

Summer 1947

Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 23, 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."*

Volume XXIII

SUMMER, 1947

Number 3

A LIST OF BIRDS FROM BIG BLACK MOUNTAIN

GEORGE H. BREIDING, Ohio State University

On July 5 and 6, 1944, Messrs. L. E. Hicks, Forest Buchanan, and the writer made some observations of birds on and in the vicinity of Big Black Mountain, Harlan County, Kentucky. We reached the summit of the mountain about 9:00 A. M. on the morning of July 5. At this time we separated, with each of us working a section of the mountain at stations from one-quarter to one-half mile apart. We descended the western slope and met at sundown at the base of the mountain. On July 6, while Hicks and Buchanan were on the slope from 9:00 A. M. to 1:00 P. M., the writer investigated a strip of territory at the base of the mountain one to two miles east of Lynch. Although a detailed record was not kept, we compiled a combined list of the numbers and species of birds each of us had noted. From all indications, there had been general drought conditions in the area. The day of July 5 was clear and hot, but July 6 was cloudy, with occasional light showers.

It would be most difficult to try to give the status of each species, whether it was common, abundant, etc. However, in the following lists, the number of individuals for each species is given for the day it was recorded. The total number of individuals is given whenever the species was recorded on more than one day. A count of this kind can hardly be expected to give a picture of the situation as it exists, but it may be helpful to evaluate occurrence or relative abundance of the species observed. In all, 53 species were recorded. Of these the most noteworthy are the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, and Least Flycatcher. We are informed by the editor that these three

species do not appear to have been reported from Kentucky before in the summer. However, since they occur at high altitudes in adjacent states, their presence on Black Mountain is in line with their general distribution.

Red-tailed Hawk. *Buteo jamaicensis*. Three were observed, July 5.
Broad-winged Hawk. *Buteo platypterus*. Three were recorded, July 5.

Ruffed Grouse. *Bonasa umbellus*. One recorded on July 5.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. *Coccyzus americanus*. Five recorded, July 5; three on July 6, (total 8).

Black-billed Cuckoo. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. Three observed, July 5; one on July 6, (total 4).

Barred Owl. *Strix varia*. Two were flushed, July 5.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. *Archilochus colubris*. Seventeen were seen, July 5; four on July 6 (total 21).

Flicker. *Colaptes auratus*. Eight noted, July 5; one on July 6 (total 9).

Pileated Woodpecker. *Ceophloeus pileatus*. One recorded, July 5.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. *Sphyrapicus varius*. Four observed, July 5.

Hairy Woodpecker. *Dryobates villosus*. Four recorded, July 5; one on July 6 (total 5).

Downy Woodpecker. *Dryobates pubescens*. Six on July 5; two on July 6 (total).

Eastern Phoebe. *Sayornis phoebe*. Two on July 5.

Acadian Flycatcher. *Empidonax virescens*. Twelve counted, July 5; one on July 6 (total 13).

Least Flycatcher. *Empidonax minimus*. One observed, July 5.

Blue Jay. *Cyanocitta cristata*. Six on July 5.

Chickadee. *Parus* (spp.?). Fourteen recorded, July 5; seven on July 6.

Individuals at the base of the mountain sang a four-syllabled song like that of *P. carolinensis* (total 21).

Tufted Titmouse. *Parus bicolor*. Five were noted on July 5.

White-breasted Nuthatch. *Sitta carolinensis*. Ten were observed, July 5; eight on July 6 (total 18).

Brown Creeper. *Certhia familiaris*. Ten were seen and heard July 5; one on July 6 (total 11).

Carolina Wren. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. Three were observed near the base of the mountain on July 5.

Catbird. *Dumetella carolinensis*. Twelve were listed, July 5; fourteen on July 6 (total 26).

Brown Thrasher. *Toxostoma rufum*. Four on July 5; two on July 6 (total 6).

Robin. *Turdus migratorius*. Two were observed, July 5; six on July 6 (total 8).

Wood Thrush. *Hylocichla mustelina*. Forty-five recorded July 5; two on July 6 (total 47).

Veery. *Hylocichla fuscescens*. Sixty on July 5; twenty-two on July 6 (total 88).

Cedar Waxwing. *Bombycilla cedrorum*. Eight were seen on July 5.

White-eyed Vireo. *Vireo griseus*. Three were recorded on the brushy slopes near the foot of the mountain on July 6.

Blue-headed (Mountain) Vireo. *Vireo solitarius*. Fifteen were accounted for on July 5; two on July 6 (total 17). According to Wetmore (1940) the southern subspecies *V. s. alticola* breeds on Black Mountain.

Red-eyed Vireo. *Vireo olivaceus*. Twenty-five were recorded, July 5; four on July 6 (total 29).

Black and White Warbler. *Mniotilta varia*. Twenty-eight were observed on July 5; eight on July 6 (total 36).

Swainson's Warbler. *Limnithlypis swainsonii*. Details of this observation have been recorded elsewhere (Breiding, 1944). This species was heard and seen in the rhododendron thickets on the lower part of the mountain, July 5. On the morning of July 6 an individual was observed at the same spot, and two more individuals were recorded at other stations (total 3).

Golden-winged Warbler. *Vermivora chrysoptera*. Four were listed on July 5.

Yellow Warbler. *Dendroica aestiva*. One was heard and seen in the small valley at the foot of the mountain.

Cairn's (Black-throated Blue) Warbler. *Dendroica caerulescens cairnsi*. Sixty-two were observed July 5; twenty-five on July 6. A nest with two young was found (total 87).

Cerulean Warbler. *Dendroica cerulea*. One was heard and seen in the valley on July 6.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. *Dendroica pensylvanica*. Thirty-eight on July 5; twelve on July 6 (total 50).

Ovenbird. *Seiurus auropellus*. Twelve were heard and seen, July 5; five on July 6 (total 17).

Louisiana Water-thrush. *Seiurus motacilla*. Three recorded on July 5.

Kentucky Warbler. *Oporornis formosus*. Seven were listed on July 5.

Yellowthroat. *Geothlypis trichas*. Thirty were observed, July 5; five on July 6 (total 35).

Yellow-breasted Chat. *Icteria virens*. Ten on July 5; two on July 6 (total 12).

Hooded Warbler. *Wilsonia citrina*. Forty-five recorded July 5; ten on July 6 (total 55).

Canada Warbler. *Wilsonia canadensis*. Sixty-five were listed on July 5; ten on July 6 (total 75).

American Redstart. *Setophaga ruticilla*. Thirty-two observed on July 5; nine on July 6 (total 41).

Scarlet Tanager. *Piranga olivacea*. Fourteen on July 5; two on July 6 (total 16).

Cardinal. *Richmondia cardinalis*. Ten were observed on July 5.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. *Hedymeles ludovicianus*. Eight recorded, July 5; two on July 6 (total 10).

Indigo Bunting. *Passerina cyanea*. Fourteen listed, July 5; four on July 6 (total 18).

Goldfinch. *Spinus tristis*. Twenty-five on July 5; five on July 6 (total 30).

Junco. *Junco hyemalis*. One hundred (estimated) were observed July 5; forty on July 6. Many juvenile birds were seen (total 140). According to Wetmore (1940) and Howell (1910), the breeding form here is the Carolina Junco.

Chipping Sparrow. *Spizella passerina*. Three recorded at the base of the mountain. These were young birds.

Field Sparrow. *Spizella pusilla*. Three were observed near the foot of the mountain.

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A SMALL NEST OF THE CAROLINA WREN

By LEONARD C. BRECHER, Louisville

On April 15, 1945, a party of botany students were studying the wild flowers along Goose Creek, off highway 42, in the eastern portion of Jefferson County, Kentucky. The creek at this location runs through a deep valley, varying from 200 to 500 feet in width and thickly timbered with second-growth hardwood species, consisting mainly of beech, maple, and oak, with a sprinkling of poplar, sycamore, etc. The bottom of the valley was covered with a luxuriant growth of wild flowers and ferns. Jack-in-the-pulpit, white trillium, and green dragon were types of the wildflowers, while the fragile fern and the maidenhair were among the common ferns. The eastern wall of the valley was formed by steep limestone cliffs, and the base of the valley was strewn with large blocks that had fallen down in ages past. These stone chunks were moss covered, with walking fern, sedum, and columbine growing in profusion.

Miss Esther Mason approached one of these large blocks and started to examine a small bladder fern located about five feet above ground. To her astonishment a Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*) suddenly burst out from under her hand and flew past the other startled members of the party. This was observed by the

author, who followed the bird to verify identification. Examination of the surface of the rock disclosed a well-concealed entrance to a nest under the overhanging grasses and ferns. The opening was about an inch in diameter and led down into a pear-shaped cavity seemingly eroded from the solid rock. Three eggs could be seen, but with no wish to disturb the nest the party moved on.

Since most of the nests of the Carolina Wren noted previously by the author were rather bulky affairs, as described in various texts, this small nest caught his attention, and a return visit was made the following week, on April 22, to check on the progress of incubation. No wrens were seen or heard at this time. The eggs were found to be cold, and to all appearances the nest had been abandoned. The eggs were taken out by rolling them up the side of the cavity with a finger. There were six in number, whitish speckled with brown, marked normally for the species. The bottom of the nest was rounded and so small that the eggs around the walls were higher than those in the center. The largest inside diameter was about two inches and the depth about two and one-half inches. The nest was smoothly lined with dry leaves and appeared to be set into an eroded fissure in the limestone. The sides of the nest could not have been over an eighth of an inch thick. Believing that there might be a chance that the nest had not been deserted, the eggs were replaced.

It was hoped that another visit might be made, but it was not until fall that a return trip was possible. Then the green vegetation had naturally disappeared and disclosed the fact that the roof and upper back portion of the nest had actually been fashioned from a pile of old leaves that had drifted down into a cleft of a ledge. There were no signs of the eggs or shells, and the top leaves had been torn away. This could have been done by persons climbing over the rock. It would be interesting to know whether the nest was deserted, and if so, whether the desertion was caused by the bird's fright at the sudden appearance of Miss Mason's hand, since the nest was not touched at the time of its first discovery.

WINTER OBSERVATIONS ON THE BEHAVIOR OF MOCKINGBIRDS

By JOSIAH M. CHURCH, Louisville

Since April, 1939, when we moved to our new home on Taylorsville Road east of Louisville, I have had an unusual opportunity to observe the activities of Mockingbirds

(*Mimus polyglottos*). They certainly live up to their reputation as singers and imitators of other birds. Although they are not colorful birds, they are interesting to observe because of their distinctive white patches on wings and tail that show especially in flight. These have been interestingly depicted recently in *Life Magazine* by Roger Tory Peterson (1946).

Their flight song also is a very interesting and unique performance. I have observed a lustily singing Mockingbird, perched high on a pole on top of our neighbor's garage, spring into the air and fly almost vertically upward for a distance of ten feet, then reverse his direction, and come back to his starting point still singing. This procedure was repeated frequently during a morning period of song. Whether this is his way of expressing his joy on a fine spring morning, or whether it is part of his territorial behavior, I do not know.

It was not until last fall in mid-November that I saw two males engaged in their territorial dance. They stood facing each other about a foot apart and hopped back and forth sideways opposite an imaginary line. They kept this up for several minutes. This continued on an average of three or four times a week from the middle of November until the middle of January. A variation of this dance was carried out several times on top of a wire fence nearby. Here they kept about a foot apart, hopping back and forth along the top wire, frequently changing the direction that they faced.

The dance was usually carried on in the same location. However, a few times they met on the other side of the fence on a neighboring lawn and continued there. I observed most of the performances about eight o'clock in the morning. Four times the dance ended in conflict. Three times this consisted of conflict in the air as they flew up and down for a few seconds striking at each other. The fourth time one of the birds made a quick attack, and the two locked in combat momentarily on the ground as two wrestlers often do.

As has been pointed out by Mrs. Amelia Laskey of Nashville and others, male Mockingbirds stake out winter territory in the fall and pugnaciously protect it against encroachments not only by other bird species but also particularly in regard to other males of the same species. This territory is apparently selected because of the presence of an unusually abundant supply of food as well as good cover.

In the present instance a row of barberry bushes with red berries was apparently the stimulus.

Lovell (1944, p. 30) has reported Mockingbirds staking territory in groves of sumac bushes, and cases have been brought to my attention in which Mockingbirds defended a wide variety of winter fruits and berries. They also will defend territory around a winter feeding station, and several local ornithologists have reported that they are sometimes so pugnacious that they will not allow any other bird to visit a feeding platform. Young (1939) tells of a Mockingbird which was so persistent in driving away other birds that it interfered with his banding activities. We will let him tell about it: "On the sixth day of February, 1937, I caught him at 9:30 in the morning and took him to Hikes Lane and Bardstown Road, which was three miles from my home and released him. It is my honest belief that he got home before I did, for there he was ruling the roost as usual." Later Mr. Young transported him six miles away and did not note him again until twenty-four days later. This shows that Mockingbirds are sufficiently attached to their winter territory to return to it from a distance.

In the present study, we were particularly fortunate to have the boundaries of two adjacent Mockingbird territories meet in our yard.

Another thing which has been observed is wing-flashing, a topic which has recently been discussed by Sutton (1946) and Allen (1947). Both Sutton and Allen observed young fledglings just recently out of the nest doing this. Allen thinks that the white areas reflect light into dark crevices as well as serving to frighten insects into movement. We have observed adults doing this while fighting over territory. It is a very interesting sight to observe Mockingbirds raise their wings high, flashing the white feathers, when they are disputing over their territory.

This spring, as we had expected, a pair of Mockingbirds built their nest in a grape arbor not far distant from the area in which the territorial dance occurred. In May, I again observed this dance followed by fighting. This occurred about one hundred feet distant from the original area. Thus it would seem that the male Mockingbird is still using and defending the territory won last winter.

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FIELD NOTES

SOME NEW SUMMER RECORDS FOR BOWLING GREEN

On July 4, 1947, I found the Swainson's Warbler (*Limnethlypis swainsonii*) at the Chaney Marsh near Woodburn, in southern Warren County. I had several close-up views of the birds with my glasses and also heard it sing a number of times. I had heard that same song in the marsh on May 31, 1945, but had never been able to see the bird. Mr. A. F. Ganier, some years ago, while visiting the wet-weather lake at the Chaney Farm, had told me to be on the lookout for the Swainson's there.

On the same day, July 4, 1947, I found the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) in a vacant lot on the next block south of my house. I found the bird again two days later but have not seen it since then.

For years I have felt that the Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) must spend the summer in small numbers here or close by. On June 20, 1947, I saw four of these birds on the campus of Western; on June 29, Dr. L. Y. Lancaster and I saw two at Silent Grove Church, at the edge of the Mammoth Cave National Park; two or three have been seen on the following dates in a large elm tree in front of Cherry Hall at Western: June 30, July 16, July 19, July 22. In 1923 I had a late spring record of the species for June 13, an early fall record for July 14. I still hope to find the nest of this species here or at Mammoth Cave.

—Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.

LARK SPARROWS AT KENTUCKY WOODLANDS

On the afternoon of December 15, 1946, at Hematite Lake, Kentucky Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, I saw a pair or at least two Lark Sparrows (*Chondestes grammacus*). As I skirted the lake, going from the dam west, I had seen numbers of Field, Song, and White-throated Sparrows in the thickets that bordered the lake. I had turned and was coming back facing east, with good light, when I saw two birds moving in through a thicket. The first thing that caught my eyes was the dark tail feathers bordered with white and the fact that the bird was larger than a Song Sparrow. The heads were chestnut and white striped with brown auriculars, a dark pencil line through the eye, and white throat with brown whisker marks. The breast of one was unmarked except for a black spot in the

center, that of the other was washed with tan, with faint streaks near the sides. I watched them for ten minutes, and then they moved farther along out of view.

A single Lark Sparrow was seen out in an open pasture near where Blood River runs into Kentucky Lake on May 1, 1947. This was a singing male.

—GRACE WYATT, Murray State Teachers College.

BALTIMORE ORIOLES ABUNDANT AT LOUISVILLE

Recently I banded two female Baltimore Orioles. Both had been trapped while trying to get some white yarn which had been placed in the trap as bait. They seem to prefer white to colored yarns for nesting material. These, of course, when available, supplement the vegetable fiber normally used. I have watched their color preference for many years and many times have seen them on the clothes line pulling loose threads from white clothing rather than accept the blue and red string which I had placed there for their use. Last year a pair untied the white strips which a neighbor had used to tie up his tomato plants.

During the fifteen years we have lived in this neighborhood (on Lakeside Drive near Bardstown Road), we have always had Baltimore Orioles (*Icterus galbula*) nesting and remaining throughout the summer. In 1938 I also banded a female, and she was trapped in a similar fashion while she was collecting string to build her nest, which was located in a very large elm tree. In the fall of 1944 I counted five Baltimore Oriole nests in the immediate vicinity after the leaves were off the trees.

In view of the fact that in the article on "The Breeding Birds of Kentucky" (*Ky. Warbler*, 18: 17-25, 1942), the Baltimore Oriole is listed as uncommon for the Louisville area, it seems worthwhile to record that they are common at least in one section of the city.

—ANNE L. STAMM, Lakeside Drive, Louisville.

OVENBIRD PARASITIZED BY COWBIRD IN SOUTHERN KENTUCKY

In June, 1947, I was hiking down a woodroad in the Cumberland National Forest about ten miles east of Cumberland Falls. When I had reached a point deep in the valley, I was attracted by the urgency of the alarm notes of a male Ovenbird (*Selurus aurocapillus*). A search was made for the nest in the vicinity, but at first in vain. As I started to leave the area, I walked about ten feet to the right of the path. Suddenly a bird ran out from under my feet and pretended a broken wing and numerous other serious injuries. The nest was now easily located.

The nest was fully occupied by three newly hatched young, an Ovenbird's egg, and the egg of a Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). The location of the nest was in rather open woodland, twelve feet from a recently used woodroad and about fifty feet above a small rocky creek. The nest itself was in a rather open spot on the floor of the forest, being covered by a Virginia creeper and four stalks of grass. Several small oaks grew nearby, as did a small dogwood, a grapevine, a small sassafras, and a small sugar maple. Several tall pines also helped shade the nesting area.

The nest itself was quite typical for an Ovenbird's. It was covered over with leaves and could be entered only from the front, which faced down hill. The front rim of the nest was level with the accumulated leaf mold, and the cup of the nest sunken down into it.

When I first flushed the incubating bird (evidently the female) she ran straight forward for about thirty feet. Then she ran back to my left, calling and pretending she could not fly. She continued to do this for the five minutes I spent in the vicinity of the nest.

Friedman (1929, *The Cowbirds*, p. 246) says of the Ovenbird: "A very common victim. Over one hundred and fifty records are in my files. . . . As many as seven eggs of the parasite have been found in a single nest of this bird." He further quotes Lynds Jones, who had reported "Never yet has a nest been found here but two or more Cowbird's eggs completed or completely made up the set." In one nest Jones found just five Cowbird's eggs and none of the Ovenbird. However, Friedman's most southern records are for Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa. I can find no previously published record for Kentucky. Furthermore, this nest was in Whitley County, which borders on Tennessee, in an area where Cowbirds are not especially numerous. Ovenbirds, too, are rare and local in their distribution in most parts of Kentucky except possibly in the eastern mountainous areas. One cannot help marveling at the ability of the female Cowbird to find such a well-hidden nest. It would also seem unnatural, if not actually difficult, for the much larger Cowbird to enter through the narrow mouth of the oven-like nest.

—HARVEY B. LOVELL, University of Louisville.

A FAMILY OF CARDINALS IN HONEYSUCKLES

A pair of Cardinals (*Richmondia cardinalis*) daily frequented our winter feeding stations at Providence, Kentucky, and we feel confident that it was this same pair that nested with us in April. They chose a thick honeysuckle vine on the south side of our "meat-house" for their site. Their nest was a loosely constructed affair, with a base of corn-blades, another layer of dried tongue-grass spikes, and an inner lining of coarse grasses. It was placed one foot from the wall and five feet from the ground. It was placed back in a hanging tangle of bare vines, but well hidden behind the leafy strands which draped down outside and below the level of the nest. This gave the structure a swinging effect relatively inaccessible to cats.

The four eggs were pale greenish-blue, marked with reddish-brown spots, chiefly at the larger end. When we first discovered the nest, the female Cardinal was already incubating the eggs. Although the brightly colored male did not help incubate, he was a devoted mate and fed the female crushed grain, even placing the food in her mouth. He spent much of his time perched in a cedar tree nearby proclaiming his territory with his sweet songs.

Only two of the eggs hatched, apparently on April 29. The male was now busy helping to feed the young and was so unafraid that he did so even when we were within a few feet of the nest. The female was always very wary of us. Both Cardinals kept all Blue Jays chased away from our premises quite successfully, as if they considered them Public Enemy No. 1. During a period of an hour we observed that the male fed the nestlings as often as did the female.

On May 8, ten days from the time they hatched, the fledglings tried their wings for the first time, rather successfully, without fluttering or running on the ground. One flew to the back of the lawn bench about ten feet from the nest, and the other lodged in some vines nearby. From there on they flew from bush to bush and tree to tree without any difficulty. They were perky little fellows, with their crests much higher than their tails were—giving them a bobbed-tail appearance.

On May 25, the family of four fed together, but we observed for the first time that the mother discouraged her young ones' advances toward her for food; she let them know definitely that she expected them to be on their own. We feel sure that she is incubating more eggs, but we haven't been able to find the second nest yet. The young birds were now in full juvenile plumage. It is even difficult to tell them from the female, except that her bill is red, whereas theirs is dark, almost black. The male has taken over the entire responsibility of caring for the brood. He feeds the fledglings regularly on crushed grain or brings them down and allows them to feed themselves. They also take baths in our bird-bath frequently.

—SUE WYATT-SEMPLÉ, Providence

A SOLITARY SANDPIPER WITH ONLY ONE FOOT

While visiting Loch Mary, a large lake in Hopkins County just outside of Earlington and four miles from Madisonville, I noted a Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) which was handicapped by the lack of a right foot. According to my notes in my permanent notebook: "While studying a Solitary Sandpiper at 50 feet, I discovered the bird had only one leg on which to stand! It was courageously feeding in shallow water at the edge of some willows—feeding and nodding. The other leg generally was held up against the body, but when lowered, I saw it was gone just below the ankle joint. I wonder how a bird with such a handicap could survive. The bird, however, maneuvered quite well on the one leg (the left, since the right one was the injured one), and I saw him pull a worm from the mud and swallow it. When I approached too closely, he flew away with ease, but from where I stood, I could not see him alight."

—JAMES W. HANCOCK, Madisonville

NOTES ON THE GOATSUCKERS

In the Wheatcroft area of this state there are two species of Goatsuckers. They are the Chuck-will's-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*) and the Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*). The latter arrived this year on the 13th of April and the former on the 16th. Beginning at dusk they chant throughout the entire night; they repeat their calls sometimes for a thousand times without pausing.

I had heard that these birds repeated their calls, if unmolested, until they fell from their perches exhausted. I paid little credence to this story until one evening as I stood near a post, a Whip-poor-will alighted thereon and took up its lay, without having noticed my presence. It began calling repeatedly until it did fall dazedly to the ground, then, after a few seconds recovered itself sufficiently to rise and flutter about dizzily, as if intoxicated, and finally flew to another perch and began all over again.

I once captured a Whip-poor-will in broad daylight. It seemed to be blinded by the light and made no attempt to escape. Its broad, deeply cleft mouth is well adapted to catch insects, and there are records of Goatsuckers swallowing small birds entire. Their name comes from the old superstition that the European species sucked the milk of goats. Perhaps they saw the birds fly close to the goats to catch insects.

I saw a single nest of the Chuck-will's-widow in this area several years ago. It was on a bed of oak leaves in a rather open place and consisted of two eggs. Miss Schneider has described two other nests for Kentucky (Ky. Warbler 20: 13-19, 1944), both of which had two eggs. The Whip-poor-will is not nearly as common locally as is the larger Chuck.

—DAMON WITHERS, Wheatcroft.

MIGRATION BIRD COUNT, SPRING OF 1947	Murray	Marion	Providence	Madisonville	Bowling Green	Mammoth Cave	Louisville
1. Horned Grebe							#
2. Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C	C	C		C
3. Double-crested Cormorant		C	C	C			
4. Great Blue Heron		C	C	C	*		
5. American Egret			C	C			
6. Little Blue Heron			C	C			
7. Green Heron		C	C	C	C	C	C
8. Black-crowned Night Heron			C	C		C	C
9. Yellow-crowned Night Heron			C	C			
10. American Bittern			C	C	*		
11. Least Bittern			C	C			
12. Common Mallard			C	C			
13. Baldpate							#
14. Blue-winged Teal				C	C		#
15. Wood Duck			C	C			
16. Ring-necked Duck					C		
17. Canvas-back				C			
18. Greater Scaup				C			#
19. Lesser Scaup			C	C			
20. Red-breasted Merganser							#
21. Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
22. Black Vulture	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
23. Sharp-shinned Hawk	C	C	C				
24. Cooper's Hawk		C	C	C			
25. Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C			C	
26. Red-shouldered Hawk	C	C	C	C	C		C
27. Broad-winged Hawk			C				
28. Marsh Hawk			*				C
29. Osprey					C		C
30. Duck Hawk							C
31. Sparrow Hawk	C	C	C	*	C	C	C

	Murray	Marion	Providence	Madisonville	Bowling Green	Mammoth Cave	Louisville
32. Bobwhite	c	c	c	c	c	c	
33. King Rail					c	c	
34. Virginia Rail							
35. Sora		c	c	c	c		
36. Coot		c	c	c	c	*	c
37. Killdeer		c	c	c	c	c	c
38. Woodcock		c	c				
39. Wilson's Snipe		c	c	c	c	c	
40. Spotted Sandpiper		c	c	*	c		c
41. Solitary Sandpiper		c	c	c	c	c	c
42. Greater Yellow-legs		c	c	c	c	c	c
43. Lesser Yellow-legs			c	c	c	c	c
44. Pectoral Sandpiper						c	c
45. Least Sandpiper			c				
46. Dowitcher							c
47. Herring Gull			c				
48. Common Tern					c		c
49. Rock Dove		c	c	c	c	c	c
50. Mourning Dove		c	c	c	c	*	
51. Yellow-billed Cuckoo		c	c	c	c	c	c
52. Black-billed Cuckoo			c	c	c	c	
53. Barn Owl							
54. Screech Owl		c					
55. Great Horned Owl		c	c	c	c		
56. Barred Owl		c	c	c	c	c	c
57. Chuck-will's-widow		c	c	c	c	c	c
58. Whip-poor-will		c	c	c	c	c	c
59. Nighthawk		c	c	c	c	c	c
60. Chimney Swift		c	c	c	c	c	c
61. Ruby-throated Hummingbird		c	c	c	c	c	c
62. Belted Kingfisher		c	c	c	c	*	c
63. Flicker		c	c	c	c	c	c
64. Pileated Woodpecker		c	c	c	c	c	c
65. Red-bellied Woodpecker		c	c	c	c	c	c
66. Red-headed Woodpecker		c	c	c	c	c	c
67. Hairy Woodpecker		c	c	c	c	c	c
68. Downy Woodpecker		c	c	c	c	c	c
69. Kingbird		c	c	c	c	c	c
70. Crested Flycatcher		c	c	c	c	c	c
71. Phoebe		c	c	c	c	c	c
72. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		c	c				
73. Acadian Flycatcher		c			c	c	c
74. Alder Flycatcher		c	c				
75. Least Flycatcher		c	c	c	c	c	c
76. Wood Pewee		c	c	c	c	c	c
77. Horned Lark		c	c	c	c	*	c
78. Bank Swallow				c	c	*	
79. Rough-winged Swallow		c	c	c	c	c	c
80. Barn Swallow		*	c				
81. Cliff Swallow		c		c			*

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

	Murray	Marion	Providence	Madsenville	Bowling Green	Mammoth Cave	Louisville
82. Purple Martin	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
83. Blue Jay	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
84. Crow	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
85. Carolina Chickadee	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
86. Tufted Titmouse	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
87. White-breasted Nuthatch	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
88. Red-breasted Nuthatch	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
89. Brown Creeper	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
90. House Wren	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
91. Bewick's Wren	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
92. Carolina Wren	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
93. Long-billed Marsh Wren	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
94. Short-billed Marsh Wren	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
95. Mockingbird	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
96. Catbird	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
97. Brown Thrasher	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
98. Robin	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
99. Wood Thrush	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
100. Olive-backed Thrush	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
101. Gray-cheeked Thrush	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
102. Veery	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
103. Bluebird	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
104. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
105. Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
106. American Pipit	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
107. Cedar Waxwing	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
108. Migrant Shrike	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
109. Starling	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
110. White-eyed Vireo	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
111. Yellow-throated Vireo	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
112. Blue-headed Vireo	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
113. Red-eyed Vireo	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
114. Warbling Vireo	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
115. Black and White Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
116. Prothonotary Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
117. Worm-eating Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
118. Golden-winged Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
119. Blue-winged Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
120. Tennessee Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
121. Orange-crowned Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
122. Nashville Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
123. Parula Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
124. Yellow Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
125. Magnolia Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
126. Cape May Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
127. Myrtle Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
128. Black-throated Green Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
129. Cerulean Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
130. Blackburnian Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
131. Sycamore Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c

	Murray	Marion	Providence	Madisonville	Bowling Green	Mammoth Cave	Louisville
132. Chestnut-sided Warbler	c		c	*		c	
133. Bay-breasted Warbler				*		c	
134. Black-poll Warbler	c				c	c	c
135. Prairie Warbler		c			c	c	
136. Palm Warbler	c				c	c	c
137. Oven-bird					*	c	c
138. Northern Water-thrush		c		*	c	c	
139. Louisiana Water-thrush	c				c	c	c
140. Kentucky Warbler	c			*	c	c	c
141. Yellow-throat	c				c	c	c
142. Yellow-breasted Chat	c			*	c	c	c
143. Hooded Warbler					c	c	
144. Wilson's Warbler					*	c	
145. American Redstart	c				*	c	c
146. English Sparrow	c				c	c	
147. Bobolink	c				c	c	c
148. Meadowlark	c				c	c	c
149. Red-wing	c				c	c	c
150. Orchard Oriole	c				c	c	c
151. Baltimore Oriole	c				c	*	c
152. Bronzed Grackle	c				c	c	c
153. Cowbird	c				c	c	c
154. Scarlet Tanager	c				c	c	c
155. Summer Tanager	c				c	c	c
156. Cardinal	c				c	c	c
157. Rose-breasted Grosbeak	c			*	c	c	c
158. Indigo Bunting	c				c	c	c
159. Dickcissel	c				c	c	c
160. Purple Finch	c				c	c	c
161. Goldfinch	c				c	c	c
162. Towhee	c				c	c	c
163. Savannah Sparrow	c				c	c	c
164. Grasshopper Sparrow	c				c		c
165. Sharp-tailed Sparrow	c						
166. Vesper Sparrow		c					
167. Lark Sparrow		*			c		
168. Bachman's Sparrow	c				c		
169. Slate-colored Junco							
170. Chipping Sparrow	c				c	c	c
171. Field Sparrow	c				c	c	c
172. White-crowned Sparrow	c				c	c	c
173. White-throated Sparrow	c				c	c	c
174. Lincoln's Sparrow	c						
175. Swamp Sparrow		c			c	c	c
176. Song Sparrow					c	*	c

MURRAY—May 3-4; 5 A. M. to 6 P. M. on first day; 6 A. M. to 11:30 A. M. and 2 to 5 P. M. second day. Clark's River near Martin's Chapel on May 3; Blood River where it empties into Kentucky Lake and also Wildcat Creek on May 4. First day very chilly, 42-70, warmed during the day; second day moderate, 60-85. Habitats worked: campus, open fields, roadside thickets, woods, swamp, and creek banks.

—Observers: John Carlisle, Kathleen Key, W. H. Harrod, and Grace Wyatt (compiler).

MARION—May 23-25. Marion to Kentucky Dam and return. Weather cloudy; temp. normal for time of year. The Sora was found dead at fluorspar mill yard. Total species, 91.

—Observers: C. L. and Dr. T. Atchison Frazer.

PROVIDENCE—May 3-4. Wheatcroft and Clay areas to Piney Bluff in Crittenden County; north of Providence on U. S. Highway 41 to Audubon Park and Ohio River; west to Montezuma Bridge, spanning Tradewater River from Webster to Crittenden County; east to Shamrock Lake and Lakeview Cemetery; south on Highway 109 to the Bird Roost in Hopkins County, past Weir's Creek, Clear Creek, fields of backwater, meadows, etc., and adjoining territory to John Norwood and Will King farms. Supplementary field trips were taken the preceding week. Total species for the census, 124; for period studied, 130. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Kentucky Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Spotted Sandpiper, and Marsh Hawk were recorded the previous week.

—Observers: Damon Withers, William W. Vaughn, R. H. Vaughn, Oyd Vaughn, Dr. Susie Holdman Gilchrist, Dr. James Ross Gilchrist, Truda Sigler Corbin, Mr. and Mrs. J. Cleve Cannaday, Dora Wyatt, Thomas A. Semple, and Sue Wyatt Semple (compiler).

MADISONVILLE—May 5; fourteen hours in the field. Six lakes at Madisonville and Earlington, Clear Creek; open country, streets, and cattail marshes. Weather: partly cloudy; little wind; temp. 48 to 69. Total species for census, 97; for period studied, 108. The ducks were too far out on Loch Mary in poor light and were not positively identified. The House Wren, a rare migrant here, was seen on the Spring Lake Wild Life Refuge. Two Golden-winged Warblers were seen, but both were probably transient individuals, as they could not be found later. This is the latest I have recorded the Purple Finch in spring.

—Observer: James W. Hancock.

BOWLING GREEN—April 26-27. Evans Pond and McElroy Farm, 7 to 8:30 A. M. on April 26; Mouth of Gasper River (Dr. Lancaster's cabins), from 2 P. M. on April 26 to 1 P. M. on April 27. First day cool; second, warm. Weather, clear. The five starred forms were found in the same week. This party had attended the annual meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Science, held this year at Western, and spent the rest of the weekend as the guests of Dr. Lancaster at his cabins. Total species for census, 104; for period studied, 109.

—Observers: Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, Dr. P. A. Davies, and Dr. W. M. Clay of the University of Louisville; Mr. Don Claypool and Mr. Roger W. Barbour of Morehead Teachers College; Dr. L. Y. Lancaster and Dr. Gordon Wilson (compiler) of Western Teachers College.

MAMMOTH CAVE—May 9-11. McElroy Farm, 3 to 4:30 P. M. on May 9; Mammoth Cave National Park from late in the evening of May 9 to 4 P. M. of May 11. Campgrounds, trails, Sloan's Crossing and Beaver Pond, and Doyle Valley areas studied. Weather: very cold on night of May 9, with heavy frost; warmer later. Total species for the period studied, 113, including 2 species added by Leonard and Mrs. Brecher on May 4 in the Mammoth Cave area. The c-forms were found outside the park.

—Observer: Gordon Wilson.

LOUISVILLE—May 4; 6:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Pieper home on Upper River Road: woodlands, open fields, hills, valleys, ponds, creeks, meadows, and the Ohio River. Few nests were discovered this year. One group reported watching a hawk dive on an Osprey, and another saw a Hawk flying with a snake in its bill. Floyd Carpenter's group found the Dowitcher on a pond near the Country Club. Total species for trip, 98; total for period studied (counting five seen by Floyd Carpenter in the week), 103.

—Observers: Mr. and Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Dietrick, Mrs. Anne Stamm, Mrs. Mame Boulware; Messrs. Harvey Lovell, John Lovell, Mathias Bruhn, Slack, Louis Pieper, Floyd Carpenter, Misses Mabel Slack, Ann Slack, Evelyn Schneider, Audrey Wright, Helen G. Browning, Diebold, Virginia Winstandley, Marie Pieper, Esther Mason.

NEWS AND VIEWS

BECKHAM BIRD CLUB NOTES

Louisville, Ky., 1946-1947

By Virginia Winstandley, Secretary

The many activities carried on during 1946-1947 comprised a full program for the Beckham Bird Club, the Louisville Chapter of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. Among the usual accomplishments were regular monthly meetings from September, 1946, through May, 1947, the annual Cuckoo Party in June, and two series of field trips covering the fall, winter, and spring seasons. In addition, there were the Christmas and Spring Bird Counts, and several club activities undertaken in cooperation with other nature study groups in the community. In October, members endorsed a resolution of the Jefferson County Forest Commission approving the creation of a Jefferson County forest as a memorial for veterans of World War II.

PROGRAMS: As a special feature for the year, three of the monthly programs were based on a series of projects chosen by various groups of members for the study and observations of particular birds. A report of the first of these projects was made by Mr. Charles Strull in December, when he explained the work being undertaken by him and Dr. Walter Lee Moore to observe the migration of birds through astronomical telescopes.

The program for February consisted of pictures and talks on the habits and life histories of the birds to be studied by three groups during the coming spring. Miss Evelyn Schneider, Mrs. Walter Shackleton, and Mrs. W. B. Tabler described the Louisiana Water-

thrush, which they planned to observe in Cherokee Park for the purpose of trying to locate a nest. Miss Audrey Wright described plans for a "Bluebird Project" and showed boxes built by Mr. Leonard Brecher to be used as samples for a series to be placed in Cherokee Park for spring nesting studies. Mr. Walter Shackleton gave a summary of his plans to observe and take moving pictures of the Prothonotary Warblers which nested in numbers last year near his home in Sleepy Hollow. He exhibited bird houses, one with a glass side, which he purchased for the project.

Reports of detailed bird studies and personal observations were given by Mrs. F. W. Stamm on "Nesting of Cedar Waxwings in Louisville, Ky.," and by Mr. Walter Shackleton on "Nesting of Acadian Flycatchers at Sleepy Hollow." Different types of subjects represented on remaining programs included those by Mr. Floyd Carpenter on "Binoculars for Bird Study," Mr. Charles Thacher on "Winter Feeding Stations," and Miss Evelyn Schneider on "Bent's Life Histories of North American Birds."

FIELD TRIPS: A series of field trips, planned by Miss Marie Pieper, were conducted at regular intervals during the autumn, winter, and spring in the parks and woods in and near Louisville. Saturday afternoon walks alternated with those on Sunday mornings to provide an opportunity for as many members as possible to attend at different times during the season.

BIRD COUNTS: The eleventh annual Christmas Bird Count was held on Sunday, Dec. 22, 1946, when 68 species were located, four of them not seen on previous counts. On Sunday, May 4, 1947, the Spring Count was held in the vicinity of the Pieper home on the River Road, when 98 species were listed. Among unusual birds seen was a Dowitcher, located on a small pond near the River Road above Louisville.

SPECIAL PROJECTS: For the third time the series of Audubon Screen Tour Lectures was completed by the club in cooperation with the Kentucky Society of Natural History, when five lectures with colored movies were presented at Halleck Hall auditorium during the year. The club also cooperated in the Kentucky Wildlife Conference at Otter Creek in September, and the Institute of Natural History during the summer. A large group were present at the K. O. S. meeting at Cumberland Falls in October.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President—Mr. Leonard Brecher.

Vice-President—Miss Evelyn Schneider.

Secretary-Treasurer—Miss Virginia Winstandley.

Directors: Miss Mabel Slack, Mr. Walter Shackleton, and Mr. Burt Monroe.

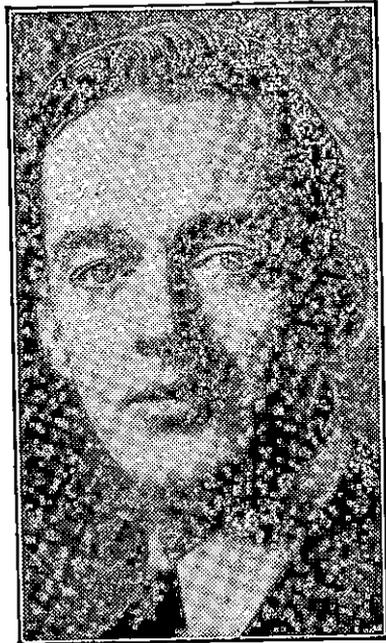
FREAKS IN FEATHERS HAVE OFFSPRING. Mrs. Sue Wyatt-Semple has the following to say about the offspring of her white-feathered English Sparrows: "One has only one side of his tail feathers white; another has one conspicuous white secondary feather on its wing; a third has a white scapular feather; and a fourth has white spots on each side of its head below the ears. During the recent Christmas Census, I saw the Cardinal with white and red plumage again in the same territory where I saw her last spring."

OUR PARIS MEMBERS. Dr. J. W. Clotfelter writes that the Paris group are planning to organize a bird club, which will be a chapter of the K. O. S., some time this fall. He has invited the Editor to take part in the organization and to help furnish a program for the first meeting. It is planned to take a field trip the next morning.

SILENT WINGS, A MEMORIAL TO THE PASSENGER PIGEON, edited by N. R. Barger, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc., May, 1947, 40 pages, 2 plates, numerous pictures, \$1.00. This little booklet is a collection of the addresses made upon the dedication of a monument to the Passenger Pigeon. They are by Aldo Leopold, A. W. Schorger, and Hartley H. T. Jackson. Much interesting information about the decline and last nesting of the Passenger Pigeon in Wisconsin is given.

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS, by Roger Tory Peterson, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1947. 290 pages, numerous illustrations both in color and in black and white. \$3.50.

This thorough revision of the leading field guide to eastern birds is finally off the press. Many of us discussed this book with Mr. Peterson when he lectured on the Audubon Screen Tour in Louisville on April 23, 1947. He has given each species a common name and has lumped all the subspecies in an appendix. He discussed common names with Dr. Alexander Wetmore before doing this, in an attempt to anticipate the next revision of the A. O. U. Checklist. Peterson has added many more colored plates but still retains the black and white flight pictures of the shore birds, gulls, and hawks. Two new plates on fall warblers fill a real need, and Mr. Peterson pays tribute to the aid given him by our own James E. Young, of Louisville, in preparing these. By the use of thin paper and narrow margins the book has been kept remarkably small and light. Every ornithologist will want to carry a copy of this indispensable guide with him on his field trips.—H. B. L.



PETERSON

BACK COPIES OF THE WARBLER. We need particularly No. 1, 1938, and No. 1, 1941, for which we will pay fifty cents a copy. We would appreciate Nos. 1 and 2, 1946, also. Any member who does not keep his file of the WARBLER can do the club a great service by presenting it to the secretary.

FALL MEETING OF THE K. O. S.

Begin right now making plans to be present at our fall meeting at Murray, October 3-5, 1947. Just twenty years ago we met at Murray at the State Teachers College and still rank that as one of the great events in the history of our society. A local committee, headed by Miss Grace Wyatt, is planning our outings, which will probably include a boat trip on Kentucky Lake, a trip to the Gilbertsville Dam, and a trip to Kentucky Woodlands Wild Life Refuge "between the rivers." Programs will be held on Friday and Saturday evenings at the college. A little later full information will be sent as to reservations and program.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

In the April, 1947, issue of THE PASSENGER PIGEON, the organ of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, there is an interesting study by Richard D. Taber on "The Dickcissel in Wisconsin." Through many years of study the bird students of Wisconsin have found that there are great irregularities in Dickcissel distribution. Locally I have observed that same tendency here in south-central Kentucky but did not know that it had a wider significance. This year has been a "high" year in Dickcissel distribution here, probably because of the rains that have kept the meadows green and fresh throughout the summer. I am challenging some member of the K. O. S. to collect data on this condition all over the range of the species in the state, as the basis for an article for the WARBLER.

Here is another challenge: How about the Cedar Waxwing in the state this year? It is true that birds do change their areas slowly; let's try to catch them in the act.

Though there are many records for nests and young for most of our species of birds in the state, there are some lamentable gaps. Here is a request for every member of the K. O. S., a request that will aid greatly in the study of ornithology in the state: Make a list of every bird for which you have found a nest, or have seen feeding young out of the nest, and mail to the president. Record even the most common species, for it is barely possible that even the commonest bird in your area might be one for which many of the rest of us have no actual nesting records. When these lists are assembled, very valuable results are assured. It will give some of us a chance to fill in gaps that have long worried us as to the actual nesting of some species.