARBLER	9.84
K. E. A. film rental	1.50
Photographic copies of WARBLER	1.60
Membership in Kentucky Conservation Council	2.00
Prizes for Junior Academy of Science essays	5.00
Expenses for membership drive	3.00
Card file	.25
TOTAL	\$147.76
Balance on hand, October 11, 1942	\$ 85.79

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THE WINTER RANGE OF BEWICK'S WREN IN KENTUCKY

By HARVEY B. LOVELL and WILLIAM M. CLAY

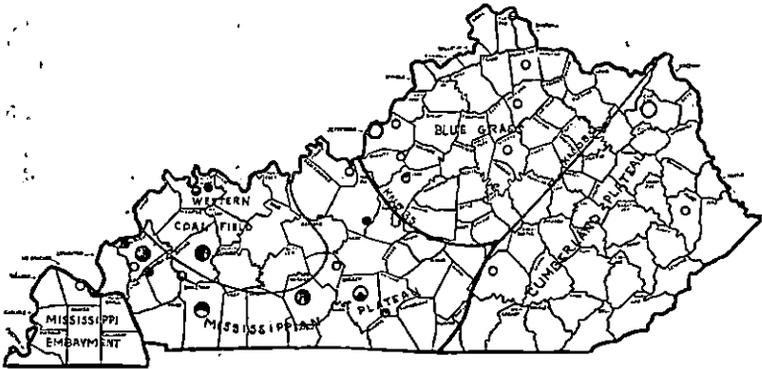
University of Louisville

The interesting winter range of Bewick's Wren in Kentucky was brought to our attention by the appearance of this species on January 28, 1940, at our feeding station in Jefferson County, just outside the city limits of Louisville. The bird was positively identified on February 4, at which time the junior author took colored moving pictures from a blind as the bird was feeding on a swinging tray. This wren was seen frequently throughout the month of February.

Although the Carolina Wren is very common and the Winter Wren moderately common during the winter in Jefferson County, we do not consider the Bewick's Wren a winter resident. It is not listed in any of the numerous Christmas censuses from Louisville, Anchorage, or Shepherdsville during the last fourteen years. (See table.) Burt Monroe, who has kept accurate migration dates for many years, informs us in a personal communication that his latest record for the Bewick's Wren is November 21, 1936, and the earliest date is March 8, 1934, the average date of arrival being March 14.

On the other hand the Bewick's Wren appears to be relatively regular as a winter resident at Bowling Green, in the southern part of the state. Forty-four individuals have been reported during the last fourteen years' censuses. Gordon Wilson writes us as follows: "Bewick's Wrens are rare but persistent in winter. I find that six is the highest number for any one day of which I have a record. The Carolina Wren is normally ten to twenty-five times as numerous."

We have assembled all the published Christmas census records of this wren in Kentucky for the last fourteen years and have tabulated the data in the table. There have been 97 censuses taken during this time, and the Bewick's Wren has been reported in 46 of them. These censuses have been taken in 27 localities, with the Bewick's Wren occurring in 14. The greatest number of these wrens to be reported in any one census was seven at Bowling Green by Gordon Wilson in 1932 and seven at Marion in 1928 by Dr. T. Atchison Frazer. Six have been reported in the following localities: at Bowling Green in 1931, at Marion in 1935, and at Tolu by Charles Jones in 1939.



THE WINTER RANGE OF BEWICK'S WREN

We have prepared a map of Kentucky (See cut) showing the localities of these censuses. Large circles have been used to indicate localities in which there have been five or more censuses and small circles for those places where fewer than five censuses have been taken. The amount of blackening of the circles indicates the percentage of times Bewick's Wrens have been reported from that locality. For example, at Glasgow, where this species has been reported in two out of six censuses, we have blackened one-third of the large circle, whereas at Louisville, where there are no Christmas records during the last fourteen years, we have left the center of the large circle white. At Cox's Creek, where Bewick's Wrens were observed once in four years, we have blackened one-fourth of a small circle, while at Lexington, where no wrens were reported in two censuses, we have placed a small unshaded circle.

An examination of the map and table indicates that the Bewick's Wren is relatively common during the winter in both the western and the south-central parts of Kentucky. In the western part, at Marion, 34 individuals have been seen, one or more in each of the 12 censuses. It has been reported in all seven censuses at Madisonville, 2 out of 5 at Hopkinsville, and one out of two at Henderson. There is also a record of the species from each of the following towns: Fredonia, Spottsville, Dawson Springs, and Tolu. None were seen at Paducah, however.

In the south-central part of the state we find the Bewick's Wren is also common in winter. At Bowling Green 44 individuals have been recorded, in 12 out of 14 censuses, the largest number for any part of the state. The bird has also been reported in two out of six censuses at Glasgow and once from Summer Shade, in Metcalfe County.

On the other hand, in the eastern and north-central parts of Kentucky there are no records from Louisville, Anchorage, Otter Creek, Shepherdsville, Lexington, Cynthiana, John's Run, or Huesville, where a total of 30 censuses have been taken. In Louisville, where the Bewick's Wren nests very commonly, and where there is a large amount of data available on the winter birds, there are no

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CHRISTMAS CENSUSES TAKEN IN
KENTUCKY, 1928-1941, AND THE NUMBER
OF BEWICK'S WRENS REPORTED**

County	Locality	Total Censuses	No. Not Reporting B. Wrens	Number Reporting B. Wrens	Total B. Wrens Reported
Barren—Glasgow	6	4	2	2
Bullitt—Shepherdsville	2	2	0	0
Caldwell—Fredonia	1	0	1	1
Campbell—Dayton	2	0	2	2
Carter—John's Run	5	5	0	0
Christian—Hopkinsville	5	3	2	2
Crittenden—Marion	12	0	12	12
Crittenden—Dycusburg	1	1	0	0
Crittenden—Tolu	1	0	1	1
Edmonson—Mammoth Cave	1	1	0	0
Fayette—Lexington	2	2	0	0
Floyd—Hueysville	2	2	0	0
Hardin—Sonora	2	0	2	2
Harrison—Cynthiana	2	2	0	0
Henderson—Henderson	2	1	1	1
Henderson—Spottsville	1	0	1	1
Hopkins—Madisonville	7	0	7	7
Hopkins—Dawson Springs	1	0	1	1
Jefferson—Anchorage	3	3	0	0
Jefferson—Louisville	14	14	0	0
McCracken—Paducah	3	3	0	0
Meade—Otter Creek	1	1	0	0
Metcalfe—Summer Shade	1	0	1	1
Nelson—Cox's Creek	4	3	1	1
Pendleton—Falmouth	1	1	0	0
Pulaski—Science Hill	1	1	0	0
Warren—Bowling Green	14	2	12	12
TOTALS		97	51	46	121

winter records during the last 14 years except for the records in January and February mentioned at the beginning of this paper.

It is not surprising that among the 97 censuses there are two records north of its normal winter range for the Bewick's Wren. Both of these are for Dayton, on the Ohio River, in the extreme northern part of Kentucky, opposite Cincinnati.

Why does Bewick's Wren winter in the southern and western parts of the state but not in the other portions? Are there any biotic, climatic, or physiographic reasons for the marked zoning shown on our map? We do not know enough about the winter food or other habits of this wren to draw any conclusions on a purely ecological basis. There is, however, an interesting concurrence between its range and certain geological regions. Geologists have divided the state into several rather well-defined areas based on the underlying rock strata, elevation, and other factors. We have superimposed these areas upon the map. Most of the southern and western parts of the state is included in an area called the Mississippian or Pennyroyal Plateau. On the north this area is bounded by

a prominent escarpment known as Muldraugh's Hill, where the partially eroded margin of the plateau produces a belt of Knobs. On the east it is bounded by the Cumberland Plateau or the Eastern Kentucky Mountains. It may be noted on the map that the northern and eastern boundary of the Mississippian Plateau corresponds almost exactly with the northern limits of the winter range of the Bewick's Wren.

There is a growing body of evidence that Muldraugh's Hill marks an important boundary between the north-central and the southern parts of Kentucky. The soils of the Bluegrass area north of the escarpment are rich in phosphorus, whereas those south of it are poorer in this important ingredient and are more acid. This difference is reflected in crop production and may partially explain differences in the native flora and fauna. A nesting bird which is common in the Mississippian Plateau area and rare north of it is the Chuck-will's-widow.

Between this plateau and the Cumberland Plateau the climate and vegetation are even more different. Here in the mountains are southern extensions of such northern plants as the wintergreen, trailing arbutus, upland huckleberry, Indian cucumber-root, hemlock, white pine; and here nest southern races of many northern birds, such as the Junco, the Winter Wren, and the Black-throated Green Warbler.

The Mississippi Embayment region contains a large number of southern plants and animals, including birds, which find their northern limits in or near this area. For example, a common tree is the Bald Cypress, and among the birds are the Egret, the Double-crested Cormorant, and the Water-Turkey. Here, too, is the northern limit of the range of the Cottonmouth Moccasin.

We hope that this paper will stimulate further observations upon the winter range and habits of the Bewick's Wren and that some ornithologist will discover the ecologic factors which control its distribution.

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SHORT NOTES

Albino Mockingbird—We had an Albino Mockingbird with us this season. It was a male, and his mate was the regular pattern for the modest female. The pair established their home in a grape arbor in the garden of J. R. Sorrls, one mile from town. When I studied him, the young had just left the nest. He was very busy protecting his young and seemed as proud of them as if they had been as white as he. He had snow-white plumage, with pink eyes, pink feet, pink bill.

—DR. T. ATCHISON FRAZER, Marion.

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Edward M. Ray, formerly our secretary-treasurer, is now a First Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps and is located at Santa Ana, California.

Otis Allen, formerly science teacher in Bowling Green High School, is now located at Greenwood, Mississippi.

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Dorothy Hobson was Park Naturalist for the summer at Clifty Falls State Park, Madison, Indiana. She conducted bird and other nature hikes and gave talks on the natural history of the park.

Dr. William M. Clay taught a class in Ornithology this summer at the University of Louisville. Two of his students, John Miller and Nancy Scott, have recently joined the K. O. S.

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The annual Cuckoo Party of the Beckham Bird Club was held Monday evening, June 1, in the lodge at Iroquois Park. All the assembled "birds" were given ration cards for worms, called before the selective service boards of Cuckoo County, and required to fill out a special questionnaire.

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JUNIOR ACADEMY WINNING ESSAYS

We are printing below the winning essays in our first year's contest open to members of the Kentucky Junior Academy of Science. Each of the winners was given \$2.50 and a year's membership in the Kentucky Ornithological Society.

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THE HOODED MERGANSER

By WARREN SIGHTS, Tilghman High School, Paducah

Hooded Mergansers are pretty little fish ducks that you see on wooded lakes and streams. The males have a high white crest edged with black. The breast has a double collar mark on it; the rest of the body is black and white. The female is a brownish sawbill with a clear white breast, not smudged as is the Red-breasted Merganser. These birds, like other mergansers, fly with the body parallel to the earth. There is no crest visible while the birds are in flight.

The nest is placed in a hollow tree or an old deserted woodpecker nest. I found a nest on May 18, 1941, about five hundred yards below "Red" Boyette's landing at Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee. It was about ten feet above the surface of the water and was in a partially hollow tree. The eggs were laid about the middle of April and would have been eaten by a snake if I had not happened along. When I put my hand into the nest to count the eggs, I felt the snake, which later dropped out of a lower hole in the tree. There were fourteen eggs in the nest, a little larger than hen's eggs. It took them nearly five weeks to hatch.

The young were active a few hours after hatching, although they had no wing feathers. I have not yet found out how they got from the tree down to the water, unless the mother duck carried them in her bill or between her feet. As to whether the drake helps with the incubation or rearing the brood I do not know. I have never seen him in the vicinity of the nest or of the mother and baby ducklings.

The ducklings are sooty black, with a few grayish white spots. They are able to take care of themselves from the start. After a few weeks they have grown wing feathers and can literally outrun an outboard motor driven by a 2.5 horsepower motor. They can keep this up for about five hundred yards; then they begin to tire, but they can still outswim the boat under water. During this time the mother sticks with them, but after they get scattered, she pulls the old "broken wing" trick to lure one away.

These ducks have never been very high on the sportsman's list, because they are usually too fishy, but sometimes they are quite palatable. They are hard ducks to hit on the wing.

LIFE STORY OF A HOUSE WREN

By CHRISTINE KINNAIRD, Paint Lick High School

Birds are a marvelous subject to study. I wish to tell you a very interesting and true experience that I had last spring in watching a House Wren rear its young.

One afternoon about the first of May I was sitting on the porch of my home when I heard the loud, ringing voice of a bird close by. I looked up and saw a tiny brown and gray bird with a short, turned-up tail sitting on a box near me. As soon as it saw me, it flew away. I went over to see what the bird was doing there and found a few twigs in the box. The next day I went to the box again and was surprised to find a large pile of sticks and strings and all sorts of twigs. I could not imagine how they all got there in just one day. It did not seem possible that those tiny little birds carried them there. I watched patiently each day as the nest grew, until after the fifth day the nest was lined with soft, downy feathers. The two little birds worked busily until the nest was completed. On the sixth day there appeared a tiny, purplish brown egg in the nest. Such an interesting thing it was to find each day another egg added to the nest, until there were seven eggs in the little nest!

The next day I went to the nest and found the bird sitting on the eggs. I slipped quietly away, and never went very close to the nest for the next two weeks. I watched it closely each day and saw one of the birds feeding the other on the nest. They would not leave the nest alone for very long. One of the birds would generally guard the nest while the other went for food.

When the two weeks were up, I was looking forward to seeing the little birds. I watched the nest until I saw the mother bird leave. I slipped up to the nest and found that three of the eggs had hatched into tiny living birds. I hurried away when I heard the sound of the mother bird coming. The next day all the eggs had hatched.

For several days I enjoyed seeing the busy birds feeding the young. When they brought a worm, the small birds opened their mouths. The mother bird tore the worm into small pieces before feeding the little ones. Soon the nest began to be crowded as the birds grew and feathered out. I watched the little wings and the tail feathers develop. It took about two weeks after the birds hatched for them to grow into adults.

I watched the nest closely because I knew they were going to leave it soon and go out into the open world. It happened early one morning that I heard the flight and their chirping voices as they were leaving the nest. The mother and father were teaching them to fly short distances at a time. They stayed in the yard until they could fly better, and I never saw them again. I got the little nest in which they had matured, and that is a reminder of the little wren family.

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THIRD WILDLIFE CONFERENCE AT OTTER CREEK

By HELEN PEIL

The Third Kentucky Wildlife and Natural History Conference was held on September 25, 26, and 27, 1942, at Otter Creek Recreational Demonstration Area near West Point, Kentucky. Of the 97 persons registered 31 were members of the K. O. S. There were seven groups that cooperated in making this conference a success:

the Natural History Club, the Beckham Bird Club, the Kentucky Ornithological Society, the Astronomical Society, the Municipal Hiking Club, the League of Kentucky Sportsmen, and the National Park Service.

Dr. Walter L. Moore, of the University of Louisville, presided at the first session of the conference on Friday night. H. O. Hesen showed interesting movies of "Fish Rescue Work;" Audrey Wright, K. O. S. member, showed kodachrome slides of "Fall Flowers;" and Dr. Moore showed a brief movie, "Exploring the Universe." There was opportunity for astronomical observation under the able guidance of Charles Strull. To everyone's disappointment, the "Banana-Beer Hunt," which David Young was to conduct, could not be held because of the weather. Several of us are still wondering what a banana-beer hunt is, and we are looking forward to having another opportunity to be initiated into its mysteries.

Saturday morning started out early, but not bright, with a bird hike at 6:30, led by Helen Peil. The weather was cloudy and a little chilly, but eleven enthusiasts arose to the occasion. The list of birds seen is combined with the list compiled by Evelyn Schneider, who led the bird hike in even worse weather at 6:30 on Sunday morning.

The meeting on Saturday morning was presided over by Dr. Harvey Lovell, K. O. S. president. Among the many excellent talks were several of special interest to bird students. Dr. Alfred Brauer, of the University of Kentucky, in his lecture on "Social Behavior in Animals," presented some interesting information concerning the reasons, for the disappearance of the Passenger Pigeon and the Heath Hen. Apparently inbreeding among the small numbers of birds left after so many had been slaughtered by hunters caused a deterioration in the two species which helped bring about their extinction.

At the Saturday afternoon meeting Dr. P. A. Davies, of the University of Louisville, presided. Of special interest, because they pertained to bird life, were James J. Gilpin's moving pictures and Tom Wallace's talk on "The Importance of Habitat." Mr. Gilpin's pictures of the Mourning Dove, the Bob-white, and the Killdeer, as well as of other birds, are available to groups that would like to show them anywhere in the state. Mr. Wallace never fails to score impressively when he speaks so convincingly and practically about conservation.

Mr. F. C. Bunce, of the National Park Service, whose work with the Otter Creek Recreational Area has contributed toward making the wildlife conferences not only possible but eminently successful, spoke on "Conservation for Interpretation." He mentioned particularly that with many men in the armed forces, women must take over the work these men were doing in conservation.

The "Stump the Experts" program, under the direction of Kent Previette, interlocutor, was an outstanding feature of the entire conference. The experts were not even stumped by the elements, which conspired to send such a deluge as had seldom endeavored to quench the unquenchable enthusiasm of bird students. Prizes were awarded to those who succeeded in asking the experts questions which stumped them. Not many prizes were awarded, although the questions were on the most difficult and baffling biological, botanical, geological, and astronomical subjects.

David Young presided at the Saturday night session, at which H. K. Gayle, of the Soil Conservation Service, Lexington, gave much useful information concerning plants that should be used to provide food and cover for birds. The feature of the meeting was an illustrated lecture on "Butterfly Geography," by Dr. William T. M. Forbes, of Cornell University, who was a guest of the conference, having been brought here especially for this occasion. He opened new fields of thought for many of us concerning the possibilities and the value of the study of butterflies. Dr. Forbes's charming personality and friendly interest in all of the conference activities contributed much to everyone's enjoyment.

Sunday morning was devoted to field trips for ornithologists led by Evelyn Schneider, for geologists led by Colonel Lucien Beckner, for botanists led by S. Charles Thacher, and for entomologists led by David Young.

The conference closed at dinner on Sunday, after a comprehensive summary ably presented by Mrs. Alice Moore.

Before closing this report, I would like to recommend these conferences to every K. O. S. member as being well worth the time, money, and effort needed to attend them. Kentucky needs more such conferences to enlist people in conservation work. Every one has a perfectly grand time and makes many new friends interested in conserving Kentucky's natural and wildlife resources.

The following K. O. S. members attended the 1942 conference: Mrs. J. Kidwell Grannis, Flemingsburg; Grace Wyatt, Murray; Dr. John Bangson, Berea; Colonel Lucien Beckner, Mrs. Mame Boulware, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brecher, Helen Browning, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Bunce, Dr. William Clay, Dr. Arch Cole, Dr. P. A. Davies, Amy Deane, Elizabeth and Gertrude Gadjen, Thelma Gentry, Karl Kerbel, Dr. Harvey Lovell, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Mattmiller, Mrs. Alice Moore, Dorothy and Helen Peil, Kent Previette, Evelyn Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Dorothy Sternberg, Charles Strull, S. Charles Thacher, Audrey Wright, and Mary May Wyman, all of Louisville.

Birds seen on the two trips were as follows: Double-crested Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Osprey, Bob-white, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, White-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Palm Warbler, English Sparrow, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Goldfinch, Red-eyed Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

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Here is a suggestion for a Christmas present for your friends and relatives—give them a subscription to the KENTUCKY WARBLER. Last year several members inaugurated this gift plan, which seems certain to become popular this year. Heavy Christmas packages add to the burden of our transportation system. A subscription to the WARBLER will be a reminder to your friends throughout the coming year and at the same time will aid the cause of bird study. We will send a fancy card announcing the gift subscription to anyone requesting it.

SUMMER BIRDS IN MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

By GORDON WILSON

Though I have studied birds in the Mammoth Cave National Park persistently for the last six years and have spent in that time more than a hundred days in the area, I had not done any continuous study of nesting birds until June, 1942. Generally, before time became so precious, I went away to the Great Smokies, or Florida, or the Atlantic coast to spend the week between the second semester and the summer term. This year Russell Starr, medical student at the University of Louisville, and I spent from June 9 to June 14, inclusive, in various parts of the park, camping at night and wandering everywhere by day, always on the lookout for nesting birds and young. Our most interesting area was Mammoth Cave Ridge itself, where we found in a single day 69 species of birds, including all 16 of the nesting warblers. All told, we found 81 species in the six days, besides 6 other species just beyond the park boundaries. I am listing below the species we found, indicating their relative abundance and starring the ones found nesting or feeding young:

Green Heron, r; Turkey Vulture, fc; Black Vulture, fc; *Red-tailed Hawk, r; Red-shouldered Hawk, r; Broad-winged Hawk, r; Sparrow Hawk, r; *Bob-white, c; Mourning Dove, c; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, c; Great Horned Owl, r; Barred Owl, r; Chuck-will's-widow, r; Whip-poor-will, fc; Nighthawk, r; Chimney Swift, fc; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, c; Flicker, fc; Pileated Woodpecker, fc; Red-bellied Woodpecker, r; Red-headed Woodpecker, r; Hairy Woodpecker, r; Downy Woodpecker, fc; Kingbird, fc; Crested Flycatcher, c; Phoebe, fc; Acadian Flycatcher, c; Wood Pewee, c; Rough-winged Swallow, r; Barn Swallow, r; Purple Martin, fc; Blue Jay, c; *Crow, c; Carolina Chickadee, fc; Tufted Titmouse, c; *White-breasted Nuthatch, fc; Bewick's Wren, fc; Carolina Wren, c; Mockingbird, r; *Cathbird, c; Brown Thrasher, fc; Robin, fc; Wood Thrush, c; Bluebird, c; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, c; Starling, fc; White-eyed Vireo, c; Yellow-throated Vireo, c; Red-eyed Vireo, c; *Black and White Warbler, c; *Prothonotary Warbler, fc; Worm-eating Warbler, fc; Blue-winged Warbler, r; *Parula Warbler, r; Yellow Warbler, fc; *Cerulean Warbler, fc; Sycamore Warbler, fc; *Prairie Warbler, c; Oven-bird, c; Louisiana Water-thrush, c; *Kentucky Warbler, c; Northern Yellowthroat, c; Yellow-breasted Chat, c; Hooded Warbler, c; *Redstart, c; English Sparrow, fc; Meadowlark, fc; *Red-winged Blackbird, c; Orchard Oriole, c; Baltimore Oriole, r; Bronzed Grackle, fc; *Cowbird, c (young being fed at First Creek Lake by Black and White Warbler); Scarlet Tanager, c; Summer Tanager, c; Cardinal, c; Indigo Bunting, c; Goldfinch, c; Towhee, c; Bachman's Sparrow, r; *Chipping Sparrow, c; Field Sparrow, c.

This list and the abundance of each species make one realize how much the area is changing since the farms were acquired and the woods have started coming back. There are several species formerly seen in summer in the area that do not appear on this list and most of them on none of my summer lists for the park area: Wood Duck, found several times with broods on Barren River near Bowling Green in June and July, 1942; Cooper's Hawk, found near the park but not inside; Killdeer, found near but not inside the park; Spotted Sandpiper, fc at Bowling Green; Screech Owl, found later in the summer in the park on Mammoth Cave Ridge; Belted Kingfisher, found regularly on Barren River all the year; Prairie Horned Lark, found within a few yards of the Bownsville edge of the park; Migrant Shrike, regularly found at Bowling Green; Warbling Vireo, found nesting on Western's campus in May; Dickcissel, plentiful in

meadows near the park; Grasshopper Sparrow, abundant not far from the park edge.

Of the species found in the park the following are much commoner in adjoining areas: Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Flicker, Barn Swallow, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Starling, Yellow Warbler, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Bachman's Sparrow. It is quite evident that many of these species are found more commonly in cultivated areas or around farm houses. I have been interested in watching these changes as the cultivated fields gradually grew up in broomseed, then goldenrods, then blackberries, and finally bushes and young trees. Some years hence I hope to have another opportunity of spending a week in June in exactly the same area in order to check my 1942 list, to note changes, and to anticipate others.

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ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

According to Miss Nell Dishman, curator of the Audubon Memorial State Park, near Henderson, the park is located where John James Audubon discovered the great Passenger Pigeon roost which he describes so graphically in his ORNITHOLOGICAL BIOGRAPHIES. The surviving remnants of the once great beech forest were saved when the area was made a state park and bird sanctuary. The Audubon Museum is eager to have a list of birds found in the park area. Any members of the K. O. S. who visit the park are urged to compile the list and send it to the WARBLER for publication. The editor would be glad to receive lists from any of the state parks, the Cumberland National Forest, and other state or national parks, refuges, and monuments.

Back copies of the WARBLER are in great demand, as you can see by the excellent sale of back issues listed in our financial report. We have sold more than \$20.00 worth in the last three months. As we are short of many issues, members having back copies which they do not care to keep will do the K. O. S. a great favor by sending them to Mrs. F. Everett Frei, Glasgow, or Miss Evelyn Schneider, 2207 Alta, Louisville. We are entirely out of the No. 1 issue for 1941 and have two orders waiting for it. Thirty-five cents will be paid to any one sending us a copy of this issue.

Robert M. Mengel is now in Company D, 1213 R. R., Fort Niagara, New York.

Virgil D. King is in the Army Air Forces at Patterson Field, Fairfield, Ohio. He can be reached at his permanent address, R. R. 2, Henderson. Mr. King, our former secretary-treasurer, was married on June 30; his wife teaches art at North Bergen, New Jersey.

The Glasgow Bird Club has purchased a S. V. E. slide projector. Esther Mason writes that the following are the current officers of the Beckham Bird Club: Mrs. F. W. Stamm, President; Esther Mason, Vice-President; Helen Browning, Secretary-Treasurer.

James Boswell Young is now with F. B. I.

Carlyle Chamberlain is in the Artillery at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Burt Monroe, our former president, is in the Air Service on the Pacific Coast. The editor's last word from him came from the state of Washington.

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Glasgow—The June meeting of the Glasgow Bird Club was held in the grove belonging to Mr. and Mrs. H. Cal Rogers. The outdoor program of games, bird quiz, etc. was climaxed by playing of the Brand Album of Bird Songs, loaned by the Beckham Bird Club. . . . Clayton Gooden has joined the Signal Corps of the Army and is

now in Fort Benjamin Harrison; Kenneth Pace has signed up in the Navy and is at the Great Lakes Training Center; both are members of the Glasgow Bird Club . . . The newly elected officers of the Glasgow Club are—President, H. Cal Rogers; Vice-President, Mrs. F. Everett Frei; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Nelson Nuckols; Councillors: Mrs. J. Wood Vance, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Jones; the offices will assume their authority in January, 1943.

Roger Barbour, formerly with the Division of Fish and Game, is now instructor in biology in the Western Kentucky State Teachers College, replacing Ezell Welborn, who has joined the F. B. I.

John A. Patten is now to be addressed as follows:

Pvt. John A. Patten, S. C. R. T. C., Co. C, 38En., Camp Crowder, Missouri.

Mrs. Z. C. Layson, a new member of the K. O. S., is at present Bird Chairman of the National Council of Garden Clubs.

Our Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. F. Everett Frei, has recently been spreading some of the spirit of the K. O. S. in our neighboring state of Indiana. On October 12 she spoke on her bird-banding experiences before the history department of the Evansville Museum, illustrating her talk with slides. She appeared on Radio Station WEOA that same day on a ten-minute talk. Also during her visit in Indiana she spoke on "How to Attract Birds" before the Ladies Auxiliary of the O. R. C.

Members omitted in our last list or added as new since then (see Summer Issue, 1942, pp. 41-44):

Baker, G. F., Supt. Woodlands Refuge, Golden Pond.

Bangson, Dr. John S., Berea College, Berea.

Barnhill, Mrs. Mary E., Teachers College, Richmond.

Beatty, Guy V., Glasgow.

Beck, Albert, Lake Dreamland, Shivley.

Crabb, Nellie L., Berea.

Daniels, Alice, 2344 Valley Vista, Louisville.

Faust, Ruth, Berea College, Berea.

Floyd, Nellie L., Berea College Library, Berea.

Gilpin, James, Supt. of Public Relations, Game and Fish, Frankfort.

Glover, T. Harold, Teachers College, Richmond.

Grannis, Mrs. J. Kidwell, Flemingsburg.

Gross, Dr. Alfred O., 11 Broady Street, Brunswick, Maine.

Hall, Dr. Edmond K., U. of L. Medical School, Louisville.

Hicks, Dr. Lawrence E., Wild Life Research Station, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Isfort, Louise G., 1402 Cherokee Road, Louisville.

Layson, Mrs. Z. C., Maysville.

Mengel, Robert, care A. D. Allen, Glenview.

McBride, Mrs. Charles E., 2200 Alta, Louisville.

McCanna, Mrs. R. W., Willow Terrace Apartments, 1412 Willow Avenue, Louisville.

National Audubon Society, 1006 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

Neale, Mrs. Geoffrey, 1072 Everett Avenue, Louisville.

Schnieb, Dr. Anna A., Teachers College, Richmond.

Selvey, Wilma, London.

Sutton, Dr. George Miksch, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Thomas, Mrs. Ben Allen, Chenoweth Farm, Shelbyville.

Tucker, Mrs. Carll, Penwood, Mt. Kisco, New York.

Vaughn, Mrs. Nelle B., Superintendent of State Parks, Glasgow.

Wright, Bessie L., 537 West Second, Lexington.

Wyatt, Grace, Teachers College, Murray.