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Kentucky Warbler

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



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

Volume XXI

SUMMER, 1945

Number 3

DATA ON THE NESTING HABITS OF THE YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO

By LEONARD C. BRECHER, Louisville

On Sunday afternoon, August 20, 1944, I had an opportunity to stroll along the banks of South Fork, a branch of Harrod's Creek, just over the Jefferson County line in Oldham County, Kentucky. The stream at this location is about twenty feet wide and very sluggish, since only one quarter of a mile downstream it is dammed, to form the Sleepy Hollow Lake at Black Bridge. A hill, openly wooded with deciduous trees, rises rather steeply from the creek bank. The shore line itself is closely grown with various shrubs and saplings. I had been examining the overhanging branches for nests when I observed a flat collection of twigs in a young elm (*Ulmus americana*), about ten feet overhead and about six feet out from the bank. To my surprise I noticed the tail of a bird projecting over the edge of the nest. Shortly thereafter a Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) flew off the nest and disappeared on the opposite side of the creek.

The nest was loosely built of twigs, so loosely that light could be seen through it. The tree was too slender to climb, and since any attempt to investigate the nest further would have precipitated the contents (if any) or me into the water, I abandoned the idea. I walked on down stream to watch a group of Prothonotary Warblers (*Protonotaria citrea*) and returned to the spot approximately a half hour later. The cuckoo or its mate was again on the nest. This time I used more ingenuity. Climbing about ten feet up the hillside, I found an oak tree large enough to hold my weight. I climbed the tree and from this vantage point, with the aid of binoculars, had an excellent view of the nest and the bird. The yellow lower mandible was clearly seen, as well as the black feathers of the tail, broadly tipped with white. The bird eyed me for several minutes and then left the nest, exposing two greenish blue eggs. There seemed to be no lining materials in the nest, it being built entirely of small twigs interwoven so loosely that I wondered how it stayed together. There was no definite cupping, but only a slight depression toward the center. It is possible that there may have originally been more eggs, since some could easily have been lost had they remained uncovered during a heavy wind. There had been a severe wind and rain storm only several days previously, and the nest must have swayed considerably. However Spencer¹ cites a case of a Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) that brooded her young continuously for an hour preceding a storm, through an hour of

storm, and for three quarters of an hour following the storm. Likewise Herrick² observed a Black-billed Cuckoo brood nestlings during an hour and a half of storm; so it is likely in the present case that the eggs were covered for the duration of the wind and the rain. Unfortunately, because of the shortage of gasoline and the lack of time, I was unable to visit the site of this nest again to determine when the eggs hatched or whether the young were reared successfully.

Believing this nest to be a late record for Kentucky, I checked through my reference books, only to find that few specific dates for either early or late nesting were mentioned. A number of the general works, such as BIRDS OF AMERICA (Pearson) and BIRDS OF MINNESOTA (Roberts), gave only the average nesting periods and shed no light on unusual instances. Further, since I was unable to locate any definite printed Kentucky records for the nesting of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, I decided to investigate the literature on the subject.

After searching through the WILSON BULLETIN for unusual records, I was surprised to find that from March, 1945, back to December, 1917, only two notes were found giving normal nesting occurrences. Because of the paucity of notes I was able to obtain regarding the nesting of this bird, I then decided to list all of the references I could find in the AUK. The references cited from this journal represent the complete nesting records (with the exception of a few giving normal expected dates) from 1877 through the spring of 1945. This covers a period of sixty-eight years and includes the predecessor of the AUK, the BULLETIN OF THE NUTTALL ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo is a common summer resident of the Louisville area. It is one of the later arrivals in the spring of the year and is also one of the later departures in the fall. Burt Monroe has records covering many years, showing that the earliest arrival in the Louisville area is May 2, and the latest departure is October 9. He has one nest containing two eggs which he secured on June 5. He records a nest with eggs on July 10 and another with young on July 30. Dr. Harvey Lovell has also recorded a nest in Louisville on June 29 with one egg and one young, and, for the sake of the record, I cite a nest with four eggs which he found in Warren County, Kentucky, on June 5.

From the published records concerning the state of Kentucky, Dr. L. Otley Pindar³, in 1889, first lists *Coccyzus americanus* as a common summer resident. Ben J. Blincoe⁴, gives the earliest arrival dates at Bardstown as April 29, the latest departure date as October 6, with incubation occurring on July 7. Gordon Wilson reports the earliest arrival date for Bowling Green as April 24 and the latest departure date as October 6. In his "Breeding Birds of Kentucky"⁵ he also shows that this cuckoo breeds uniformly over the state.

Bent⁶ gives Kentucky spring dates as April 22 and April 24 and lists a fall date October 10, but no definite locations are given. Egg dates are given for seven states, but I am eliminating from consideration the records of Arizona and California, since I am of the opinion that these refer to the western subspecies, the California Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis* Ridgway), which is slightly larger than the eastern Yellow-billed. Ecological differences due to the geographic location may have some bearing on the habits of the subspecies. At least, thinking of the bird in terms of the territory from

the Atlantic coast to the edge of the Mississippi valley gives it a range of which Kentucky is approximately the center.

Bent gives the following information:

State	No. of Earliest Records	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Most Frequent Date
Florida	19	April 12	August 25	April 16- May 16
Illinois	39	May 20	July 19	June 4-June 26
New York	23	May 24	August 19	June 4-June 11
Pennsylvania	13	June 6	July 29	-----
Texas	34	March 22	June 30	May 6-June 5

From this table it will be noted that the cuckoo nests earlier in the southern states than it does in the northern states. This is to be expected, and the late Florida dates may be taken as dates of second nestings, according to the belief of various authors.

This species has the habit of incubating its eggs starting with the laying of the first egg, which results in its young hatching at successive intervals. Audubon⁷ does not give specific nesting dates, but he does describe the habits of this cuckoo in a very interesting manner. He cites an instance where there seemed to be an interval of three weeks between the ages of the nestlings in the same nest. He further states that in another nest eleven cuckoos had been hatched in succession by the same pair of birds, the time extending over many weeks.

In running down references, I came across a letter which Audubon wrote from Edinburgh on July 1, 1838, to his son John, in which he mentions "I procured the small and large cuckoos in the same nest." However, this letter is much more significant because of the following statement:

"We begin printing tomorrow, 2nd of July, 1838!! Remember that, Mesdames et Messieurs! and I intend to proceed with all possible dispatch and care. All of the birds in rum will be inspected as far as internal or digestive organs, trachea, etc., are concerned, and as I am constantly present in the dissecting room, I think I shall know something about the matter soon."

This refers to his work with MacGillivray in preparing the fourth and fifth volumes of his ORNITHOLOGICAL BIOGRAPHY. The entire letter is extremely interesting, and I recommend it to all. It was originally published by Shufeldt⁸ in AUK, but now can be found in both Maria R. Audubon's⁹ and Francis H. Herrick's¹⁰ biographies of Audubon.

Alexander Wilson¹¹ gives approximate dates and an account similar to that of many other authors. However, because of his pre-eminence I quote:

"This species arrives in Pennsylvania, from the south, about the twenty-second of April, and spreads over the country, as far at least as Lake Ontario, is numerous in the Chickasaw Choctaw nations, and also breeds in the upper portions of Georgia, preferring in all these places the borders of solitary swamps and apple orchards. It leaves us, on its return southward, about the middle of September. . . . Early in May, they begin to pair, when obstinate battles take place among the males. About the tenth of that month they commence building."

Nuttall,¹² in his ORNITHOLOGY, emphasizes another habit:

"But their worst propensity is the parasitic habit of sucking the eggs of other birds, thus spreading ruin and dismay wherever they approach. They hatch several broods in a season, and I have seen a nest with eggs in it as late as the twenty-eighth of August! though they usually take their departure in some part of the month of September. Considering the time they are engaged in breeding, they raise but few young, appearing to be improvident nurses, and bad nest-makers, so that a considerable part of their progeny are either never hatched, or perish soon after, a fortunate balance to check the increase of their numbers, and circumscribe the otherwise evil of their existence."

Quite different in the style of description is the observation of Elliott Coues,¹³ an army surgeon:

"Although not parasites, like the European species, devoid of parental instinct, they have their bad traits, being even worse enemies of various small, gentle birds; for they are abandoned thieves, as wicked as Jays in this respect, continually robbing birds of their eggs, and even, it is said, devouring the helpless nestlings.

"The nidification is not remarkably peculiar, the nest being like that of a Crow in miniature, composed artlessly of many small sticks and some grass, rather loosely interlaced, and forming a flattish unsubstantial structure, usually saddled on a large horizontal branch. The eggs are pale greenish, rather broadly oval, measuring about 1 1-3 inches long by 7-8 inches in breadth. But the oviposition is very unusual. The fact is that the bird begins to set as soon as the first egg is laid, and successively deposits the rest at such intervals that a nest may be found with a fresh egg in it, another partially incubated, a newly hatched bird, and one or more young more advanced."

Confirmation of Coues's indictment of this cuckoo as a devourer of nestlings is cited in a note by Mrs. S. Charles Thacher¹⁴, who states: "One morning we were horrified to see the parent bird (Yellow-billed Cuckoo) take a nude baby Robin from a nest in a near-by apple tree and feed it to her own baby."

Bendire¹⁵, another army officer, and the first authority to write a book on the life history of birds, corroborates the statements made above as follows:

"In the southern portion of their range, including Florida and the Gulf states, nidification begins occasionally early in April, and fresh eggs may be found sometimes in the last two weeks of this month; but the majority of these birds rarely commence laying here before the second week in May. In the District of Columbia a few pairs nest in the latter part of this month, but the greater portion do not before June, and occasionally not before July, while instances of fresh eggs, possibly second layings, have been found in the latter part of August, and even in the beginning of September. In the northern portions of its range the breeding season is at its height during the latter part of June and the first week of July, and here only one brood is raised, while in the south they sometimes raise two."

In his description of the breeding habits of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barrows¹⁶, in 1922, states:

"Single cuckoo eggs are not infrequently found in the nests of other birds here in Michigan, but not more often perhaps than we find eggs of Robins, Blackbirds, and some sparrows. In this connection it should be noted that comparatively fresh eggs and newly hatched young are sometimes found in the same nest, although as a general rule the set is completed before incubation begins. It is difficult to believe that only one brood is reared in Michigan each season, since eggs are common in June and all through July and August, even a few sets being found in September. It is possible that these are merely second layings by birds which have been unfortunate with their nests, but it seems more likely that many individuals rear two broods."

But Forbush¹⁷, writing at a much later date, in Massachusetts, does not commit himself so definitely, as he merely says: "Eggs sometimes laid in April in southern states. May 20 to June 30 in Massachusetts, usually one brood in the north, but sometimes double-brooded in the south. Incubation fourteen days."

Corroborating Barrows's statement given above, Edwards¹⁸, says he found a Yellow-billed Cuckoo's egg in a Robin's nest at Granby, Connecticut, on July 2, 1902. The nest also contained two of the Robin's eggs, but the Robins deserted the nest. Allen¹⁹ likewise writes:

"The laying of our American Cuckoos in the nests of other birds is doubtless not so rare an occurrence as has been supposed. Two instances have been observed recently in this immediate vicinity, and I have heard of others. Mr. A. M. Frazer, of Watertown, Massachusetts, informs me of one instance where the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) deposited an egg in a Robin's nest, and another case of the laying of the same species in the nest of a Wood Thrush."

Much farther south, near San Antonio, Texas, Attwater²⁰, tells of finding a Dickcissel's nest containing five eggs and one Yellow-billed Cuckoo's egg. The following year some boys brought him three Black-throated Sparrow's eggs and one Yellow-billed Cuckoo's egg, which they said they had found all together in one nest. However, Bendire¹⁵, also in speaking of the birds which have been imposed on by the cuckoo's habit of laying eggs in their nests, says:

"Such instances appear to be much rarer, however, than those in which they interlay with each other, and the majority of these may well be due to accident, their own nest having possibly been capsized, and necessity compelled the bird to deposit its eggs elsewhere. Such instances do occur at times with species that cannot possibly be charged with parasitic tendencies."

Todd²¹, in his BIRDS OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA, published in 1940, also notes that this species occasionally reverts to the parasitic habit of its European cousin and lays its eggs in the nests of other birds. He also recognizes the fact that no positive answer is yet forthcoming as to the cause of late nesting occurrences, saying:

"It is not unusual to find a nest containing newly hatch-

ed young, an incubated egg and one egg nearly fresh. There is also a wide discrepancy in the time of nesting. In our region nests with eggs have been found as early as May 20 (Atkinson) and as late as August 26 (Burleigh). June, however, is the most favored month. This may mean that two broods are sometimes reared, or that the later nestings are delayed ones . . . Three eggs are the average set, but sometimes only two are laid; four and even five have been found, however."

Burleigh²², speaking of the area around Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and partially quoted by Todd, above, says:

"A common summer resident, my dates for arrival in the spring are May 17, 1913, and May 17, 1914, and for departure in the fall, October 16, 1912, and October 1, 1913. My earliest breeding record is May 30, 1909, three slightly incubated eggs, and my latest record August 26, 1910, two fresh eggs. The latter nest is, by over two months, the latest I have ever known this bird to have fresh eggs, for a nest found June 20, 1917, with four incubated eggs, is my next latest record."

Harlow²³, in writing of the area embracing Pennsylvania and New Jersey, lists this species as "a common breeding bird in the lower ground of both states, becoming less plentiful toward the mountains. I have not found it in the boreal parts of Pennsylvania. Data on 24 nests give: average set 3(2-5); average date June 15; earliest date May 24; latest date August 15."

Dawson²⁴, in his BIRDS OF OHIO, expresses the opinion that "nesting may be undertaken as early as the last week in May, but I once found a nest with fresh eggs at this latitude on the 16th of August—the latter perhaps a second set."

The latest nestings that I found recorded were those given by Trautman²⁵ in THE BIRDS OF BUCKEYE LAKE, OHIO. Considering the latitude of the region, these records are late indeed. He states:

"The earliest nest with eggs (4) was found in June 27, 1930. The species apparently nested very late. On September 4, 1926, Robert B. Gordon recorded young birds in the nest, and on September 20, 1929, a farmer found a nest with three eggs! On September 25, 1929, I visited this nest and found three small young. These remained in the nest until October 3."

Hess²⁶, in speaking of the breeding birds of central Illinois says:

"The bird is a late breeder and inhabits woods, fields and towns alike, arrives from May 7 to May 20. Earliest nesting, 3 eggs June 15, 1899. A remarkably late nest was located in a box elder of my residence yard in the village, (Campaign County) September 5, 1898. It was discovered when the leaves began to thin. The bird was sitting on four incubated eggs, but deserted them when the limbs became bare."

In the same latitude, but moving over west of the Mississippi, Holland²⁷, has recorded a late occurrence of young, noting that "On September 11, two fairly grown Yellow-billed Cuckoos (*Coccyzus americanus americanus*) were observed in a nest in Des Moines County, Iowa."

A little farther south, Linsdale²⁸, records "July 15, one was seen carrying nesting material along the river at Coolidge, Kansas." This would indicate another brood of young for September, if the brooding were successful.

Southeast of the above area, Adams²⁹, writes from Missouri:

"At Columbia, Missouri, on September 9, 1932, Mr. Adrain Hatton and the writer discovered a Yellow-billed Cuckoo sitting on its nest in an elm tree, about thirty feet from the ground. The nest was found to contain two half-grown young birds. The observation was confirmed later in the day by Professor Rudolph Bennett, of the Department of Zoology, University of Missouri.

"Not only does it appear unusual for the bird to build its nest so far from the ground, but the latest nesting date given in any available references to birds of Missouri and surrounding states is July 6 (Nice, BIRDS OF OKLAHOMA, 1931, p. 102.)"

In the same latitude as Kentucky, Bayliss³⁰ tells of the development of a brood in Virginia as follows:

"On July 24, 1916, I found a Yellow-billed Cuckoo's nest, with the bird incubating, ten feet from the ground on the horizontal branch of a small elm The nest contained three green eggs July 29, at 6:30 P. M. the eggs were there . . . and the nest was not visited until the forenoon of August 1, when there were three young birds in it, all as black as ink."

Examination of the accounts for the states south of Kentucky reveals two late records in Tennessee. Dr. George Mayfield, in the MIGRANT, writes:

"On the morning of August 29, my attention was called to a pair of Yellow-billed Cuckoos in a small clump of low cedar trees. On looking more closely, I noticed a nest with one or more young in the nest. After feeding one of the young, the female flew away accompanied by the male. That afternoon the nest was deserted. On the morning of August 30, another nest was discovered, within two hundred yards of the first nest, and by a roadside about 10 feet up. Examination showed four eggs, apparently not so far incubated. It was apparent that these young birds would still be in the nest as late as mid-September."

This cuckoo is given a rather extended breeding season in THE BIRDS OF NORTH CAROLINA³², but no definite records are cited, only the concise statement: "This bird is a summer resident in North Carolina, its breeding season being from May to August."

In THE BIRDS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, by Wayne³³, more definite information is given as follows:

"Full complements of eggs of the first brood, which are almost always three, are laid by May 15. My earliest record is May 2, 1908, when I took four eggs. A second set is laid in August, and I have seen young just hatched, and three eggs in different stages of incubation, all in the nest at the same time."

Howell³⁴, in his BIRDS OF ALABAMA, writes: "Nesting begins

in May and continues until August, indicating that two or more broods are raised. Eggs have been found at Leighton on May 18, and August 10 (McCormick) . . . at Booth, August 11 (Golsan³⁵)."

Holt³⁶, writing of late breeding records in Alabama, says of this cuckoo that two eggs were found in a nest at Barachias on August 14, 1923.

A Georgia nest is noted by Erichsen³⁷, speaking of Liberty County, located on the Atlantic coast. He states that this bird is moderately common and that he found a nest containing three young on May 17. This is a normal, expected occurrence.

In FLORIDA BIRD LIFE, Howell³⁸ states that "nesting begins early in May (St. Marks, May 2, 1919) and may continue until August (Leon County, August 11, 1900)." This latter reference was taken from Williams³⁹, who reported the Yellow-bill as "a common summer resident, nesting in diverse situations. It is fond of trees, along public highways, for nesting sites. Fresh eggs have been taken on August 11, 1900. I have a set of six eggs." This set of six eggs is the largest number definitely reported as occurring at one time. Larger broods, consisting of eggs and young, because of the bird's habit of brooding the eggs during their deposition, have been mentioned above, although Carroll⁴⁰, in his notes on the birds of Refugio County, Texas, says that sets of five eggs are not uncommon. Two eggs seem to be the number most frequently mentioned. Nicholson⁴¹, speaks of finding two well-incubated eggs on July 31, 1926, twelve feet up in a mangrove tree near the salt marshes along the Halifax River, Florida.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo occurs in the islands off the coast of Florida and down through the West Indies. Scott⁴², in his OBSERVATIONS ON THE BIRDS OF JAMAICA, WEST INDIES, says: "The Yellow-billed Cuckoo, as stated above, frequents the woods and mangrove thickets at Port Henderson, where we met it daily. Of the few well-authenticated eggs obtained, four now in my possession, taken as late as August 1, were fresh."

SUMMARY

An evaluation and condensation of the notes and opinions of the various authors quoted above seem to justify the following conclusions:

1. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo is one of the later arrivals in the spring migration, and therefore its optimum nesting period starts later than that of a great number of other species.

2. It has an extended nesting season due, in part, to (a) its habit of deposition of eggs at intervals after incubating has commenced, thus prolonging the time the young are in the nest; and (b) its attempt to rear two and even three broods, possibly necessitated by failure of the first or second broods, caused by poorly constructed nests which do not conceal but merely hold the eggs insecurely.

3. The number of eggs deposited varies from one to eleven, though two to four eggs comprise the average set.

4. The American cuckoos quite often lay their eggs in each other's nests; and the Yellow-billed Cuckoo occasionally deposits an egg in the nest of another species. However, this does not occur frequently enough to be classed as a parasitic habit, and a closer investigation of this habit as it relates to other birds may disclose the fact that this trait of the Yellow-billed is of no more frequent occurrence than that of any other species.

5. There is a noticeable lack of definite information published

on the nesting of this species. There is a definite need for close observation and accurate recording of the facts concerning the life history not only of this species but many others as well. Here is a field of opportunity open to all observers to keep their eyes open and send in their notes.

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THE WARBLER'S FIRST ANNUAL BIG SPRING LIST

For years many of our members have made an effort at least once each spring to get as big a list of birds as possible, either on one day or on a favorable weekend. The editor decided to make a feature of this annual effort to see all the birds and thus give an incentive to all of us to beat our own records. The response this first year has been rather good, though we do miss some sections of the state that should be represented. For instance, we need two or three reports from the mountain counties. Though it is perfectly possible that there are errors in the lists published, it is only by comparing notes and making careful checkings that any of us can become scientifically accurate. By 1946 it will be possible to send each prospective participant a checklist arranged in proper order, so that the putting together of the records will not be such a task as it became this year. Begin right now to plan your Christmas Census and then, immediately after that, the Big Spring-List for 1946.

	Murray	Providence	Marion	Bowling Green	Mammoth Cave	Otter Creek	Louisville	Anchorage	Lexington
1. Holboell's Grebe				C					C
2. Pied-billed Grege	X	X	C	C					C
3. Double-crested Cormorant				C					C
4. Great Blue Heron	C	C	C	C	X				C
5. Green Heron	C	C	C	C	C				C
6. Black-crowned Night Heron..				C		C	C	C	C
7. Yellow-crowned Night Heron..						X			C
8. Bittern	C	X							C
9. Glossy Ibis				C					
10. Canada Goose							X		
11. Mallard	C		C	C	X				
12. Black Duck		X		C	X				
13. Gadwall				C	X				
14. Baldpate				C	X				
15. Pintail				C	X				
16. Green-winged Teal				C	X				
17. Blue-winged Teal				C	X		C		C
18. Shoveller				C	X				
19. Wood Duck		C	C	X	C		C		
20. Ring-necked Duck				C	X				
21. Greater Scaup Duck				C	X				
22. Lesser Scaup Duck			X	C	X				
23. Ruddy Duck				X	X				
24. Turkey Vulture	C	X	C	C	C	C	C		C
25. Black Vulture			C	X					C
26. Sharp-shinned Hawk	X	X	C	C					C
27. Cooper's Hawk	X	X	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
28. Red-tailed Hawk		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
29. Red-shouldered Hawk	C	X	X	X	X	C	C	C	C
30. Broad-winged Hawk		C		X		C			
31. Rough-legged Hawk									
32. Marsh Hawk		C							C
33. Osprey	C	C		C					C
34. Sparrow Hawk	C	C	C	X	C	C	C	C	C
35. Bob-white	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
36. Texas Bob-white									C
37. Sora						X			
38. Coot		X	C	C	X	X	C		C
39. Semipalmated Plover						X	C	C	
40. Killdeer	C	C	C	C	X	C	C	C	C
41. Golden Plover			C						
42. Black-bellied Plover					X				
43. Wilson's Snipe		C	C	C	X				
44. Upland Plover				C	C				
45. Spotted Sandpiper		C	C	C	X		C		
46. Solitary Sandpiper	X	C	C	C	X		C		C
47. Greater Yellow-legs	X			C	X		C		
48. Lesser Yellow-legs			C	C	X				

	Murray,	Providence	Marion	Bowling Green	Mammoth Cave	Otter Creek	Louisville	Anchorage	Lexington
49. Pectoral Sandpiper					C				
50. Least Sandpiper					C				
51. Dowitcher					C				
52. Common Tern					X				
53. Black Tern					X				
54. Mourning Dove	C	C				C			
55. Yellow-billed Cuckoo			C	C	C	C	C	C	
56. Black-billed Cuckoo			X			C			
57. Barn Owl						C			
58. Screech Owl			X						C
59. Great Horned Owl			X	C					C
60. Barred Owl									
61. Chuck-will's-widow			C	C	X		C		
62. Whip-poor-will	C		X						
63. Nighthawk	C	C	X	C	C	C	C	C	C
64. Chimney Swift	C	C	X	C	C	X	C	C	C
65. Ruby-throated Hummingbird			X	C	C	C	C	C	C
66. Belted Kingfisher			X	C	X	X	C	C	C
67. Flicker	C	C	C	C	C	X	C	C	C
68. Pileated Woodpecker	C	C	X	C	C	C	C	C	C
69. Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	C
70. Red-headed Woodpecker	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	C
71. Hairy Woodpecker	X	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
72. Downy Woodpecker	C	X	X	C	C	C	C	C	C
73. Kingbird	X	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
74. Crested Flycatcher	C	C	X	C	C	C	C	C	C
75. Phoebe	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
76. Acadian Flycatcher	C	C		X	C	C	C	C	C
77. Alder Flycatcher	X	X							
78. Least Flycatcher		X	X	C	C	C	C	C	C
79. Wood Pewee	C	X	X	C	C	C	C	C	C
80. Olive-sided Flycatcher		X	X						
81. Horned Lark			C	C	X		X		C
82. Tree Swallow		X		C					
83. Bank Swallow		X	C	C					
84. Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
85. Barn Swallow	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
86. Cliff Swallow	C	X		C	C	C	C	C	C
87. Purple Martin	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
88. Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
89. Crow	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
90. Carolina Chickadee	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
91. Tufted Titmouse	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
92. White-breasted Nuthatch		X	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
93. House Wren	X	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
94. Winter Wren		C		X					C
95. Bewick's Wren	C	C	C	X	C	C	C	C	C

	Murray	Providence	Marion	Bowling Green	Mammoth Cave	Otter Creek	Louisville	Anchorage	Lexington
143. Water-thrush		X	C						
144. Louisiana Water-thrush			C						
145. Kentucky Warbler	C			C	C	C	C		C
146. Connecticut Warbler									
147. Yellow-throat	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		
148. Yellow-breasted Chat				X				C	C
149. Hooded Warbler					C		C		
150. Wilson's Warbler		X					X		
151. Canada Warbler					X		X		
152. Redstart	X	X		X		C	X		
153. English Sparrow	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
154. Bobolink	X			X	C		X		
155. Meadowlark	C	C	C	C	C	C	X	C	C
156. Red-wing	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
157. Orchard Oriole	C	C	C						C
158. Baltimore Oriole		X		X		X	C		
159. Rusty Blackbird	C								
160. Purple Grackle	C		C						
161. Bronzed Grackle	C	C	C	C		C	C		C
162. Cowbird	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C
163. Scarlet Tanager		X		X		C	C	C	
164. Summer Tanager	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
165. Cardinal	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
166. Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C	C	C	X	C	C	
167. Indigo Bunting	C	X	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
168. Dickcissel			C	X	C	C	C	C	C
169. Goldfinch	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
170. Towhee	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
171. Savannah Sparrow	C				X		X		
172. Grasshopper Sparrow	C		C	C	X	C	X		C
173. Sharp-tailed Sparrow ?	X								
174. Vesper Sparrow	C								C
175. Lark Sparrow				X					
176. Bachman's Sparrow				X	X				
177. Slate-colored Junco		X							
178. Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
179. Field Sparrow	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
180. White-crowned Sparrow	C	C	C	C	C		C		C
181. White-throated Sparrow	C	C	C	C	C	X	C	C	
182. Fox Sparrow			C					C	
183. Lincoln's Sparrow				X	X				
184. Swamp Sparrow	X			C	C				
185. Song Sparrow	C	C	C	X		C	C	C	C

(c indicates that the species was recorded on the day devoted to the count; c- means that the species was seen on the census day but not in the area listed in the count; x means that the species was recorded within a week of the count).

MURRAY. April 29, 8:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Ten miles east of Murray on Wildcat Creek and Blood River. Temp. 55; wind northwest. Observers: A. M. Wolfson and Grace Wyatt. Supplementary field trips on April 21-22 and May 5-6. Supplementary observers: Kathleen Key. Total species on census, 76; for period studied, 97.

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PROVIDENCE. April 26; ten hours in the field. Providence to John Norwood Farm and back, going and coming by different routes; residential areas; east to Lake View Cemetery and Shamrock Lake; southwest to Gus Brown Farm. Temp. 50-60; brisk north wind; overcast most of the day. Observers: Dr. Susie Holman Gilchrist, Trudie Sigler Corbin, Thomas A. Semple, and Sue Wyatt Semple, (compiler). Supplementary field trips in the Providence area just before and just after the census. Total species, on census, 59; for period studied, 105.

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MARION. May 13. Around Marion and to Maple Sinks. Temp. 70; wind southwest; fair overhead. Observers: Chastain Frazer. Total species, on census, 88.

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BOWLING GREEN. April 21, 6:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Along Drake's Creek and across Airport in morning; Chaney and McElroy Farms in afternoon. Temp. 56-75; wind southwest; rain in morning, clear in afternoon. Observer: Gordon Wilson. Supplementary field trips on April 14 and April 28-29 in Warren County. Total species, for census, 100; for period studied, 136.

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MAMMOTH CAVE. May 5-6; overnight camp. Temp. 50-70; very strong west wind; sky clear. Observer: Gordon Wilson. Supplementary trip made on May 4 in nearby areas in Barren County. Total species, on census, 95; for period studied, 124.

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OTTER CREEK. May 20; 9:30 A. M. to 7:00 P. M. Otter Creek Recreational Area and along the road to West Point. Weather warm and clear; no wind. Observers: Harvey Lovell, Burt Monroe, Jr., Esther Mason, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brecher, Amy Deane, Helen Peil, and Dorothy Peil. Supplementary trip on preceding week-end by Misses Amy Deane and Helen Peil. Total species, on census, 77; for period studied, 89.

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LOUISVILLE. May 13; all day. Iroquois Park, Indian Hills, Ohio River, Cave Hill Cemetery, Cherokee Park, Sleepy Hollow, and Anchorage. No wind; fair. Observers: Harvey Lovell, Evelyn Schneider, Floyd Carpenter, Esther Mason, Burt Monroe, Jr., Walter S. Shackleton, Ann Stamm, Leonard Brecher. Total species, on census, 102; for period studied, 117.

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ANCHORAGE. May 11, 12, and 13. Observers: Esther Mason and Burt Monroe, Jr. Total species, for census, 71; for period studied, 72.

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LEXINGTON. May 6. In Lexington area, supplemented on April 26 on Lake Ellerslie and on April 29 on farms in Woodford County. Observer: Victor K. Dodge. Total species, for period studied, 74.

NOTES ON THE BIG SPRING LIST

Hosts of Barn Swallows—In one barn in Woodford County there are 59 complete nests of the Barn Swallow and many more in various stages of construction. The barn is close to a wet-weather lake of greater depth but of less duration than Mr. Wilson's lakes south of Bowling Green.

—Victor K. Dodge, Lexington.

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Bird No. 100—On April 21, as I was on my way back to my car after spending all day trying to make my Big Spring List, I waded through deep grass and sometimes deeper mud to the source springs of the McElroy Lake. I had found 99 species and was eager to find just one more. Suddenly from the small pool at the source rose a large dark-colored bird. My first impulse was to think it a Double-crested Cormorant because of its outstretched neck, but the bill was too long and was definitely, almost comically, decurved. The next guess was the Little Blue Heron, but this was no heron's bill. Fortunately for me the bird circled overhead in the bright sunlight three times, never being more than a few yards from me. Besides, it gave its un-heron-like croak. Its chestnut-colored neck and foreparts, the long decurved bill, the extended neck, and the croak identified it as the Glossy Ibis, the first one I have ever observed in my territory, though I have seen it in zoos.

—Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.

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Some Louisville Notes—I saw 8 Pipits on May 12 with some Horned Larks and then found two Canada Geese in a plowed field near by. Black and Common Terns were on the river for several days at the end of Fourth Street, but no one was down there on the census day. The Least Flycatcher recorded was singing in my yard when I went out to my traps at seven o'clock in the morning. Mr. Shackleton has a pair of Rosebreasted Grosbeaks at a feeding tray at Sleepy Hollow. I recently found an injured Gray-checked Thrush, which died next day and is now a study skin.

—Harvey Lovell, Louisville.

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Some Providence Census Notes—I encountered my first Wilson's Snipes, five of them, and some Solitary Sandpipers, feeding together in a mud flat. I got close enough to hear the screams or cries of the snipes. To me the finding of a nest is always a big experience; on the census I found nests of the following: Meadowlark, Carolina Chickadee, Brown Thrasher, Catbird, Killdeer, and Mockingbird. I believe that the most thrilling experience was this: in a shallow, sedgy marsh there stood a Great Blue Heron, motionless as if he had been painted on a screen, his long neck stretched straight out and up at a slanting angle, full length, ready for flight. For a split second, I thought he was a painted card board, advertising something. Then I saw him move, spread his massive wings, and fly away majestically.

—Sue Wyatt Semple, Providence:

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Some Murray Reactions—Because of lack of gas and bird enthusiasts, I am sure the count is not what it should be for this section, but I have done my best with the time available and the feet. I am hoping to do some definite bird study this fall on the new Kentucky Lake.

—Grace Wyatt, Murray.