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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. XIX

SPRING, 1943

No. 2

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE K. O. S.

We regret that it was necessary to cancel our annual spring meeting at the time of the Kentucky Education Association, especially as this is our twentieth anniversary. It seems, therefore, that a report should be made of the progress of the Kentucky Ornithological Society during the last year.

Our plan to have at least one illustration in each issue of THE KENTUCKY WARBLER has been fulfilled through six issues, and its value to the society is attested by our increased list of member-subscribers. So far the copper and zinc etchings for these illustrations have been financed by donations by Arthur Unglaub, Leonard Brecher, A. F. Ganier, William Clay, H. E. Lovell, the Junior Academy of Science, and an anonymous donor. If you like pictures, won't you send our secretary-treasurer a check for a few dollars to help in this feature of our magazine?

The importance of THE KENTUCKY WARBLER has been shown by the fact that several nationally famous ornithologists are among our subscribers. THE WILSON BULLETIN indexes under current ornithological literature those articles of ours which contain original observations or ideas. And now the editor of BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS has asked us to prepare abstracts of our better articles for that great publication. This will bring our discoveries to the notice of ornithologists all over the United States.

Our program for stimulating interest in birds and conservation has been greatly expanded through the affiliation of the Junior Academy of Science. Over thirty clubs, with a membership of nearly seven hundred students, availed themselves of this opportunity and now receive copies of THE KENTUCKY WARBLER. An increasing number of these high school students have taken up the study of birds and have written excellent articles for the cash award which we are again offering for the best bird paper.

The March, 1943, issue of the KENTUCKY SCHOOL JOURNAL carried a three-page article on the activities of the K. O. S. The cover picture of this same issue was a beautiful photograph of a White-eyed Vireo at its nest made by Mabel Slack. The wide circulation of this journal makes up in part for the lack of our spring convention. However, we shall all miss Karl Masłowski's fine studies in Kodachrome, which were again to have been our feature attraction. Other speakers were to have been Dr. Gordon Wilson, Dr. Anna A. Schnieb, and Mr. Leonard Brecher.

Because of the war, conservation groups have an even more important part to play in the proper use and protection of our natural resources. It is the privilege of every member to bring our organization to the attention of the scientific or nature-minded people of his community. There are hundreds of prospective members in Kentucky who would find our society an interesting and valuable group if they could but learn about its activities from an enthusiastic member. Won't you be that member? Let's all work together to make the K. O. S. the greatest state bird club in the country!

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FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER**RECEIPTS—**

Balance on hand, October 6, 1942	\$ 85.79
27 Memberships @ \$1.00	27.00
36 Memberships @ 75c	27.00
1 Membership @ 56c56
Junior Academy of Science Affiliation Dues	15.00
Dividend from Endowment	5.25

Total Receipts\$160.60

DISBURSEMENTS—

Printing two issues of WARBLER and Set of Covers.....	\$ 78.84
Stamps	6.00
Membership in Kentucky Conservation Council	2.00
Printing and Mailing Fall Programs	3.00

Total Disbursements\$ 89.84

Balance on Hand, April 15, 1943\$ 70.76

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TWENTY YEARS OF THE K. O. S.

By The Editor

It was just twenty years ago this April that Dr. L. Otley Pindar and I met at the Seelbach Hotel in Louisville and organized the Kentucky Ornithological Society. Mr. B. C. Bacon was unable to be present but sent a complete plan for a constitution, which was in effect until the revision authorized in 1940 and adopted at our meeting at Natural Bridge State Park. Since there were three of us, we elected ourselves to the three original offices: Dr. Pindar became president; Mr. Bacon became vice-president, and I became secretary-treasurer. There were no funds then available for any kind of publicity, but fortunately a reporter from the COURIER-JOURNAL who knew me asked me whether I had any news. Gladly I told him of the recent organization. The next issue of the paper gave us a boost and called attention to us in Louisville, which has from that time on been our best supporter. Miss Emilie Yunker, whom all of us knew and loved so well, read this item, communicated with me at once, and in her inimitable fashion asked many of her friends to join the new club. Several responded, and at once plans were made to hold the 1924 spring meeting. By April, 1924, we had a respectable membership and were highly pleased with the packed room when our first public program was rendered. And that is how it all began. Never large, as societies go, the K. O. S. has always had a core of very active members, so active that our spring and fall meetings have been memorable and in the main well-attended. We have met in nearly every part of Kentucky and have gradually drawn members from all sections. Suppose we all plan right now to make the twenty-fifth anniversary, in 1948, really a big event.

FOUR MONTHS WITH BIRDS

By RAY M. VAN HOOK, Danville

After seeing the interesting collections of ornithology that were exhibited at the Junior Academy of Science Convention last April, I became deeply interested in birds. Therefore I decided to spend my spare time last spring and summer in observing and photographing birds. This study has been the most fascinating and educational one that I have ever attempted. Not only did it increase my knowledge of birds, but it took me into the fields and woods where it was possible to observe nature in a scientific way. I soon learned that one must be very quiet and exceedingly patient.

I used my knowledge of photography to a great advantage by taking pictures of the birds' homes. For several years taking, developing, and printing pictures have constituted one of my hobbies. Many of the nests are hard to get to and are often insufficiently lighted, but by using reflecting mirrors, flash synchronizers, and well-timed exposures, I got some good pictures. Frequently limbs must be removed to light the subject properly, and sometimes sides of trees must be cut away, as is frequently necessary when photographing the woodpeckers.

In Photograph No. 1, showing Mourning Doves in the nest, the nest had to be tilted by one of my companions so that sufficient light from the late evening sun would shine on the subject. My friend's hand can be seen in the lower right-hand corner of the picture. The nest was in a cedar tree in a grove of cedars, about five feet above the ground, and was made of coarse cedar twigs, very loosely put together, making a plate-like nest. The picture was taken in the latter part of May, 1942.

In Photograph No. 2 limbs of the shrub were removed so as to expose the nest and eggs of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. This nest was about six feet from the ground and was photographed in May, 1942.

The eggs of the House Wren shown in Photograph No. 3 were laid in a gourd, which was in our garage when the nest was discovered. It was carefully removed to the top of an old brick incinerator in my back yard for photographing. The bolt, about two inches across, which is shown in the upper left corner of the picture, was placed for comparison of size. After the picture was taken, in the latter part of April, 1942, the gourd was put back into the garage. Two more eggs were laid in the nest.

The nest seen in Photograph No. 4 was photographed in its native environment, an open field. Grass and coarse twigs of bushes had to be pushed aside to allow light to fall on the nest of the Meadowlark. This picture was taken in June, 1942.

By taking photographs and notes on field trips, I have completed a notebook that can be used for future reference in my bird study. It contains a record of every bird in this study and specific dates when changes took place in the birds' developments and movements.

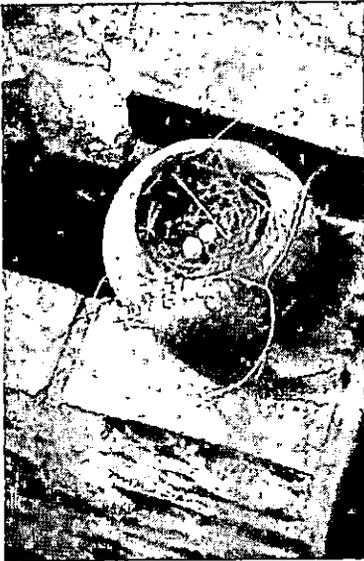
My increasing interest in this study brought about the purchase of T. Gilbert Pearson's BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA, which is excellent for scientific references and for all who want to learn about birds as a source of enjoyment.



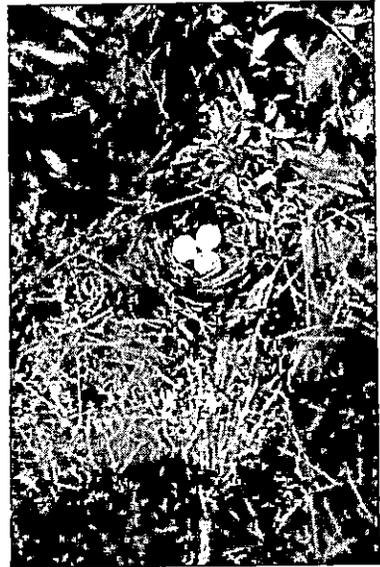
1. Nest of Mourning Dove



2. Nest of Yellow-billed Cuckoo



3. Nest of House Wren



4. Nest of Meadowlark

EFFECTS OF THE WAR ON BIRD LIFE

By AUDREY A. WRIGHT, Louisville

War has had a detrimental and also a beneficial effect on bird-life. Bird destruction has been greater than the benefits derived from war.

There are a number of reasons for this. First, the Pittman-Robinson appropriations have been cut from two and a quarter million dollars to one and a quarter. This has seriously affected the work of federal and state conservation departments by liquidating the C. C. C. and curtailing the work of the Soil Conservation Department, which has been instrumental in getting 250,000 farmers to improve soil and moisture conditions of their land. It is known that strip-planting and gully and stream bank planting encourage bird life. Now that farmers are asked to raise as much food as possible, it is feared that the shelter of birds will be removed.

In Louisiana it is reported that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is nearing extinction rapidly because over half the wooded area in which it nests has been cut for war purposes.

The personnel of conservation departments has been reduced because of the loss of men to the war industries, the armed services, and the lack of funds. In West Virginia alone the number of game wardens has been reduced by one third.

War activities themselves have affected bird life adversely. The intensive patrolling of Alaskan waters by the Navy is reported to have caused some additional destruction of the Bald Eagle. In the Aleutians, where fresh meat is scarce, ptarmigan and waterfowl are likely to be wiped out. If the killing of birds continues here, it is possible that migratory routes of some species will be changed.

Airplane activities and bombing and machine-gun ranges near game refuges also take their toll.

U-boats along our Atlantic seaboard have caused untold loss of bird life, especially waterfowl. When oil tankers are torpedoed or a submarine is sunk, the water is covered with a thick, sticky mass of oil, which is washed toward the shore. Salt water causes the oil to coagulate and form a gummy mess. In some places in North Carolina the oil was reported to be three or more inches thick on or near the shore. Birds, unfortunate enough to alight in this mess, are doomed, especially in winter, as their activities are slowed, the birds cannot fly, and they become chilled and die of pneumonia.

Experiments to remove the oil have been tried but are either unsuccessful or impracticable because a solvent of the oil destroys the natural oils of the birds, and their feathers are no longer water-proof.

Some sea birds have been found inland preening themselves in shallow, fresh-water pools, in an effort to remove the oil.

Roger Tory Peterson reports that early in February, 1942, after our entry into the war, only a few oil-stained birds were found on the south shore of Long Island. By the end of the month he had a report from Massachusetts that over 20,000 dead or dying birds lined the shores in one place. Most of the birds were eiders, scoters, and Old-Squaws. The Canadian Migratory Bird Officer reported an estimated total of 13,500 birds found in one spot on the Atlantic coast.

The oil menace of ocean water has been recognized for a long

time. Since 1924 the United States government has had a law prohibiting the discharge of ballast water within three miles of land. Oil-burning ships use sea water to help keep the ship's equilibrium as the oil tanks are emptied. It was common practice to discharge this oiled water into the harbor upon docking. Now this water is run through separators.

However, the problem is international, since the ocean washes all shores. Consequently, in 1926 the League of Nations attempted an international agreement on the discharge of oil at sea. All countries represented at the conference agreed except Germany, Italy, and Japan. Succeeding attempts have been unsuccessful.

Now for the brighter side of the picture.

The manufacture of arms and ammunition for civilian use was stopped on June 15, 1942, and there is no doubt that there have been fewer hunters in the field. In western Alaska the waterfowl produced good broods because of the shortage of ammunition among civilians.

The Government has closed to civilians certain areas near military camps. This is reported to have been beneficial to the condors in California.

Postponement of the opening date of the Mourning Dove season with fewer hunters in the field has already shown results. Dr. Harvey Lovell, of the University of Louisville, reports an increase in the number and size of the flocks in the Louisville area, because doves nest late and their broods have been given a chance to survive, when formerly they died of starvation if the parents were killed.

The Committee on Bird Protection of the American Ornithologists' Union urges that information on military projects that appear detrimental to important bird habitats should be reported to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois, as soon as possible. Action will be taken to save the birds whenever it is feasible.

We can expect losses in conservation as a result of the war effort, but it is our business to be alert and prevent any unnecessary losses.

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HARBINGERS OF SPRING

By SUE WYATT SEMPLE, Providence

Gay meadowlarks are the familiar friends
 Of grassy pasture lands and countrysides;
 Their clear and flute-like burst of song abides
 Within my heart—a cheerful cadence lends;
 To far, celestial places it ascends;
 Perched on a gate-post or tree-top, it rides
 Ethereal waves, when suddenly it glides
 Away—to an old split-rail fence descends.
 Before the dew has disappeared, let's hike
 Across the fields, and pause to greet a flash
 Of yellow-feathered breasts; (I think we'd like
 A close-up view)—if we are not too rash,
 We'll hear the first glad harbingers of spring—
 A chorale of meadowlarks—in brilliance sing!

TWO BIRDS NOW EXTINCT FORMERLY OCCURRING IN KENTUCKY

By ROGER W. BARBOUR, Bowling Green

During the past century some half dozen birds formerly occurring in abundance in the United States have been exterminated. Several other species are on the verge of extinction. The Great Auk, the Labrador Duck, the Carolina Paroquet, the Passenger Pigeon, the Eskimo Curlew, and the Heath Hen are among the species that have disappeared. It is safe to say that the primary causes of extermination of these species were the greed and the thoughtlessness of man. Of these species, two, the Passenger Pigeon and the Carolina Paroquet, formerly were very common in Kentucky. The Passenger Pigeon, in particular, occurred in almost unbelievable numbers. It is the purpose of this paper to present briefly a description, the range, some notes on habits, and a history of the extermination of these two species.

PASSENGER PIGEON (*Ectopistes migratorius migratorius*)**Description:**

The specific characteristics of the Passenger Pigeon as given by Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway are as follows: "Tail with twelve feathers. Upper parts generally, including sides of body, head, neck, and chin, blue. Beneath purple brownish-red, fading into a violet tint. Anal region and under tail-coverts bluish-white. Scapulars, inner tertials, and middle of back with an olive tinge; the wing-coverts, scapulars, and inner tertials with large oval spots of blue-black on the outer webs, mostly concealed, except on the latter. Primaries blackish, with a border of pale bluish tinged internally with red. Middle tail feathers brown; the rest pale blue on the outer web, white internally; each with a patch of reddish-brown at the base of the inner web, followed by another of black. Sides and back of neck richly glossed with metallic golden-violet or reddish-purple. Tibiae bluish-violet. Bill black. Feet lake-red. The female is smaller, much duller in color, more olivaceous above; beneath pale ash instead of red, except a tinge on the neck; the jugulum tinged with olive, the throat whitish. Length of male, 17.00; wing, 8.50; tail, 8.40."

Range:

Wilson and Bonaparte (9) give the range of the Passenger Pigeon as follows: "The Wild Pigeon of the United States inhabits a wide and extensive region of North America, on this side of the Great Stony Mountains, beyond which to the westward, I have not heard of their being seen. According to Mr. Hutchins, they abound in the country round Hudson's Bay, where they usually remain as late as December, feeding, when the ground is covered with snow, on the buds of juniper. They spread over the whole of Canada—were seen by Captain Lewis and his party near the Great Falls of the Missouri, upwards of two thousand five hundred miles from its mouth, reckoning the meanderings of the river—were also met with in the interior of Louisiana, by Colonel Pike; and extend their range as far south as the Gulf of Mexico, occasionally visiting or breeding in almost every quarter of the United States."

Habits:

By far the most remarkable characteristic of the Passenger

Pigeon was its gregarious instincts. The flocks of pigeons, both in migration and during the nesting season, were so prodigious as almost to surpass human comprehension. According to Wilson (9), the "migrations appear to be undertaken rather in quest of food than merely to avoid the cold of the climate. I had witnessed these migrations in the Genesee Country . . . with amazement; but all that I had seen of them were straggling parties, when compared with the congregated million which I have since beheld in our western forests, in the states of Ohio, Kentucky, and the Indiana territory."

The birds roosted in huge flocks and often ranged as far as seventy or eighty miles a day in search of food, returning to the same roost every night.

The breeding place differed from the roosting place primarily in its greater extent. Wilson (9) speaks of one nesting area near Shelbyville, Kentucky, that was several miles wide and upwards of forty miles in length. The nests were merely crude platforms of sticks, containing one or two eggs, and incubation was performed by both sexes.

Concerning the number of birds, Wilson (9) estimated one flock near Frankfort to consist of 2,230,272,000 pigeons, and then he says that the enormous figure is probably far below the actual number. He calculated that this flock would require 17,424,000 bushels of mast daily for food.

Ella S. Wilson (10) has given the food of the Passenger Pigeon as beech nuts, wintergreen berries, wild red cherries, some conifer seeds, June berries, red elderberries, partridge berries, chokeberries, acorns, weed seeds, wheat, oats, worms, and various insects.

History of extermination:

According to Roberts (7), the main destruction of the Passenger Pigeon was accomplished between the years 1840 and 1880. The birds were killed on every hand, regardless of the time or season, as the adults were quite palatable, and the squabs were considered a delicacy. Concerning the destruction of the birds Wilson (9) says, "As soon as the young were fully grown, and before they left the nests, numerous parties of the inhabitants from all parts of the adjacent country came with wagons, axes, beds, cooking utensils, many of them accompanied by the greater part of their families, and camped for several days at this immense nursery. Several of them informed me that the noise in the woods was so great as to terrify their horses, and that it was difficult for one person to hear another speak, without bawling in his ear. The ground was strewn with broken limbs of trees, eggs, and young squab pigeons, which had been precipitated from above, and on which herds of hogs were feeding. Hawks, buzzards, and eagles were sailing about in great numbers, and seizing the squabs from their nests at pleasure; while from twenty feet upwards to the tops of the trees, the view through the woods presented a perpetual tumult of crowding and fluttering multitudes of pigeons, their wings roaring like thunder, mingled with the frequent crash of falling timber; for now the axemen were at work, cutting down those trees that seemed to be most crowded with nests, and contrived to fell them in such a manner, that, in their descent, they might bring down several others; by which means the falling of one large tree sometimes produced two hundred squabs, little inferior in size to the old ones, and almost one mass of fat. On some single trees, upwards of one hundred nests were found,

each containing one young only; a circumstance, in the history of this bird not generally known to naturalists. It was dangerous, to walk under these flying and fluttering millions, from the frequent fall of great branches, broken down by the weight of the multitudes above, and which in their descent, often destroyed numbers of the birds themselves; while the clothes of those engaged in traversing the woods were completely covered with the excrements of the pigeons."

As regards the number of birds taken from one nesting site, the Petosky nesting, Rooney (8) says, "For many weeks the railroad shipments averaged fifty barrels of dead birds per day, thirty to forty dozen old birds and about fifty squabs being packed in a barrel. Allowing 500 birds to the barrel, and averaging the entire shipments for the season at 25 barrels per day, we find the railroad shipments to have been 12,500 birds daily, or 1,500,000 for the summer. Of live birds, there were shipped . . . 80,352."

We know that no bird can long stand such ruthless decimation, but Audubon (5) writes, "Persons unacquainted with these birds might naturally conclude that such dreadful havoc would put an end to the species. But I have satisfied myself, by long observation, that nothing but the gradual diminution of our forests can accomplish their decrease, as they not infrequently quadruple their numbers yearly, and always at least double it."

The first edition of the A. O. U. Checklist in 1895 (1) makes no mention of the coming extermination of the pigeon. However, the following edition (2) makes the statement "Breeding range now mainly restricted to portion of the Canadas and the northern border of the United States, as far west as Manitoba and the Dakotas." The next edition (3), published in 1910, states that the Passenger Pigeon is "now probably extinct." The fourth edition (4) states "the last specimen killed April, 1904; last positively identified in life 1907." According to T. S. Roberts (7) the last one died a captive in the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens on September 1, 1914.

CAROLINA PAROQUET (*Psittacus carolinensis carolinensis*)

Description:

The following description is that of Audubon (5); "Fore part of the head and the cheeks bright scarlet, that color extending over and behind the eye, the rest of the head and neck pure bright yellow. The edge of the wing bright yellow, spotted with orange. The general color of the other parts is emerald-green, with light blue reflections, lighter beneath. Primary coverts deep bluish-green; secondary coverts greenish-yellow. Quills bluish-green on the outer web, brownish red on the inner, the primaries bright yellow at the base of the outer web. Two middle tail-feathers deep green, the rest of the same colour externally, their inner webs brownish-red. Tibial feathers yellow, the lowest deep orange. Length, 14 inches . . . The female is similar to the male in colour."

Range:

Audubon (5) gives the range of the parrot as "South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, and up the Mississippi to Kentucky. Abundant, resident." The second edition of the A. O. U. Checklist (2) gives the former range of the parrot as "Florida, and the Gulf States north to Maryland, Great Lakes, Iowa, Nebraska,

west to Colorado, the Indian Territory, and Texas, and straggling northeastward to Pennsylvania and New York."

Habits:

The habits of the parrot have been extensively studied by both Audubon (5) and Wilson (9). Each one speaks of the fearlessness of the birds when they have been fired upon and their eagerness to find out what had injured their companions. Wilson (9) observed that some were left-footed, others right-footed, as shown by the stains where they had held berries while pecking at them. Wilson also studied a caged specimen or two for many weeks. A parrot that he injured in Kentucky near Big Bone Lick he carried with him wherever he went through Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The story of this parrot greatly appealed to his former neighbors in Scotland and is represented in the statue erected to him at his native Paisley.

The parrots fed on cockleburrs, all kinds of fruit, grain and other seeds. They liked the seeds of the sycamore and loved to sip the water of salt springs and marshes. Because of their onslaughts on grain they were shot at and were also taken for food, being reasonably good to eat when young."

Audubon (5) says, "I am of the opinion that the number of eggs which each individual lays is two." The nests were apparently located in hollows, either natural ones or holes excavated by woodpeckers.

History of extermination:

As early as 1842 Audubon (5) states, "Our Parrakeets are very rapidly diminishing in number; and in some districts, where twenty-five years ago they were plentiful, scarcely any are now to be seen." In the 1886 A. O. U. Checklist (1) the range is given as "Now restricted to the Gulf States and lower Mississippi Valley, and of local occurrence only." The second edition of the Checklist (2), in 1895, gives the range as "Now restricted to Florida, Arkansas, and the Indian Territory, where it is of local occurrence only." The next, or 1910 Checklist (3) gives the range as "Now probably restricted to Florida, and there only of rare local occurrence." We now know that in 1910 the Carolina Paroquet was already exterminated, for the next, or fourth, edition of the Checklist (4) states that the birds are "apparently extinct." In 1904 the last Paroquet was seen in Florida: Since 1904, no valid record of a Paroquet has been made; so it is safe to say that another of the North American birds has been completely exterminated because of man's greed and short-sightedness.

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ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

Our president, Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, made the main address before the Junior Academy of Science at its annual state meeting at Richmond on April 10.

Dr. Arthur A. Allen, of Cornell University, gave his delightful lecture "Listening in on the Home-life of Birds," a full-length evening program with color, song, and slow-motion movies, before the Beckham Bird Club on April 3. About eight hundred people attended. Several of our out-in-the-state members were present.

The following are new members or people who have rejoined the K. O. S.: Mr. R. C. Soaper, Henderson; Miss Ellen Frederickson, 211 Fairchild Hall, Berea College, Berea; Mrs. Fred Giles, Richmond; Mrs. Arnim Hummel, Richmond; Mrs. G. Norton Sharpe, 174 East Maxwell, Lexington; Mr. Thomas Price Smith, Osage Road, Anchorage.

Burt L. Monroe's present address is First Lieutenant Burt L. Monroe, 346th Bomb Group, 503rd Bomb Squadron, Army Air Base, Dyersburg, Tennessee.

PFC. Clayton Gooden, who is stationed at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, recently visited his relatives in Glasgow.

Mrs. Everett Frei spoke before the Glasgow Girl Scouts on birds at their March open meeting.

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There has come to the editor's desk a handsome bulletin issued by the Department of Conservation of Tennessee, the report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1942. The chairman of the conservation commission is our own Dr. George R. Mayfield, so long a power in both the T. O. S. and the K. O. S. No state publication that has come to the editor's attention is ahead of this valuable bulletin. The commission also publishes a monthly magazine, THE TENNESSEE CONSERVATIONIST, which is full of excellent articles on the activities of the conservationists. Both publications are profusely illustrated.

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The current conflict has brought to an abrupt end many superficial amusements. Now that travel is curtailed, we are forced to look nearer home for entertainment. Nature with her infinite variations is waiting just outside the doorstep, offering genuine happiness and pleasure to those who seek to know her secrets.

For beauty, cheerfulness, and usefulness, birds loom large in Nature's scheme, and we are well repaid when we attract them to our grounds. With the shortage of insecticides, birds—insect eradicators par excellence—are especially necessary to the well-being of our gardens, farms, and forests.

—Extracts from "Our Feathered Allies," by Mrs. F. Everett Frei,

in THE GARDEN CLUB OF KENTUCKY, IV, 12-13.

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Publication of the Kentucky Ornithological Society
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(Includes membership to state organization and local chapters)

Our former secretary-treasurer, Virgil D. King, is now an officer in the Air Force and is located at Patterson Field, Fairfield, Ohio, where he did his training work in 1942.

Another former officer, Ed. Ray, took his training at Miami and on the West Coast and is now stationed at Camp Douglas, Arizona.

An unusual Christmas card came to the editor from John A. Patten, now serving with the 280th Signal Pigeon Company at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana.

A check-up of the membership list of the Wilson Ornithological Club, published in the December, 1942, issue of THE WILSON BULLETIN, shows that more than twenty of our K. O. S. members are also members of the W. O. C.

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"Citified" Pileated Woodpecker at Glasgow—Several years ago we were amazed to see a Pileated Woodpecker in the heart of the residential section in our town, several blocks from where we live. At 1:15 P. M. on August 6, 1942, we were delighted to see an adult male Pileated Woodpecker working busily on one of our hollow-topped maple trees. Exactly one week later, at approximately the same time of day, we were thrilled to see presumably the same woodpecker devouring insects and grubs from the same tree. He was so intent on his feeding that we were able to approach quite close to him. We watched him for fifteen minutes. Then he flew from the maple to a nearby oak, his wings making a sound like two boards striking together. This was the last time we saw him.

—EVERETT AND MARY LOU FREI, Glasgow.

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ORNITHOLOGY AND THE WAR

Though many of our active members are now in the armed forces and though all of us may feel that this is no time to study birds or do anything else that will not immediately help war work, there must be some hours each week which all of us will need to devote to outdoor exercise in order to keep able to do our share. Nature is still there, war or no war; we need the sustaining influence of the out-of-doors.

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A new volume of Bent's life Histories has recently been published. It is Bulletin 179 of the Smithsonian Institution and is entitled *Life Histories of North American Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows, and Their Allies*. It is sent free to leading ornithologists upon request or is for sale at a dollar by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.