

Summer 1946

Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 22, no. 3)

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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."*

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Vol. XXII

SUMMER 1946

No. 3

BIRDS OF THE BEREA REGION—BREEDING SPECIES

By John A. Patten, University of Kentucky *

The Eastern Knobs Section of Kentucky, geologically speaking, is the connecting terrain between the Eastern Mountain and the Bluegrass Sections of the state. The town of Berea, Madison County, in the Eastern Knobs, was chosen as a base for a study of the birds of that region. It was felt that research in the ornithology of this area would be of importance in establishing resident species, migrant species, and ecological influences upon the distribution of species between the Mountains and the Bluegrass.

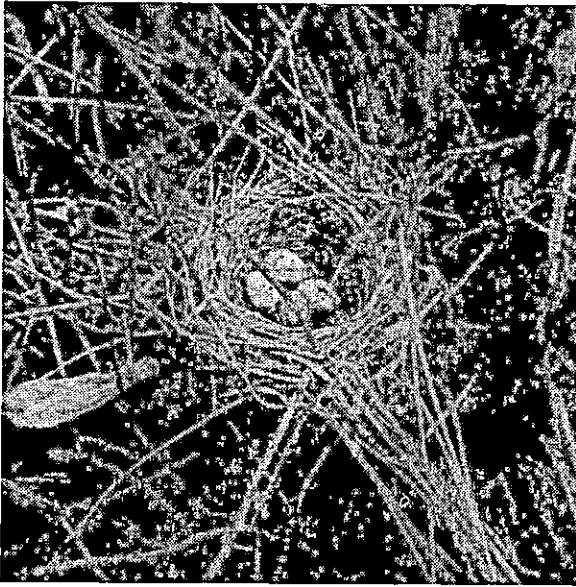
To the east and southeast the Knobs blend with the Mountains, while to the west and northwest they become more isolated individually and break sharply away into the Bluegrass. The Knobs and the Mountains are for the most part well forested. Pine and mixed growth cover the bases of many of the knobs, while hardwoods such as oak, maple, hickory and beech dominate the rest of the slopes. The lowland areas surrounding the knobs are largely under cultivation and in pasturage, although there are occasional fields lying fallow in which the natural succession of plants is beginning to establish itself.

In order to study better the breeding species of the region, a camp was set up in Cowbell Hollow, approximately five miles southeast of Berea in one of the most heavily wooded areas of the section. Here the month of June, 1941, was spent, and daily excursions were made on foot, covering distances from five to fifteen miles. Breeding data were collected, and a table of the relative abundance of breeding species, based upon the daily records, was compiled and is here included.

The marked scarcity of aquatic and semi-aquatic species is explained by the almost complete absence of lakes, ponds, and streams of large size.

The enclosed table (Table I) shows the number of times each species was observed during the month of June, the total number seen, and the average number seen per day based on the number of days it was recorded. Some rather unexpected results in regard to abundance of supposedly rare birds emerged from the study. The Red-eyed Vireo proved to be the most abundant species, with 566 recorded for an average of 19.51. The Yellow-throated Vireo also stood high in the

* Extracts from a Master's thesis, Zoology Department, University of Kentucky.



NEST OF RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD—Photo by N. I. Crabb

list, with 121 recorded for 26 days. The two most common warblers turned out to be the Hooded Warbler (234 recorded) and the Kentucky Warbler (235 recorded), both of which are usually regarded as rare or uncommon in local lists. Another common species was the Cerulean, with 190 listed. The Ovenbird, Worm-eating, Black and White, and American Redstart all stand high on the list of summer residents.

The most common Flycatcher in this study is the Acadian, with 171 seen on 24 different days. The Wood Pewee, the Crested Flycatcher, and the Phoebe were also common. Although not as common as the Summer Tanager, the Scarlet Tanager was observed on 26 days (total 105), which indicates that it is a rather common summer resident, a fact surprising in view of the large number of local lists which record it as a rare transient. Two other rare birds which were observed on numerous occasions were the Pileated Woodpecker on 24 days and the Bachman's Sparrow on nine days.

Among the northern species which appear in the Berea Region as possible southwestern extensions of their mountain ranges may be noted the Pine Warbler, recorded on 18 different days, and the Black-throated Green Warbler, recorded on 15 days.

A bird which was near the northern end of its range was the Chuck-will's-widow, four being recorded all on the same day.

Finally, there were two other rather rare Kentucky species: the Song Sparrow, recorded on 16 days (total 47); and the House Wren (Eastern?), seen on only two days (total 3).

In the course of this study specimens of as many species as possible were collected and made into study skins. In addition data on the nesting activities were many, as a large number of the resident species were secured, together with photographs of the nests, two of



NEST OF RED-EYED VIREO—Photo by N. I. Crabb

which are included here. In the second article of this series it is planned to summarize these breeding data in a thorough fashion.

TABLE 1
COMPARATIVE ABUNDANCE OF BREEDING SPECIES
DURING JUNE, 1941

Species	Total No. Days Seen	Total No. Individuals	Average No. Individuals*
1. Red-eyed Vireo	29	566	19.51
2. Wood Thrush	25	440	17.60
3. Chimney Swift	26	319	12.27
4. Hooded Warbler	30	284	9.47
5. Turkey Vulture	28	259	9.25
6. Field Sparrow	26	235	9.04
7. Kentucky Warbler	28	235	8.39
8. Goldfinch	29	234	8.07
9. Indigo Bunting	26	231	8.88
10. Yellow-breasted Chat	30	231	7.70
11. Meadowlark	21	209	9.95
12. Starling	18	200	11.11
13. Cerulean Warbler	28	190	6.79
14. Purple Martin	20	174	8.70
15. Acadian Flycatcher	24	171	7.13

Table 1 Continued

COMPARATIVE ABUNDANCE OF BREEDING SPECIES
DURING JUNE, 1941

Species	Total No. Days Seen	Total No. Individuals	Average No. Individuals*
16. Chipping Sparrow	25	170	6.80
17. Ovenbird	26	166	6.38
18. Summer Tanager	29	163	5.62
19. Whip-poor-will	25	160	6.40
20. Chickadee Carolina	30	159	5.30
21. Cardinal	27	155	5.74
22. Tufted Titmouse	30	153	5.10
23. Wood Pewee	27	149	5.52
24. English Sparrow	8	146	18.25
25. Worm-eating Warbler	25	145	5.80
26. Yellowthroat	29	134	4.62
27. Bluejay	28	133	4.75
28. Bronzed Grackle	14	122	8.71
29. Towhee	25	121	4.84
30. Yellow-throated Vireo	26	121	4.65
31. Crow	26	120	4.62
32. Black and White Warbler	27	114	4.22
33. Catbird	25	107	4.28
34. Scarlet Tanager	26	105	4.04
35. Robin	17	103	6.06
36. Carolina Wren	29	98	3.38
37. Barn Swallow	12	90	7.50
38. American Redstart	17	88	5.18
39. Louisiana Water-thrush	27	86	3.19
40. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	29	84	2.90
41. Flicker	18	80	4.44
42. Bewick's Wren	18	79	4.39
43. Mourning Dove	22	79	3.59
44. Downy Woodpecker	27	75	2.78
45. Brown Thrasher	18	70	3.89
46. Bluebird	20	69	3.45
47. White-eyed Vireo	23	69	3.00
48. Ruby-thro'd Hummingbird	24	69	2.88
49. Cowbird	15	57	3.80
50. Pine Warbler	18	57	3.17
51. Pileated Woodpecker	24	57	2.38
52. Crested Flycatcher	22	53	2.41
53. Yellow-billed Cuckoo	23	49	2.13
54. Phoebe	21	48	2.29
55. Song Sparrow	16	47	2.94
56. Hairy Woodpecker	22	44	2.00
57. Redwing	9	42	4.67
58. Bobwhite	14	39	2.79
59. Prairie Warbler	12	37	3.08
60. Orchard Oriole	16	37	2.31
61. Mockingbird	11	35	3.18
62. Green Heron	8	31	3.88
63. Bachman's Sparrow	9	29	3.22
64. Yellow Warbler	13	28	2.15
65. White-breasted Nuthatch	16	28	1.75

Table 1 Continued
 COMPARATIVE ABUNDANCE OF BREEDING SPECIES
 DURING JUNE, 1941

Species	Total No. Days Seen	Total No. Individuals	Average No. Individuals*
66. Black-thro'd Green Warbler	15	26	1.73
67. Sharp-shinned Hawk	9	24	2.67
68. Grasshopper Sparrow	5	23	4.60
69. Nighthawk	11	23	2.09
70. Red-headed Woodpecker	11	20	1.82
71. Sparrow Hawk	9	14	1.56
72. Killdeer	9	14	1.56
73. Cooper's Hawk	3	11	3.67
74. Lark Sparrow	2	10	5.00
75. Barred Owl	8	10	1.25
76. Rough-winged Swallow	3	9	3.00
77. Kingbird	7	9	1.29
78. Prairie Horned Lark	2	6	3.00
79. Red-shouldered Hawk	4	6	1.50
80. Blue-winged Warbler	4	6	1.50
81. Red-bellied Woodpecker	6	6	1.00
82. Chuck-will's-widow	1	4	4.00
83. Black Vulture	4	4	1.00
84. Warbling Vireo	1	3	3.00
85. Ruffed Grouse	1	3	3.00
86. Red-tailed Hawk	2	3	1.50
87. House Wren	2	3	1.50
88. Kingfisher	2	2	1.00

* Average per day, based on number of days species was seen.

ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

Mrs. Sue Wyatt-Semple recently won a cash prize in the Bird-Poem Contest sponsored by the Robert Sparks Walker Audubon Society of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Her winning poem, "Carolina Wren", will be published in the Society's forthcoming anthology of bird poems. There were 2900 poems submitted for the contest and sixty cash awards given the winners.

The Providence group of bird watchers is expanding rapidly both in numbers and interest. In the recent spring bird census, for example, Lt. J. D. Palmer identified a Common Loon; Dr. Susie Holman Gilchrist observed some Chimney Swifts clinging to the inner walls of an old cistern near an abandoned farm house; Truda Sigler Corbin found a pair of Scarlet and Summer Tanagers in her grape arbor, and English Sparrow with a third wing growing between its neck and shoulder, and a greedy Blue Jay burying some surplus food which was promptly dug up by a Flicker; Thomas A. Semple was surprised to see a female English Sparrow helping a pair of Robins feed a young Robin; Dr. James Ross Gilchrist was first to report the spring arrival of the Nighthawk; Dora Wyatt took a census of more than 40 species from her back lawn in pine, cedar and weeping willow trees.

Plans are maturing for another state-wide Wild Life and Natural History Conference this fall at Otter Creek Park on the last week end in September. Plan to make the trip now. Cabins are only 25 cents per night, and meals will be very reasonable.

MIGRATION BIRD COUNT SPRING OF 1946

Edited by Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green, Ky.

	Woodlands, Trigg County	Kentucky Lake	Murray	Marion	Providence	Madisonville	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave Nat. Park	Louisville	Russell County	Pulaski County
1. Common Loon											
2. Holboell's Grebe											
3. Pied-billed Grebe		c	c								
4. Double-crested Cormorant		c	c	c							
5. Great Blue Heron		c			c	c					
6. American Egret					c	c					
7. Green Heron			c	c	c	c	c	c			
8. Black-crowned Night Heron											
9. American Bittern		c			c	X				c	c
10. Canada Goose		c			c	c					
11. Mallard					c	c		c			
12. Baldpate											
13. Green-winged Teal			c?		c	c					
14. Blue-winged Teal					c	c	X				
15. Wood Duck		c	c		c	c		c	c		
16. Canvas-back					c	c					
17. Greater Scaup Duck					c	c					
18. Lesser Scaup Duck		c			c	c					
19. Red-breasted Merganser											
20. Turkey Vulture		c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
21. Black Vulture											
22. Sharp-shinned Hawk					c	c		c	c	c	
23. Cooper's Hawk					c	c		X			
24. Red-tailed Hawk		c	c		c	X					
25. Red-shouldered Hawk		c	c		c	c	c				
26. Broad-winged Hawk		c									
27. Marsh Hawk											
28. Osprey						X					
29. Pigeon Hawk			c?								
30. Sparrow Hawk		c	c	c	c	c	X		c	c	
31. Bob-white		c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
32. Coot		c			c						
33. Semipalmated Plover		c									

C—on count; c—on count but not in the area indicated; x—not on count but within a day or two.

	Woodlands, Trigg County	Kentucky Lake	Murray	Marion	Providence	Madisonville	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave Nat. Park	Louisville	Russell County	Pulaski County
34. Killdeer	c	c	c	c	c	c	c		c	X	c
35. Golden Plover				c	c	c	c				
36. Wilson's Snipe				c	c	c	c				
37. Spotted Sandpiper				c	c	c	c				
38. Solitary Sandpiper	c	c	c	c	c	c	c		c	c	
39. Greater Yellow-legs	c	c	c	c	c	c	c		c	X	c
40. Lesser Yellow-legs			c	c	c	c	c		c	c	
41. Pectoral Sandpiper							c				
42. Least Sandpiper				c	X		c				
43. Semipalmated Sandpiper			c	c							
44. Herring Gull	c	c	c								
45. Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
46. Yellow-billed Cuckoo		c	c	c	c	c		c		c	c
47. Barn Owl			c								
48. Screech Owl				c	c						
49. Great Horned Owl	c	c	c		X	c					
50. Barred Owl				c					c		
51. Chuck-will's-widow			c			c	X				X
52. Whip-poor-will		c	c	c		c	X			c	
53. Nighthawk		c	c	c	c	X	c	c		M	
54. Chimney Swift							c	c			
55. Ruby-throated Hummingbird	c	c	c	c	c	X	c	c	c	c	c
56. Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
57. Flicker	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
58. Pileated Woodpecker	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
59. Red-bellied Woodpecker	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
60. Red-headed Woodpecker	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	X	c
61. Hairy Woodpecker		c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c		
62. Downy Woodpecker		c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
63. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					X				c	c	
64. Kingbird	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
65. Crested Flycatcher		c	c	c	X	c	c	c	c	c	c
66. Phoebe	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
67. Acadian Flycatcher											
68. Least Flycatcher			c								
69. Wood Pewee	c	c	c	c	c	c	X	c		c	c

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

	Woodlands, Trigg County	Kentucky Lake	Murray	Marion	Providence	Madisonville	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave Nat. Park	Louisville	Russell County	Pulaski County
70. Olive-sided Flycatcher						C					
71. Horned Lark		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
72. Tree Swallow		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
73. Bank Swallow											
74. Rough-winged Swallow		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
75. Barn Swallow		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
76. Purple Martin	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
77. Blue Jay	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
78. Crow	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
79. Carolina Chickadee	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
80. Tufted Titmouse		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
81. White-breasted Nuthatch		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
82. Red-breasted Nuthatch						C	C	C	C	C	C
83. Brown Creeper											
84. House Wren			C	C	C	C				C	
85. Bewick's Wren		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
86. Carolina Wren	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
87. Long-billed Marsh Wren						X	C	C	C	C	
88. Short-billed Marsh Wren						X					
89. Mockingbird	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
90. Catbird		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
91. Brown Thrasher	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
92. Robin	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
93. Wood Thrush	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
94. Hermit Thrush		C			C						
95. Olive-backed Thrush			C		C	C	C	C	C		
96. Gray-cheeked Thrush				C	C	C	C	C		C	
97. Veery						C	C	C	C	C	
98. Bluebird	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
99. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
100. Ruby-crowned Kinglet		C			C	X	C	C	C	C	
101. Cedar Waxwing				C	C	C			C	C	
102. Migrant Shrike		C	C		C		C		C	C	
103. Starling	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
104. White-eyed Vireo	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
105. Yellow-throated Vireo		C	C		C	C	C	C	C	C	C

	Woodlands, Trigg County	Kentucky Lake	Murray	Marion	Providence	Madisonville	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave Nat. Park	Louisville	Russell County	Pulaski County
106. Blue-headed Vireo											
107. Red-eyed Vireo	c	c	c		X	c	c				c
108. Philadelphia Vireo		c	c								
109. Warbling Vireo	c										
110. Black and White Warbler		c	c	X	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
111. Prothonotary Warbler	c	c	c	c							
112. Worm-eating Warbler							X				
113. Blue-winged Warbler					X	c	c	c	c		c
114. Tennessee Warbler		c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	
115. Nashville Warbler						X					
116. Parula Warbler											
117. Yellow Warbler		c	c	c	X	c	c	c	c	c	c
118. Magnolia Warbler											
119. Cape May Warbler											
120. Myrtle Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
121. Black-throated Green W.						X	c	c	c	c	c
122. Cerulean Warbler				c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
123. Blackburnian Warbler											
124. Sycamore Warbler							c	c	c	c	c
125. Chestnut-sided Warbler	c										
126. Bay-breasted Warbler					X	X					
127. Black-poll Warbler		c	c				c	c	c	c	c
128. Pine Warbler											
129. Prairie Warbler				c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
130. Palm Warbler		c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
131. Oven-bird											
132. N. Water-thrush					X	c					
133. Louisiana Water-thrush			c	c		c	c	c	c	c	c
134. Kentucky Warbler	c	c				c	c	c	c	c	c
135. Mourning Warbler					X						
136. Northern Yellow-throat	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	
137. Yellow-breasted Chat		c	c	c	X	c	c	c	c	c	c
138. Hooded Warbler											
139. Redstart					X	X					
140. English Sparrow	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
141. Bobolink			c		c						X

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

	Woodlands, Trigg County	Kentucky Lake	Murray	Marion	Providence	Madisonville	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave Nat. Park	Louisville	Russell County	Pulaski County
142. Meadowlark	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
143. Red-winged Blackbird	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
144. Orchard Oriole		c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
145. Baltimore Oriole			c		c	c			c		c
146. Rusty Blackbird					c	c					
147. Bronzed Grackle		c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
148. Cowbird	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
149. Scarlet Tanager			c		c	c	c	c		c	c
150. Summer Tanager					X						
151. Cardinal	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
152. Rose-breasted Grosbeak						c	c	c	c	c	c
153. Indigo Bunting	c		c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
154. Dickcissel			c	c	c			c		X	c
155. Purple Finch				c	c						
156. Goldfinch	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
157. Towhee	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
158. Savannah Sparrow		c	c			X	c	c	c	c	c
159. Grasshopper Sparrow		c	c				c	c	c	c	c
160. Nelson's Sparrow					c?					c	c
161. Vesper Sparrow	c	c	c								
162. Lark Sparrow							c				
163. Bachman's Sparrow	c	c	c				X	c		c	c
164. Slate-colored Junco					X						
165. Chipping Sparrow	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
166. Field Sparrow	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
167. White-crowned Sparrow		c	c	c	c	X	c		c		
168. Gambel's Sparrow					X?						
169. White-throated Sparrow	c	c	c		c	c	c	c	c	c	c
170. Lincoln's Sparrow					X						
171. Swamp Sparrow					c	X	X				
172. Song Sparrow				c	c			c	c	c	c

WOODLANDS—April 20; 7:00 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Entered the Reservation on east side; visited two lakes—Hematite and Honker; crossed the Reservation and left at west entrance; approximate distance of 20 miles covered in the Reservation. Weather, fair; no wind; temp. 65 to 90. Total species, 64. Members of party: Louise Allen,

C. P. Anderson, Jr., Catherine Belt, Edward Donaho, Eupal Erwin, Joe Faughn, John Fetterman, Jary E. Furgerson, William Harrod, M. H. Hodges, T. E. Martin, Mary B. McAllister, Paula McClain, Sue Underwood, Ray Waggoner, Nelle Walker, Laura Wheeler, Todd Yates, Grace Wyatt (compiler).

KENTUCKY LAKE—April 27; 4:00 A. M. to 9:00 P. M. Murray State College campus, Egner's Ferry Bridge, Higgins Boat Landing, Panther Creek, and Pottertown. Distance covered: 30 miles. Weather, fair; wind, S. to S. E., light; temp. 60 to 82. Total species, 91. Members of party: same as for Woodlands.

MURRAY—May 4 and 5; 8-10 A. M., 2-5 P. M., May 4; 6-9:30 A. M., 2-6 P. M., May 5. College campus and immediate vicinity and Kentucky Lake near Hamlin, May 4; College campus and Wildcat Creek at Pottertown, May 5. Weather: overcast and disagreeable, temp. 50-64, May 4; 75, May 5. Members of party: same as for Woodlands except afternoon of May 4 and May 5; Grace Wyatt alone then. Total species, 94.

MARION—May 11-12; around Marion and at Maple Sinks. Total species, 97.

—DR. T. ATCHISON FRAZER AND CHASTAIN FRAZER.

PROVIDENCE—April 21, 22, 23. North on U. S. Highway 41 to Audubon Park, Henderson; Audubon Park, lake, and along Ohio River; west to Bellville Bridge, spanning Tradewater River from Webster to Caldwell County; east to Shamrock Lake and Lakeview Cemetery; U. S. 41 to Madisonville Municipal Park and Low Moisture Mine area and lake; south on Ky. 109 to Dora Wyatt's farm, Hopkins County; Weir's Creek, sloughs, Clear Creek, and adjoining farms of John Norwood, Everett Arnold, and Gus Brown; supplementary field trips on preceding week and following week. Total species for census 101; for period studied, 124. The Clay-colored Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Brown Creeper, and Purple Finch were seen a few days previous to the period studied; during the week immediately following these species were observed: Cedar Waxwing, Cape May Warbler, Olive-backed Thrush, Pine Warbler, and Bell's Vireo(?). Observers: Dr. Susie Holdman Gilchrist, Truda Sigler Corbin, Lt. J. D. Palmer, Dora Wyatt, Dr. James Ross Gilchrist, Thomas A. Semple, and Sue Wyatt-Semple (compiler).

MADISONVILLE—May 6; fifteen hours in the field. Loch Mary, Clear Creek, Atkinson Lake, Spring Lake, streets, open country, and cattail marsh. Weather: partly cloudy; wind southwest, light; temp. 48-65. Total species for census, 95; for period studied, 107.

—Observer: JAMES WILLIAM HANCOCK.

BOWLING GREEN—April 27; 4:30 A. M. to 9:30 A. M., April 28; 1:30 P. M. to 5:00 P. M. Mouth of Gasper and McElroy Farm on April 27; Mammoth Cave National Park on April 28. Weather: cloudy, cool. Total species, 96; for period studied, 101.

—Observer: GORDON WILSON

MAMMOTH CAVE—Glasgow to Mammoth Cave National Park; trails, Mammoth Cave Ridge, Beaver Pond at Sloan's Crossing. 6:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Weather: cloudy and very windy, turning cold. Total species, 92.

—Observer: GORDON WILSON.

LOUISVILLE—April 28—Upper River Road and near Pieper home. All day. Total species, 102. Observers: J. M. Baines, T. D. Boers, A. C. Boers, Leonard Brecher, Helen G. Browning, Mary Browder, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Dietrich, Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Goodman, Karl Kerbel, Frieda Lips, Harvey B. Lovell, David McClure, Burt

Monroe, Sr., Burt Monroe, Jr., Bob Petrie, Harry Phinney, Louis Pieper, Marie Pieper, Mrs. C. E. Schindler, Evelyn Schneider, Mabel Slack, Ann Slack, Ann Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, Lily Fay Thomas, Audrey A. Wright (compiler). Margaret Zurfluh (Beckham Bird Club).

RUSSELL COUNTY—May 3: 6:30 A. M. to dark. Jamestown, south to Rowena, Wolf Creek Dam, Russell Springs. Weather: warm, rainy all day, no wind. Total species, 84.

—Observer: GORDON WILSON.

PULASKI COUNTY—May 5; 6:30 A. M. to 12:00 noon. Somerset and Science Hill; woodlands and open fields. Weather: light wind, fair, temp. 60. Total species for count, 71; for period, 77.

—Observers: JOHN PATTEN AND DAN WESLEY.

NOTES OF THE BIG SPRING LIST

MURRAY—As you will see, I worked this spring bird count in with my course in Field Biology, and the majority of the students got a real kick out of the count. A later trip, to Reelfoot Lake, was not planned as a count, but we found many Snowy Egrets, American Egrets, Great Blue Herons, and Water-turkeys. I have never heard such a medley of noises.

—GRACE WYATT.

LOUISVILLE—We made our headquarters at the Pieper home, on the Upper River Road. Miss Mabel Slack, chairman of arrangements, divided the party into groups and assigned territory to be covered. The list of warblers was disappointingly small, because our count was made so early in the migration season. One group reported that Rough-winged Swallows were using a Kingfisher's hole in a clay bank above a quarry. Another group watched a Palm Warbler for about twenty minutes as it attacked a female Bluebird carrying food to its nest in a fence post. Each time the Bluebird approached the nest, the warbler, perched on the wire fence, five to ten feet from the hole, would dart out. A Phoebe's nest was found under a bridge, and a Red-winged Blackbird's nest with three young was found in a shrub in a pond. Two Cardinal nests, one with three eggs and another with one egg and one young, were found. A Robin's nest with four young and an incomplete one were discovered, as well as an empty Brown Thrasher's nest.

—AUDREY A. WRIGHT.

MADISONVILLE—As may be seen, I did not reach 100 species, but, because of a concentration of migrating and resident warblers in one particular low, wet woods and also because of my visiting a cat-tail marsh (240x480 feet in size) recently discovered and again visited, I did record 95 species.

—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

PROVIDENCE—Mrs. Corbin, Mrs. Gilchrist, and I shared some very pleasant moments studying the Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows in a meadow. Later, in a boggy marsh, near a slough and Weir's Creek, I ran (or, rather, waded) into several Nelson's Sparrows. These sparrows seemed very shy and evasive, and I spent at least an hour chasing them before I was satisfied with my identification.

—MRS. SUE WYATT-SEMPLER.

RUSSELL COUNTY—I was in Russell County on May 3 between two commencement dates and used my leisure by visiting the mountain-like hills along Cumberland River at Rowena and, lower

down the river, at the site of the Wolf Creek Dam. It was a very rainy day, but the warblers, especially, were right by the roadside in the woods. Though I made a relatively small list as big spring lists go, I was glad to add this new territory to our spring counts.

—GARDON WILSON.

NESTING STUDY AT MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

By Helen Browning, Louisville

Forty members and friends of the Kentucky Ornithological Society met for a nesting study with Gordon Wilson, President, on June 1-2, 1946, at Mammoth Cave National Park. The weather was rainy, but that did not hinder five groups from setting forth on Saturday morning to hunt nests and to make other notes on the breeding habits of various species of birds which inhabit the area. The group leaders were A. F. Ganier, Mabel Slack, Evelyn Schneider, Leonard Brecher, and S. Charles Thacher.

Saturday evening Dr. Wilson asked everyone to assemble in the Blue Room to discuss our annual fall meeting place. It was decided that the K. O. S. have its fall meeting at Cumberland Falls, October 4, 5, and 6. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Cumberland Falls hotel regarding reservations.

Each one present introduced himself, and then several persons reported on their most interesting bird experiences of the year. After arrangements for trips the next day had been announced, the meeting adjourned.

Sunday the weather cleared up, and the Beaver Pond trip was especially successful. We found nests of the Prairie Warbler, Yellowthroat, Chat, Red-wing and several others. We failed to find the nests of any of our rarer water birds, although the Green Heron and the Wood Duck were seen at the pond. H. Harold Davis took several color pictures of parents feeding the young of the White-eyed Vireo.

The party broke up soon after dinner on Sunday. All agreed that this week-end nesting study had been a most profitable and enjoyable experience and that we were deeply indebted to our president for asking us to participate in his wild life studies at Mammoth Cave Park.

The following members and guests were present: Louisville—Misses Marie E. Pieper, Evelyn J. Schneider, Audrey A. Wright, Ann Slack, Mabel Slack, M. Kays, Helen Browning, Mrs. Mame M. Boulware, Mrs. J. T. Caldwell, Mrs. Shively, Mrs. T. C. Mapother, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Cornett, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Dr. and Mrs. Harvey B. Lovell and John Lovell, Mr. and Mrs. Otto K. Dietrich, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Conlee, Mr. and Mrs. H. Harold Davis, Messrs. Mathias Bruhn, Carl F. Kerbel, Wood Bousman; Murray—Misses Grace Wyatt, Marjorie Palmquist; Glasgow—Mrs. Nelson Nuckols; Bowling Green—Dr. Gordon Wilson; Cave City—Ann Young; Nashville, Tenn.—Bob Sollman, A. F. Ganier; Hamburg, Ia.—Miss Leta Schneider; Atlanta, Ga.—Jane C. Wyatt; Jackson, N. C.—Etta Beale Grant; Simrall, Miss.—Mrs. R. O. Stringer.

A total of 76 species were seen during the week-end, but since there were no new or rare finds for the park, we think it will be of more interest just to list those for which we found evidence of breeding. Red-wing, 3 nests at Beaver Pond; Bluebird, feeding young and 4 nests; Cardinal, 1 nest; Catbird, 5 nests; Carolina Chickadee, feeding young; Mourning Dove, 1 nest; Phoebe, 2 nests; White-breasted Nut-

hatch, feeding young; Robin, 5 nests; Chipping Sparrow, feeding young and 1 nest; Field Sparrow, 8 nests; Rough-winged Swallow, 2 nests; Purple Martin, feeding young; Scarlet Tanager, 1 nest (Leonard Brecher will describe this nest more fully later); Brown Thrasher, 1 nest; Red-eyed Towhee, 2 nests (Carl Cornett found a nest in a cedar); Red-eyed Vireo, 1 nest; White-eyed Vireo (Mabel Slack found nest in an apple tree only 2 feet from ground); Kentucky Warbler, 1 nest with five young near mouth of River Styx (H. B. Lovell); Prairie Warbler, 2 nests, one in persimmon with 3 eggs 8 feet high and one in a sassafras with 3 eggs 7 feet up, close to the road; Yellow-breasted Chat, 4 nests (Cornett found nest with 4 eggs, 3 feet up in dense briars near Beaver Pond). Total 21 species, feeding young or nests containing young or eggs. It is to be regretted that more data were not collected in regard to the number of eggs, height of nest from ground, habitat, species of tree or bush in which nest was placed, and other notes on the care of young. Remarkably little material has been published about the breeding habits of Kentucky birds. Here is a wide open field for members of the K. O. S. to make some real contributions to knowledge.

FIELD NOTES

PHOEBE RAISES BROOD UNDER DIFFICULTIES

While visiting Otter Creek Reservation in Meade County this spring, Harvey Lovell and I made some interesting observations on the habits of a family of Phoebes (*Sayornis phoebe*). They had built their mud nest with the usual lichen-moss decorations in a soap dish in the shower room at Big Bend Camp. On Sunday, April 22, 1946, Lovell observed the eggs in the process of hatching. A week earlier, on April 14 and 15, campers had occupied the unit and apparently went away leaving the shower running over the Phoebes' nest, forming a wall of spray between the nest and the doorway. When Amy Deane and Helen Peil returned five days later, it was still running with such force that the water had run out the doorway and down the hill in front of the building. That the eggs hatched showed that the Phoebes had either flown through the sheet of water or possibly circled around it to reach the nest. Only a species accustomed to nesting near or under waterfalls would have had the fortitude to continue her incubation under such trying circumstances.

On May 4 after dark we banded the 5 nestlings, which were well fledged and flew actively around the shower room when disturbed. We returned them to the nest, turned off the light, and held our hands over them until they quieted dawn. They remained motionless in the nest as we departed. The next morning, however, they had departed when we passed by early in the morning. This was exactly two weeks from the time of hatching.

—DAVID McCLURE, Louisville.

THE ROOSTING OF A CARDINAL

About five years ago we noticed that a male Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*) was roosting during the late winter months high up on the electric wires on our back porch; access to this perch could be had only by coming in at the bottom of the lattice work, an opening of six inches off the floor. A male Cardinal, believed to

be the same one, has nested within the radius of our home and two neighbors' yards every year, and in that time, we believe, that he has had only two mates, having had this last one the past three years. Every year he holds a competitive bout with any males, which would seem to challenge his right to this particular domain. Although we do not have the bird banded, because we are so very familiar with his appearance and because of his unique way of finding a place to roost, we feel confident that it is the same bird. In the winter, after "Red" has got well settled on his perch, we can turn on the light and go in and out about our household tasks while he peers down in a very interested pose.

—SUSAN L. HOWARD, Paris.

A LATE RECORD FOR CEDAR WAXWINGS

The writer has long felt that late arrivals or departures of migratory birds probably are as significant in records of bird migration as the more frequently sought early dates. From this point of view the following record may be worth noting. On May 30, 1946, I observed a flock of Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) in South Louisville. There were about 19 in the branches of a dead tree. A few others, apparently about six, were in the foliage of adjacent trees. A precise count was impossible owing to interchange of individuals between the two areas as the birds constantly sallied forth after passing insects in the manner customary to the species and seldom troubled to return to the same spot.

—WILLIAM M. CLAY, Louisville.

NEWS AND VIEWS

TO A PAIR OF GOLDFINCHES

By Sue Wyatt-Semple

Blossoming forth in gold and black, he sings
 A soft and tender song, canary-like,
 To his beloved sweetheart, while she clings
 To dandelions or a mullein spike.
 Then bounding through the blue, now rising—falling
 In aerial waves, he calls a twittering note—
 A sweet per-chic-o-ree, which is entralling
 To his drab mate as through the air they float.

Their cup-like nest is lined with thistle-fluff—
 A cozy, compact structure made of moss,
 Fine grass and fibers, placed up high enough
 In prickly plants to help protect its boss.
 I envy her his dear, dear dearie song
 He trills in his love-making all day long.

GORDON WILSON, OUR EIGHTH LIFE MEMBER

Our president has joined the rapidly increasing number of life members in the K. O. S. We now have added \$200.00 to our endowment funds with the purchase of a second share of Building and Loan Stock. Dr. Wilson's long interest in birds began in the spring

of 1914 when he kept his first list, only 84 for the season. His first publication was the 1918 Christmas Census, which appeared in *Bird-Lore*. This brought him an invitation to join the W. O. C. and the acquaintance of Mr. Ganier. His early studies culminated in the publication of the "Birds of Bowling Green, Kentucky" in *Auk* for 1922. He was also elected secretary of the Wilson Ornithological Club that year. Two years later he was largely instrumental in forming the Kentucky Ornithological Society, for which he has ever since been the chief sponsor and hardest worker. In recent years Wilson's chief interests have been the aquatic species which appear whenever the farm lands flood around Bowling Green and the birds of the Mammoth Cave National Park. When Dr. Wilson decided to complete work on his doctorate in English at University of Indiana, he selected the Life of Alexander Wilson, the father of American Ornithology, as his subject, thus combining his hobby with his profession. Yes, his real profession is professor and head of the English Department at Western. To appreciate how widely used and well-known are his writings on birds, one needs only to go through a series of monographs on American birds to find that in nearly every case the status of that bird for Kentucky is largely established by quoting the English professor from Bowling Green.

WHO WILL BE OUR NINTH LIFE MEMBER?

Life membership is only \$25.00, and at the present low rate of interest it is an excellent investment. Contributions to the K. O. S. are deductible from income tax returns. Life members receive the *Kentucky Warbler* for life and are in every way fully paid-up active members. With the present deflated value of money, organizations all over the country are finding a great increase in life memberships. In addition life members are regarded as benefactors of the K. O. S. Plan to give your husband, wife, son, daughter, a Christmas present of a life membership.

THE JEFFERSON COUNTY FOREST

Plans to establish a county forest in Jefferson County are now well on their way. The former state forester of Indiana, Major Paul Yost, has been employed to direct the activities. He is anxious to have members of our society help him to make a study of abundance of birds (and other wild life) in the area before protection and management begin in order to compare it with the abundance after the area has been in the reservation for five or more years.

ARTICLES ON KENTUCKY BIRDS IN OTHER JOURNALS

Wilson, Gordon. "Mammoth Cave National Park Is Wild Bird Sanctuary", Illustrated by six photographs, mostly by Mabel Slack. In *Kentucky*, Spring, 1946, pp. 20, 21, and 38, 39. Miss Slack's beautiful pictures are reproduced in excellent fashion and Dr. Wilson tells of many birds to be found there.

Wallace, Earl. "Predators." *Kentucky, Happy Hunting Ground*, Vol. I, No. 3, May, 1946, p. 6. An excellent discussion of the balance of nature and the desirability of protecting hawks, owls, foxes, skunks, and other beasts of prey. Also in same journal, page 13, "Great Blue Heron is Silent Harbinger of Worm Fishing to Willow Pole Youth". A discussion of the habits of this great bird, especially in reference to its fish-eating propensities. On "a very small percentage of its catch are of the kinds useful to man".