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## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 22, no. 4)

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# The . . . . 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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No. 4

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## NEST OF CEDAR WAXWING AT LOUISVILLE

By Burt L. Monroe, State Ornithologist, Anchorage

An article appearing in the *Louisville Times* for July 19, 1946, regarding the locating of a nest of the Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) in Jefferson County, Kentucky, by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Zimmer prompts me to record a nest of this species found twelve years ago at Louisville in the same county.

The nest was found on August 19, 1934, in a yard in the suburban residential section of Crescent Hill, a well-populated area. Although the yard in which the nest was found contained fruit trees, such as cherry, pear, and peach trees, and although there were fruit trees of the same varieties as well as apple trees in the yards on both sides, the Waxwing had chosen the horizontal limb of a sycamore tree for its nest. It was saddled on the limb about 20 feet up from the ground, in a very inaccessible position.

Oliver Davie (1898, p. 414), one of the early authorities on nesting habits of birds, states that "the usual position of the nest of these species is in a cedar bush or orchard tree, and it is often placed in a sycamore, the distance varying from four to eighteen feet from the ground." A sizable cedar bush was within fifty feet of the nesting site, but, as with the fruit trees, the bird chose to ignore it in favor of the sycamore location.

Discovery of the nest, a rather bulky affair composed of leaves, roots, bark, twigs, and weeds but with no signs of either twine or rags in its construction, was made when an adult made two trips at very short intervals into the tree. It was seen to feed young birds in the nest, the exact number of which could not be determined but seemed to be three. They were well fledged but had not left the nest two days later. At that time, the writer left the city for a period of two weeks, and when I returned, the nest, which of course was empty long before that time, had been practically demolished by falling branches of the tree occasioned by a violent windstorm.

In the "Breeding Bird Census for Kentucky" (Wilson, 1942, Editor) I listed the Cedar Waxwing as a rare breeding bird in Jefferson County on the basis of this early 1934 record. In the same article, Welter and Barbour recorded it as a rare breeding bird in Rowan County, and it would be of general interest if exact breeding data for this area could be published.

Suspected breeding of the bird in other areas of the state have been recorded such as the one by Wetmore (1940) on Black Mountain,

Harlan County; by Barbour (1941), who says "I found it abundant after August 5"; and by Gordon Wilson (1942) at Bowling Green and Mammoth Cave. In the adjoining state of Ohio, Karl Maslowski and Christian Goetz found two nests of this species at Cincinnati, just across the Ohio River from Kentucky, on June 20, 1931 (Goodpaster, 1941).

Further investigations of the summer status of the Cedar Waxwing will doubtless reveal that this bird nests more commonly throughout much of the state, especially in the eastern and northern sections, than heretofore suspected.

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## NOTES ON THE NESTING OF THE SCARLET TANAGER

By Leonard C. Brecher, Louisville

On June 1, 1946, in Mammoth Cave National Park, in an area located in Edmonson County at approximately 37° 11' North Latitude and 86° 6' West Longitude, a group of K. O. S. members were looking for nesting birds. In company with Wood Bousman, the writer was proceeding down a woodland trail when the song of a Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*)\* was heard. We stopped to find the singer, and shortly after finding the male, a little to the left of our path, we saw a bird fly into a tree some twenty feet in front of us. This proved to be a female Scarlet Tanager, and she had a small butterfly in her bill. Her presence indicated that we were in the vicinity of a nest; so we kept the glasses trained on her to see whether she would fly to her young.

At this juncture Dr. Gordon Wilson appeared along the trail from the opposite direction and stopped to note the song of a Hooded Warbler in the distance. We called his attention to the pair of tanagers, and the birds remained within easy sight, shifting slightly to

\* Changed from *Piranga erythromelas* by the 19th supplement to the fourth ed. of the A. O. U. check-list.

our right as we looked at the trees overhead in search of the nest. I perceived a nest approximately 27 feet above the ground and some 5 feet out from the trunk of a young tulip poplar tree. This nest was made of dark-looking materials, and from our position we could see nothing but an opaque mass, with no indication that it was the nest we sought. Yet by this time the female tanager was uttering an alarm note that gave us a fairly good idea that this was her nest. It was also from this location that we first heard the male sing.

After about five minutes of waiting, Dr. Wilson went on to find others of his party, but we decided to wait until the bird showed us the nest. The male made no sound at all, but the female constantly repeated her alarmed call of three syllables—chip chirro; the first syllable staccato, and the last slurred over from the second. During all this time the female kept the butterfly in her bill, but, after 5 more minutes of calling, we noted that the insect was missing. During the next half hour the female moved in a semicircle around our right in about a thirty-foot radius. Not once, however, did she cross the trail to the side on which the poplar stood. The male would disappear at intervals, but he always returned to perch close to the female. Yet he, too, never went near the nest in question.

It had been drizzling all morning, and, although everything was soaking wet, we crouched on the trail, where we could observe the suspected nest and still watch the female. The open second-growth woods were composed mostly of hickory, oak, dogwood, maple, and poplar trees. The foliage of the treetops closed out most of the sunlight, causing many of the lower branches of the trees to die and discouraging the undergrowth at the same time. Thus it was easy to follow the movements of the tanagers, which continued to perch about 20 feet from the ground. A short distance beyond the poplar tree containing the nest, the woods thinned out into a clearing which was growing up with sassafras and sumac.

About this time the female crossed the trail, although she was still thirty feet from the nest. The male then disappeared to a point somewhere near and above the nest and burst into song for about a minute's duration, as if to encourage his mate. This effort produced no visible reaction from the female, as she still continued her alarm note and did not change her position. Then the male suddenly appeared on a young hickory almost under the nest, and approximately five feet off the ground. He seemed to be feeding, and shortly thereafter he perched alongside the female. After a short time he flew down again to a point about three feet from the ground and, evidently finding an insect there, without further ado went straight to the suspected nest. He remained there only a short time, then flew off to the clearing. In two minutes he was back again at the nest. This visit either reassured his mate or aroused such curiosity or feeling of responsibility in her that she, too, now flew directly to the nest, still uttering her chip chirre continuously. After a careful inspection of the nest she flew away, and the male returned with food. In a few minutes the female visited the nest again, and since the preceding events proved that this was their nest, we thought we had better move on and let the pair feed their young in peace, as we had delayed them for nearly an hour.

As a further indication of the type of territory in which this nest was located, during this period we saw only one other bird, a Red-eyed Vireo, and heard the calls of two Wood Thrushes, one Blue Jay, one Oven-bird, one White-breasted Nuthatch, and an Indigo Bunting, which sang in the clearing.

About three o'clock the following afternoon, the writer took Harvey Lovell to the site, but the nest was deserted, and no sound of the tanagers was heard. Light could now be seen through the interstices of the loosely constructed nest, whereas the day before the nest had appeared as a dark, solid mass. Lovell was able to climb the tree and could observe that the nest was securely cradled in a wild grape vine, entwined about the small horizontal branch of the poplar tree. The interior of the nest seemed to be lined with grasses or rootlets with a deeper brown color than the coarser grayish grasses making up the body of the nest. The nest itself was about four inches in diameter and was comparatively flat, not being deeply cupped. Nuttall (1832, p. 467) in his description says, "... and the whole of the substances is so thinly platted as readily to admit the light through their interstices, thus forming a very clean and airy bed for the brood, well suited for the mildness and warmth of the season in which they are produced. The eggs, 3 or 4, are a dull blue, spotted with two or three shades of brown or purple, most numerous towards the larger end."

It is interesting to note that the first breeding record for the Scarlet Tanager in Kentucky came from this park. Hibbard (1935) states that in the summer of 1934 "two pairs were observed nesting in the park area, one in Floating Mill Hollow and the other along Ugly Creek." He does not state that the actual nests were discovered, as he does in regard to a House Wren in the same article.

Audubon (1870, p. 227) in describing the nesting of the Scarlet Tanager, says in part: "In Louisiana the eggs are deposited by the first of May, about a month later in our central districts, but in the state of Maine frequently not until the middle of June. It never raises more than one brood in the season, and . . . they are plentiful in the Jerseys, where they usually arrive about the middle of May, in Kentucky, and along the Missouri; and, in short, are generally dispersed over the Union."

In his composite list of the breeding birds of Kentucky, Gordon Wilson (1942) shows it to be fairly well distributed over the state, although Pindar (1925, p. 164) says, in speaking of the birds of Fulton County in 1889, that it is "very rare. I have seen three males, one in June, 1884, one on August 17, 1887, and one on August 13, 1888. I killed a female on October 2, 1888." In 1925 he further comments that "two males were observed in the spring of 1890. In 1893 the species was slightly more numerous during the migrations, and at least one pair remained through the summer, although no nest was found."

Again, Wilson (1923) in his notes on the birds of Calloway County, which is located in the Purchase on the Tennessee line, and just about forty miles east of Fulton County, lists the Scarlet Tanager as a "Rare Migrant," while Blincoe in 1925 (in his revision of Beckham's list of 1885) lists it only as a migrant in Nelson County; yet several Louisville observers have recorded it during the breeding season in the Bernheim Forest in Bullitt County, which is contiguous to Nelson County. It has also been recorded in June by this group at Otter Creek Recreational Area, located 25 miles southwest of Louisville, in Meade County; in the hills in the southern part of Jefferson County; and 15 miles, to the northeast of Louisville in Oldham County. Burt Monroe has two skins in his collection taken in the higher elevations 10 miles south of Louisville. These specimens have brood patches, which is definite evidence that the birds were nesting there.

There seems to be no question but that this tanager breeds throughout eastern Kentucky. However, while its presence has been noted in many areas in the breeding season, no definite instances have been cited except possibly that of Hibbard, as noted above. Nor has any description of a Kentucky nest appeared in the literature. Nearly every statement regarding its occurrence is general, such as that by Figgins (1945, p. 306): "The Scarlet Tanager breeds in Kentucky, chiefly in the mountainous areas but nowhere so abundantly as the next described species" (the Summer Tanager). This statement is corroborated by data secured by Patten (1946), who made a check of the birds present during the month of June in a hilly, wooded area located five miles southeast of Berea. He observed a total of 105 Scarlet Tanagers covering 26 different days or an average of 4.04 per day. A total of 88 different species were found in the area, and the Scarlet Tanager was 34th in relative abundance, whereas the Summer Tanager stood 18th in relative abundance.

However, the presence of the Scarlet Tanager seems to be spotty, for while Ganier and Clebsch (1940) report finding thirty-one of this species during a stay of eight days, in June, 1940, in Fall Creek State Park in Southeastern Tennessee, yet Ijams (1940) speaking of a wooded area bordered by a high bluff and a river in the Knoxville area, says, "the nesting of the Scarlet Tanager in 1924 I consider as accidental, as it is the only record in the twenty-five years I have been living here".

I checked back through all the volumes of the Auk and found only two references pertaining to the details of this bird's nesting. In the later reference, Burleigh (1927), speaking of the Scarlet Tanager in northeastern Georgia, says, "this is a common breeding bird through the mountains in the northern tier of counties, but there are few actual records of the nest being found. With the little time at my disposal I succeeded in locating but one nest which, on June 22, 1923, held three eggs possibly half incubated. It was forty-five feet from the ground at the outer end of a limb of a tall slender black gum in open woods, halfway up the mountainside, and was compactly built of weed stems and rootlets, lined with fine weed stems".

In the earlier reference Hales (1896) describes in detail a nest of the Scarlet Tanager which was built in the branches of a Norway Spruce and capable of being watched from a house window. This pair of tanagers was very secretive, the male rarely putting in an appearance, the nest being built, the eggs incubated, and the young fed entirely by the female. He stated that "these youngsters were perfectly quiet, never clamoring for food like so many other nestlings." This observation agrees with mine regarding the nest I have described, since we did not hear the nestlings when the parents brought food to them. The misty rain and cool weather may or may not have been a factor in keeping them quiet, but I have found no other comments on this point. Hales continues that the next year a pair of Scarlet Tanagers built in the identical spot, but this time the male was conspicuous by his presence and constantly brought food to the young. Hales believes that this contrast in behavior between the two pairs was due to a different male the second year. Burns (1915) has stated that "incubation is performed solely by the female".

The behavior of the pair of tanagers as I observed it varied somewhat from the description given by Alexander Wilson (1810), who says in part: "When you approach the nest, the male keeps

cautiously at a distance, as if fearful of being seen, while the female hovers around in the greatest agitation and distress. When the young leave the nest, the male parent is then altogether indifferent of concealment."

In conclusion, while it has been taken for granted that the Scarlet Tanager breeds throughout Kentucky wherever its habitat of open woods is found, and which occurs more logically and abundantly in eastern Kentucky, yet this tanager is not a too common species, and definite descriptions of its nesting are lacking in the literature. In view of these facts, I have cited in detail the circumstances concerning the nest, for the sake of the record.

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**A MOURNING DOVE GIVES A LESSON IN ORNITHOLOGY**

Virginia Winstandley,  
Assistant Librarian, University of Louisville

The ambitious bird parents inadvertently furthered the education of both faculty and students when they chose a window ledge on the third floor of the University of Louisville's Administration Building as a site for their nest, with only a windowpane between it and the Library's Periodical Stack Room! There, high above the budding trees and about thirty feet from the green lawn below, two Mourning Doves were seen building during the second week in March. They could not have known that this was the one window which had not been opened for years, and that the new leaves of the thick ivy vines grown along the ledge and twined across the glass would soon form a perfect canopy of protection.

An "L" window about seventeen feet away provided a good vantage point for views of the incubating birds the following week, after one was discovered March 22 sitting on the nest. The bird sat in a horizontal position along the ledge, at one time facing the east, and at another the west.

A much closer glimpse from the other side of the nest could be had through the window, although it was necessary for the viewer to move cautiously to see the dove's rounded head, smooth body, and long pointed tail showing above the three-inch-high window frame. How well the delicate coloring could be observed—the soft rose and gold spots on the side of the throat showing a velvety sheen, and the fawn-brown of the feathers and dark spots on the wings being easily detected among the then tiny ivy leaflets. So near the dove was, and yet how far from reach, for the pane, only a few inches away from its body, served as a barrier supreme; anyone could see at a glance that the least movement of the window would certainly hurl this avian home to its destruction.

The nest was observed on the following day, when one of the



ADULT DOVE INCUBATING

birds departed, to reveal, just visible below the window frame, two clear, white eggs lying in the loosely woven twigs. Thereafter, the mother or father was seen almost constantly incubating, very conscious of an audience, no matter how quietly the observer stepped inside the room.

A Mourning Dove's traditional calmness was evident in the parent's quiet mien as several pairs of human eyes gazed at every opportunity during the succeeding days. However, the eyelid blinking over a wary eye at more or less regular intervals, and the occasional turnings of the head toward the room showed signs of inner trepidation.

Only a few times was it possible to discover the nest vacant, but on March 23 a bird was seen to leave about 11:00 a. m. and noticed again on the nest by 12:00. Did the parents ever exchange places directly, or did one always come back after the other had departed? At least once our question was partially answered while a moving picture was being taken on March 28. The second bird suddenly flew toward the ledge where the mate was sitting, was startled before landing, and flew as suddenly away, the white bands on the tail especially conspicuous. Evidently, if no one had been near, the exchange would have taken place on or near the nest. It was possible the same day, about 3:00 p. m., when the first bird unexpectedly flew, to hurry to the 17-foot distant window, and to be present with the movie camera when one of the two returned a short time later, alighting first on the left side of the ledge, then below the nest, and finally easing itself upon the eggs.

Although the window had a northern exposure with no March sunshine reaching its shadows, by April 1 the ivy's new leaves had grown large enough to cover almost completely the hiding place. No longer could it even be seen from a distance, and from inside the room numerous leaves and stems obstructed the view of the incubating bird.

By April 9 mother and father had been seen to change positions more often. During the next few days each appeared to move around to some extent while on the nest, but every time someone looked, a now familiar parent covered the spot completely. On several occasions we tapped on the windowpane with our hands, expecting to frighten the dove away. Instead, she pecked back at us, striking the pane a clear, resounding blow and refusing to vacate.

Thus were missed the exciting moments when Baby emerged into the world. Lo and behold—when the site was glimpsed on the afternoon of April 13, a round bunch of dark-feathered life was seen there, with the second egg unhatched. Dovey Coed, already several days old, had made an entrance on the University campus! The fuzzy, white-tipped feathers on the head gave a whitish appearance, but those on the body blended perfectly with the dark twigs of the nest. The black eye that faced the window, large and limpid like the parents', looked occasionally through the pane, while a distinct cheeping note could be heard when we approached the glass.

Those twittering sounds did not go unnoticed, for all at once the bunch of feathers reared up, swept its wings outward, and in a flash a parent bird was upon the sill, letting Dovey receive regurgitated pigeon milk from its bill. A flutter of wings, and the parent was away, not to return while anyone was looking.

After two more days, Dovey's contour feathers began to unsheath and changed from black to a brownish tinge, dark spots showed on

her head, while the gummy black bill curved slightly downward. The parents grew bolder as they flew back and forth, alighting on the nest regardless of an audience on the other side of the pane. On one of the feeding trips, about 9:30 a. m., April 15, a dove landed on the second-floor window; that of the Librarian's office itself, gazed into the room, then flew away to the higher window directly above.

No wonder their fledgling was so important! Hadn't she been accepted as a University student—being photographed in color by the Head Librarian, from every angle possible through the windowpane? Other members of the faculty had conferred with her, also,—one a biology professor who examined her closely on several occasions,



NESTLING DOVE

and another, the Dean of the College, who officially welcomed her to the campus. An ex-president of the local bird club also made a special visit to her "room", and some students, having their first opportunity to see a young bird at close range, were given the chance of a special laboratory experiment in ornithology.

Soon came the inevitable exam. time. We deemed ourselves unusually fortunate to be present behind the window when both parents lit by the nest and proceeded to give baby an important lesson in how to fly! How they fluttered and lifted their wings, cooing and encouraging as Dovey followed suit! Since the day was chilly and rainy, it was a relief to find that more practice might take place before the flight, for 5:00 o'clock again found Mother brooding, and though more erect than when incubating, still completely hiding her fledgling from view and from the increasing rain-drops.

On April 16 Dovey was noticed to be alone more often, her feeding time apparently coming at longer intervals. All day the distinct cooing notes of the parents were heard, coming from the roof top above the ivy-covered window, first loud and then subsiding as a dove would dart past the nest to the trees below. Did their pupil follow? Not yet, for several days again passed, while the baby became more and more active, pecking at the leaves brushing her body,

turning to the outdoors and open spaces, and on April 20 walking several steps along the ledge outside of the nest.

Then, finally the important moment arrived when, unseen by those who had been hoping to view the departure, Dovey ventured forth. For on April 22, just about a month after the eggs were deposited, the high home was found empty of its occupant, only the unhatched egg left to mark the spot. The campus fledgling must have learned her lessons well, for at some time between Saturday noon and Monday morning, while both faculty and students were all away, she had made her commencement into the springtime world.

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## FIELD NOTES

### SOME TOWN RECORDS FOR WOODLAND BIRDS

Nearly every year I find in migration some of the wildest birds right in my yard. In 1943 a Veery was often seen in our driveway and serenaded us from the bushes behind my lot for many days at the end of the spring migration season. In 1944 an Ovenbird appeared in my yard on May 14 and seemed as wild as those that I have found in the wildest woods. Once some years back a Parula Warbler fed in the ash trees in my front yard the better part of a July day. On August 30, 1941, a Red-breasted Nuthatch called and fed in the yard. Twice in recent years a Whip-poor-will has called on the campus of Western State Teachers College, just across the street from my house. On May 14, 1945, a Prairie Warbler appeared just behind my yard, though I had been unable to find it on a whole day's trip to the country. The next day I found the Worm-eating and the Connecticut Warblers feeding in the box elders in my side yard, either one of which is a find in the most remote woods.

—GORDON WILSON, Western State Teachers' College, Bowling Green.

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### THE FOOD OF A BARN OWL

On his way to Louisville on October 29, 1945, Howard Cleaves, the first Audubon Screen Tour Lecturer, picked up a dead Barn Owl (*Tyto alba pratincola*) on 31-E, about 35 miles north of Louisville in Southern Indiana. In the process of making it up into a study skin we removed 3 rodents from its stomach. These were species of small mice, partly decomposed, but easily identified as rodents by their long front incisors. This agrees with the frequently published reports on the habits of the Barn Owl, that it is a very beneficial species, feeding largely on mice and other obnoxious small mammals. Since it feeds chiefly at night, it rarely catches birds.

In spite of continued persecution by man, the Barn Owl is probably more common than generally supposed in this area. Chapman says (*Birds of Eastern North America*, p. 334): "The Barn Owl conceals itself so well during the day that, in my experience, it is a difficult bird to observe, even in localities where it is common. For this reason the capture of one of these odd-visaged birds is frequently the cause of much excitement over the supposed discovery of an animal entirely new to science, and which, by the local press, is generally considered half bird, half monkey." Anyone observing a nest of the Barn Owl in Kentucky should report it to the editor with full details as to location, number of young, etc.

—HARVEY B. LOVELL, University of Louisville, Louisville.

## THE HOUSE WREN AT LEXINGTON

It would be too strong a statement to insist that the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) was totally absent from the Lexington area prior to any certain date. However, during my first eight years as a resident of Lexington this bird was so uncommon that I, for one, never saw nor heard a single individual, about town or afield.

Then in 1930 one or two House Wrens colonized at and about Maxwell Place. The number has increased, though perhaps not remarkably, from year to year. It has not been wanting from the bird-lists during any subsequent year for sixteen years.

Meanwhile the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) has been the exact opposite. Where I first knew the bird on the northwestern fringe of its range, it gave the impression of a shy, retiring nature.

On coming to Lexington in 1922, I found the Carolina Wren occupying this territory as a confident, assured, old settler. Here it is a bird of the town as well as the country, with a fondness for bushy alleys throughout the year, nesting on and about arbors, porches, etc. One pair has been observed nesting inside a commercial greenhouse. These are habits which belong to the House Wren farther north rather than to the Carolina Wren.

—W. R. ALLEN, Dept. of Zoology, University of Kentucky.

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## NASHVILLE WARBLER AT OTTER CREEK AREA

During a hike of the Seventh Kentucky Wildlife and Natural History Conference at Otter Creek Recreation Area in Meade County, I picked up a small warbler along the railroad tracks where they circle the bank of the Ohio River. It proved to be a male Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) in good plumage. The gray head contrasting with the olive-green of the back, the bright yellow underparts, and the concealed brownish cap made identification easy in the hand. No evidence of the cause of death was immediately discernable. Death must have occurred very recently, however, since the specimen was still fresh in spite of the warm weather. The bird was preserved as a skin by H. B. Lovell, who reports that the chest region showed evidence of a heavy blow such as might occur from flying into the train, perhaps at night. The only other record of this Warbler at Otter Creek is a sight record for September 21 or 22, 1940, made at the First Wildlife and Natural History Conference.

—ROBERT PETREE, Louisville.

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## NEST OF THE RUFFED GROUSE IN WOLFE COUNTY

There appear to be few published records of the discovery of the nest of the Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) in Kentucky. It has been suggested, therefore, that the following may be of interest. On April 20, 1946, I discovered a nest of this species in Wolfe County in eastern Kentucky. The location was on Swift Creek, about a mile above its junction with the Red River. The nest contained eight whitish or cream-colored eggs, and the material of the nest consisted of grass, bits of bark, etc. It was hidden under the drooping limbs of a large spruce. The nest was discovered when the hen flushed as I approached.

—HAROLD E. ALEXANDER, Coordinator Federal Aid Division, Frankfort.

### A FALL LIST FROM CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE PARK

The following species were seen by the various field trips taken by K. O. S. members at the fall meeting at Cumberland Falls State Park on October 5 and 6; birds were unusually scarce, as was to be expected for the time of year and the restricted range of habitat covered: Turkey Vulture, Golden Eagle, Ruffed Grouse, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Olive-backed Thrush, Grey-cheeked Thrush, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Sycamore Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black Poll Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, American Redstart, Cardinal, Goldfinch, White-throated Sparrow.

—Compiled by GORDON WILSON AND HELEN BROWNING.

\* \* \* \* \*

### BITTERN OFF THE BEATEN PATH

About five-thirty P. M. on April 30, 1946, Dr. R. M. Kendall called me to identify a bird which was perched in a neighbor's pear tree thirty-five feet above the ground. It had been there for nearly thirty hours and had attracted considerable attention because of its unusual guttural tones.

When we arrived, it was sitting in full view, its body erect, its bill pointing skyward, and its yellow eyes meeting us with a steady gaze. Here in a thickly populated neighborhood in a small yard on Barret Avenue was an American Bittern stranded in a strange place. Since Bitterns are marsh birds and rather of the recluse type, I was somewhat surprised to find it in these surroundings. However, Roberts in his *Birds of Minnesota* and Todd in *Birds of Western Pennsylvania* state that the Bittern: "Will occasionally alight in the night during migration season in city yards and streets. . . . Not by choice but by accident apparently because of storms, fatigue or mistaken territory."

At ten o'clock of the same evening Dr. Kendall called to say the bird was gone—so it must have rested at least thirty-four hours. It was the first time I had even seen one outside of its natural habitat.

—MRS. ANNE STAMM, Louisville

\* \* \* \* \*

### FREAKS IN FEATHERS

I kept seeing flashes of white among a flock of English Sparrows that fed in a corner of our back lot. It couldn't be Juncos, I thought. Maybe some Vesper Sparrows, or, more exciting still, the beautiful Lark Sparrow.

With the aid of binoculars, I plainly discerned not just one, but a pair of English Sparrows with white outer tail feathers! To verify this oddity I called my neighbor, Truda Sigler Corbin, as a witness. For almost one whole morning, we chased that wary pair of English Sparrows all over this part of town; but what a thrill each time we glimpsed the white outer tail feathers!

Later, I discovered the pair building under the eaves of what was once a corn crib. Will the offspring also be fashioned with white outer tail feathers? We hope to answer that question.

Another unusual observation during the spring census was a fe-

male Cardinal with white and red plumage instead of red and gray. For a split second I hoped I had found a new crested bird; then I saw the Cardinal's mate join her, dressed up in his normal brilliant spring attire.

—SUE WYATT-SEMPLÉ, Providence.

\* \* \* \* \*

## K. O. S. FALL MEETING

By Helen Browning, Secretary-Treasurer

The annual fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held at Cumberland Falls State Park with headquarters at Cumberland Falls Hotel, October 4, 5, and 6, 1946. Fifty-six members and guests were present. Two program meetings, two business meetings, and two series of field trips made up the program.

October 4, Friday, 8:15 P. M. Birdship Forum. An informal showing of slides and moving pictures.

1. Kent Previetto presented beautiful color slides of bird habitats in Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville. Dr. P. A. Davies' superior slides of Cumberland Falls were then shown although Dr. Davies was not present.

2. Walter Shackleton showed excellent kodachrome movies of the Prothonotary Warblers which nest in his yard and about which he wrote the article which appeared in the Warbler. His flying-squirrel movie was quite unusual, since the tiny mammals were photographed under flood lights as they fed at night.

3. A moving picture from the Department of Fish and Game showing warblers completed the program.

October 5, Saturday, 8:30 P. M. Program meeting.

1. Burt Monroe, State Ornithologist, gave an illustrated talk on the "Birds of the Falls of the Ohio." Maps and charts of the falls area both before and after Audubon's time and recent aerial views were used as a background for the talk. The account of the remarkable number of new state records which Monroe has obtained on the Falls as well as the verification of many other records made this a report of great importance. All the rarer specimens were illustrated by Monroe's fine collection of study skins, which included the Willet, the Knot, Dowitcher, White-rumped Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Stilt, Western Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Piping, Black-bellied, and Golden Plovers, Least, Black, Caspian, Common, and Forster's Terns, Bonaparte's, Herring, and Ring-billed Gulls, and several others. This program was presented in Monroe's usual clear, concise way interspersed with bits of sparkling humor.

2. Ed Ray, Wild Life Supervisor of the Western Division, presented Wild Life in Western Kentucky. Ray told the K. O. S. about his work as Wild Life Supervisor in the First District, which includes the new and fabulous Kentucky Lake, which has over 2000 miles of shore line. His description of the flights of Snow and Blue Geese and the other large birds which frequent the lake made the area seem most attractive, especially when he offered our society its facilities for our spring meeting. He also presented two moving pictures, one on the conservation of natural resources and the other on protective coloration.

## BUSINESS MEETINGS

October 5, 5:00 P. M. Dr. Wilson, president, presiding. The financial report was read by Miss Browning. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the winter issue of the Kentucky Warbler. The amendments to the constitution, which provide for the creation of a life membership for twenty-five dollars and for the addition of this money to the endowment fund, were adopted.

Oct. 6, 8:30 A. M. The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers, which was unanimously elected:

Dr. Gordon Wilson, President  
 Mrs. Mary Lou Frei, Vice-president  
 Helen G. Browning, Secretary-treasurer  
 Councillors: East, Dr. John S. Bangson, Berea College;  
 Central, Leonard Brecher, Louisville; West, Miss Grace  
 Wyatt, Murray State Teachers College.

It was decided that the executive committee would select the time and place of the spring meeting as soon after January 1, as possible.

## FIELD TRIPS

October 5, Saturday, 8:45 A. M. Field trips led by Gordon Wilson, Evelyn Schneider, and Burt Monroe. A Ruffed Grouse and numerous Pine Warblers and Red-breasted Nuthatches featured these trips.

October 6, Sunday, 9:30 A. M. Field trips led by Audrey Wright, Leonard C. Brecher, and Harvey Lovell.

For the list of birds see the Field Notes section.

## ATTENDANCE

Anchorage: Mr. and Mrs. Burt Monroe, Burt Monroe, Jr., Miss Etta Kays; Benham: Mrs. J. L. Hartgroves; Benton: Ed Ray, Misses Barbara and Emilie Ray; Berea: Dr. and Mrs. John S. Bangson, Miss Ellen M. Frederickson; Bowling Green: Dr. Gordon Wilson; Glasgow: Mrs. Mary Clyde Nuckols; Hopkinsville: Dr. Cynthia C. Counce, Robert Mitchell; Horse Cave: Mrs. Mary Lou Frei; Jeffersontown: Miss Laura T. Cardwell; Louisville: Misses Hazel Kinslow, Louise Madison, Esther Mason, Edith Pearson, Evelyn Schneider, Ann Slack, Mabel Slack, Virginia Winsteadley, Audrey Wright, Helen Browning, Messrs Mathias Bruhn, Rodney Hays, Carl Kerbel, Robert Petree, Kent Previette, Arthur Unglaub, Jr., Mrs. Mame Bouleware, Mrs. Baylor Hickman, Mrs. Churchill Humphrey, Mrs. Arthur Unglaub, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brecher, Mr. and Mrs. Carl C. Cornett, Mr. and Mrs. Otto K. Dietrich, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Lovell, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Shackleton, Mr. and Mrs. S. Charles Thacher; Madisonville: Miss Thelma Gentry; Sonora: E. B. Mason; Macon, Ga.: Mrs. Brooks Geoghegan; Yellow Springs, Ohio: Mr. and Mrs. Virgil King; Total, 56.

FINANCIAL REPORT

RECEIPTS:

Balance on hand, date of last report (Nov. 3, 1945) .....	\$165.10
2 Memberships @ \$1.50; .....	3.00
4 Memberships @ 1.25 .....	5.00
64 Memberships @ 1.00 .....	64.00
160 Memberships @ .75 .....	120.00
Junior Academy of Science Affiliation Dues	
28 clubs @ 50c .....	14.00
Endowment:	
Dividends on five shares stock .....	10.49
4 Life memberships @ \$25.00 .....	100.00
Sale of back issues of Warbler .....	6.25
Sale of Field Check Lists .....	6.84
Sale of 9 copies of Dr. Wilson's BIRDS OF MAMMOTH CAVE @ 50c .....	4.50
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b> .....	<b>\$499.18</b>

DISBURSEMENTS:

Printing 4 issues of Warbler (incl. covers and postage) ....	182.69
Stamps .....	13.20
Postcards .....	4.00
1000 Manila envelopes .....	5.25
Cuts for winter and summer numbers of Warbler .....	9.18
Membership in Ky. Conservation Council .....	2.00
Donation to Junior Academy of Science .....	5.00
Award for best Christmas Census published in Junior Academy of Science Bulletin .....	5.00
1 Share of stock in Jefferson Federal Savings & Loan Assn. ....	100.00
1 Checkbook (20 checks) .....	1.00
9 Copies of BIRDS OF MAMMOTH CAVE to Dr. Wilson @ 25c .....	2.25
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b> .....	<b>\$329.57</b>
<b>BALANCE ON HAND OCTOBER 4, 1946</b> .....	<b>\$169.61</b>

Respectfully submitted,

HÉLEN BROWNING, Secretary-treasurer

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THE MIGRANT

A large number of K. O. S. members already belong to the Tennessee Ornithological Society and receive the quarterly journal, the Migrant. A. F. Gañier, who is so well known to all Kentucky bird students, is the editor. The Migrant is considerably larger than the Kentucky Warbler and has a large number of very valuable and interesting articles in each issue. Kentuckians need to know what birds are breeding to the south in order to know what to look for in their own state. Dues are only \$1.00 per year and may be sent either to Editor Gañier at 2112 Woodlawn Drive, Nashville, or to the treasurer, who is Alfred Clebsch, 838 Gracey Ave., Clarksville, Tenn. We strongly urge all ornithologists who plan to write about Kentucky birds to subscribe to the Migrant and to quote it often. For example, numerous records of the Cliff Swallow have been reported for Tennessee, although in recent year it seemed to have practically deserted Kentucky.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### BOB-WHITE

By Sue Wyatt-Semple

Do I smell cider sparkling sweet?  
 Bob-Bob White!  
 These Winesap apples are a treat!  
 Bob-Bob White!  
 Topaz now tops the waving wheat.  
 Bob-Bob White!  
 Is that the patter of small feet?  
 Bob-Bob White!  
 Here is a nest so round and neat.  
 Bob-Bob White!  
 And eighteen eggs, white as a sheet!  
 Bob-Bob White!  
 Bob's Family is now complete.  
 Bob-Bob White!  
 O, may the baby Bobs be fleet!  
 Bob-Bob White!

\* \* \* \* \*

### WALTER SHACKLETON, OUR NINTH LIFE MEMBER

Mr. Shackleton, Louisville businessman, is rapidly becoming one of our most enthusiastic ornithologists. His home in Sleppy Hollow in Oldham County, located in a beautiful wooded valley on the bank of a large artificial pond, is ideally situated for the study of wild life. His feeding station by his dining room window attracts a remarkable assemblage of bird life, from Hairy Woodpeckers to Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. More recently Mr. Shackleton has taken up motion picture photography, and his excellent shots of both feeding and breeding birds were viewed at the fall meeting at Cumberland Falls. Year after year the Prothonotary Warbler pays the Shackletons the compliment of nesting in a trellis only a few feet from a side window, and at night flying squarrels feed on sunflower seeds on a tree from tiny cans originally placed there for tree creepers. Mr. Shackleton is also interested in other kinds of wild life and has a well mounted collection of snakes and mammals. The K. O. S. is indeed happy to welcome such a versatile naturalist to life membership and expects great things from him in the future.

\* \* \* \* \*

### AUDREY WRIGHT, OUR TENTH LIFE MEMBER

Ornithology and botany are the twin interests of our tenth life member, who is a teacher in the Louisville public schools. Audrey took her B. S. at the U. of L. and her M. S. in education at Duke University with a big minor in Botany. She has held numerous offices in nature organizations and is at present Recording Sec'y. of the Kentucky Society of Natural History and Nature Study Chairman of the

A. A. U. P. She was 10th president of the Beckham Bird Club. Audrey is well known for the quiet, efficient way in which she carries out her duties, and it is always a pleasure to work with her on any assignment. She is a great traveler and rarely misses any of the meetings and field days of the K. O. S., no matter how far away they may be. Audrey has also written several articles and reports for the Warbler. The K. O. S. is fortunate to add such an active and faithful worker to life membership.

\* \* \* \* \*

### ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

Mrs. Sue Wyatt-Semple of Providence has had a poem published recently in the *Saturday Evening Post* and has had some other material accepted for publication by the *Post*. Her fame as a nature poet is rapidly extending far beyond the confines of Kentucky, and we take pride in presenting her poem to the "Bob-white" in this issue.

Burt Monroe, Jr., of Anchorage was elected president of the Junior Academy of Science for 1945-46. He represented the Anchorage High School Science Club at Fort Thomas, where the annual spring meeting was held. He took an exhibit of snakes, salamanders, and other vertebrates to the meeting.

Harold E. Alexander, a new member of the K. O. S., is Federal Aid Coordinator for Kentucky under the Pittman-Robertson Act. He addressed the Seventh Kentucky Wild Life and Natural History Conference at Otter Creek Park on the afternoon of September 28 on the "Federal Aid Program for Wild Life Restoration." An article by him of the Ruffed Grouse appears in the *Field Notes* section of this issue.

After all the work done on Kentucky birds during the last few years, one would hardly expect to find a new state record on an afternoon field trip, but this was the happy experience of the Beckham Bird Club in September on the famous Falls of the Ohio, where Audubon, too, made many of his discoveries. This bird was first discovered by H. B. Lovell in a small pothole swimming merrily around and allowed the whole group of some 40 ornithologists to watch him for an hour or two. What was the bird? Anyone interested may write the editor. In any case, the discovery will be the subject of an article by Burt Monroe in a future issue of the *Kentucky Warbler*.

Many of our members slept cold at the Cumberland Falls meeting on the first night, only to find in the morning that the bureau drawers were filled with nice warm blankets. You guessed it, the second night was too warm to need extra blankets.

The famous Moon-bow was at its best Saturday night, and numerous members crossed over on the free ferry to enjoy its wonders. As a result the evening meeting was considerably delayed. Monroe, the first speaker, remarked that he knew that something dire would befall him for having the temerity to talk about another falls while visiting Cumberland Falls.

As usual the large number of botanically minded members had their finds. Such rare discoveries as galax, mayflower, checkerberry, and climbing fern were completed eclipsed by Mable Slack, who discovered one of the rarest ferns in eastern United States, the Filmy Fern, which has the honor of being the first plant listed in *Gray's Manual*.

## LIFE MEMBERS OF THE K. O. S.

Leonard C. Brecher, 1900 Spring Drive, Louisville 5.  
 Victor K. Dodge, 137 Bell Court, West, Lexington.  
 Ralph Ellis, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.  
 T. Atchison Frazer, M. D., Marion.  
 Harvey B. Lovell, 3011 Meade Ave., Louisville 4.  
 Evelyn J. Schneider, 2207 Alta Ave., Louisville 5.  
 Walter Shackleton, Route 1, Box 76A, Prospect.  
 Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, 2918 Brownsboro Road, Louisville 6.  
 Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut St., Bowling Green.  
 Audrey A. Wright, 1312 Hepburn Ave., Louisville 4.

## ACTIVE MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED SINCE OCTOBER, 1915

Harold Alexander, Dept. Game and Fish, Frankfort.  
 Miss Liny Anderson, Weissinger-Gaulbert Apts., Louisville 2.  
 Walter S. Antes, 4156 Sherman St., Camp Taylor.  
 Mrs. Archie Arnold, Route 3, Flemingsburg.  
 Albert Beck, Lake Dreamland, Shively.  
 Prof. P. C. Bibbee, Concord College, Athens, W. Va.  
 Ben J. Blincoe, Covington Pike, Route 1, Box 363, Dayton 5, Ohio.  
 A. C. Boers, 313 Hillcrest Ave., Louisville 6.  
 Miss Rose Boers, 313 Hillcrest Ave., Louisville 6.  
 Mathias Bruhn, 2621 Virginia Ave., Louisville 11.  
 Jeff Buchanan, Hanson.  
 Mrs. Evelyn Carr, 509 Weissinger-Gaulbert Apts., Louisville 2.  
 Hiram Chamberlain, 1313 Olive St., Louisville 11.  
 William G. Chamberlain, 1858 Brownsboro Road, Louisville 6.  
 Mrs. William G. Chamberlain, 1858 Brownsboro Road, Louisville 6.  
 Mrs. Russel W. Clayton, 515 Pleasant St., Paris.  
 Dr. J. W. Clotfelter, First Presbyterian Church, Paris.  
 William Cochran, Millstaudt, Illinois.  
 David Corson, 3109 Widgeon Ave., Louisville 4.  
 Miss Ann Duncan, 307 Shawee Dr., Louisville 12.  
 Mrs. Jos. L. Duncan, 528 Barberry Lane, Louisville.  
 Mrs. L. E. Earnest, 3930 Taylor Blvd., Louisville 8.  
 Mrs. Ora Lee Fleischer, 600 Harrison Ave., Apt. 5, Louisville 8.  
 William F. Fleischer, 600 Harrison Ave., Apt. 3, Louisville 8.  
 Mrs. E. C. Foltz, 1820 Windsor Place, Louisville 4.  
 J. M. Gates, 2114 Kenilworth Court, Louisville 5.  
 Miss Nancy Geiser, 1368 Ouerbacher Court, Louisville 8.  
 Nicholas George, 308 S. Third St., Louisville 2.  
 Miss Mary L. Hahn, 2003 Lauderdale Road, Louisville 5.  
 Ben Harbeson, Route 4, Paris.  
 Mrs. R. B. Hargrove, 1604 Bonnycastle, Louisville 5.  
 Mrs. Lynn Hartgroves, Benham.  
 Rodney M. Hays, 2626 Hale Ave., Louisville 11.  
 Mrs. Craig Hazelet, 3808 Basswood Lane, Louisville 6.  
 Dr. Louise B. Healy, 209 University Ave., Lexington.  
 Lee P. Herndon, 1533 Burgie Place, Elizabethton, Tenn.  
 Mrs. Baylor O. Hickman, Glenview.  
 Thomas Hoagland, Camp Taylor.

- Miss Alice Horneman, 1004 Everett Ave., Louisville 4.  
 Miss Hazel Kinslow, 728 S. 39th St., Louisville 11.  
 George M. Laurer, 1802 Trevilian Way, Louisville 5.  
 Mrs. George M. Laurer, 1802 Trevilian Way, Louisville 5.  
 Mrs. J. M. Leer, Millersburg.  
 Mrs. Jessie D. Lewis, 1617 Chichester Ave., Louisville 5.  
 Miss Margaret Little, 917 S. 32nd St., Louisville 4.  
 John H. McCord, 2204 Village Drive, Louisville 5.  
 David McClure, 3011 Meade Ave., Louisville 4.  
 Miss Ann Macke, 1710 Tyler Pkwy, Louisville 4.  
 Spencer Martin, 1709 Clayton Road, Louisville 5.  
 Dr. Austin R. Middleton, U. of L., Louisville.  
 Miss Augusta Nance, 1101 E. Oak St., New Albany, Ind.  
 Mrs. Mary P. O'Neal, 2608 W. Market St., Louisville 12.  
 John A. Patten, Brevard College, Brevard, N. C.  
 Howard C. Patton, 815 Benton Ave., Nashville Tenn.  
 Miss Edith Pearson, 728 S. 39th St., Louisville 11.  
 Robert Petree, 5722 Southern Pkwy, Louisville 8.  
 Miss Emma Pferrer, 2640 Dundee Road, Louisville 5.  
 Miss Helen Peil, 2064 Sherwood, Louisville 5.  
 Miss Dorothy Peil, 2064 Sherwood, Louisville 5.  
 Wm. E. Randall, 4240 Washington St., Roslindale, Mass.  
 Ed Ray, Wild Life Supervisor, Benton.  
 Mrs. William E. Rollo, 1936 Ouerbacher Court, Louisville 8.  
 Mrs. C. E. Schindler, 2106 Kenilworth Court, Louisville 5.  
 Mrs. Kenneth W. Scott, Route 1, Box 76-A, Prospect.  
 Mrs. Walter H. Shackleton, Route 1, Box 76-A, Prospect.  
 Cliff Sipe, 115 State St., Louisville 6.  
 F. P. Shannon, 504 W. Ormsby, Louisville 3.  
 Miss Alvina Seng, 1614 Rosewood Ave., Louisville 4.  
 Mrs. Torrens A. Smith, 2914 Riedling Drive, Louisville 6.  
 Miss Dorothy Sternberg, 531 W. Hill St., Louisville 8.  
 Dr. R. B. Stevens, Alabama Polytechnic College, Auburn,  
 Alabama.  
 Mrs. J. W. Stewart, 122 Hanover Ave., Lexington.  
 Dr. H. B. Strull, 1113 S. Third St., Louisville 3.  
 Mrs. William Biggs Tabler, 2923 Riedling Drive, Louisville 6.  
 Mrs. Clara Klippel Taylor, College Station, Berea.  
 Orin Taylor, 213 Pleasantview Ave., Louisville 6.  
 Mrs. Lily Fay Thomas, 1314 Everett Ave., Louisville 4.  
 E. W. Tucker, 2511 W. Hill St., Louisville 10.  
 Mrs. Amos E. Turney, Wayside, Route 4, Paris.  
 William Walker, 2425 Newburgh Road, Louisville 5.  
 Dan Wesley, Science Hill.  
 Tom M. Wallace, Louisville Times, Louisville.  
 Vernon I. E. Wiegand, 2311 Wrocklage Ave., Louisville 3.  
 Miss Ethelreda Wild, 1872 Woodfill Way, Louisville 5.  
 Mrs. Hattye Wilmoth, 1823 Oregon Ave., Louisville 10.  
 Miss Florence Wilson, 8 W. Third St., Maysville.  
 William Winter, 125 Wiltshire Ave., Louisville 7.  
 Damon Withers, Wheatercroft.  
 Henry Wolf, 3001 Brownsboro Road, Louisville 6.  
 Leo Wolkow, 2114 Bonnycastle Ave., Louisville 5.  
 Mrs. Leo Wolkow, 2114 Bonnycastle Ave., Louisville 5.  
 Mrs. Dora Wyatt, 900 Princeton St., Providence.  
 TOTAL: 10 Life Members; 92 New Active Members.

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