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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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## HOODED MERGANSER AT LOUISVILLE IN SUMMER

By Burt L. Monroe, State Ornithologist, Anchorage

Although well within the accepted breeding range of the Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), Kentucky has furnished very few nesting records of this species. While much has appeared in print regarding its migratory and winter status, practically nothing regarding its summer status has appeared since Audubon (1856) made the statement that "It was not uncommon in the neighborhood of Louisville during the summer . . . ." and "on several occasions I caught the young with a partridge net." He also referred to finding nests in hollow trees, "seven or eight times."

Pindar (1889) referred to the Hooded Merganser as a "rare resident" in Fulton County in the western part of the state, and it is presumed that he meant just that, as several authentic nesting records have come from that general area.

Butler (1897), writing of birds in the adjoining state of Indiana, stated that "They breed in suitable localities throughout the State (Indiana). Owing to the scarcity of such localities in southern Indiana but few have been reported from that section." He then goes on, however, to add: "Mr. Robert Ridgway found them more numerous than the Wood Duck and breeding in Monteur's Pond, Knox County, in the spring of 1881" (*Bull Nuttall Ornith. Club*, Vol. VII, Jan. 1, 1882, p. 22). He then concludes his article by stating: "I feel confident that it formerly bred in a swamp in which there was much timber about four miles from Brooksville." It is interesting to note that Ridgway's record in Knox County was made only 30 miles north of the Ohio River, and Butler's record at Brooksville was only 25 miles north. In the light of more recent observations, it is fairly obvious that they nested well within Kentucky in suitable

localities at that time, but, because of the paucity of ornithologists actually working in the state of Kentucky in those years, no mention of nesting records appeared in print.

In the "Breeding Bird Census" in the KENTUCKY WARBLER (1942), Ganier mentioned it as "rare breeding on Reelfoot Lake," just south of the Kentucky line, and Cypert listed it as "rare breeding" in the Kentucky Woodlands area.

A good description of the nesting of the Hooded Merganser was given by Warren Sights (1942) of a nest found on May 18, 1941, about five hundred yards below "Red" Boyette's landing at Reelfoot Lake. The nest, when first located, contained fourteen eggs and was kept under observation for approximately five weeks until after the young left the nest.

Figgins (1945) did not add anything of note to its status in the state, merely including the species as a "probable breeding bird in the western section of the state."

Several of the Game Management men, working in the state, have reported to me that the Hooded Merganser nests rather commonly in western Kentucky. Just recently, Capt. Robert C. Soaper, Federal Wildlife Management Agent for this area, told me that it nests in numbers along the Ohio River near Henderson and along portions of Green River. On July 7, 1940, I observed a female Hooded Merganser perched on a dead snag in a slough near Henderson but saw no further evidence of a nest or of young birds.

For several seasons, beginning in 1935, I had found Hooded Mergansers in late spring on Caperton's Swamp, in Indian Hills near Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky. On occasions, there would be only one bird, usually a female, but on others there would be a pair. As Bent (1923) says: "The birds are probably mated when they arrive on their breeding grounds and soon begin the search for a suitable cavity for a nest," I began to watch this particular area. This marshy area covers approximately five acres and is composed of a series of ponds separated by a road, a dike, a row of trees, and a private driveway into an estate. The first of the ponds is full of marsh grasses and cattails and other aquatic plants as well as a border of willow saplings; the last of the series is a rather open expanse of water bordered by mud flats. At several places within the area, there are many dead snags which can provide suitable nesting sites. The swamp is within four hundred yards of the Ohio River.

On May 7, 1944, James B. Young, of Louisville, wrote to me while I was in the Army, stating that he had seen what appeared to be a female Hooded Merganser and a brood of young on Caperton's Swamp. He was unable at the time to keep them under observation and so did not publish the note; however, his record is unquestionably correct and gives us the first nesting record of this species for the Louisville area in recent years.

As Mr. Young's observation bore out my previous surmise that the Hooded Merganser was nesting there, I took up a rather careful watch here after I returned. On May 21, 1946, a female was seen swimming alone on the ponds, but no young were with her nor could any nesting site be located. It was not until May 24, 1947, however, that I finally discovered an adult female and a brood of seven young. The young were very small and still in the downy plumage. On June 1, 1947, two females, each with a brood, were observed swimming in the same pond. The second brood observed contained twelve young, larger than the first brood of seven observed a week earlier. On June 7, 1947, one of the young from the brood of twelve was collected. It was well-feathered, with no trace of down left, only a few pin feathers remaining in the wings. It resembled closely the adult female, the only difference being in size.

A search of the swamp for the nesting site did not prove very successful. There was one location which could conceivably have been a nesting place of one of the pairs, but I have very little evidence that it was. It did, however, conform with descriptions of nesting sites listed in ornithological literature, so I shall mention it. It was in a broken stub of a willow tree, four and a half feet above the water level. The bottom of the cavity was covered with decaying wood chips and, while not lined with down, contained bits of down clinging to some of the chips and to the sides of the snag. The down could not be identified as having come from Hooded Mergansers. The nesting sites of the two broods observed may actually have been some distance from the ponds and not necessarily within its confines, although there seemed to be ample suitable situations available. Kortright (1943) adds some interesting data: "The nests of this species are usually placed in cavities in trees, preferably located in the vicinity of water, but failing such sites, suitable trees will be sought, even though they may be half a mile or more from the nearest pond or stream. Neither this nor any other tree-nesting duck ever transports any foreign material for lining the nests, but makes use of any

debris or decaying chips that may already be there, and supplements it with down. Nesting as it does in the same localities as the Wood Duck, it often enters into conflict with that species over the possession of a nest; if combat ensues, as it frequently does, the Wood Duck is generally the victor. The dispute is sometimes amicably settled, however, as the eggs of the two species are often found in the same nest which is occupied by both ducks in turn."

Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) nested in the swamp with the Hooded Mergansers. There were at least three pairs of Wood Ducks, with broods of varying age, observed during the period. Often, female Hooded Mergansers and their broods and female Wood Ducks and their broods were under observation at the same time.

Preparations have been made to carry on the study of these two species in the described area during the next breeding season. Nesting boxes have been built and will be erected in suitable localities.

From the available data it would seem quite logical and very probable that the Hooded Merganser has nested in parts of Kentucky for well over a hundred years. Lack of ornithologists working extensively in the state is, perhaps, the real reason that so few nesting records have been published. Likewise, the lack of suitable nesting sites, such as the case here at Louisville, between the days of Audubon and the present, is also a contributing reason for the scarcity of breeding records for this species.

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## SOME RESTRICTED HABITATS IN SOUTHERN KENTUCKY

By Gordon Wilson, Western State College, Bowling Green

For several years recently I have renewed a former interest in restricted habitats that I followed many years ago. In my earlier years as a bird student I was interested primarily in habitats of our most common birds and soon built up a fairly accurate group of observations about them. In the war years and since then I have been trying to determine the restricted habitats of a few species of our less common birds, particularly in the Mammoth Cave National Park. The ecological changes in the park caused by the growing up of open fields have given me my most obvious conclusions.

With the passing of cultivated fields three species have ceased to use that area for nesting or migration. The Boblink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), though very common in spring migrations in the farming area just outside the park, has not been recorded there since 1937. This is easy enough to understand, as the species prefers alfalfa or other meadows. The Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus sava-narum*) has also deserted the park area since cultivation ceased, but is very common in adjoining farm areas. Similarly, the meadow-loving Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) retreated to the farm lands when bushes and briars began to cover the fields.

The Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus gilvus*) is ordinarily found around yards and orchards. In the past ten years I have not found it in any part of the park, but Mr. Leonard C. Brecher recorded it there on May 4, 1947. I see no reason why it should not still be found around the few houses left in the area.

For some ten years I have been interested in discovering some common denominator of the nesting of the Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*). Thus far I have the following recurrent factors: a small clearing in a wood, with broomsedge or other similar plants in a field or patch formerly cultivated. Thus far I have found only a half dozen or so of such places that regularly attract the Blue-winged. Three are in the park: down near the ferry across Green River, at Ugly Creek, and on Mammoth Cave Ridge just where the woods first join the open fields. I found my first pair of Blue-winged Warblers feeding their young at Ugly Creek, where a very small patch of cleared land is entirely surrounded by woods that have been cut over but

never cleared. - Near Bowling Green I have found the species in two places on Clifty Creek, one a mere open space by the roadside (Kentucky highway 71) and the other a small open field farther down the gorge. All my efforts to find a nest have thus far been failures, though I have several records of young being fed.

The Bachman Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*) was one of the first of the less common species that I learned to locate in certain narrow habitat limits. Some of its former haunts, old broomsedge fields, with deep washes and gullies, have grown up in cedars and briars and have ceased to be used by the birds. The wasteful habit of many farmers of burning off old fields every spring seems to be limiting the bird even further than it was in my immediate territory of observation. Maurice Brooks, in his masterful study of this bird, rightly says it is to be found in old fields that have been out of cultivation for some years. My best finds are in fields that are literally "too poor to sprout peas," in the folk way of saying it. High, gullied ridges or hillsides are often fairly alive with this bird, one of our best songsters.

The Parula Warbler (*Parula americana*) is in many ways the most restricted species of all, as I find it only in tall timber where certain lichens grow, particularly tall oak timber. It is never common, but its distinctive note is obvious regularly in its chosen habitat. This is another species that I have never found a nest of, but I have seen it feeding its young in two places in the Mammoth Cave National Park, near the ferry but a little farther up the hill than the Blue-winged Warbler's area, and at First Creek Lake, in the western end of the park. There are large, lichen-covered tree trunks in each place. Rather oddly, many other similar places seem to have no Parulas. Only two places near Bowling Green have brought me a record of this species: just up the river from the Bowling Green pumping station and at Stump's Bluffs, near the Mouth of Gasper.

The Migrant Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) has always been rare in my territory of observation, though I can nearly always find a pair or two in certain fields. It prefers the rich farm lands south of Bowling Green, particularly those that have a clump of honey locust bushes or some red haw thickets. It appears quite regularly on fence and telephone wires in that area. The only two nests that I have found were in tangles or thorns. One, in a honey locust bush, cost me many a scratch before I could see the four young, the adults meanwhile sitting nearby and scolding very unmusically. The other was in a tangle of honeysuckle

and sawbriars and literally drew blood when I climbed an old fence to look inside at the four eggs. The rather odd thing about this species is that it could apparently be much more numerous in my area, for its food must be abundant in farming sections, and its nesting preferences seem endless.

In many parts of the Mammoth Cave National Park the Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) is quite common, but outside the park it is one of the rarest species I know. Only in the big woods around Hall's Chapel Church and in Death Valley, both of them north of Bowling Green, do I find even a single pair in summer, though I often see several in migrations. In general I find it in woods that have never been cleared, though they may have been cut over many times. The one nest ever found in the Mammoth Cave National Park, by Leonard C. Brecher in 1946, was in a section of the park that fits this description.

The Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) has me completely baffled. In some wooded areas it is quite common; in other areas exactly similar, at least to a human being, there are none found. Around Dr. L. Y. Lancaster's cabins, at the Mouth of Gasper River, they are more common than are Whip-poor-wills (*Caprimulgus vociferus*), but in the Mammoth Cave National Park I regard myself as fortunate when I hear one, except in the very early period of the migration of this species. I am still looking for some common factor in determining the habitat of this bird.

There are many more restricted habitats, most of them rather obvious. You expect to find the Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) near a pond or marsh, Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) along streams that flow through wooded areas, and Meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*) in pastures and meadows. A further challenge that I intend to accept is to try to determine, if possible, why certain related warblers choose such varying habitats. There is literally no end to this sort of study, especially in an area that is undergoing such constant changes as the Mammoth Cave National Park.

## FIELD NOTES

### TWO BROODS OF ALBINO MOCKINGBIRDS

Each year for several seasons a pair of Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) have nested in an evergreen tree outside our kitchen. In June of 1947 we discovered that of the four nestlings in the nest, two were albinos, one partly albino, and one normal. The white birds were much smaller and weaker than the normal one. It seemed as if the parents neglected the white ones, but they may have been naturally less vigorous. The fledglings stayed close to the home tree for two weeks after leaving the nest. The first week we kept the cat confined in the house, but fearing that her frustration would result in a complete mental collapse, we released her. She caught the normal bird and one of the white birds, which was so thin and bony that she would not eat it. We lost track of the semi-albino, but the other albino Mockingbird flew close to the house for several weeks. The other Mockingbirds made quite a fuss and flew at it at first but seemed to accept its presence in a short time. Kent Previette took some Kodachrome slides of the albinos which he showed at the fall meeting at Murray.

We did not observe the nest for the second brood. However, in August we saw them flying about the yard. There were three fledglings, all albino in this brood. The cat caught one, but the other two were strong and good fliers and appear to have survived. They were reported in the neighborhood for several weeks.

Both parents appeared to be normally pigmented, but both must have been carriers for the recessive gene of albinism. By Mendelian ratio one would expect three dark to one white, or if the gene for pigmentation lacked dominance, one dark, two intermediate, and one albino. The first brood very nearly met this ratio, with one dark, one intermediate, and two albino. The presence of three albinos in the second brood can only be explained as an unusual coincidence. In fact the presence of six albinos (5 complete and one partial) out of seven offspring is an unusual ratio of white birds.

—CHRISTINE JANSING, Atherton High School, Louisville

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### A PARTIAL ALBINO SONG SPARROW

On our farm at Madisonville, on November 11, 1946, I observed a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) which had unusual white markings. It was white on the sides of the face, on the throat and upper breast, and had flecks of white on the back. The dark, central breast spot was seen just below the white area, and the plumage appeared to be otherwise that of a normal Song Sparrow. The white portions were in sharp contrast to the rest of the plumage. The call-note was also a typical Song Sparrow call, but the bird was undoubtedly the shyest individual of that species on the farm. I saw this bird at frequent intervals in December and January but never at close range. It was last seen on March 19, 1947.

The summer status of the Song Sparrow in this county is still in doubt, as no nests have been found, but I have four summer records.

These are: Atkinson Lake, north edge of Madisonville, June 10, 1945, and August 12, 1946; near Earlington, also on June 10, 1945; and in Pleasant View Church section, five miles west of Madisonville, June 24, 1946. All of the above birds were in song. I have not yet found the nest nor seen any young being fed.

—JAMES W. HANCOCK, Madisonville

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#### FOUR YEARS STUDY OF A ROBIN'S NESTING SITE

Although I like all our Kentucky birds, even the English Sparrows, Starlings, and Blue Jays, I consider the Robin the aristocrat among our door yard birds. He attends to his own affairs and watches over his growing family with courage and devotion. I have previously described my success with a nesting site (Ky. Warbler, 22: 20-22, 1946) but will summarize it here. In 1944 Robins built a nest on top of a wren box which had been placed on the front corner of my garage up close to the eaves. They raised two broods successfully in 1944 and repeated the performance with two broods in 1945. In the spring of 1946 I moved the wren box to another corner of the garage, and in its place I placed a Robin shelf, consisting of a flat base with uprights on opposite sides. I then set the old Robin's nest on the shelf and awaited developments.

I saw my first Robin in my yard on February 23, 1946. On March 27 the nest was being rebuilt. I, of course, do not know that these were the same birds, but I cannot help believing that at least one of the birds was the same. The speed with which they found the site and repaired the old nest would seem to indicate familiarity with the location. The first egg was laid on April 1, and there was still only one egg on April 2 and 3. On the fourth the robins began incubating with two eggs. One fledgling resulted from this incubation and one bad egg. I was away from home when the second incubation was set up. Two birds had hatched upon my return, but both were destroyed by some predator before they were large enough to fly. The 1946 season was, therefore, practically a failure, with only one fledgling raised successfully.

During the winter I had kept the nest in my garage and returned it to the bracket in the spring. The Robins returned late in the spring of 1947. They were first heard in the tree outside my bedroom window on March 20. It was not until April 16 that they began repairing the old nest. They built the sides higher and relined it. The following is a summary of this brood: April 21, the first egg was deposited; April 22, the second egg appeared, and on April 23, the third and last egg of the clutch was deposited. On May 9 the first of the nestlings hatched, and ten days later, on May 19, the fledglings left the nest. I saw the family out in my garden together for the last time on May 26.

On May 27 the female went on the nest for the second brood and deposited the first egg. I was again away for much of the time during the raising of this family, but returned in time to observe a group of three young birds leave the nest on June 25. The old nest will again be carried into the garage for the winter. It has now been used to raise eight broods over a period of four years, with six broods successful and one partially so.

—J. W. CLOTFELTER, Paris

### A MOURNING DOVE'S NEST IN LATE SEPTEMBER

A nest of the Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macoura*) was found about the middle of September, 1947, by one of the sons of Mr. G. C. Hudson in Kentucky Woodlands Wildlife Refuge. The nest was in an apple tree, ten feet from the ground along a dirt road which runs past Mr. Hudson's home. In fact, the nest was on a branch which partially overhung the road. At the time of discovery the nest contained two young doves about two days old.

On Friday, September 26, we noted that the birds were still in the nest, although they looked large enough to fly at any time. On September 28 we noted that the nest was empty. This is an unusually late date for a dove or any other bird to be breeding in Kentucky. Lovell, 1944 (*Ky. Warbler*, 20: 20-23) has summarized the data on late nesting for the state. All the cases then on record with one exception were not as late as the present case. This exception had eggs when the nest was discovered on September 26, 1941 (*Dunn, Ky. Warbler*, 18: 5, 1942). However, it does not appear to be known whether Dunn's nest was successful. The present nest, therefore, is the latest successful breeding record yet reported for the state.

—JOHN DeLIME, Project Leader, Ky. Division of Game and Fish

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### BIRDS OBSERVED AT KENTUCKY LAKE AND KENTUCKY WOODLANDS

During the field trips taken by the K. O. S., October 3, 4, and 5, at the fall meeting of the society at Murray and vicinity, 65 species were recorded. On the morning of October 4 a short hike was taken before breakfast in the vicinity of the Murray State Teachers College. The rest of the day was spent near Kentucky Lake. Two boat trips were made on the lake, and many of the embayments were visited by car. Finally, in the late afternoon a trip was made on foot across the Gilbertsville Dam. On the morning of October 5 Mr. and Mrs. Spofford visited the Jonathan Creek Embayment. It seems desirable to make separate lists of birds for the two areas. The numbers given are quite accurate for the larger water birds but are undoubtedly too small for the commoner land birds, not all of which were counted by some observers. The season was a little too early for the migratory water fowl, only a few of which had appeared.

List No. 1, Murray and vicinity and Kentucky Lake from the bridge to the dam: Double-crested Cormorant, 3; Great Blue Heron 20; American Egret, 1; Green Heron, 1; Green-winged Teal, 1; Blue-winged Teal, 5; Turkey Vulture, 20; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 22; Killdeer, 13; Lesser Yellow-legs, 2; Pectoral Sandpiper, 3; Least Sandpiper, 8; Semi-palmated Sandpiper, 3; Herring Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 8; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2, (one found dead); Chimney Swifts 10; Flicker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2 (immature); Downy Woodpecker, 1; Phoebe, 1; Wood Pewee, 1; Blue Jay, 14; Crow, 15; Tufted Titmouse, 4; Bewick's Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 4; Catbird, 5; Robin, 12; Wood Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 5; Starling, numerous; Black and White Warbler, 1; Blackburnian, 1; Yellow-throat 4; Meadowlark, 12; Bronzed Grackle, 4; Cardinal, 8; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1; Goldfinch, 5; Towhee, 2; Savannah Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 1; American Osprey, 1; total species 49.

Sunday morning was spent in the Kentucky Woodlands Wild Life Refuge, where we were accompanied by Messrs. Lane, DeLime; Cypert, and Baker. A number of egrets and herons were found at Honker Lake. Several species of knotweed (*Polygonum muhlenbergii*, *P. portoricense*) had made fine growths along the shores of this pond in marked contrast to the absence of duck food along the shores of Kentucky Lake. At Hematite Lake fishermen had frightened away most of the water birds except some grebes and teal. DeLime reported a flight of 18 Mallards early that morning.

List No. 2, from Kentucky Woodlands: Pied billed Grebe, 8; American Egret, 3; Little Blue Heron (white phase), 5; Mallard, 18; Green-wing Teal, 4; Blue-wing Teal, 38; Wood Duck, 1; Turkey Vulture, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Pigeon Hawk, 1; (Spofford); Bobwhite, 2; Coot, 1; Killdeer, 9; Mourning Dove, 1; Chimney Swift, 5; Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Phoebe, 6; Wood Pewee, 2; Blue Jay, 13; Crow, 5; Carolina Chickadee, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Carolina Wren, 4; Bluebird, 6; Cedar Waxwing, 1; Starling numerous; Myrtle Warbler, 2; Black-throated Green Warbler, 5; Ovenbird, 1; American Redstart, 1; Meadowlark, 20; Redwing, 10; Cowbird, 50; Summer Tanager, 1; Cardinal, 8; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1; Indigo Bunting, 1; Goldfinch, 12; Towhee, 2; Total, 47 species.

For list of members taking part see Helen Browning's report.

—HARVEY B. LOVELL (Compiler) Louisville.

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## K. O. S. FALL MEETING

By HELEN G. BROWNING, Secretary

The annual fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held at Murray, with headquarters at Murray State Teachers College, October 3, 4, 5, 1947. The opening session was held in the Chapel of the Administration Building with Dr. Gordon Wilson, President, presiding. Mrs. Mary Lou Frei, Chairman of the Program Committee, introduced the speakers of the evening. Miss Grace Wyatt talked about her bird finds around Murray, the most unusual of which was a flock of Golden Plovers. Mrs. Sue Wyatt-Semple, Providence, read a number of her fine poems relating to bird life, which have appeared in various publications.

### MIGRANTS

By Sue Wyatt Semple

When wild geese split the powder blue  
Or harrow through the night,  
They stir emotions in my soul.  
By their elusive flights!  
O, who can stay such wild desires?  
When they have winnowed past,  
My migratory spirit plumes  
Itself and follows fast!

Mr. G. F. Baker, former Kentucky Woodlands Refuge Manager, was scheduled to speak on "The Wild Turkey in Western Kentucky." He was unable to be present Friday evening, and Mr. Preston Lane, Junior Refuge Manager, talked briefly about the wild life activities

of the Refuge. Kent Previette, Louisville, showed brilliant color slides of nature scenes taken in various parts of Kentucky. S. Charles Thacher, Louisville, discussed some of these slides, including those showing the natural arches and some of the unusual plant life found in the Cumberland Forest. Miss Evelyn J. Schneider showed kodachrome films made in Glacier National Park during the past summer. She had many very excellent shots, but the close-ups of the mountain goats were superb. Dr. William Clay, Louisville, also presented outstanding color slides taken in the West. The shots showing the approach of the dust storms and the beautiful cacti in bloom were memorable.

On Saturday morning seven of the more ambitious members got up early and accompanied Miss Grace Wyatt on a bird walk around the college campus. Among the more than 30 species found was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. At 9:00 A. M. the members divided into three groups; two took boat trips to Kentucky Lake, and the other one went to Jonathan Creek for a field trip. The boat trips were led by Carl Cornett and Harvey Lovell, and the field trip was led by Miss Wyatt. The lake was rough, and few birds were seen. Many shore birds and several Great Blue Herons were seen on the mud flats at Jonathan Creek. The plant life on the flats interested many present. Much had been planted by the wild-life supervisors as food for ducks.

All three groups assembled at the Administration Building near Gilbertsville Dam for lunch. Afterwards a fairly hard rain was falling, and Dr. Wilson suggested that we meet in the Lodge adjoining the dining room and conduct our business session.

Since it was still raining after the business meeting, it was decided that the party take a conducted trip through the Gilbertsville Dam. There we saw the huge generators and heard the guide explain the workings of the mighty forces created by damming up the water. The map room clarified the purposes and operation of the gigantic T. V. A. project, of which Gilbertsville Dam is a part.

Our Saturday dinner was served at Wells Hall. This meal was most delicious, and the tables were beautifully decorated. Dr. Ralph Woods, president of the college, greeted the K. O. S. very graciously and made all feel most welcome there. We enjoyed hearing Dr. Wilson tell something of the natural features and of the people of Calloway County, where he had spent his early years.

Dr. Wilson opened the Saturday evening meeting, which was held in the Fine Arts Building. He asked the chairman of the program committee, Mrs. Frei, to introduce the speakers. Mr. Carl C. Cornett, Louisville, discussed the "Breeding Habits of the King Rail." In May, 1947, Mr. Cornett, with the help of Mrs. Cornett and Harvey Lovell, made a very detailed and scientific study of a King Rail nesting on a swampy pond on the Shelbyville Road near Simpsonville, U. S. 60, on the farm of Mr. Walters. This rail's nest extended 6 inches above the water level and was about 8 feet from the shore. Mr. Cornett passed through the audience excellent photographs of the King Rail and her nest, taken by Harvey Lovell and H. Harold Davis, Courier-Journal photographer. This study is significant because there are only three records of the King Rail nesting in Kentucky in the last 75 years.

Mr. A. F. Ganier, Nashville, told us about his vacation in New Mexico in the southeastern part of the Sacramento Mountains, which form an island in an arid country. He told us, in his usual fluent

and charming manner, how he spent some time in a mountain village, 3000 feet high, observing the bird life about him. Long-crested Jays, Scrub Jays, Ravens, Brown Phoebes, 4 species of woodpeckers, a Water Ouzel, and many other species were recorded. His color slides taken in the same area were exceedingly clear and very beautiful.

Dr. Walter R. Spofford, Nashville, gave a scholarly lecture on the Peregrine Falcon, known in America as the Duck Hawk. He said this falcon had been known for 4000 years. Alexander Wilson saw it first in 1812 in New Jersey. The first breeding record was made in 1864 on Mt. Tom, in western Massachusetts. The falcons build two types of nests, one on high cliffs, the other in hollow trees. They sometimes build in the same place for 30 or 40 years. The cliff-type nests are found at Harper's Ferry, and those in hollow trees have been recorded in southern Indiana and western Tennessee. Peterson recently found a nest in Louisiana, which is the most southerly record.

The flight of the Peregrine Falcon is unusual. The flight speed is terrific, in excess of 200 miles per hour when diving. Dr. Spofford showed excellent color films of his own peregrine falcon, as well as the principal nesting sites in eastern United States.

The field trip Sunday morning was led by Miss Grace Wyatt. The party left Murray at 7:00 A. M. and drove to Golden Pond for breakfast at Sunset Inn. It was a very beautiful day, and all were in fine spirits when we arrived at the Kentucky Woodlands National Wild-life Refuge, located in Trigg and Lyon Counties, "between the rivers." Near Honker Lake we saw many Great Blue Herons, Little Blue Herons, American Egrets, Coots, Wood Ducks and Blue-winged Teal. On Hematite Lake there were numerous flocks of Blue-wing Teal and several Pied-billed Grebes. We then drove to the ruins of an old foundry nearby, where the first Bessemer steel was made just prior to the Civil War. Our meeting officially ended at that point. From there we went our various ways toward home, realizing that we had been very fortunate in having such a fine meeting in an area so new and full of interest to all of us.

The Society owes a debt of gratitude to Miss Grace Wyatt and her colleagues at Murray State Teachers College for their arduous work in making our stay so interesting and pleasant.

#### ATTENDANCE

Benton—John S. Morse; Bowling Green—Dr. and Mrs. L. Y. Lancaster, Dr. Gordon Wilson; Glasgow—Mrs. Nelson Nuckols; Golden Pond—Preston Lane; Hopkinsville—Dr. Cynthia C. Counce; Horse Cave—Mrs. Mary Lou Frei; Louisville—Misses Helen G. Browning, Louise Madison, Evelyn J. Schneider, Ann Slack, Mabel Slack, Mrs. William B. Tabler, Messrs. Wood Bousman, William Clay, Rodney M. Hayes, Harvey B. Lovell, Kent H. Previete, Arthur Unglaub, Jr., Mr. and Mr. Carl C. Cornett, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Dietrich, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Shackleton, Mr. and Mrs. S. Charles Thacher; Madisonville—Miss Thelma Gentry, Messrs. B. C. Bacon, J. D. Shain, James W. Hancock; Murray—Misses Alice Keys, Kathleen Key, Grace Wyatt, Mrs. A. M. Wolfson, Dr. Ralph H. Woods, Mr. and Mrs. John L. DeLime; Princeton—Miss Cynthia A. Cunningham, Mr. Paul Cunningham; Providence—Dr. Susie H. Gilchrist, Mrs. Sue Wyatt-Semple; Nashville, Tenn.—Mr. A. F. Ganier, Mr. and Mrs. Walter R. Spofford; Sanford, Maine—Mrs. Lottie E. Lovell; Ky. Woodlands—Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Baker; Total—51.

### BUSINESS MEETING

The business meeting was called to order by the president at 2:30 P. M. Miss Browning, secretary-treasurer, read the financial report and gave some statistics on the increase in membership of K. O. S. In 1944 there were 190 members; in 1947 there are 340, an increase of 79%. Dr. Wilson stated that K. O. S. is one of the few organizations which increased its membership during the war. The names of the 14 life members were read. It was voted that Dr. Pindar's name be added to our life membership list. In his will some years ago, he bequeathed a sum of money to establish a K. O. S. endowment fund. It was also voted that the magazines received from various ornithological societies throughout the country as exchanges for the Warbler be presented to the University of Louisville, where they will be bound and placed on file for the use of any and all who desire them.

Mr. E. C. Bacon, former president and one of the founders of K. O. S., spoke interestingly about his conservation work at Madisonville, Kentucky. He now has 3 wild life preserves which he is supervising.

Miss Evelyn J. Schneider, Chairman of the nominating committee, presented the following slate of officers, which was unanimously elected: .

Miss Mabel Slack, President

Mr. James W. Hancock, Vice-President

Mrs. Mary Clyde Nuckols, Secretary-Treasurer

Councillors: East, Dr. J. W. Clotfelter, Paris; Central, Mr. Walter H. Shackleton, Louisville; West, Miss Grace Wyatt, Murray.

The president reminded the group that next fall our meeting should occur in the eastern section of the state and stated that Dr. J. W. Clotfelter, president of the newly organized club at Paris, had invited the K. O. S. to come there. It was decided that the executive committee should consider this question later and come to a decision.

Dr. Wilson, retiring president, thanked the members, on his own behalf and on the behalf of the other retiring officers, for their generous support.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS	
Balance, Oct. 4, 1946 .....	\$169.61	Printing 4 issues	
Dues collected .....	267.25	Warbler .....	\$278.52
J. A. S. 16 clubs .....	16.00	(Including covers and postage)	
Interest on Endow. ....	13.63	Stamps and cards .....	16.05
4 life memberships .....	100.00	1000 envelopes .....	7.25
Sale, back issues .....	45.06	Cuts .....	4.16
Check lists .....	3.05	Ky. Conservation Coun. ....	2.00
Contributions .....	11.66	Donation to J. A. S. ....	5.00
Total receipts .....	626.25	Prize, best paper .....	5 00
		1 share stock .....	100.00
		Total disbursements .....	417.98
Balance on hand October 3, 1947 .....			\$208.27

Respectfully submitted,

Helen G. Browning, Secretary-Treasurer

## NEWS AND VIEWS

**PARIS CHAPTER ORGANIZED**—In September, 1947, the Paris members of the K. O. S. were called together by Dr. J. W. Clotfelter in the auditorium of the high school at Paris. Dr. Clotfelter was elected president, and Mrs. Bruce Miller, 262 Houston Ave., was elected secretary-treasurer. Dr. Harvey Lovell of Louisville then gave an illustrated talk on "Adventures with Birds." The following morning several members took a field trip through the old nursery and other places of interest. According to latest reports the Paris chapter has grown to fifty members, a very remarkable growth in only a little over two years. The group plans to have four program meetings during the winter. They are also organizing to take a Christmas bird count.

**DUES FOR 1948.** This issue completes volume 23, the largest ever published by our society. Be sure to send your dues promptly to the new secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Nelson Nuckols, 706 N. Race St., Glasgow. (Mrs. Nuckols says the street address is not necessary). The executive committee has ruled that the WARBLER can not be sent to members in arrears. However, members who find the busy Christmas season a bad time to pay dues may insure their prompt receipt of the magazine by asking the secretary to put their names on a permanent list. Members who join before September 1 are dated back to the first of the year and sent the back copies of the journal; those joining after September 1 are dated ahead to January 1 of the following year. All memberships expire at midnight on December 31.

**CHRISTMAS SUBSCRIPTIONS**—Why not give a subscription to the KENTUCKY WARBLER as a Christmas present to that friend with a latent nature interest. The secretary will be glad to announce such present by an appropriate card. Invite that friend to accompany you on the Christmas bird count and other field trips. Last year one member gave four subscriptions as Christmas presents.

**RESIGNATIONS**—Members who do not plan to continue their membership during 1948 should send their resignations promptly to the secretary. It is not courteous to drop out of a club without saying a word about it, for it is not the same as a subscription to a popular magazine. The secretary goes to the trouble of sending notices of meetings, reminders of dues owed, etc., quite unnecessarily. Most of our former members have sent in official resignations, but a few always neglect to do so.

**ERRATUM.** On page 27 of this volume, line 35, the date upon which Burt Monroe observed the Prairie Horned Lark's nest should have been May 10, 1940, instead of April 4, 1943.

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