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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. XX

WINTER, 1944

No. 1

WHO'S TAPPING AT MY WINDOW?

By O. A. STEVENS, Fargo, North Dakota

Who is that tapping at my window, this morning? I no longer have to guess, for I have learned the avian code. How did I learn it? That is a long story, not one of intensive study but a gradual dawning which comes to any bird student in the course of time. It came from the feeder which I built on the window ledge many years ago.

Sometimes the shelf is well patronized, sometimes it is not, for winter birds are not abundant in North Dakota. Large flocks of Snow Buntings may be found on the prairie, perhaps flocks of Lapland Longspurs, and usually a few Horned Larks. At the feeding stations in town, we usually have a few Chickadees, Nuthatches, and Woodpeckers, but some years even these are scarce.

Our feeder is a simple home-made shelf, but it has a glass top, which is an essential feature. In fair weather, food is put in blocks or trays on top of the glass. In stormy weather food is put on the shelf below, the glass providing some shelter, also allowing us to watch the birds better and helping them to see whether any guests with priority rights are in the offing. Much as we dislike to admit it, there is less harmony than tolerance among our bird guests.

The latest addition to the shelf equipment is a four-inch reading glass mounted against the pane on the window sill in the room. We have a storm sash; so the shelf is at least four inches beyond our inside pane. Some years ago I prepared a block 2x2x6 inches, with three one-inch holes drilled in it for food. This is placed on top of the glass roof of the shelf and against the storm sash pane. Finely chopped nuts kept the birds on the block longer, and we thought of trying to read the numbers on the leg bands. After having only limited success, the reading glass was devised to aid eyes which were restricted to bifocal glasses; it has done more than that. Band numbers can be read easily, if the birds are in proper position. We use No. 1 bands on Chickadees, for these turn readily on the leg. As the bird feeds, the band rotates, and the entire number can be read. The educational value is probably greater than the scientific, for our friends are always impressed when they see from across the room a Chickadee appearing as large as a two-weeks-old chicken.

We have marveled at the immediate acceptance of new foods. These winter birds are fat-eaters, and, of course, suet is the staple food usually provided for them. But in nature the birds feed chiefly on insects and would rarely have access to suet. Sunflower seeds are excellent, and to these the birds have access in nature. We always

have a few sunflower plants in the garden and count on these to be the first attraction for our winter birds.

Peanuts are a most convenient staple, but certainly our northern birds could not have seen a peanut before. Scarcely could they have seen, much less opened, black walnuts, but these the birds prize above all other food. English walnuts, pecans, hickory nuts, and hazel nuts are acceptable in the order named. We thought they would like oily Brazil nuts, but these nuts were hardly touched, even when cut up. Hemp seeds are slippery and not readily handled by these birds with slender bills; so we presume that is why hemp was refused.

Bread is not desired by these winter guests. Once I put popcorn in the food block, but it was promptly tossed out. Pie crust and doughnuts contain fat and are eaten readily. Squash seeds are fairly popular, especially in the fall before the birds have become spoiled by the peanut-walnut diet. They seem to prefer their suet raw. At least, I have not had success with melted preparations. We have compared different nuts by chopping them up and placing different kinds in the three holes of the food block. The birds seem to prefer roasted to raw peanuts, and they decidedly do not like them hard and brown. One of my first observations on food preferences was that the birds carried off the thick peanut halves and left the "hearts" behind. Tasting the hearts, I found them decidedly bitter.

The cost of peanuts is considerable, and it vexes us when the birds discard pieces not cut to suit them (we suppose). Nuthatches seem especially finicky and sometimes will toss out half a dozen pieces before finding one to their liking. Woodpeckers stick mostly to suet, but now and then one acquires a taste for peanuts. The Hairy Woodpeckers, which are frequently guests, turn their heads sidewise to gather up pieces of nuts lying in the shallow tray.

Frankly, our birds' manners are not good. There is a distinct order of privilege. Usually the White-breasted Nuthatch chases the Red-breasted and the Red-breasted chases the Chickadees. Occasionally, a Chickadee will assert himself and chase a Nuthatch. Almost always one Chickadee is "king," and others follow in order, awaiting their turns. They even fight disgracefully at times.

They must waste a lot of energy, flying away with a small piece to eat and then back again. But if they were given larger pieces, they would lose many of them and waste still more. Occasionally, a Chickadee will endeavor to economize on time by taking about three pieces at once, and it is most amusing to watch the "pig" Chickadee, as we call him, trying to get three pieces into his bill at once. We believe they are inclined to hide food early in the winter, before they have learned to trust us. Once I watched a Nuthatch, which carried in rapid succession seven squash seeds in about as many directions and tucked them under shingles or in other cracks.

Sometimes we have rare guests. Once a Red-breasted Nuthatch stayed all winter. Sometimes a Brown Creeper stays and becomes attached to a diet of finely chopped nuts. In the cold grey of winter mornings, the Creeper used to come first. From a large tree, which is near the window, he seemed to drop to the house foundation, but an upward turn brought him to the shelf. After feeding, he would drop to the base of the tree and crouch motionless for some minutes. And how uncomfortable he seemed at the door of the cocoanut-shell feeder, his tail tucked under, for it found no tree trunk against which

to prop, and his body doing a walking-beam motion as he reached in and drew back with a morsel.

Our hospitality hardly covers the English Sparrows. No wonder they are able to endure our winters, considering the amount of food which they eat. We dispose of a few by trapping, but there seem to be always several remaining. I have read that they will avoid a swinging feeder, but ours seem to surmount all obstacles. The cocoanut shell suspended by a wire puzzles novices for only a while. Where I had suspended a suet cage by a short wire, I have seen them sit on a tree twig and try to reach the suet. Once, at least, I saw one grip a loosened bit of suet and hang suspended, tugging by wing beats.

On the shelf, I partly shut out the sparrows by placing a block, to which a vertical piece of screen was attached, in front of the food trays. The Chickadees slipped past the ends of the screen, but the English Sparrows hesitated until the screen had become moved to some extent. I thought the screen nearly touched the glass above until a Chickadee decided to go over the screen instead of around it.

Last winter, I think I outwitted the English Sparrows by enclosing the suet stick in a 6-inch cylinder of wire netting. This is suspended by a wire, and another stick, fastened to the netting and protruding below it, makes a convenient landing-place for tree-climbers. The cautious Hairy Woodpecker was a bit slow to go inside the screen, but soon he was adept at creeping through it. To the Chickadees and Downies it offered no trouble.

This experiment followed another in which I tried to be very scientific. I prepared a feeding stick with holes an inch deep and fastened on the outside of that block a quarter-inch board of hard fir, with three-eighths-inch holes, enlarged inward. I reasoned that the woodpeckers could reach the deeper parts of these holes, but the small exterior openings would block the English Sparrow's thick, short bill. Soon after hanging it out, I came home to find the snow littered with splinters; the Hairies had enlarged the holes in my hard board!

How many things there are to learn about feeding habits! Chickadees always hold a piece of nut with one or both feet. Especially through the reading glass one can watch as the nut meat melts away under the rapid bites. Nuthatches swallow the piece whole, if possible; otherwise they must wedge it into a corner and hammer. Never do they hold it with the feet. One understands now why Nuthatches stand head down, for the top of a stub of bark is an ideal wedging-place.

But I wanted to tell about tapping. We have a small wire suet cage at each end of the shelf, and this is where most of the pounding takes place. I have always had difficulty in distinguishing Downies and Hairies by size alone. The alleged bars on the tail did not help much. But at close range the size of the bill and its work leaves no doubt. The Downy taps gently at the cold suet, but the Hairy goes "whang, whang." The Chickadees nibble rapidly; the English Sparrows peck like hens. The White-breasted Nuthatch stabs with a determined force, not so rapidly as the Downy or so violently as the Hairy. The shelf resounds against the house, and as each species of bird identifies himself, I no longer wonder who's tapping at my window.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, 1943

	Paducah	Morganfield	Marion	Bowling Green	Louisville	Otter Creek	Lexington	Maysville	John's Run
1. Common Loon					1				
2. Pied-Billed Grebe				1	2				
3. Double-Crested Cormorant					1				
4. Great Blue Heron				x					
5. American Bittern								1	
6. Canada Goose								30	
7. Mallard		500	45				3		
8. Black Duck		11500	500	13	1	6			
9. Lesser Scaup	2	8	6	3	2	4			
10. American Golden-Eye					4				
11. Ruddy Duck					10				
12. Hooded Merganser				1	6				
13. Turkey Vulture			2	7					
14. Black Vulture				55	2		1		
15. American Goshawk					1				
16. Sharp-Shinned Hawk				2					
17. Cooper's Hawk		1	1	2	3	1		1	
18. Red-Tailed Hawk		1	2	5		3			
19. Red-Shouldered Hawk		1	1	1	2				
20. Am. Rough-Legged Hawk				x					
21. Bald Eagle			1						
22. Marsh Hawk	1	3	3	x					
23. Duck Hawk					2				
24. Sparrow Hawk	1	3	3	11	13		7	1	x
25. Ruffed Grouse									x
26. Bob-White		x	44	23	x	12		9	x
27. American Coot				x					x
28. Killdeer					3				
29. Wilson's Snipe				1					
30. Herring Gull	5	14			21	2			
31. Ring-Billed Gull					1				
32. Rock Dove					24				
33. Mourning Dove	11	6	65	241			8		
34. Screech Owl					1			1	
35. Barred Owl	1								
36. Belted Kingfisher	1			4	5	2			
37. Flicker	4	7	8	26	16	1		2	2
38. Pileated Woodpecker		1	5	13		1			
39. Red-Bellied Woodpecker		21	8	18	16	3			
40. Red-Headed Woodpecker			1	3	2				
41. Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker				x				1	
42. Hairy Woodpecker		8	4	7	5				
43. Downy Woodpecker	3	33	65	41	28	11		8	4
44. Phoebe				3					
45. Prairie Horned Lark			2	131			52		

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (Continued)

	Paducah	Morganfield	Marion	Bowling Green	Louisville	Otter Creek	Lexington	Maysville	John's Run
46. Blue Jay	8	22	62	66	41	2	4		x
47. Eastern Crow	7	958	350	2525	.60	53	2000	11	2
48. Southern Crow							10		
49. Carolina Chickadee	3	26	150	137	88	22	7	4	26
50. Tufted Titmouse	1	16	150	120	95	20	2	7	12
51. White-Breasted Nuthatch		2		2	10	4			
52. Brown Creeper		6	1	5	5			1	
53. Winter Wren			1	2	1		2		
54. Bewick's Wren	1	1	2	1					
55. Carolina Wren	3	6	11	55	29	5		20	11
56. Mockingbird	4	3	16	24	20	2	6	3	
57. Robin		x	11	19	x			x	
58. Hermit Thrush				7					
59. Bluebird	4	8	41	52	32	1		x	x
60. Golden-Crowned Kinglet				7	8	3			6
61. Ruby-Crowned Kinglet						1	4		
62. Cedar Waxwing			32	111					
63. Migrant Shrike	1		3		1				
64. Starling	72	29	325	270	5383		1000	6	
65. Myrtle Warbler		1	5	7		7			
66. English Sparrow	135	213	x	230	313		x	13	28
67. Meadowlark	2	2	48	24	19				
68. Red-Winged Blackbird			1						
69. Rusty Blackbird				3					
70. Bronzed Grackle				1					
71. Cowbird			16	x					
72. Cardinal	19	49	1000	188	836	25	13	9	16
73. Purple Finch	9			22		2			
74. Goldfinch	3	10	5	92	13	3			16
75. Towhee	2	1	18	59	26	2		14	1
76. Vesper Sparrow			1						
77. Slate-Colored Junco	1	117	500	178	84	25	32	63	32
78. Tree Sparrow		52	10	24	29	19		x	
79. Field Sparrow	4		11	31	1	3		6	10
80. White-Crowned Sparrow	2	20	250	79	9		81		8
81. White-Throated Sparrow		4	246	42	5		13		
82. Fox Sparrow			4	1	6	2			
83. Swamp Sparrow			10	5		4			
84. Song Sparrow	17	9	100	66	37	4	3	4	13

(An x indicates that the species was recorded during the Christmas holidays but not on the day of the official count).

PADUCAH (Barkley Park, down Ohio and north segment of floodwall, back by Indian Mound at Perkins' Creek trestle, cemeteries, and Park Street). Dec. 31; 11:00 A. M. to 3:30 P. M. Ground largely frozen; fog and dense clouds rendered visibility poor and may have affected identifications, forcing use of notes, silhouettes, and characteristic movements in checking; temp. 32 to 34 F. Total, 29 species, 327 individuals.

—A. L. PICKENS, Paducah Junior College.

MORGANFIELD (Morganfield to Hardin's Station, five miles southwest; meadows, woods, dried-up slough, along railroad, and through orchard; back through Morganfield to Uniontown; up Ohio River by road past Poker's Point, about two miles). Dec. 22; 8:00 A. M. to noon, 2:00 to 6:00 P. M. Wind, northwest, fairly light, becoming stronger and very disagreeable after noon; cloudy all day, dark cloudy in afternoon; temp. 26 to 30 F. Observers together; 4½ miles on foot, 34 miles in car. We believe the estimates of the ducks and geese to be conservative. The ice on Hovey's Lake (in Indiana, north of Uniontown) had forced these waterfowl over to the Ohio River. Total, 37 species, 13,662 individuals.

—BILLY STYLES, Morganfield, and ROBERT L. WITT, Freed-Hardeman College, Henderson, Tennessee.

MARION (City Lake and along Ohio River bottoms). Dec. 24; 8:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Raining; light wind; temp. 50 F. The Myrtle Warblers were not seen on the trip but were seen the day before. This is our first record of this species after the middle of November. These birds were feeding on horseweed seeds with hosts of Juncos, sparrows of various kinds, Carolina Chickadees, and Cardinals. We have an unusual number of Cardinals this winter. Total, 49 species, 4,146 individuals.

—CHASTAIN L. and DR. T. ATCHISON FRAZER.

BOWLING GREEN (Chaney, McElroy, and Albert Covington Farms; down Drake's Creek and Barren River from Scottsville Pike to Bowling Green; wooded stream banks, 60%; open woods, 30%; pastures and cultivated fields, 10%). Dec. 19. Fair in morning, overcast in afternoon; temp. 24 to 44 F.; wind, west, 8-12 m. p. h.; ground bare, still places of streams frozen over. Five observers in three parties. Total hours, 26, on foot; total miles, 37. At a vulture roost G. W. found 52 Blacks and 1 Turkey, just after sunrise. Total, 56 species, 5,310 individuals. Other species recorded during the holidays: Great Blue Heron, American Rough-legged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, American Coot, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Cowbird.

—Roger W. Barbour, B. C. Cole, L. Y. Lancaster, Charles L. Taylor, and Gordon Wilson (compiler), Western Kentucky State Teachers College.

LOUISVILLE (Ohio River from Pipe Line Lane to Twelve-mile Island; inland about five miles along Bear Grass, Goose, Harrods, and Pond Creeks; and adjacent parks and farm lands: deciduous woodlands 45%; open farm lands, 25%; city parks, 15%; Ohio River 15%). Dec. 19. Fair; temp. 22 to 49 F.; wind, west, 8-12 m. p. h.; creeks frozen, Ohio River open. Fourteen observers in eight parties. Total hours, 35, on foot; total miles, 36. The Ruddy Ducks were observed at 200 yards through a 24x telescope by H. B. L. The Goshawk was seen at close range by A. S., the gray breast being very obvious. The Rock Doves were living on ledges in an abandoned quarry. The Screech Owl was found dead. In the business district we observed a Starling roost, with approximately 5000 birds in it.

This number is far below previous numbers, since the old Federal Building, their former roosting place, has been torn down. An increase in Carolina Wrens was noted, although sparrows and Juncoes were unusually scarce. Coverage of the Ohio River was reduced by war restrictions. Total, 50 species, approx. 6,529 individuals. One Robin was seen on Dec. 20 and five Bob-whites on Dec. 25.

—Leonard Brecher, Helen Browning, W. M. Clay, O. K. Dieterick, Louise Isfort, Harvey B. Lovell (compiler), Ethel W. Lovell, Esther Mason, Marie Peiper, Mabel Slack, Ann Stamm, F. W. Stamm, Evelyn Schneider, S. Charles Thacher, Audrey Wright (Beckham Bird Club).

OTTER CREEK (Recreational Demonstration Area, in Meade County; along Otter Creek, Ohio River, and through cabin area; deciduous woodland, 65%; grassland, 5%; Ohio River 20%). Jan. 23. Sunny; temp. 37 to 49 F.; almost no wind. Three observers in one party; six miles on foot; six and a half hours. Total species, 33; individuals, 316. In addition to the ducks listed by name we saw sixty others that could not be identified with certainty with field glasses because they were so far away. Mr. Guy, the area manager, showed us the covey of Bobwhites. The Purple Finches were feeding on coral berries; the Myrtle Warblers were around the red cedars.

—HARVEY B. LOVELL and MR. AND MRS. FRED W. STAMM

LEXINGTON (900-acre farm near Kentucky River). Dec. 26; 10:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Misty rain all day; temp. 41 to 46 F. The Prairie Horned Larks seem to have originated from a single pair which nested on the farm in May, 1936, and have continuously remained and increased in numbers since the first nesting. They appear to be non-migratory. Total, 19 species, approx. 3,248 individuals.

—VICTOR K. DODGE and CHARLES MORRELL

MAYSVILLE (Mason County; partially wooded hills). Dec. 31; five hours on foot. Observers together; five miles. Ground covered with two inches of snow; sky overcast; no wind; temp. 36 F. Total 22 species, 301 individuals. Other species recorded on December 29: Robin, Bluebird, Tree Sparrow.

—TODD MILES AND FRANK QUIGLEY.

JOHN'S RUN (six miles over fields and through woodlands). Dec. 26; 9:30 A. M. to 3:30 P. M. Cloudy, misting; temp. 38 to 40 F. Total, 15 species, 187 individuals. The week preceding Christmas the following species were seen: Ruffed Grouse, Blue Jay, Bobwhite, Bluebird, and Sparrow Hawk. The Juncoes have fallen far behind in numbers this year in my section.

—ERCEL KOZEE

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JUNIOR ACADEMY DEPARTMENT

(Note: The census from Maysville was so representative that it has been recorded in the tabulation of counts above.—Editor).

MOREHEAD (Rowan County; west of Morehead, along Blair Creek). Cold and clear on Dec. 20; snowing on Dec. 29. Hours spent in count, 3. Hawk sp., 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 2; Tufted Titmouse, 5; Cedar Waxwing, 1; Starling, 97; English Sparrow, 173; Bronzed Grackle, 22; Cardinal, 36; Goldfinch, 17; Pine Siskin (?), 26; Slate-colored Junco, 31; unidentified individuals, 8. Total, 12 species, 501 individuals.

—PEGGY REYNOLDS AND ALVIN MARTIN.

BELLEVUE (Trimble County; along Miller's Creek). Dec. 22, 23, and 24. Total hours, 9. Weather cold, snowing on 22, clear and cold on 23 and 24. Hawks sp., 8; Woodpeckers sp., 2; Turkey Vulture, 8; Black Vulture, 2; Blue Jay, 2; Crow, 16; Carolina Wren, 17; Starling, 18; English Sparrow, 7; Cardinal, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 13. Total, 11 species, 107 individuals.

—W. R. SEBASTIAN

BARBOURVILLE (Knox County; near Richland and Cumberland Rivers). Dec. 26 and 29; 9½ hours; 12 miles. Weather clear, cold, with snow on ground on 26; cloudy, cold on 29. Turkey Vulture, 5; Hawks sp., 3; Bob-white, 38; Owls sp., 8; Woodpeckers sp., 20; Crow, 74; Carolina Chickadee, 13; Carolina Wren, 10; Bluebird, 32; Starling, 175; English Sparrow, 631; Meadowlark, 8; Cowbird, 50; Bronzed Grackle, 59; Cardinals, 69; Slate-colored Junco, 25. Total, 16 species, 1333 individuals. We found the bird census most interesting and very enjoyable. We observed many characteristics of the birds which we had not seen before and about which we had not read. We saw the great need of being exceedingly quiet, of moving very slowly, and of making sure of just what we saw. We learned to observe the birds without being seen by them. In this way one can understand the natural ways of birds.

—MONA HELTON AND MARIE COREY

PADUCAH (McCracken County; along a tributary of Perkins Creek and on Lone Oak Road, about 1½ miles from Paducah). Dec. 29; 2½ hours; 2 miles. Weather cool, clear. Bob-white, 6; Flicker, 1; Blue Jay, 2; Cardinal, 4; Towhee, 12; Slate-colored Junco, 28; Sparrows sp., 35. Total, 7 species, 116 individuals.

—JIMMY O'BANNON, JR.

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CENSUSES BY OUR MEMBERS ELSEWHERE

Mr. Oscar McKinley Bryens, who lives some eight hundred miles north of Kentucky, at McMillan, Michigan, took his annual census on December 25, in ten inches of snow, finding eight species, 45 individuals. At Bloomington, Indiana, Mrs. Dorothy Madden Hobson and her sister took their census along the Wabash River and in Turkey Run State Park in a temperature of 4 to 20, seeing 25 species, 1,195 individuals.

The large Nashville, Tennessee, delegation, many of them K. O. S. members, found 70 species, approximately 20,815 individuals, on December 26.

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THE BECKHAM BIRD CLUB

By HENRIETTA LINK

The Natural History Institute held two afternoon and evening meetings in August, 1943. On August 1, 1943, we met at the Cherokee Golf Course Clubhouse at 3:30. Field trips at 4:00 included a group of bird students led by Dr. Harvey B. Lovell. Among the numerous numbers given in the evening Dr. Lovell spoke on "Bird Nesting," illustrating his talk with kodachrome slides of bird nests. Several of our other members appeared on subjects other than ornithology. The second meeting occurred on August 8 at the Lodge, Iroquois Park. Again there was a bird walk. The feature on the after-supper program, in which the K. O. S. was represented, was an illustrated lecture by Miss Evelyn J. Schneider on "Finding Birds Around Louisville."

Many members of the Beckham Bird Club participated in some summer bird walks. A trip to Towhead Island to study shore birds was led by Dr. Lovell. Evelyn Schneider led a group in the Old Third Woods to search for the nests of the Goldfinch. Floyd Carpenter led a walk through Cherokee Park to study migrating warblers. Miss Mabel Slack is the chairman of a group that planned the walks for fall and winter, walks that are to materialize in spite of the shortage of tires and gasoline.

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The Fourth Annual Kentucky Wildlife and Natural History Conference was held at the South Park Fishing Club, September 25, 1943. From 2:30 to 4:15 field trips were scheduled: the geology group was led by R. E. Stouder and Dr. William M. Clay; the bird group by Leonard Brecher and Evelyn Schneider; the insect group by Dr. Lovell and Mary May Wyman; and the botany group by Mary Sargeant and Audrey Wright. A highlight of the program was the Naturalists' Sideshow, with Dr. Arch Cole as the Barker. Those contributing to the show were the following: L. P. Aker, "Mineral Rainbows;" Dr. Harlow Bishop, "The Primordial Jitterbug;" Dr. William M. Clay, "Rattlesnake Milk;" Dr. E. K. Hall, "How Life Begins;" S. Charles Thacher, "Botanical Curiosities;" Dr. Harvey Lovell, "The Ornithologists' Tag Game." After supper the big features were addresses by Grover Page of the COURIER-JOURNAL, "Artificial Bait Fishing," and President Jacobsen of the University of Louisville, "Tales of Haiti." The organizations sponsoring the conference were the Kentucky Society of Natural History, the Louisville Municipal Hiking Club, the Louisville Astronomical Society, and the C. W. Beckham Bird Club. We owe sincere thanks to the fishing club and its president, Charles H. Dungan, for this enjoyable afternoon and evening.

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Several of our recent programs have been connected with sound. At the last meeting in the fall, Mrs. William Clay, assisted by Dr. Clay, of the University of Louisville, spoke on "The Frequency of Bird Sound." Mrs. Clay illustrated her talk by using an oscilloscope and bird recordings. The observer could see the recording of the range of frequency of the bird songs. Interesting comparisons were made with the piano keyboard. Fascinated by the moving needle of the oscilloscope, we had at our next meeting Corporal Ernest L. Edwards, of Sweet Briar, Virginia, who spoke on "The Recording of Bird Sounds." Corporal Edwards attended the University of Virginia and studied ornithology at Cornell, where he worked with Dr. A. A. Allen for two years in recording bird songs. He told of his many interesting experiences in recording and photographing in Wisconsin and the Adirondacks. He illustrated his talk with bird recordings. Corporal Edwards is now a Link-trainer at Bowman Field. At another meeting Dr. Arch Cole, of the University of Louisville, discussed "How Birds Sing." He explained the mechanism of birds, using large diagrams to illustrate his talk. His diagrams included the sound-producing mechanisms of the duck, the Merganser, the Emu, the Rook, the parrot, the Heath Hen, and the Whooping Crane.

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Our week-end trips have been carried out quite successfully. Our plans for the immediate future include hikes to Old Third Woods, Iroquois Park, Cave Hill Cemetery, George Rogers Clark Park, Cherokee Park, and Calvary Cemetery.

ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

Here are some new members since our last report: Mrs. Prue Wyatt McGaw, Providence; Mr. Thomas A. Semple, Providence; Mrs. Arch Cole, 3214 Crossbill Road, Louisville; Miss Anna Schulman, 2515 Valley Vista Road, Louisville; Miss Amelia Schulman, 2515 Valley Vista Road, Louisville; Mr. H. C. Mitchell, 4435 South Third, Louisville; Mrs. H. C. Mitchell, 4435 South Third, Louisville.

Our former secretary-treasurer, Virgil D. King, is now Chief Warrant Officer at Patterson Field, Ohio.

Professor John B. Loefer, of Berea College, who has been a member of the K. O. S. for some years, is now a lieutenant at the Army Medical Field Service School, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, and is attached to the Sanitary Corps.

Robert L. Witt, formerly of Morganfield, is now teaching at Freed-Hardeman College, Nashville, Tennessee.

We are glad to have the excellent article on bird feeding from Professor Stevens. He is secretary of the Inland Bird Banding Association, editor of INLAND BIRD BANDING NEWS, and associate professor of botany at North Dakota Agricultural College. The editor knows him personally through contacts at Wilson Club meetings and feels that our little magazine has been honored by his submitting this timely article.

Miss Helen Browning, our new Secretary-Treasurer, lives at 206 West Oak Street, Louisville. Members are urged to secure at least one new member this spring or give a subscription to the WARBLER as a present to someone interested in birds. In order to secure an unbroken file of the magazine and to keep our society from going to pieces in war time, send your dues at once to Miss Browning.

As you can see, the back of the cover contains the names of the officers for 1944. The editor, speaking for the whole K. O. S., welcomes the new official family and pledges cooperation in keeping our organization going in these troubled times.

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CHEERS FOR THE CHICKADEE

By SUE WYATT SEMPLE

Bitterly chill and dreary though the day
 May be, that little scrap of valor, called
 The chickadee, is not the least appalled
 By winter, but he keeps his manners gay.
 He is that black-capped fellow dressed in gray.
 When the thermometer goes down, enthralled
 His spirits go up, then he leaves pines scrawled
 With stencilled marks on snow-trimmed cone and spray.

He pipes clear saucy notes that spell his name:
 Chick-a-dee-dee, chick-a-dee-dee! He wings
 About when February brings few faces.
 Out of sound heart and merry throat the same
 Warm, cheerful words of friendliness he sings:
 "Happy to meet you, Sir, in these cold places!"

SHORT NOTES

Sharp-shinned Hawk Catches Bobwhite on Wing—While I was hunting in a pasture during Christmas week, 1943, my dog flushed a covey of Bobwhites. Right in the midst of the flock a Sharp-shinned Hawk also flew up, pursued one of the birds and caught it in the air. I followed the hawk and shot it, finding a beheaded Bobwhite in its talons. There had not been time enough for the hawk to complete its meal.

—L. Y. LANCASTER, Bowling Green

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A Late Baltimore Oriole Record—On September 15, 1943, while I was camping alone at Mammoth Cave, I took the bus to Frozen Niagara Entrance. On my way back I saw and studied for several minutes a male Baltimore Oriole in the oak trees in front of one of the houses occupied by park workers near the Cave City entrance to the park. It was as active and vigorous as in spring, but at no time did it utter a sound.

—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green

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Banding Lincoln Sparrows—During the last ten days I have trapped and banded four Lincoln Sparrows. They were in excellent plumage, with a fine buffy band and stripes. I had never really seen a live Lincoln Sparrow before; so you can imagine how pleased I was. I have also banded several White-Throated and White-Crowned Sparrows.

—HARVEY B. LOVELL, Louisville (October 24, 1943)

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Late Nesting of the Mourning Dove in Livingston County—Two late nests of the Mourning Dove have been discovered in Livingston County, Kentucky. The first nest was found on the banks of the Tennessee River near Grand Rivers, on September 17, 1939. The young were still in the nest, although they were able to fly a short distance. This nest was about four feet high, in the forks of a red oak sapling. The second nest was discovered on September 5, 1942. It was located in a "witches'-broom" of a hackberry, nine feet high. The young were not more than three days old. This nest was near my father's home in the town of Grand Rivers. As the nestlings of the Mourning Dove remain in the nest about fourteen days, these would not have been ready to leave until about September 16. This species nests both early and late. In southern Michigan it has been found with eggs as early as March 29 and with young in the nest as late as October 21. My records show nine nests of the Mourning Dove with eggs or young before April 15 and two nests with young after October 15. Undoubtedly, both early and late nests of this bird are more common than most observers suspect. More complete surveys made in areas where it is still on the game list may reveal that a considerable number of nesting birds are shot every hunting season.

—WALTER P. NICKELL, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

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A Visit to the Bernheim Reservation—A warm autumn sun shone brightly to set off in part the chill of a crisp November wind. Before us stretched the immense tract of rugged timber land interspersed with open fields andavenued with unnamed rocky creeks. Here and

there an artificial pond raised its myriad ripples as the wind pursued its course across the surface. Overhead a flock of Starlings and a Cooper's Hawk waged their battle in the air. In square formation came the band of Starlings to attack en masse the hawk when this daring aviator ventured too close to the Starlings' air line. Underneath this canopy of war-fare in peace and serenity Cedar Waxwings sought berries high in the treetops, Juncoes flashed their white outer tail feathers in hurried flight, and Myrtle Warblers fed upon the last insects of the season. In a nearby pond a Pied-billed Grebe played hide and seek.

This was our first all-inclusive view of the Bernheim Reservation, located about thirty miles south of Louisville in Bullitt and Nelson Counties, near Shepherdsville. This 13,000-acre tract was granted by Isaac Bernheim in 1929 for the purpose of establishing a forest and game preserve, as well as a sanctuary for wild birds. Considerable improvement has been made in recent years. A series of dams have been built, creating three artificial ponds and thus affording a sanctuary to aquatic wild life. Surrounding these ponds newly planted groves of cedar and pine afford food and shelter for birds. It is hoped that large numbers of water birds will find a way station in these ponds while on their migrations. Wild turkeys and numerous deer were introduced and are to be found in the reservation. Here, too, will be located a museum of natural history.

Overlooking this haven of wild life stands a tower on the highest knob in the reservation. From here one may view nature in all of its beauty and variation. High above the treetops the sentinels of the air, the Black and Turkey Vultures patrolled a self-appointed area. Here and there along the paths leading downward to the little separate valleys a late blooming wild flower defied the approach of winter. A single closed gentian, already past its prime, blooming witch hazel, and a few belated asters completed the floral offering.

All day long the members of the Beckham Bird Club, under the leadership of Mr. Floyd Carpenter, made their way through the shadows of the huge oaks and other trees on that November 22, 1942. As the sun dipped its way lower into the western horizon, the "kuk-kuk-kuk" of the Pileated Woodpecker sounded through the stillness of the late afternoon. Not willing to give up its glory before retiring for the night, the sun tinted the fleecy clouds with a mother-of-pearl iridescence to bid a farewell and a welcome again to the weary bird enthusiasts.

A compilation of the birds seen that day is as follows: Cooper's Hawk, 3; Robin, 31; Carolina Chickadee, 5; Myrtle Warbler, 4; Carolina Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 40; Cardinal, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 10; Hermit Thrush, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; Blue Jay, 5; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Goldfinch, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, (only call notes), Mallard, 1; Black Duck, 1; Song Sparrow, 1; Flicker, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Crow, 1; Meadowlark, 1; Turkey Vulture, 8; Black Vulture, 20.

Gas rationing has made trips of this kind a thing of the past. When the war is over, I am sure that many students of the out-of-doors will be eager to visit this interesting reservation.

—MRS. F. W. STAMM, Louisville.