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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. XXII

WINTER, 1946

No. 1

NESTING OF THE PROTHONOTARY WARBLER

Walter H. Shackleton, Prospect

A pair of brilliant yellow birds entered a hole in the trellis by the side of our home at Sleepy Hollow in Oldham County on April 26, 1944. The birds proved to be Prothonotary Warblers (*Protonotaria citrea*), a species which one usually associates with wooded creeks or the edges of swamps and sloughs, where the beautiful birds nest in rotten stumps standing in or near the water. At Sleepy Hollow there is an artificial lake only about 100 yards behind our house; so it was not too surprising that the Prothonotary Warblers while searching for suitable nesting sites should inspect the vicinity of our house. It did seem to us remarkable that such shy birds should have liked what they found so well that they built a nest and raised two broods of young, the first leaving about June 26 and the second leaving on July 30.

In 1945 we were on the watch for our birds and were pleased to observe them on April 16, an early date for the species in this vicinity, entering the same hole in the trellis. They were not ready to start nesting, however, although the male was frequently heard proclaiming his territory from song perches behind the house.

We have for several years been keeping a log of natural history, and the following excerpts are taken from it.

April 28. At six A. M. male and female Prothonotaries are again inspecting the nesting hole in trellis, both sexes going in and out of all possible holes, apparently just looking.

May 9. There is a well-formed nest in the hole in the trellis.

May 14. A set of eggs has been laid, and the female is now incubating.

May 20. Female Prothonotary is on nest almost constantly. Male sings in nearby tree; challenges any bird going near trellis. He feeds the female with suet from our feeding station. She stuck her bill out to receive it.

May 23. Female incubating still and male continuing to be attentive to her needs.

May 29. Young were noted for the first time in the nest, probably several days old. Both parents were very active bringing in worms from nearby trees.

May 30. A clear, sunny day made photography possible. From the side window of the house we were able to set up a camera and focus on the birds from a distance of about 6 feet. They continued

to feed the young, paying very little attention to us at the open window. Although the male did not assist in the incubating or brooding he did assist materially in the feeding of the young. At intervals the female would brood the three young, in which case the male relayed the food to her. She, of course, nearly always passed it on to the offspring.

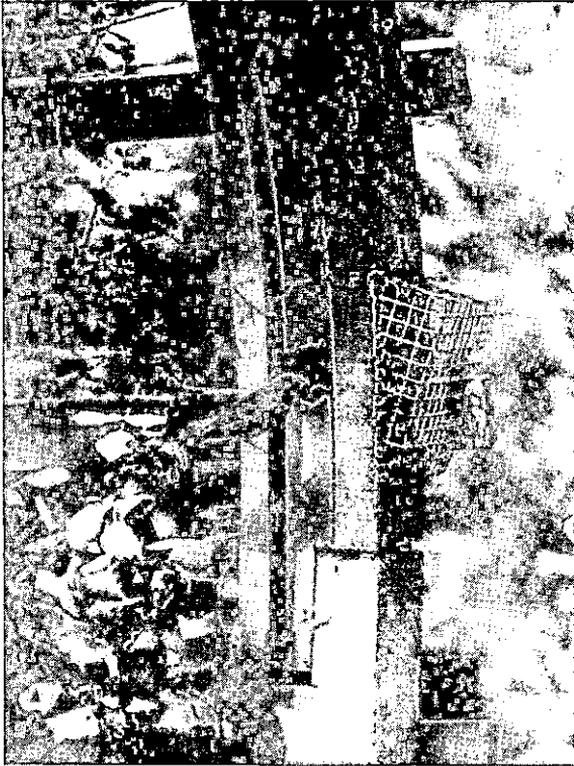


Figure 1. Prothonotary Warbler Carrying Food.

Late in the afternoon as she came out of the nesting hole, the female was trapped and banded. She struggled very violently and was apparently slightly injured, probably on the wing, for she ran under the house when released and did not return to the nest. The male continued to feed the young, although at somewhat irregular intervals, during the next three days, but did not brood even in this emergency. The young birds were still there on June 3, but on June 4, the nest was empty, absolutely clean and in good shape. The male was still singing nearby. It is probable that some predator removed the nestlings during the night, as they were not yet sufficiently fledged to have left under their own power.

On June 11 we saw the banded female Prothonotary again in the red-bud tree. Her left wing drooped a little, and she hopped about

more than she flew. The male flew back and forth between the tree and a small bird house, finally leading her to investigate it as well as several possible nesting holes nearby. He then flew to the old nesting site in the trellis and was still trying to coax her in when we had to leave.

The banded female, now flying quite well, was again seen later in the month going into the hole in the trellis, but she did not re-nest there or elsewhere as far as we know, probably because the nesting period for the species was over for the season.

Walkinshaw (1941) has recently described the use of nesting boxes by Prothonotaries at Reelfoot Lake in Western Tennessee. In 30 boxes placed along a narrow waterway he found 24 nests in 1939. The date of laying of the first egg in 1939 was April 6, and the last young would have left a nest August 10, 1939. Binnewies (1943) has described a nest in a wheel guard on the ferry boat on Green River in Mammoth Cave National Park. Although this ferry was in constant use, the Prothonotary Warblers successfully reared their brood. Wilson (1941) has reported two cases of this species nesting in mail boxes in southern Kentucky, and a third pair which used a milk can on a porch.

From the above data it can be concluded that the habits of the Prothonotary Warbler are such that it can adapt itself to human surroundings. Its habit of using nesting holes is probably responsible for this, and we venture to predict that in the next hundred years where there are ponds or streams this attractive bird will be a fairly regular inhabitant of bird boxes in suburban locations.

Binnewies, Fred W., 1943. Ferry Boat Attracts Prothonotary Warblers. *Ky. Warbler*, Vol. 19, p. 53.

Walkinshaw, L. H., 1941. The Prothonotary Warbler, a Comparison of Nesting Conditions in Tennessee and Michigan. *Wil. Bul.*, Vol. 53, pp. 1-21.

Wilson, Gordon, 1941. Prothonotary Warblers Nesting in Mailboxes. *Ky. Warbler*, Vol. 17, p. 39.

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NOTE ON THE BROWN CREEPER

Leonard G. Brecher, Louisville, Kentucky

Now that the winter season is here, one of the interesting birds to be found throughout Kentucky wherever there are large trees is the Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*). It arrives around Louisville in the middle of October and leaves us for its northern home about the middle of April. Many persons overlook this forager because of its inconspicuous brownish coloration and its lack of song while in our midst. However, if one learns its call note, which is an unobtrusive tseep, it is surprising how often it may be found. It feeds on larvae and insects as it ascends the trunks of fair-sized trees in a creeping manner. It then drops down to the base of a neighboring tree, where it again hunches itself upward woodpecker-fashion in its untiring search for food. Sometimes it ascends directly up the same side of the trunk, but more often it hitches itself upward in a spiral around the tree; so if the bird disappears behind the trunk, watch for its reappearance about ten feet farther up.

As I write this (Dec. 2) I have just finished watching one of these creepers in my back yard. I saw it flash down to the base of a walnut tree and work its way up in a slightly zigzag fashion till it reached a height of about thirty feet, when it dropped back again to where it had started and then repeated its ascent over the same

course. I watched it probe quite a number of times on its climb. It must have found hunting good here, for it repeated this performance five times, each time going up the same side of this walnut until it reached the point where the trunk branched.

While its food is for the most part of insects, yet it has been found to contain parts of lichens, mosses, and fungi. Alexander Wilson (1831, p. 196) states that he frequently has found seeds of the pine tree in their stomachs. The bill of the creeper is slender and is curved downward, and it has no power to chisel off bark or bore holes. So this bird must content itself with probing under loose bark or prying into crevices, which it does with ease, for its progress scarcely halts. Dr. Elliott Coues, who was an army surgeon, says (1878, p. 174) "the mandibles may be likened to an extremely delicate pair of forceps, which may be insinuated into the narrowest crevices of the bark to pick out the most minute objects—and a very efficient tool it proves, as used by its skillful and indefatigable owner."

In the light of the foregoing statements, the following incident may be of interest. I was driving in heavy traffic on March 19 in an industrial section of Louisville. Very few trees were in the area, an occasional red mulberry or a silver maple interspersed between a series of five or six telephone poles. As I moved slowly along, I saw a bird fly from the top of a pole to the base of the next pole ahead of me. I recognized it as a Brown Creeper, and I watched it zigzag up, peering now into a season check, and now into a hole left by a lineman's spur. I was unable to drop out of the traffic and so was unable to note whether the creeper flew on to the next pole. Had these been old poles, I would have thought nothing of the incident, for, after all such would not be much different from dead trees. But these poles had all been recently placed and were heavily creosoted. The tarry substance gleamed in the feeble sunlight, and, had the weather been hot, the pole would have been very sticky. Presumably it was firm, yet the bird was able to maintain its hold on the comparatively smooth surface and did not seem to be bothered either by the odor of the creosote or by the stream of moving vehicles scarcely ten feet away. Evidently enough larvae were to be found to keep it entirely preoccupied with its serious business of living.

Coues, Elliott, 1878. *Birds of the Colorado Valley*, Misc. Pub. No. 11, U. S. Geol. Survey.

Wilson, Alexander, and Charles Lucian Bonaparte, 1831. *American Ornithology*, Vol. II, Edinburgh.

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MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1945-6

MURRAY (Roger's Lake; area of two miles around the college campus, keeping to low places because of high winds). Jan. 5, 1946: 8 to 10:30 A. M.; 12:30 to 4:30 P. M. Sky overcast; rain started at 9 and continued to 12:30; wind 35 to 40 miles an hour, southeasterly; temp. 60; sky clear or nearly so after 12:30. We did not attempt to visit Kentucky Lake because of the very high wind. Total, 45 species, 1343 individuals.

—RUBY FLOWERS, WILLIAM E. HARROD AND GRACE WYATT

MARION (In and around Marion; river bottoms below Cave-in-Rock Landing). Dec. 30; all day (T. A. F. in the town, C. L. F. in the bottoms). The number of species is about what we expected, but the number of individuals is small because of our trying to cover so much territory. Temp. 35. Total, 50 species, 824 individuals.

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

UNIONTOWN (Along Ohio River past Poker's Point, thence to Lake Des Islets and Morton's Lake in Camp Breckinridge reservation, thence to Harding Station). Dec. 26; 9:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear; cold west wind, 20 to 30 m. p. h.; temp. 30-42. Observer alone; 49 miles by car, 4 miles on foot. I heard a Bewick's Wren in town on December 27 and saw some Bronzed Grackles on December 28. Total, 42 species, 1070 individuals.

—ROBERT L. WITT, Freed-Hardeman College, Henderson, Tenn.

PROVIDENCE (To Jim Corbin's Farm, 5½ miles southwest, in car; meadows, open fields, open woods, river banks, country lanes, stable lots where stock were fed, gullied hillsides, and pastures; Highway 41 northeast mostly in car; inland two miles on foot to Shamrock Lake and Lakeview Cemetery). Dec. 23; 8 A. M. to noon; 2-4 P. M. Light north wind; ground covered with snow; river and lake frozen over; overcast all day, becoming very disagreeable after noon, with a freezing drizzle; temp. 20-24. Five observers in two parties. The Brown Thrasher was the big surprise; it was feeding near a stable lot with Cardinals, Towhees, and all kinds of sparrows. Three days before the official count we saw hundreds of Crows flying over Providence. Other species recorded in the holiday season were Sparrow Hawk, Bewick's Wren, and Robin. Total, 35 species, 1015 individuals.

—J. D. PALMER, SUSIE HOLMAN GILCHRIST, TRUDY SIGLER CORBIN, DORA WYATT, AND SUE WYATT SEMPLE, Compiler.

MADISONVILLE (Loch Mary, Spring Lake, Atkinson Lake, woods, streets, and open country). Dec. 31; 8½ hours in the field. Cloudy; light northwest wind; frequent snow flurries; temp. 26-28. The Cedar Waxwing and the Myrtle Warbler were observed a few days before the census. Most of the birds seemed inactive. Of local interest were the Red-winged Blackbirds, which were found on Atkinson Lake, associating with two male Towhees. Total, 35 species, 792 individuals.

—JAMES WILLIAM HANCOCK

HOPKINSVILLE (Five miles east on U. S. 68 in the vicinity of Overby's Store; open woodland, thickets, fence rows, and pasture land in approximately equal parts). Dec. 26; 8 A. M. to noon. Fair; ground bare; temp. 26-40. Observer alone; 3 miles on foot. Total, 39 species, 3266 individuals.

—W. M. WALKER, JR., Nashville, Tennessee

HOPKINSVILLE Dec. 30; 11 A. M. to 4 P. M. Wind brisk; weather cold and cloudy. Total, 39 species, 983 individuals.

—DR. CYNTHIA C. COUNCE AND TWO COMPANIONS

BOWLING GREEN (Chaney, McElroy, and Albert Covington farms; open farmland 25%, woodlots 50%, marsh 25%). Dec. 23; 6:45 A. M. to 3:00 P. M. Heavy overcast all day, sleet and freezing rain from 1 P. M. on; wind northeast, 19-24 m. p. h.; temp. 24-30; snowbanks in shaded places; ponds frozen over. Two observers together. Total hours, 8¼ on foot; total miles, 8. Seen in the same area in the time of the count, December 23-30: Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Phoebe, White-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Winter Wren, and Migrant Shrike. Goldfinches and Cedar Waxwings were more numerous than on any previous census; Carolina Chickadees were the least numerous in twenty-eight years. Total, 41 species, 3678 individuals.

—CHARLES L. TAYLOR AND GORDON WILSON

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1945-6	Murray	Marion	Uniontown	Providence	Madisonville	Hopkinsville	Hopkinsville	Bowling Green	Otter Creek	Louisville	Willard
	Number of Species	45	50	42	35	35	39	39	41	35	61
Number of Individuals	1343	824	1070	1015	792	3266	983	3678	649	10756	159
Number of Observers	3	2	1	5	1	1	3	2	5	17	1
Great Blue Heron		1									
Canada Goose		12								*	
Common Mallard		80	78			39		81		533	
Black Duck		4							2	1676	
Pintail		6									
Ring-necked Duck					1						4
Canvas-back		11	6							*	
Lesser Scaup Duck			15								52
American Golden-eye		1	50								7
Hooded Merganser										*	
American Merganser			4						1	113	
Red-breasted Merganser										2	
Turkey Vulture	4	4				1	3	14		1	
Black Vulture								3		6	
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1									
Cooper's Hawk				1		2					3
Red-tailed Hawk		1				1	1	*			3
Red-shouldered Hawk		1	1	1							6
Rough-legged Hawk			1					1			
Bald Eagle									1		
Marsh Hawk		2	1	2			1	1		11	
Pigeon Hawk	2										
Sparrow Hawk	2	2	3	*	1	2	17	*		12	1
Bob-white	1	11		2	24		8		11	1	3
American Coot		1									
Killdeer							20				1
Herring Gull	3	75	112				7		18	343	
Ring-billed Gull										91	
Rock Dove	12			66				*		102	
Mourning Dove	1	14	12	3		74	3	96		7	
Screech Owl	1	1								*	
Great Horned Owl										*	
Barred Owl			1								3
Short-eared Owl											3
Belted Kingfisher	1	1	1					*	1	11	
Flicker	1	4	4		6	5	8	9	4	25	
Pileated Woodpecker	1	2		4	1			1	2		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	2	1	2	3	6	2	2	4	22	
Red-headed Woodpecker	1			2	2		1	*		*	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				1	1	5	1	3	4	1	
Hairy Woodpecker	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	7	2
Downy Woodpecker	17	6	10	3	6	7	5	8	13	48	6
Phoebe								*			
Horned Lark		4	33			36		352		141	
Blue Jay	16	14	1	27	15	9	12	22	3	71	

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1945-6	Murray	Marion	Uniontown	Providence	Madisonville	Hopkinsville	Hopkinsville	Bowling Green	Otter Creek	Louisville	Willard
Crow	47	78	67	10	2	80	150	507	83	629	7
Carolina Chickadee	14	16	17	5	9	15	6	16	17	76	16
Tufted Titmouse	9	12	2	3	12	5	15	20	15	90	9
White-breasted Nuthatch		1	2			4	4	*	10	16	
Red-breasted Nuthatch										1	
Brown Creeper	1		3			1	3	2		10	
Winter Wren								*	*	1	
Bewick's Wren	1	2	*	*	*			1			
Carolina Wren	3	4	2	3	10	8	4	12	8	16	6
Mockingbird	7	4	4	11	6	7	11	10		28	
Brown Thrasher				1							
Robin	50	8	10	*	2	85	50	48	170	13	
Hermit Thrush	1				1	1	1	4	5		2
Bluebird	10	26	2	3	4	6	9	83	2	32	4
Golden-crowned Kinglet						4	4	*		4	
Cedar Waxwing	25	6			*	27		360	10	16	
Migrant Shrike	1		1	2		1	13	*		5	
Starling	200	250	63	132	8	2500	500	925	1	4625	4
Myrtle Warbler						25		1	15	2	
English Sparrow	50	100	85	293	197	35	*	405	6	458	
Meadow-lark		2	13	31	15	67	25	2		36	
Red-winged Blackbird	4				1						
Rusty Blackbird			9							4	
Bronzed Grackle			*	1						1	
Cowbird	3	48					2				
Cardinal	33	35	40	74	46	11	16	126	46	422	11
Purple Finch	25		1	6	2	18		5	19	22	
Goldfinch	25	18	16	19	47	17		184	30	29	7
Towhee	15	2	6	15	21	8	4	28	8	67	6
Vesper Sparrow	1			2							
Slate-colored Junco	140	14	42	200	188	75	35	162	76	495	45
Tree Sparrow	8	4	307	34	60		9	3	35	146	
Chipping Sparrow				1							
Field Sparrow	8	14		3	8	40	1	26		5	9
White-crowned Sparrow	6	7	9	46	8	5	20	28		47	
White-throated Sparrow	25	9	7		34	30	16	109		34	
Fox Sparrow	1	2			1		2	2	2	1	
Swamp Sparrow	2				4			4	6	9	
Song Sparrow	2	12	25	6	44	2	4	10	16	113	19

* The asterisk indicates that the species was recorded in the time of the count, but not on the count itself.

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OTTER CREEK NATIONAL PARK (From Big Bend to Rock Haven, along the railroad to Otter Creek, along the creek to Blue Hole, up to Tall Trees, and back through Flomingo). Dec. 30; 8 hours; 5 observers, mostly together; 10 miles. Cloudy, misty, with sev-

eral showers; wind 3-10 m. p. h.; temp. 40-45. The Bald Eagle was an adult, with white head and tail. Purple Finches were seen in four places and were singing; Fox Sparrows were singing; the numerous Sapsuckers were a surprise; the Robins were mostly flying over in flocks. The area covered included deciduous woods 60%, Ohio River Bank 10%, brushy fields and new growth 30%. Total, 35 species, 649 individuals.

—HARVEY B. LOVELL, ESTHER MASON, EVELYN SCHNEIDER, FLOYD CARPENTER, AND DAVID McCLURE.

LOUISVILLE (Same territory as in previous years: bank of Ohio River 20%, fields and farm lands 20%, brushy fields and new growth 35%, deciduous woodlands 25%). Dec. 23; dawn to dusk. Sunny in morning, overcast and dark in afternoon; temp. 19-28; wind 2-10 m. p. h.; 3 inches of snow; creeks frozen over, Ohio River filled with floating ice. Seventeen observers in seven parties. Total hours, 41; total miles, 35. The Rusty Blackbirds and Short-eared Owls were seen by Burt L. Monroe, Sr., and the Red-breasted Nuthatch by Harvey Lovell, the Red-breasted Mergansers and the Ring-necked Ducks by Floyd Carpenter. Canada Geese were seen on Dec. 28, Canvas-backs on Dec. 24, Hooded Merganser and Screech Owl (dead) on Dec. 29, Red-headed Woodpecker on Dec. 18. Total, 61 species, 10,756 individuals.

—LEONARD BRECHER, WOOD BOUSMAN, FLOYD CARPENTER, SUE EARNEST, HARVEY B. LOVELL, DAVID McCLURE, BURT L. MONROE, SR., BURT L. MONROE, JR., LOUIS PIEPER, EVELYN SCHNIEDER, WALTER SHACKLETON, MABEL SLACK, ANNE STAMM, FRED W. STAMM, S. CHARLES THACHER, MRS. S. CHARLES THACHER, AUDREY WRIGHT.

WILLARD Dec. 24; 9 A. M. to 2 P. M. Cloudy, with 4 inches of snow on ground; temp. 35. About four miles on foot through fields and woodland areas. Total, 17 species, 159 individuals.

—ERCEL KOZEE

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THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

The K. O. S. has been affiliated with the Wilson Ornithological Club since 1924. Many K. O.S. members also belong to the W. O. C. The Wilson Bulletin is a very interesting quarterly magazine of 260 pages. In addition to articles on life histories and other topics, it contains numerous field notes, comments on conservation problems, a list of current ornithological publications, and extensive reviews of the more important bird books and pamphlets. This year Burt Monroe is the Treasurer of the W. O. C. Let us all support the new treasurer as well as increase our libraries by sending the annual dues of \$2.00 to him at Ridge Road, Anchorage, Kentucky. Every active ornithologist needs and will enjoy the attractive Wilson Bulletin.

FIELD NOTES

SUMMER RECORDS OF THE LARK SPARROW

In my files are several records of summer Lark Sparrows, but I had begun to doubt their accuracy until June 16, 1945, when a male Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) came within ten yards of me near the junction of the Gasper with Barren River, and sang while I studied it a long time with my glasses. On August 5, 1945, I found the young of this species on the same farm, some two hundred yards from where I had found the adult.

—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

KINGLETS AT MARION

On October 24, 1945, while sitting on my porch I saw in a sugar maple a constant stream of birds working on the leaves. I went out to see what I had discovered and found hundreds of kinglets. They were feeding on larvae on the undersides of the leaves. They allowed me to approach within ten feet of many of them. Just across the street there were other maples, and they too were as full of kinglets as those in my own yard. The next morning there were still quite a few of the same birds, but that was the last that I saw of them. They were mostly Golden-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus satrapa*) but there were a few Ruby-crowned (*Regulus calendula*). These are the only kinglets that I have ever seen right here in town.

—DR. T. ATCHISON FRAZEN, Marion.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FROM MICHIGAN

Three Rivers, St. Joseph County, Michigan, Dec. 27, 1945. Weather, partly cloudy in A. M., mostly clear in P. M.; temp. 25 to 30; ground covered with 6 inches of snow, St. Joseph River partly frozen. Common Canada Goose, 17; Mallard Duck, 19; Scaup Duck, 2; American Golden-eye, 207; Barrow's Golden-eye, 1 (male, with a few American Golden-eyes on river where the difference in white marking before the eye was easily noted through 7x Mirakel glass); Herring Gull, 1; Rock Dove, 4; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 6; Crow, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Starling, 16; English Sparrow, 57; Cardinal, 1; Purple Finch 1. Total, 16 species, 337 individuals. Other species observed this month are Red-tailed Hawk, Dec. 6; on Dec. 28, Lesser Loon, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 1; Tree Sparrow, 4; and in Centreville Cooper's Hawk, Dec. 22; Marsh Hawk, Dec. 18, Hairy Woodpecker, Dec. 11; Horned Lark, Dec. 8; Goldfinch, Dec. 8; Slate-colored Junco, Dec. 18.

—OSCAR MCKINLEY BYRENS, Three Rivers, Michigan.

ON THE FOOD OF GRACKLES

On the afternoon of September 28, 1945, I was walking with a friend around the base of the hill in Iroquois Park. We were at the back of the hill, nearly two miles from the Southern Parkway entrance, when we heard somewhere ahead of us the chatter of a large flock of birds. At first I thought they were probably starlings, but as we came nearer, it was possible to distinguish the sound as the creaking of Grackles (*Quiscalus versicolor*). The birds moved from branch to branch, feeding on the beech nuts which seemed to be un-

usually plentiful at that time. It was impossible to make any accurate count of the flock, but there were over two hundred in sight at my point of observation. Judging from the sounds to be heard, and from the known size of the beech woods, I estimate there were over six hundred in those beech trees. All those that I heard and all those I saw eating were grackles. As this species is usually known for its propensity to feed on grain and seeds, it seems worth while to call attention to its ability to feed upon such tough nuts as those produced by the beech.

—ESTHER E. MASON, Louisville.

THE UPLAND PLOVER HOVERING

At the far side of the Chaney Farm on April 14, 1945, I heard the Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*) many times in the deep alfalfa. Suddenly two appeared directly overhead, flapping their wings in their distinctive nervous fashion. One of them hovered like a Sparrow Hawk, meanwhile uttering its appealing notes. Though I have known the plover since 1929 and have often seen many of them in alfalfa and clover fields, this was the first time I ever saw one hovering.

—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

GREATER SCAUPS ON CHANEY LAKE

On April 1, 1939, when forty-six bird students from Kentucky, Indiana, and Tennessee were at McElroy Lake, some of them saw a Greater Scaup and studied it for a long time with a 24x telescope. At the time I was on the opposite side of the pond and did not get to see this strange visitor. On April 14, 1945, on the Chaney Lake I saw five Greater Scaups at close range by working my way quietly through some bushes at the edge of the overflowed cornfield. The same five or others were seen again on April 21 and two on May 12 on the same lake, which meanwhile had dwindled considerably.

Two of the rarest warblers in my territory are the Connecticut and the Mourning, both of which I saw in the 1945 migration. On May 15 the Connecticut came into my yard and was very melodious in its song as it fed in a Box Elder tree. I got several good looks at it. On May 19 I found another one and heard its song in a wooded area near Lost River. On the opposite side of the same wood I found a Mourning Warbler and thus had an opportunity to compare the markings and the songs of the two. I have old records for the two species, which I had begun to doubt; these experiences have made me a little more tolerant of some of my earlier finds, when I was a warbler "fiend" and had two eyes that were very much better and younger than they now are.

—Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.

OUR FALL MEETING AT MAMMOTH CAVE

By Helen G. Browning

The Kentucky Ornithological Society met for the first time since 1942 at Mammoth Cave Hotel, Kentucky, November 2-4, 1945. This was the nineteenth fall meeting of the society. A goodly number of members arrived Friday in spite of the rain.

There was no formal program arranged for Friday night. But since it had been so long since K. O. S. friends and acquaintances had been able to get together, a group assembled in the Blue Room for a most enjoyable session. Our president, Major Victor K. Dodge, had placed on exhibit several beautiful bird paintings by Mr. Howard

Rollin of Colorado. Various announcements were made, and greetings from those who could not be present were conveyed.

Saturday morning brought clear skies, sunshine, and a crisp atmosphere that put every one in a splendid mood for the field trips. After breakfast we assembled in two groups, one to be led by Gordon Wilson, who announced that he would take the less difficult trip, which would follow the roads and would take us near the Superintendent's home. The other group was led by Evelyn Schneider, who went along Green River over more difficult terrain. Many of us with Dr. Wilson were delighted by the appearance of a Hermit Thrush which sang briefly, but most beautifully.

After lunch we went in cars to the beaver pond. Evidences were all about us of the activities of these interesting and valuable animals. Large tree trunks had been eaten through in many places. There we saw a flock of Mallards flying overhead, which included also a Pintail and a Shoveller. A Coot was very cleverly hidden in the rushes, and so excellently did he blend with the background that it was most difficult to see him even at close range. At this pond we also saw a Rusty Blackbird.

Later in the afternoon we drove to the ferry which crosses Green River, enjoyed a free ride and a brisk walk some distance beyond. It had been a grand afternoon, and dusk was upon us when we realized that we must rush in order to be present at the opening of the business session at five o'clock.

The annual business meeting was held in the Blue Room, Mammoth Cave Hotel, at five P. M., Saturday, November 3, Major Victor K. Dodge, President, presiding. The financial report of the Secretary-Treasurer was read by Helen Browning. The report of the Nominating Committee, composed of Leonard Brecher, Chairman, Esther Mason, and Mrs. Nelson Nuckols, was read by the Chairman. There being no nominations from the floor, the following slate was elected unanimously: President—Dr. Gordon Wilson, Vice-President—Miss Mabel Slack, Secretary-Treasurer—Miss Helen Browning. Major Dodge then turned over the chair to Dr. Wilson.

The matter of a curator and an editor was discussed. It was decided that Burt Monroe be curator of K. O. S. and that Harvey Lovell be the editor of the Warbler.

Three councillors were then nominated by Mr. Brecher and elected without opposition. They are: Mr. Gerald Baker—West; Mrs. Anne Stamm—Central, and Mrs. J. Kidwell Grannis—East.

The subject of life memberships was then discussed. The group requested that amendments be made to the constitution and by-laws to authorize such memberships and that these amendments be voted upon at the next meeting of the Society. (The proposed amendments appear elsewhere in this issue of the Warbler).

It was stated that the annual spring meeting would be held on the authorized dates and at the place of the Kentucky Education Association meetings. Dr. Wilson, the new President, closed the meeting with remarks of appreciation for the splendid loyalty of K. O. S. members during the war years, even though no meetings could be held. During the past year the membership was the largest since the Society was founded.

The highlight of the Saturday night dinner was the delicious fried gallus and roast anns. These two species, by the way, were much dressed up for us—each bearing a pretty pink "ruffled leg."

The Saturday night meeting was one to be long remembered. It

was held in the Blue Room at 8:00 P. M., the new president presiding. Dr. Wilson told us in his particularly delightful manner about the highlights of his bird study during the war years. It was indeed an inspiration to the less accomplished and energetic ones of us to strive for more frequent trips, more accurate observations, and more care in making field notes. Dr. Wilson's arduous work has yielded excellent results, from which we shall all soon be able to benefit, since his check list of the birds of the Mammoth Cave region is to be published very soon.

Mr. A. F. Ganier, of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, spoke to us on flycatchers. He illustrated his excellent talk with beautiful bird skins and also distributed a chart giving in outline form much detailed information regarding the various flycatchers to be found in our part of the country.

Dr. Harvey Lovell showed his very excellent kodachrome slides dealing with bird nests. He compared the nest building ability of our local species, calling attention to many details having to do with both the nests and the eggs, which would not usually be noticed by a casual observer.

At 8:30 Sunday morning our members drove in cars to a point somewhat beyond the Green River ferry. We then divided into two groups, one of which was led by Harvey Lovell and the other by Burt Monroe. Mr. Monroe's territory consisted of the open fields, which had some years back been cultivated land and had been allowed to grow new cover since the park authorities had controlled it. Dr. Lovell's route was along an old road and into open fields of much the same type as those just mentioned. At 10:30 A. M. we returned to our cars and drove to the former site of the C. C. C. camp. There a few of the more daring ones climbed to the top of a decrepit fire tower to observe the landscape. Several White-Crowned Sparrows were found at this location.

Later we drove to a higher tower, which was much easier to climb, and many more of us viewed the countryside from the top.

Sunday dinner was the last item on our program, and when we had finished our "turkey and trimmings," we began dreading the packing and regretted that we had to leave so soon, because we all agreed that this meeting at Mammoth Cave had been a most enjoyable and successful one in every respect.

The following members and guests were present.—Louisville: Esther Mason, Evelyn Schneider, Ann Slack, Mabel Slack, Audrey Wright, Helen Browning, Mrs. J. D. Baldez, Mrs. Mame Boulware, Mrs. Sue Earnest, Mrs. T. C. Mapother, Sr., Floyd Carpenter, Carl Kerbel, Carl Schott, S. Charles Thacher, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brecher, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Dietrich, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Lovell, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Strull, Mr. and Mrs. I. Leo Wolkow; Anchorage: Mr. and Mrs. Burt Monroe, Sr., Burt Monroe, Jr.; Lexington: Amy Bergman, Dr. Louise B. Healy, Major Victor K. Dodge; Bowling Green: Gordon Wilson, D. Y. Lancaster; Glasgow: Mrs. Nelson Nuckols; Horse Cave: Mr. and Mrs. F. Everett Frei; Hopkinsville: Dr. Cynthia C. Counce; Princeton: Mrs. Paul Cunningham; Nashville, Tennessee: Mary Franc Holloway, Helen Howell, Albert F. Ganier, Edwin D. Schreiber, Robert C. Hickerson, Robert E. Sollman, Donald Maynard, Jr.; Chicago: Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Donham; Athens, West Virginia: Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Bibbee.

FINANCIAL REPORT

RECEIPTS:

Balance on hand date of last report (Oct. 7, 1944)	\$149.90
78 Memberships @ \$1.00	78.00
139 Memberships @ .75	104.25
Junior Academy of Science Affiliation dues— 28 clubs @ .50	14.00
Endowment:	
Dividends, Jefferson Federal Savings & Loan Assn. on 4 shares of stock	9.50
5 life memberships @ \$25.00	125.00
Sales of back issues of Warbler	22.79
Sale of field check lists	13.65
Donation of prize for best paper on birds in Junior Academy Bulletin	5.00
Total	\$522.09

DISBURSEMENTS:

Printing 4 issues of Warbler (incl. covers)	\$175.55
Stamps	19.00
Postcards	5.40
Postage for mailing back numbers of Warbler	.27
Cut for winter number of Warbler (incl. postage)	3.53
4 zinc etchings for spring number of Warbler	8.07
3000 folding card field check lists	33.00
Membership in Ky. Conservation Council	2.00
Donation to Junior Academy of Science	5.00
Award for best bird paper published in Junior Academy Bulletin	5.00
1 share of stock in Jefferson Federal Savings & Loan Assn	100.00
Tax on balance in bank July 1, 1945	.17
Total	\$356.99
Balance on hand November 3, 1945	\$165.10

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FALL LIST OF BIRDS AT MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

The following list was compiled at the K. O. S. Fall Meeting, November 2, 3, and 4, 1945. For a list of members cooperating see Miss Browning's report. Mallard, 12; Pintail, 1; Shoveller, 1; Turkey Vulture, fc; Black Vulture, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Coot, 1; Bob-white, 1 covey; Mourning Dove, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, fc; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, fc; Phoebe, 1 (a late date); Prairie Horned Lark, fc; Blue Jay, c; Crow, c; Carolina Chickadee, fc; Tufted Titmouse, fc; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, fc; Mockingbird, 2; Robin, c; Hermit Thrush, 5 (one singing); Bluebird, c; Golden-crowned Kinglet, fc; Cedar Waxwing, c; Starling, fc; Myrtle Warbler, c; English Sparrow, fc; Rusty Blackbird, 1; Bronzed Grackle, 10; Cardinal, fc; Purple Finch, fc; Goldfinch, c; Towhee, fc; Junco, c; Chipping Sparrow, 15; Field Sparrow, c; White-crowned Sparrow, 8; White-throated Sparrow, c; Fox Sparrow, 3; Swamp Sparrow, c; Song Sparrow, c. Total, 49 species.

—Compiled by HELEN BROWNING AND GORDON WILSON

NEWS AND VIEWS

TO A MOCKINGBIRD

Sue Wyatt Semple

If I could summon words that would describe.
 Your borrowed, re-created melodies,
 Into my banal thoughts I would imbibe
 The sweetest lyrics, rhymes, and eulogies.
 Though yours be but the power of imitation,
 O star performer of the summer night,
 The moonlight-hour is hushed with adoration
 As you pour forth your music with delight!
 Your love song is entrancing; when you sing
 In wild abandon, why am I inclined
 To dream of days gone by? On restless wing
 You leave a wake of rippling notes behind.
 My heart can guess the feelings you express
 Of love and cheer, and fear and tenderness!

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ARTICLES ON KENTUCKY BIRDS APPEARING IN OTHER JOURNALS.

An Owl Friend of Mine by James B. Young of Louisville, Sept.-Oct. *Audubon Magazine*, 1945. An account of a young Barred Owl, Deacon, which was dispossessed when his sycamore tree home was cut to clear a rifle range. The young owl was kept three weeks.

Banded Song Sparrow Nestlings Removed by Parent by H. B. Lovell, *Bird-banding*, Vol. 16, October, 1945. An adult Song Sparrow was observed to remove a banded nestling from its nest twice but allowed it to remain when the band was removed.

Reaction of American Mergansers to Herring Gull Depredations, by H. B. Lovell, *Wilson Bulletin*, Vol. 57, 1945. Although Herring Gulls were able to steal fish from the mergansers at first, the mergansers soon were able to dodge the gulls by diving with the fish in their mouths.

Birds of Kentucky by J. D. Figgins, University of Kentucky Press, Lexington, 1945. This book has been published posthumously. A committee headed by A. F. Ganier will review this book thoroughly in the next issue. Although this book has recently been reviewed unfavorably in the *Wilson Bulletin*, we urge all active ornithologists in Kentucky to obtain a copy.

Mrs. Laurel Reynolds of Piedmont, California, gave the second lecture of the Audubon Screen Tours at Louisville on December 1. Her attractive personality and beautiful Kodachrome moving pictures were thoroughly enjoyed by both young and old. The third lecture by Alexander Sprunt, Southern representative of the National Audubon Society, was presented on January 22. In addition to the

outstanding shots of the large water birds of Texas, he featured scenes from the national parks of the west.

The Tennessee Ornithological Society celebrated its thirtieth anniversary with a dinner on October 20 and a field day on October 21. Sixty people attended the dinner, at which Gordon Wilson was the out-of-state speaker. The T. O. S. is the father of the K. O. S., and the two clubs have many members in common. Congratulations to our sister state on having so live and useful an organization!

Congratulations to the members of the Junior Academy of Science on the variety and excellence of their Christmas bird counts. Lists have been received from Anchorage, from Evelyn and Albert Harburg, Jean Sidebottom, Joyce Cockran, and Burt Monroe, Jr; Barbourville, from Flem R. Patterson; Central High, Madison County, from Greta Sanders and Nadine Million; Harrodsburg, from Proctor Riggins and Billy Willham; Kingston, from Bonnie Johnson, Mary Lane, Mary Lee Coffee, Marie Combs, Berta Morgan; Morehead, from Kenneth and Hugh Howell; Owensboro, from J. W. Benton; Owingsville, from Mary and Eliza Dawson; Paint Lick, from Betty J. Calico, Jewell Bell, and Gwenolyn Broadbus. The two best lists were made by Burt Monroe, Jr., and from Maysville High School by Chad Christine, James Kirwin, and William Wallingford.

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE III.—Members—Sec. 1—Add the word life after the word active. (The sentence will then read, "Membership in this Society shall be open to all persons interested in any phase of bird life and shall consist of sustaining, active, life, and student members".)

ARTICLE III, Sec. 4: "Life membership shall consist of those persons living within or without the State of Kentucky who pay the life membership fee. Life members shall be accorded the privileges and duties of active members."

Change ARTICLE III, Sec. 4, to read ARTICLE III, Sec. 5.

To BY.—LAWS—Article II—DUES, Sec. 1—Add, "The fee for life membership shall be \$25.00. Life membership dues shall become part of the regular endowment of the K. O. S."

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Burt L. Monroe, who was a captain in the Air Corps, returned to civilian life in October, 1945, and is back at his home in Anchorage. He was recently appointed Curator of our society. Members should send him their migration data as well as data on birds' nests, eggs, etc. He is eager to obtain records of mounted birds in private collections, as well as in colleges, schools, and museums. Anyone living not too far from Anchorage should telephone him whenever any unusual dead or injured bird is found. It might turn out to be a valuable addition to our knowledge of Kentucky birds.

Robert Mengel has returned after two years overseas in Arabia and North Africa. The many interesting birds he saw on his travels are to be described at the February meeting of the Beckham Bird Club. He does not plan to return to Cornell University until next September. Meanwhile he hopes to discover additional species of Kentucky birds. Most of his specimens are deposited with Burt Monroe.

Carlyle Chamberlain has also returned after more than two years in North Africa. He was a sergeant in the M. P.'s but was on special assignments which gave him an unusual opportunity to travel. He has many interesting stories to tell of the birds of the Old World.

Edward M. Ray, formerly a captain in the Air Corps, is now a regional director of the Kentucky Division of Fish and Game. He has headquarters at Benton, not far from the great new Kentucky Lake. His reports on the state of the waterfowl have been frequently quoted in the Louisville papers.

"Birds of the Mammoth Cave National Park," a booklet approved by the National Park Service, is now in print and will be on sale at the Mammoth Cave Hotel and also at Bowling Green at the College Heights Bookstore. The author is Gordon Wilson, our president.

The census editor regrets that Dr. John Bangson's bird count from Berea arrived too late to be included in the tabulation.

DUES FOR 1946

Miss Helen Browning, 206 West Oak Street, Louisville, urges all members to send in their 1946 dues promptly in order not to miss any of the issues of the KENTUCKY WARBLER. Please make the work of the treasurer easier by mailing her a check in the next post.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The K. O. S. is an almost entirely new organization since I was president before from 1925 to 1929. We have grown from a very tiny little group of persistent bird students to a state society that is able and enthusiastic. In spite of unsettled conditions that are following the end of the war, I see no reason why we cannot continue to grow. The very fact that our membership is larger now than it was before Pearl Harbor is sufficient proof that we are thriving. Let us keep up this condition by remaining in the society and by asking others to join. How about several new Life Memberships? That would greatly help our stability and would give us a source of income that we badly need. I am personally eager to see our society bring out a state bird book that will be a credit to Kentucky and to our society. That very thing is now being worked out by Burt Monroe, Bob Mengel, the editor, and others. We need to know everything that has ever been learned about Kentucky ornithology and will welcome any clues to stuffed specimens, collecting expeditions, and accurate records. Our fall meeting at Mammoth Cave made all of us feel like old pre-war days, and we hope for greater outings in the future. Plan to attend any and all meetings of the K. O. S. and be sure to send to our new editor, Dr. Harvey Lovell, all sorts of news, articles, and notes. If you have bird books or bird magazines that you do not need, these will be valuable additions to our K. O. S. Library, in charge of Miss Evelyn Schneider. In every way we should keep our excellent society growing.