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# Kentucky Warbler

*"To sift the  
sparkling from the  
dull, and the true*



*from the false, is  
the aim of  
every Ornithologist."*

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## THE BREEDING BIRDS AT OTTER CREEK PARK

By Harvey B. Lovell, Biology Department, University of Louisville

**INTRODUCTION.** Although there are numerous annotated lists of Kentucky birds, there are few descriptions of their nests and in most cases where birds are recorded as breeding, no data are given to substantiate the claim. Furthermore, there are few published data in regard to the location of the nests either in regard to the species of tree, the height from the ground, the time of year, or the habitat. An attempt has therefore been made to include this information in the paper. The author has made numerous trips to the Otter Creek Park at all seasons of the year, but the present study is limited to data obtained in the spring and summer. During 1945 I camped on the area for three weeks, at which time I served as part-time nature councilor at the Y. M. C. A. camp. During this period several of the young campers assisted in the finding of nests. Other breeding data have been furnished by Amy Deane and Helen Peil, both of whom regularly spend their weekends there during the spring. Carl C. Cornett has assisted me on at least two field trips and has shown unusual ability and energy in finding nests. The assistance of several other ornithologists is acknowledged in pertinent places.

**OTTER CREEK PARK.** The area was selected in 1934 by the federal government as a recreational demonstration area because of the submarginal nature of the land, its scenic features, and its proximity to the metropolis of Louisville, a city that was considered deficient in recreational areas. Most of the land was purchased in 1935, and for the next thirteen years the park was administered by the National Park Service. It was presented to the city of Louisville in 1948. The Park contained originally 2,600

acres, but during the war about 1000 acres were given to Fort Knox, and since the war the Van Buren estate, overlooking the Ohio River, has been added to the area. The seral changes have recently been described (Lovell, 1946) and will be treated only briefly here.

Much of the plateau which occupies the main part of the park was worn-out, eroded farm lands when purchased. It has therefore had about 14 years to revert back to the wild. A C. C. C. camp was located on the area until 1942, and the roads, buildings and other improvements were constructed with its labor. The gullies were given treatment to prevent further erosion by throwing brush and logs into the depressions, and by driving rows of stakes across them at regular intervals. A few plantings were made, chiefly of black locust and pine, along some of the roads and near buildings. For the most part, however, the old fields have been allowed to grow up with the pioneer vegetation characteristic of the region. It was originally planned to keep several fields mowed or in cultivation for the benefit of wild life, but since 1942 no mowing has been done.

Much of the park that fronts on the Ohio River consists of steep cliffs or very steep, wooded banks. Otter Creek is a small, deeply entrenched stream with steep banks. There are three other streams in the area that have cut deep gashes in the plateau: one from Morgan's cave to the Ohio River, one that flows along the road to Blue Hole, and, finally, a stream that arises back of Piomingo and flows into Otter Creek through the wildest and most beautiful gorge in the park. The original forested areas were chiefly along the slopes of Otter Creek and the three entrenched streams, but a fine wood lot occupied part of the uplands, now known as Tall Trees, and extended along the west bank of the creek to the Ohio River bluffs and from there west through the Van Buren Estate. Dominant trees are oaks and hickories, both of which furnish abundant mast for wildlife. Beech trees are also numerous on the rich slopes. Such woodland birds as the Hooded, Black and White, and Worm-eating Warblers and the Pileated Woodpecker occur here.

**GEOLOGY.** I am indebted to Mr. R. E. Stouder for most of the following information. The park is part of the northeastern sink-hole plains, an old Cretaceous peneplain. All the rocks are of the Mississippian period of the Paleozoic Era. Nearly all the exposed rock formations and the underlying strata of the plateau belong to the St. Louis limestone, a formation which is 300 feet thick locally. These lime-

stones are so soluble that they quickly break up to form soil that averages thicker than over any other of our local formations. Small sour spots are numerous and are due to the water draining straight down a joint plane. Numerous sinks occur in the park, several of them ending in cave-like holes. Most of the drainage is under ground, except where a creek flows out of Morgan's Cave and the two small streams flowing into Otter Creek. Four small artificial ponds occur on the plateau, two of which may persist all summer in wet years, but all usually dry up in either July or August. Otter Creek, itself, has cut down its streambed nearly to base level in the region of the park. The Warsaw formation, which is 90 feet thick, is exposed along the Ohio River cliffs and some of the deeper portions of the streams.

**SERIAL DEVELOPMENTS.** In the ten years since the author has been keeping records on the park, there have occurred several changes in the bird populations. The birds of the grassy fields have all but left the area. Grasshopper Sparrows and Meadowlarks are now absent except in adjacent farmlands. In the last 4 years a decrease in the Field Sparrow has occurred, although in the early stages of reforestation this "bush sparrow" found an ideal habitat. Birds that thrive around human habitations have become reduced in numbers. These include the Brown Thrasher, Mockingbird, Bluebird, Starling, Robin, Barn Swallow, Bewick's Wren, Chipping Sparrow, and Catbird. These species are now largely confined to the area around the buildings, especially at Piomingo, the farm houses and lumber yard, and headquarters buildings, and along the roadsides. The Redwing seems to have been eliminated by the gradual filling up of the ponds and the dying out of the cat-tails.

What birds have increased to take the places of these vanishing species? Probably many of the woodland species have increased slightly, but my data do not indicate how much. The trees are not large enough in most localities to attract more woodpeckers yet. The territory does not seem favorable for an increase in the hawk population; in fact, hawks have been unusually scarce in the park area. Towhees, Cardinals, Chats, Indigo Buntings, and Prairie Warblers remain the most abundant species in the partially grown-up pastures. Summer Tanagers, Red-eyed Vireos, Kentucky Warblers, Gnatcatchers, Chickadees, and Titmice continue to be common birds of the open woods, especially along the edges. Such typical birds of the mature woodlands as the Wood Pewee, Red-bellied Woodpecker, White-

breasted Nuthatch, and Hooded Warbler seem to be just about holding their place. The only conclusion that I can draw in regard to abundance is that birds are less common now than they were ten years ago, largely because of less varied habitat.

### LIST OF BREEDING BIRDS

GREEN HERON, *Butorides virescens*. Uncommon summer resident.

WOOD DUCK, *Aix sponsa*. Uncommon summer resident along Otter Creek.

TURKEY VULTURE, *Cathartes aura*. Common summer resident.

BLACK VULTURE, *Coragyps atratus*. Somewhat less common than the Turkey Vulture but are destructive to young pigs and probably other new-born farm animals in the adjoining farms (Lovell, 1947).

Hawks are rather rare in the Otter Creek Park area proper during the summer. Cooper's Hawk attacks chickens occasionally, and the superintendent showed me one he had killed at headquarters as it was after a dead chicken.

BOB-WHITE, *Colinus virginianus*. Common permanent resident. Several large broods have been flushed on numerous occasions.

KILLDEER, *Charadrius vociferus*. Uncommon permanent resident, confined to the shores of the Ohio River for the most part.

MOURNING DOVE, *Zenaidura macroura*. Uncommon permanent resident. Mr. Shain reported a nest with 2 eggs which had been built over an old nest in a red cedar back of the country store. When I visited the nest on July 5, 1945, the eggs had been destroyed. The old nest was that of a Robin. An egg shell of a Mourning Dove was found under some red cedars back of Piomingo on March 24, 1946. Doves were present in the vicinity, but no nest was found.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO, *Coccyzus americanus*. Uncommon summer resident.

OWLS. The usual owls probably nest on or near the area, but no nests have been found. The Barred Owl is a fairly common permanent resident.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW, *Caprimulgus carolinensis*. Rare summer resident. In the summer of 1945 the Chuck was heard calling throughout the month of July in the area back of Unit 1 at Piomingo. There are also several spring records (Schneider, 1939).

WHIP-POOR-WILL, *Caprimulgus vociferus*. Common summer resident.

NIGHTHAWK, *Chordeiles minor*. May not nest on the area, but are often observed in summer feeding over the park.

CHIMNEY SWIFT, *Chaetura pelagica*. Fairly common summer resident. A nest in the chimney at the lodge at Big Bend contained 3 eggs on July 17, 1945. An adult was caught and banded. There was also an occupied nest in the chimney of the big house at Rockhaven with young on August 2, 1945. Several empty nests could be seen in the other two chimneys, each of which had two flues.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, *Archilochus colubris*. Uncommon summer resident. An old nest was found by the side of the stream that flows out of Morgan's Cave.

**BELTED KINGFISHER**, *Megasceryle alcyon*. Fairly common permanent resident along Otter Creek and the Ohio River.

**YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER**, *Colaptes auratus*. Common permanent resident. A nest was found near the top of a post at the tennis courts. It was unusual in that it was open at the top to the weather. The 5 young were banded on July 2, 1945.

**PILEATED WOODPECKER**, *Hylatomus pileatus*. Uncommon permanent resident. These large birds can be seen and heard in the large trees along Otter Creek at any season of the year.

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER**, *Centurus carolinus*. Fairly common permanent resident.

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER**, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. This species has become very scarce in the park and rarely occurs on lists anymore. If its present rate of decline continues, it may soon be a great rarity in this part of Kentucky.

**HAIRY WOODPECKER**, *Dendrocopus villosus*. Uncommon permanent resident.

**DOWNY WOODPECKER**, *Dendrocopus pubescens*. Common permanent resident. A nest back of Big Bend Camp in a wooded area had 2 large young on June 8, 1944. It was near the top of a rotten snag about 20 feet from the ground. By climbing an adjacent tree and throwing a rope around the snag, we were able to pull the trunk with the nest within reach. One fledgling was banded, but the other escaped. Another nest was observed on May 20, 1945, 20 feet up in a snag on the edge of Blue Hole in Otter Creek. The adults were observed feeding several noisy nestlings.

**EASTERN KINGBIRD**, *Tyrannus tyrannus*. Rare summer resident. A nest was examined in a small oak tree near the bell at Piomingo. It was 12 feet from the ground in a very exposed situation. It contained 3 eggs on June 20, 1941. It is reported that the young were raised successfully.

**CRESTED FLYCATCHER**, *Myiarchus cineritus*. Common summer resident. A nest 10 feet high in a hole near the top of a pole at the tennis court contained 3 large fledglings on June 30, 1945. One young bird was perched on the wire in front of the post, a second was perched in the hole, and both flew away as we approached. A second nest was examined in the same hole on June 9, 1946, and had 5 eggs. Bluebirds had occupied the site in May, 1945.

**EASTERN PHOEBE**, *Sayornis phoebe*. Common summer resident. Nests are placed on the beams of cabins, the sides of covered fireplaces, and under overhanging cliffs in numerous locations. There is nearly always an occupied nest in the mouth of Morgan's Cave. In June, 1941, there was a nest on a beam of the porch of a cabin at Big Bend (ever since called Phoebe's Nest). Whenever anyone entered or left the cabin, either day or night, the incubating parent flushed. In spite of this, several young were raised. A successful nest on the soap dish in the shower room at Big Bend has been described, (McClure, 1946). Nests also have been built under the eaves of the filter plant and on the side of the Van Buren Lodge. Nest building has been observed as early as March 24, 1946.

**ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**, *Empidonax virens*. Fairly common summer resident along all the streams of the area. A nest in a hop hornbeam directly over a small run near the quarry was discovered on July 2, 1945. It was 18 feet above the rocks and contained 3 large nestlings about 9 days old. The nest was very thin and lacked the streamers usually typical of this species. Two newly com-

pleted nests were observed on May 29, 1949. One was 24 feet high in a sugar maple over a dry run; the other was 28 feet up in a beech over a small dry creek. Both nests were so thin that light came through the bottom.

**WOOD PEWEE, *Contopus virens*.** Common summer resident. Three nests have been observed, all in rather large trees in wooded areas. On June 8, 1943, Wood Pewees were noticed carrying nesting material to a partially completed nest in the fork of a black locust, at least 30 feet up. On June 30, 1945, a pair of Wood Pewees were observed diving at a squirrel. They made a clicking sound with their bills as they swooped past the squirrel, which clung close to the tree in fear. The nest was in the same oak tree about 40 feet high and 8 feet from the main trunk. The Pewees flew at me with the same energy as they did at the squirrel as I examined and photographed the beautiful lichen-encrusted nest. It contained 3 eggs. On July 18 the antics of Pewees chasing a Blue Jay attracted my attention to a nest 50 feet up in an oak tree at Big Bend. The nest, which was 12 feet out from the trunk, contained 2 eggs. On July 29, however, it was deserted and empty.

**ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*.** Uncommon summer resident. It has been observed around the quarry, and along Otter Creek.

**BARN SWALLOW, *Hirundo rustica*.** No longer breeds on the park area, but feeds there occasionally in summer.

**PURPLE MARTIN, *Progne subis*.** In 1941 colonies of martins were breeding in boxes at farm houses on two sides of the park. One of these farms was torn down by Fort Knox, and the martin house at the other disintegrated and has not been replaced. However, martins still feed on the area in the late afternoon.

**BLUE JAY, *Cyanocitta cristata*.** Common permanent resident. A nest was found on a horizontal limb in an old apple tree, 10 feet from the ground, near the lumber yard on April 20, 1946. It contained 5 eggs.

**CROW, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*.** Common permanent resident.

**CAROLINA CHICKADEE, *Parus carolinensis*.** Common permanent resident. A nest was noted May 11, 1947, in a hole in a post at the tennis courts 8 feet from the ground. The adults were carrying food. The hole was too small to permit examination of the nest. Chickadees were observed feeding young on June 9, 1946, along Otter Creek.

**TUFTED TITMOUSE, *Parus bicolor*.** Common permanent resident. A nest was discovered by Howard Mitchell in the top of a snag at Lover's leap which contained 2 eggs on June 9, 1946. Families of Titmice are common throughout the area in early summer. They were observed feeding young on April 19, 1946.

**WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH, *Sitta carolinensis*.** Fairly common permanent resident in the wooded sections. Amy Deane reported watching a nest in a hole in a small tree in the spring of 1940. One was observed feeding young along Otter Creek on April 20, 1946.

**BEWICK'S WREN, *Thryomanes bewickii*.** Fairly common summer resident. Pairs have been recorded in the vicinity of almost every building on the area. A nest was found on May 14, 1944, in a coal shed at Tall Trees Camp, containing five eggs. A nest was removed by the camp director from the mail box at Piomingo in June, 1945, when the camp was opened. Another nest was being built in the same box on March 24, 1946.

**CAROLINA WREN, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*.** Fairly common permanent resident. Amy Deane showed me a nest on the porch of the Lodge at Big Bend which on May 14, 1944, had 2 eggs. Another nest was built in a box in the tower of the pumping station at Blue Hole in April, 1946. It was deserted when some repairs were made on the pump. A nest was built on a shelf in the kitchen at Big Bend Lodge in 1949. The birds had entered the kitchen through a hole in the screen. On May 29, the nest contained 3 large nestlings about 3 days old. The parents continued to feed them in spite of the presence of Amy Deane and the Peils' cooking in the stove.

**MOCKINGBIRD, *Mimus polyglottos*.** Rather rare permanent resident on the park area. No nests have been observed.

**CATBIRD, *Dumetella carolinensis*.** Common summer resident. Numerous nests have been found, chiefly around the habitations at Piomingo. The highest one was twelve feet up in a thick deciduous grove near the parking lot. A nest in a red cedar was found by Cornett on May 29, 1949. It contained only 2 eggs, but a broken egg of a Catbird lay on the ground within ten feet of the nest. Another nest also in a red cedar was 7½ feet up.

**BROWN THRASHER, *Toxostoma rufum*.** Uncommon summer resident in the park, becoming less common as the region reverts to the wild. A nest with 3 young was located 6 feet from the ground in a red cedar near the ball field on May 3, 1948. A Brown Thrasher feeding a fledgling barely able to fly was observed on June 9, 1946.

**ROBIN, *Turdus migratorius*.** Fairly common permanent resident, usually scarce in winter, but Robins were common in the park in the winter of 1945-46 because of the proximity of the large roost near Fort Knox (Lovell and Kirkpatrick, 1946). A nest with 4 eggs was found on July 3, 1945, on a beam under the lumber shed, 8 feet above the ground. The nest in this sheltered spot was successful, and the fledglings were ready to leave on July 16. Another nest with two eggs was examined in an apple tree, 4 feet up on a horizontal limb.

(To Be Continued in the November Issue)

## THE WHITE PELICAN AND SNOWY EGRET AT MADISONVILLE

By James W. Hancock

City Lake No. 4, the third smallest of Madisonville's four city-owned lakes and located in Municipal Park, furnished two records on rare water birds during the summer of 1948. The first of these, the White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), was seen there on June 30, at which time the lake held only an estimated 25,000 gallons of water. Two of these huge white birds were swimming at the west end. I noted the black of the primaries and the large beaks with the conspicuous yellow throat pouches, thus feeling positive of the identification.

There are a number of published records on the occurrence of the White Pelican in Kentucky, yet it appears to be only a very rare transient within recent years.

Audubon (1870) writes: "Found on the Ohio River at Louisville and abundant at Henderson." Pindar (1925) says "It is not rare during the migrating season, and is occasionally noted during the winter. A few are said to winter regularly at a small lake in Missouri just across the river from Hickman. On May 10, 1887, one was captured on the Mississippi River near Hickman, and brought to me. . . This bird had probably been crippled during its migration." At Reelfoot Lake, Ganier (1933) writes: "A rare transient species; the line of migration from its breeding grounds in the northwest to its winter home on the Gulf Coast lies considerably west of the Mississippi Valley." He mentions two records, made in 1918 and 1926, and that "Steve Crossley, who has been a hunter here for years, stated in 1919 that he had seen one or two on the lake nearly every season." More recently Dorothy Madden Hobson (1939) recorded two at the Falls of the Ohio, at Louisville, on September 5, 1938.

The second rare water bird, The Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*), I found at City Lake No. 4 on August 27. At this time the lake was very low, holding only an estimated 15,000 gallons of water, and along the south shore considerable marsh grass had appeared. There I had found the Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) on August 20 and on the 27th was looking again for the wren, this time unsuccessfully, when a white heron was seen along the lake shore. At first I thought it to be an immature Little Blue Heron. However, the bird was not particularly shy, and I approached to within 50 feet, first studying it from across a patch of tall marsh grass. From this distance I got an excellent view. The beautiful white plumage, the long dark bill, the legs, yellow behind and dark in front (evidently an immature), and the bright yellow feet, because of which Peterson terms it "The Heron with the golden slippers," were all noted, as well as the yellow spot near the base of the bill. This bird was searching for food with its rapier-like bill, but occasionally it paused and stirred the mud with its feet, another clinching point of identification. I studied the bird leisurely for about thirty minutes. Other birds at the lake were 13 Killdeer, 1 Solitary Sandpiper, and 1 Green Heron, but the Snowy Egret kept to itself. On August 29 I returned, only to find it gone.

Records in Kentucky on the occurrence of the Snowy Egret appear to be even fewer than those of the White Pelican. This species now breeds in the United States local-

ly along the coast from North Carolina to Louisiana and Texas and winters from Florida and Mexico south. Although it is known to stray northward in late summer, it is much rarer there than either the larger American Egret or the Little Blue Heron. Wilson (1854) gives no specific Kentucky records, but he discusses "an extensive breeding place of the Snowy Heron, among the red cedars of Summer's Beach, on the coast of Cape May"; so before 1814, it could be seen breeding well to the north of us. Pindar (1889) called it a "summer resident, growing commoner every year" at Hickman. However, in 1925, he wrote, "It did not continue to do so; rare in 1892-3." Ganier (1933) writes, after discussing the American Egret: "The Snowy Egret, a smaller form with plumes curved instead of straight, has not been regularly recorded this far north." At Bowling Green, Gordon Wilson (1945) flushed two Snowy Egrets on July 29, 1944, at the mouth of the Gasper River. Bob Mengel recorded one at Chaney Lake (near Bowling Green) on May 7, 1949. Wilson recorded it again there on May 13. At the Falls of the Ohio, according to Monroe and Mengel (1939): "Six birds were seen on August 21, and nine on August 22, 1937. "Mengel (1948) reports the collection of a Snowy Egret on the Mississippi River in Fulton County, August 23, 1942.

An increase in the northward movements of white herons has been noted by Pough (1948) and others. Pough mentions a considerable increase in the American Egret and writes further: "We have had also a flight of Snowy Egrets and young Little Blue Herons. The Snowy, a predominantly coastal bird, has been quite abundant in New Jersey." This northward movement coincides with my one record of the Snowy Egret at Madisonville.

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## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 1923-1948

By Gordon Wilson

When a society has survived the ills of babyhood and has attained the ripe age of twenty-five, it has a right to be noticed, especially by those who had something to do with its founding or development. The Kentucky Ornithological Society has not had an easy road in its quarter of a century of growth, but it has had from its very birth some devoted friends and supporters. Like the typical American man of business whom the Alger books made so famous, it has had a remarkable rise from humble beginnings to a good-sized state club that need not apologize for its achievements. As one of the three founders I want to tell the rest of you some of the significant happenings in the life of the society that has for so long been a part of my own life.

As early as 1919 some of us widely scattered bird students contemplated a state society, but nothing beyond a friendly exchange of letters resulted. Mr. A. F. Ganier, of Nashville, Tennessee, whom I have so often called our godfather, urged several of us to lay plans for a state group and encouraged us by telling of the beginning of the Tennessee Ornithological Society in 1915. During the winter of 1922-23 Dr. L. Otley Pindar, of Versailles, Mr. B. C. Bacon, of Madisonville, and I exchanged numerous letters and planned to meet in Louisville during the week of the Kentucky Education Association to talk over organization plans. Mr. Bacon was unable to be present, but he sent his notions for a constitution, which served the society until the revision was adopted at Natural Bridge State Park in 1940. Dr. Pindar and I met in the Seelbach Hotel and spent an afternoon discussing plans. Since our membership consisted of three people, we proceeded to appoint or elect or designate, I hardly know what to call it, the officers as follows; President—Dr. Pindar; Vice-President—Mr. Bacon; Secretary-Treasurer—Mr. Wilson. Fortunately, the newspapers of Louisville sent a reporter to cover our conference and, therefore, gave us some much-needed publicity. The news of the new society reached Miss Emilie Yunker the next day; promptly she became our first additional member and remained an ardent supporter to the end of her long and useful life. She interested others at once and was the first great influence in bringing in members from Louisville. As secretary-treasurer, I began to write to all prospects and was able to schedule a rather full program for our first regular meeting, in the spring of 1924. By that time we had several new members. As I was also at that time the secretary of the Wilson Ornithological Club, I asked that larger and better known society to

accept our new state society as an affiliate. Mr. Ganier was the W. O. C. president and arranged for us to become a part of that great society at once. At our first meeting we decided to hold each year a fall meeting, somewhere out in the state. I invited the group to meet at Bowling Green that fall, but we decided to join with the Wilson Club and the Tennessee Ornithological Society in their meeting at Thanksgiving at Nashville. A half dozen of us attended this meeting and got our first look-in on a large national science group. Thus passed the first full year of the life of our K. O. S., a year that even yet seems almost too good to be true.

At the beginning of 1925 THE KENTUCKY WARBLER, named for the only bird that bears the name of our state, made its meek and humble bow to the world. At that time and for some years afterwards it consisted of four small issues of four pages each, but we followed pretty much the order that still prevails in our magazine. I was greatly impressed with THE GULL, published by the California ornithologists, and consciously and unconsciously followed much of its organization. THE WARBLER, now finishing its twenty-fourth volume and greatly enlarged, has had only three editors-in-chief: Gordon Wilson, Burt Monroe, and Harvey Lovell. From being the tiny leaflet it originally was it has become pretty well known all over the country: it has readers everywhere, and its articles are listed in THE WILSON BULLETIN, the Auk, and abstracted in Biological Abstracts and other standard bibliographical publications. In it, as will be mentioned by another speaker, have appeared some valuable and distinctive studies of Kentucky birds.

The spring meeting in Louisville has continued to be our main contact with the general public. Programs have been given every year except the war years of 1943, 1944, and 1945. Besides our own state bird students who have appeared on our spring programs, there have been several from other states, bringing us information about a wide variety of birds. By means of some small grants from the Kentucky Education Association and the financial support of the Beckham Bird Club and their friends, some excellent speakers have been brought from a distance, most of whom have presented moving pictures of birds and wild life. Without doubt the best result of these meetings has been to keep the society before the people of the state and to keep in contact with our members and prospective members in many areas.

Our first regular fall meeting was held at Bowling Green in October, 1925, with programs Friday evening and late Saturday morning and an early-morning bird hike to the bird sanctuary of the late Carl D. Herdman, just south of the town. For this occasion we also secured the loan of a large number of prints of the original Elephant Folio of Audubon. Miss Susan Starling Towles, librarian of the Henderson Public Library, who was working hard then to promote what is now the Audubon Memorial State Park, near Henderson, sent the prints. Many of them were bought by our members for their own libraries. A rather large group of people in Bowling Green and in Western attended this fall session. We began to feel rather proud of our little society.

As the years have passed, the fall meeting has become our best single feature as a society. Through it we have come to know each other better; we have had a heart-to-heart session in some of the beauty spots of Kentucky; we have recorded a fair number of birds, too, though the time for our meeting is necessarily one when birds are not too numerous. For the record, it would be well to mention

our meeting places and the areas covered in our field trips, whenever they have differed from the meeting places themselves.

1924—K. O. S. met with T. O. S. and W. O. C. at Nashville; 1925—Bowling Green and Carl D. Herdman's Bird Sanctuary; 1926—Henderson and Atkinson Park; 1927—Murray and Devil's Pulpit; 1928—Hodgenville and the Lincoln Farm; 1929—Elkton and Todd County Cliffs; 1930—Marion and Panther Hollow; 1931—Bowling Green and the Green River Cliffs near Brownsville; 1932—Madisonville and Spring Lake Sanctuary; 1933—Madisonville and Spring Lake Sanctuary; 1934—Wickliffe and Reelfoot Lake; 1935—Mammoth Cave National Park; 1936—Franklin and Red River with T. O. S.; 1937—Henderson and Audubon Park and Diamond Island; 1938—Lexington and Berea and Simms Farm on Shady Lane Pike; 1939—Paducah and Lake Genevieve and also Louisville with the W. O. C.; 1940—Natural Bridge State Park; 1941—Sulphur Well; 1942—Berea and Twin Mountains, Big Hill; 1943 and 1944—no meeting; 1945—Mammoth Cave National Park; 1946—Cumberland Falls State Park and Cumberland National Forest; 1947—Murray and Kentucky Lake and Woodlands National Wild Life Refuge; 1948—Glasgow.

No society can run itself. We have been fortunate in the devotion of our official family to the interest of our society. Serving as an officer in the K. O. S. is a genuine labor of love and has always been just that to the many people who have directed our affairs. Again I feel that a complete list of the quarter of a century should be given.

#### PRESIDENT

L. Otley Pindar, M. D.,  
Spring, 1923-25  
Gordon Wilson, 1925-1929  
T. Atchison Frazer, M. D. 1930-33  
Brasher C. Bacon, 1934-1938  
Burt L. Monroe, 1939  
Evelyn J. Schneider, 1940-41  
Harvey B. Lovell, 1942-44  
Victor K. Dodge, 1945  
Gordon Wilson, 1946-47  
Mabel Slack, 1948

#### VICE-PRESIDENT

Brasher C. Bacon,  
Spring, 1923-25  
Emilie Yunker, 1925-1929  
Mary May Wyman, 1930-33  
T. Atchison Frazer, 1934  
Edward M. Ray, 1935-36  
Gordon Wilson, 1937  
Burt L. Monroe, 1938  
Raymond J. Fleetwood, 1939-40  
Virgil D. King, 1941  
Mabel Slack, 1942-43  
Victor K. Dodge, 1944  
Mabel Slack, 1945-46  
Mary Lou Frei, 1947  
James W. Hancock, 1948

SECRETARY-TREASURER.—Gordon Wilson, 1923-25 (spring), Mrs. Charles McBride, 1925 (fall)-1929; Edward M. Ray, 1930-33; Mabel Slack, 1934-36; Evelyn J. Schneider, 1937-38; Edward M. Ray, 1939; Virgil D. King, 1940; Thelma Gentry, 1941-43; Mrs. Mary Lou Frei, 1943; Helen G. Browning, 1944-47; Mrs. Nelson Nuckols, 1948.

To this list of officers should be added the long list of Councilors, who have kept our society before the public in their respective areas and have given freely of their time to the K. O. S. But an army, except a Mexican army, cannot operate on officers alone; our rank and file have made official life in the K. O. S. pleasant. I doubt whether any similar organization has a more loyal following. The best illustration of this loyalty is that our membership grew steadily through the war years, in spite of the war itself and the fact that we had to miss three spring and two fall meetings. What other group has such a record?

For such a small society the K. O. S. has had many remarkable members. A whole hour could be spent profitably discussing personalities. I shall limit myself to three, all of whom gave a distinctive stamp to the society and loved its every activity.

Only a few of us ever knew Dr. L. Otley Pindar. When the society was formed, he was already in very bad health and steadily grew worse until he was an invalid. He died in 1936, leaving some \$300 as an endowment for the society that he had helped to found. It was my privilege to know him rather well in the early years of the society and again in 1932, when he was able to attend the Madisonville meeting as the guest of Mr. B. C. Bacon. This was the first time that the three founders had ever been together. He was an able student, a persistent observer, and a cultured gentleman of the old school. His ornithological work was chiefly done in his young manhood at Hickman, Kentucky, where his father was an Episcopalian minister. After he left Hickman, he attended medical college and practiced actively until after World War I. During that war he contracted amoebic dysentery, from which he was never again free. Whenever any undue strain came upon him from disease or overwork, he fell again a victim to his early sufferings and ultimately succumbed to these attacks, like the great Alexander Wilson, who suffered from the same disease, contracted in the swamps of Mississippi on his long solitary horseback trip in 1810. Another benefactor of Dr. Pindar's will was the Wilson Ornithological Club, of which he was also a founder. It is a great tribute to any man that he was able to help start two such valuable organizations and aid them in continuing as scientific outlets for hundreds of people of his own and after times.

Another stalwart in our K. O. S. whom we should never forget was Miss Emilie Yunker, a little bundle of enthusiasm for whatever she undertook. It was largely through her efforts that our society built up its early membership in Louisville. She preached and lived the K. O. S. in all her numerous duties as director of nature study and school gardening for the Louisville schools. She became one of the early members of the Beckham Bird Club and attended nearly every one of its meetings. She rarely missed any of our fall meetings out in the state and clambered around dangerous precipices or over fallen timber on our field trips, as youthful as the youngest of our group. On her last field trip with the society, when many of us went to Nashville in the fall of 1940 to help the Tennessee Ornithological Society celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary, she was just as active as ever and talked enthusiastically to Dr. George Mayfield and me of what she intended to do after she retired. She died in service the next spring, having missed only two days in fifty-six years of teaching and supervising, and one of those was the day before her death. Many of our members have known more about birds than she did, but none of us will ever love bird people any more or more joyously promote our society.

Though he is still among us—God bless him!—Dr. T. Atcherson Frazer should be listed in this group of great personalities. For some years, following a very serious illness that almost took his life, Dr. Frazer has had to curtail most of his activities, but he is still as interested in birds as he was in his earlier days. In almost constant pain, he goes about his office work or walks slowly along the streets of Marion, slowed down but not defeated yet. No one of us has made birds so complete a part of our lives as he has. A busy physician for more years than most of us have lived, he has kept his

eyes and ears open as few mortals ever do. It has been one of my real joys to accompany him on many field trips and not a few calls in the rugged county where he has practiced so long. A man of great faith, a kind father and neighbor, a conservationist among the oldest and most prominent, a life-long friend of that great conservationist who has so lately retired from active service—Tom Wallace of the LOUISVILLE TIMES—he is a daily advertisement of man's responsibility to nature, of man's infinite connections with plant and tree and flower and bird. For years we have called him, and rightly so, K. O. S.'s "Grand Old Man."

The three I have mentioned were Kentuckians, all of them faithful members and officers of our society. It would not be fair to the younger generation of our group and to those who come after us if I failed to mention an outsider who has been one of us since the K. O. S. came into being. In fact, there would probably be no such society if it had not been for the friendship and good wishes of Albert F. Ganier, our godfather, as I have already called him. I have known him since 1919, when my first Christmas census appeared in BIRD-LORE. He wrote me at once after it was printed, urging the bird students of Kentucky to get together. I soon met him, I have visited in his home and he in mine, I have had many delightful field trips in Kentucky and Tennessee with him, and we have rejoiced at having him at a large number of our fall meetings and some of our spring meetings. He is everybody's friend, a natural-born mixer with all sorts of people. Deprived long ago of his keen hearing, he has developed an eyesight that has often seemed to me like something mysterious. He seems to hear with other ears than those that ordinary mortals possess; he marches, like Thoreau, to the music of a bugler whose tones we do not comprehend. When we first met, we were the parents of small children; my son, now a graduate student, was not even born. Now we are grandparents; we have grown into middle age together, still ardently fond of each other and boyishly fond of birds. If we of the K. O. S. ever feel the need of a patron saint, I propose Saint Albert, the patron saint of birds of Kentucky and Tennessee and of all who diligently seek to know them.

In the nature of things, those who celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of anything or anybody and give reminiscences of the earliest days are already middle-aged or old. They have taken the accepted right of older people to enumerate events that took place long, long ago. If that were all in this celebration, it would be slightly pathetic, no matter how important we oldsters may have been or felt ourselves to be. If this celebration ends all our activity as a society, it would have been better to forget our origin and forge ahead in newer achievements. But every person profits by knowing the origin of himself and his best-loved interests. It is my devout wish that this little review of our history will spur all of us to regard this quarter of a century as a mere planted period, when we were just getting a good, solid growth under protection; ahead of us are years and years when our members individually and our society as a whole can and will achieve such knowledge that all of us here will seem like primitive people who little sensed what great things we have set in motion. It will be to our eternal glory as ornithologists if our followers can accomplish greater things than we have ever dreamed. The first period of our society is over. *Le Roi est mort! Vive le Roi!* But hail to his successor, the next age, so much better equipped for achievement than the old monarch.

## FIELD NOTES

### BLUE GROSBEAK AT MURRAY

On April 25, 1949, I was attracted by a finch-like call to a wooded area surrounded by corn fields and blackberry briars. This area is just north of the Murray College Campus and north of Highways 121 and 94. I located the sounds, which were being made by Blue Grosbeaks (*Guiraca coerulea*). There were at least a dozen birds, both females and males, in a pignut hickory. There could have been more, as the leaves were fairly large and concealed them at times.

The birds were large sparrow size. The males were dark blue, with two cinnamon-brown wing bars. The females were a soft brown throughout. The birds were observed so closely that there can be no reasonable doubt as to their identification.

Pindar (1889) reported the Blue Grosbeak as a "very rare summer visitant." In his later article (1925) he called it "a very rare summer habitant." Mrs. John H. Mayer (1941) at Cynthiana reported it on May 2, 1932, and on five subsequent years to May 18, 1937. There appears to be no record of a specimen's having been taken in the state as yet.

—GRACE WYATT, Murray State College, Murray.

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### AN OSPREY'S AND A BALD EAGLE'S NEST AT KENTUCKY LAKE

Several times during June, 1949, while fishing on Blood River, an arm of Kentucky Lake we observed Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) also catching fish and flying off in a southerly direction. A few days later I was in one of the bays and located the nest on a high hill about a quarter of a mile from the lake. The two adult Ospreys were flying to and from the nest with fish.

The nest of the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is actually in Tennessee, about one-half mile over the state line on the edge of the lake. However, the Kentucky line runs straight down the center of the lake for about ten miles at this point so that the birds actually feed nearly half of their time in Kentucky. Apparently the eagles have been here for at least 3 years, and I have observed them for two. The nest used last year (1948) was in a large red oak on a sharp little hill about 150 yards from the lake. Another nest, not being used, is located about one-quarter mile north of this point. Last year only one bird was raised, and again this year there is only one young in the nest.

—JOHN DeLIME, 101 N. 16th St., Murray.

\* \* \* \* \*

### SNOWY EGRETS AT FALLS OF THE OHIO

On the morning of July 28, 1949, Harvey Lovell, John Lovell, and Donald Summerfield visited the Falls of the Ohio below the hydroelectric dam. The water had dropped down so rapidly during

the previous two days that large stretches of coral reef had risen above the surface.

While observing a group of feeding American Egrets and immature Little Blue Herons, one individual was observed to be different in markings from either. Our attention aroused, we trained a 20-power Bausch and Lomb prismatic telescope on the bird. As it shuffled in the water for food, it could be seen that the feet were quite yellow in contrast to the blackish legs. In order to get a better look at the feet, young John Lovell was sent ahead to flush it, while we watched. The feet through the telescope were definitely seen to be bright yellow in contrast to the darker legs, which confirmed the identification as the Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*). Attention is called to the fact that had it not been for the increased magnification afforded by the 20-power scope, this bird would have probably been overlooked.

An August 4, the junior author again visited the falls and counted no fewer than 6 Snowy Egrets. On August 11, both of us returned and observed at least 2 Snowy Egrets at close range. They were compared in detail through the telescope with immature Little Blues in order to find other points of distinction in case the feet could not be seen. The bill of the Snowy is considerably darker in general, with a contrasting yellow spot at the base which could be clearly seen. The front of the legs of the Snowy is considerably darker than the back, a fact that could be plainly seen in a bird that was standing with its side to us. Of the two birds one was adult, the other immature, as shown by the greater contrast between the coloring of the feet and legs of the former.

Although there were from 30 to 40 Little Blue Herons in the white immature plumage on all three dates, we saw only one adult in the blue plumage on August 4 and 11.

—DONALD SUMMERFIELD, Valley Station, and HARVEY B. LOVELL, Louisville.

#### LATE DATES FOR WATER BIRDS AT KENTUCKY LAKE

During the spring of 1949, I took special care to record the latest dates on migratory water birds on Kentucky Lake. The following dates appear to be of interest. Caspian Tern, May 4; Common Tern, May 12; Ring-billed Gull, May 16; Shoveller and Gadwall, May 5; Red-breasted Merganser and Lesser Scaup, June 3; Common Loon, June 3.

On May 6, 1949, at the Kentucky Dam fill, I flushed a Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) twice, once as close as 30 feet, and observed its markings, such as its flashy black and white wings, clearly. This appears to be the first published record for this large shorebird at Kentucky Lake.

—JOHN MORSE, Benton.

MIGRATION BIRD COUNT Spring of 1949 Edited by Gordon Wilson	Murray 1.	Murray 2	Madisonville	Bowl'g Green 1	Bowl'g Green 2	Louisville	Anchorage
1. Common Loon			c				
2. Pied-billed Grebe			c	c	c		c
3. Great Blue Heron		c			c		
4. Snowy Egret					c		
5. Little Blue Heron					c		
6. Green Heron	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
7. Black-cr. Night Heron				c	c	c	c
8. Yellow-cr. Night Heron				x	c	c	c
9. American Bittern				c			
10. Common Mallard				c			
11. Black Duck					c		x
12. Gadwall							c
13. Pintail				c			
14. Green-winged Teal				x	c		x
15. Blue-winged Teal	c			c	c	c	c
16. Baldpate				c	c	c	c
18. Shoveller				c			c
19. Wood Duck					c	c	c
20. Ring-necked Duck				c	c		x
21. Lesser Scaup			c	c	c	c	
22. Hooded Merganser						c	c
23. Red-breasted Merganser					c		x
24. Turkey Vulture	c	c	x		c	c	c
25. Black Vulture					c	c	c
26. Cooper's Hawk						c	c
27. Red-tailed Hawk						c	c
28. Red-shouldered Hawk	c	c	c	c		c	c
29. Broad-winged Hawk						c	
30. Marsh Hawk		c					
31. Osprey			x				c
32. Duck Hawk							c
33. Sparrow Hawk			c	c	c	c	c
34. Bob-white	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
35. King Rail				x			
36. Virginia Rail							c
37. Sora			c				c
38. Coot		c	c	c	c	c	c

MIGRATION BIRD COUNT Spring of 1949	Murray 1	Murray 2	Madisonville	Bowl'g Green 1	Bowl'g Green 2	Louisville	Anchorage
39. Semipalmated Plover				x	c		c
40. Killdeer	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
41. Black-bellied Plover					c		
42. Woodcock			x				
43. Wilson's Snipe	c		c	c	c		c
44. Upland Plover	c						
45. Spotted Sandpiper	c	c	x	c	c	c	c
46. Solitary Sandpiper	c		c	c	c	c	c
47. Greater Yellow-legs				c	c		c
48. Lesser Yellow-legs				c	c	c	c
49. Pectoral Sandpiper				c		c	c
50. Least Sandpiper					c		c
51. Dowitcher				c			
52. Semipalmated Sandpiper					c		c
53. Wilson's Phalarope				x			
54. Herring Gull					c		c
55. Ring-billed Gull	c						c
56. Common Tern							x
57. Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
58. Yellow-billed Cuckoo	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
59. Black-billed Cuckoo			c				
60. Screech Owl			c				
61. Great Horned Owl							x
62. Barred Owl	c	c	c			c	c
63. Chuck-will's-widow	c	c	c	c		c	c
64. Whip-poor-will	c	c	c	c		c	c
65. Nighthawk	c	c	x	c	c	c	c
66. Chimney Swift	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
67. Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	c	c	x	x	c	c	c
68. Belted Kingfisher	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
69. Flicker	c	c	c	c		c	c
70. Pileated Woodpecker	c		c	c	c	c	x
71. Red-bellied Woodpecker			c	c	c	c	c
72. Red-headed Woodpecker	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
73. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker							x
74. Hairy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
75. Downy Woodpecker	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
76. Kingbird	c	c	c	c	c	c	c



MIGRATION BIRD COUNT Spring of 1949							
	Murray 1	Murray 2	Madisonville	Bowl'g Green 1	Bowl'g Green 2	Louisville	Anchorage
115. Yellow-throated Vireo	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
116. Red-eyed Vireo	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
117. Philadelphia Vireo							x
118. Warbling Vireo			c	c	c	c	c
119. Black and White Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
120. Prothonotary Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
121. Swainson's Warbler			c	x			
122. Worm-eating Warbler				c	c	c	x
123. Golden-winged Warbler			c				
124. Blue-winged Warbler	c		c	c	c		c
125. Tennessee Warbler	c	c	c	x	c	c	c
126. Nashville Warbler			c	c			c
127. Parula Warbler						c	c
128. Yellow Warbler	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
129. Magnolia Warbler			c	c		c	c
130. Cape May Warbler						c	c
131. Black-thr. Blue Warbler							c
132. Myrtle Warbler	c	c	c	c		c	c
133. Black-thr. Green Warbler		c	c	c	c	c	c
134. Cerulean Warbler			c	c	c	c	c
135. Blackburnian Warbler				x			c
136. Sycamore Warbler			c	c	c	c	c
137. Chestnut-sided Warbler			c			c	c
138. Bay-breasted Warbler						c	x
139. Black-poll Warbler	c	c	x	c	c	c	c
140. Pine Warbler	c						c
141. Prairie Warbler	c	c	c	c	c		c
142. Palm Warbler		c	c	c		c	c
143. Yellow Palm Warbler	c	c					
144. Oven-bird			c	x	c	c	c
145. Northern Water-Thrush			c	c			c
146. Louisiana Water-Thrush	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
147. Kentucky Warbler			c	c	c	c	c
148. Yellow-throat	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
149. Yellow-breasted Chat	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
150. Hooded Warbler			c	c		c	x
151. Wilson's Warbler							c
152. Canada Warbler							c

MIGRATION BIRD COUNT Spring of 1949	Murray 1	Murray 2	Madisonville	Bowl'g Green 1	Bowl'g Green 2	Louisville	Anchorage
153. Redstart		c	x	c	c	c	c
154. English Sparrow	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
155. Bobolink	c	c		c		c	c
156. Meadowlark	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
157. Red-wing	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
158. Orchard Oriole	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
159. Baltimore Oriole	c	c	c	c		c	c
160. Bronzed Grackle	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
161. Cowbird	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
162. Scarlet Tanager	c	c	c	c		c	c
163. Summer Tanager	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
164. Cardinal	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
165. Rose-breasted Grosbeak			c	c		c	c
166. Indigo Bunting	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
167. Dickcissel	c	c		c	c	c	c
168. Purple Finch				c			x
169. Goldfinch	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
170. Red-eyed Towhee	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
171. Savannah Sparrow	c	c		x	c		c
172. Grasshopper Sparrow	c	c		c	c	c	c
173. Henslow's Sparrow							c
174. Lark Sparrow				c			
175. Bachman's Sparrow							c
176. Chipping Sparrow	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
177. Field Sparrow	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
178. White-crowned Sparrow	c	c	c	c		c	c
179. White-throated Sparrow	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
180. Lincoln's Sparrow			x				
181. Swamp Sparrow	c	c	c	x			c
182. Song Sparrow						c	c

MURRAY—April 27; 5 A. M. to 12 noon; 1 P. M. to 8 P. M. College Farm, Doran Farm, Wildcat Creek. Sky overcast and almost to point of raining several times during the day. Temp. 66-75. The persons participating in the two counts were members of the Field Biology class, spring semester, Murray State College. Miss Wyatt and three students went out at two-hour intervals, so as not to interfere with other classes. One unidentified Empidonax was listed. The count could have been increased somewhat if there had been another person along who knew warblers, and if we could have been out long

enough to get to Kentucky Lake. Total, 90 species.—BETTY BARBER, JERRY BEAUCHAMP, VIRGINIA BERRY, CHRISTINE BROWN, NORMAN AUSTIN, BARBARA CURTISS, EMMA LOIS CARTER, MABEL CISSELL, TED DE WITT, KELLY FITZGERALD, LOUISE GRAVES, VANDA JEAN GIBSON, WAYNE GUERIN, GLORIA GIGLIA, IRBY HURT, CHARLIE LEE LASSITER, REVA LAWSON, ROY MAYES, MINNIE MALLORY, DALE McDANIEL, MARCELLA MADDOX, MARY NANCE, POWELL PUCKETT, ALTON ROGERS, HAZEL RAMMAGE, PATSY ANN SOWERS, EDNA SMITH, BETTY JO THOMPSON, JEANETTE TOWNSEND, POLLY TUCKER, NANCY WILLIAMS, THOMAS WILKINSON, and THOMAS BUTLER (not a member of the class).—GRACE WYATT (compiler).

MURRAY—May 3; same time and same participants. Clear; little wind; very warm; temp. 65 at 5 A. M., 88 at 3 P. M. Total, 90 species.

MADISONVILLE—May 2; 4 A. M. to 7:30 P. M. Clear Creek, six lakes at Madisonville and Earlington, streets, fields, and cat-tail marsh. Clear; calm; temp. 55 to 81. Total for count, 99; for period studied, 111. An immature Sora perched in a willow at Brown Meadow Lake and allowed leisure observation at fifteen feet; a Chuck-will's-widow called many times about 9:30 A. M. The Swainson's Warbler has been at Clear Creek since April 24 and was studied at 50 feet on April 27, while in full song. Shorebirds were scarce this spring.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

BOWLING GREEN.—April 29 to May 1; McElroy Farm, 4:30 to 7 P. M., April 29; Mouth of Gasper, 4:30 to 8 A. M., April 30; Chaney Lake, 1 to 4:30 P. M., April 30; Lost River and Three Springs, 10 A. M. to 12 noon, May 1. Cool; clear. Total, 111 for count; 127 for period. The day after the count ended Bob and Jane Mengel went with me to the Chaney Lake, adding most of the starred forms. Two others will be reported later by Bob.—GORDON WILSON.

BOWLING GREEN—May 13 to May 15; Around Chaney Lake, 3:45 to 6 P. M., May 13; along McElroy Lake, 1:45 to 4:30 P. M., May 14; Mouth of Gasper, 9 A. M. to 5 P. M., May 15. Warm; clear. Total, 108.—GORDON WILSON.

LOUISVILLE—May 8; all day; clear. Indian Hills, River Road, Pond Creek, Sleepy Hollow, and adjacent areas east of Louisville in Jefferson and Oldham Counties. Parties met at Belknap's Farm, overlooking the Ohio River, for lunch. Total, 117 species.—MR. and MRS. LEONARD C. BRECHER, HARRIET CLARK, MR. and MRS. WALTON JACKSON, HAZEL KINSLOW, DORIS KLEIN, MR. and MRS. HARVEY B. LOVELL, EDITH PEARSON, MABEL SLACK, EVELYN J. SCHNEIDER, ANNE L. STAMM, CHARLES STRULL, MR. and MRS. WALTER SHACKLETON, FAN TABLER, MR. and MRS. S. CHARLES THACHER, and AUDREY WRIGHT.

ANCHORAGE—May 7 and 8; 4 A. M. to 7 P. M. each day. Anchorage, Goshen, Prospect, Indian Hills, Iroquois Park, and Ohio River to Twelve Mile Island. Open fields, deciduous woods, flooded pastures and swamps. Temp. 65 to 80; weather fair, few clouds, slight breeze on each day. Total, 139 for count, 155 for period.—BURT L. MONROE, JR., BURT L. MONROE, SR., WALTER H. SHACKLETON, and ROBERT STEILBERG. (This is by far the largest spring count ever done in Kentucky; congratulations to the four brave searchers for birds!—Editor).

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### BECKHAM BIRD CLUB NOTES

1948-1949

The year 1948-1949 contained many varied and interesting activities for the Beckham Bird Club. The following persons presented talks as listed: Mr. James B. Young, POINTERS ON IDENTIFYING FALL WARBLERS; Dr. William Clay, FORM, FUNCTION, AND FLIGHT; Miss Frances Howard, AUDUBON NATURE CAMP IN TEXAS; Mrs. Wm. B. Tabler, BIRDS AT FRENCH RIVER, CANADA, SUMMER, 1948; Miss Evelyn Schneider, BANFF, LAKE LOUISE, AND JASPER PARK; Mrs. Walter Shackleton, WINTER FEEDING; Burt Monroe, Jr., USE OF THE AOU CHECKLIST; Mrs. Carl Connett, BIRDS OVER AMERICA (Book Review); Leonard Brecher, HISTORICAL FACTORS IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF BIRDS; Edith Pearson, LIFE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN WOODCOCK; Donald Summerfield, MEANING OF SOME SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF BIRDS AS LISTED ON THE AOU CHECKLIST; Mrs. F. W. Stamm, SPARROWS WE KNOW.

A series of field trips scheduled for Saturdays and Sundays alternately were planned for the year under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. S. Charles Thacher. Various kinds of habitats were visited. Some of the high-lights of the field trips included a juvenal Great Horned Owl seen at Sleepy Hollow and a Prairie Warbler's nest with 4 eggs at Otter Creek. Reports of the spring migration and Christmas Census counts have already appeared in the WARBLER.

The migration chart program carried on by Mr. Matthias Bruhn was continued during the year. Also Mr. Charles Strull's project of observing migrating birds at night through telescopes as they pass across the moon was continued with a great deal of profit and interest.

The Beckham Bird Club participated in cooperation with the Kentucky Society of Natural History in the presentation of the 5th Annual Audubon Screen Tour Lectures. With several other groups the Club also participated in the 9th Kentucky Wildlife Conference at Otter Creek on Sept. 24-26, 1948. 152 persons attended this meeting.

Items of business transacted by the Beckham Bird Club during the year were: 1. It was voted to make two offices from the newly created office of Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer; namely, office of Corresponding Secretary and office of Treasurer; 2. It was also voted that the Courier-Journal and Times be asked to make every

effort to verify facts in articles on birds by consulting Dr. Lovell, Dr. Clay, Mr. Burt Monroe, or Mr. Sipe, warden, before printing the articles.

At the May meeting of the Club the following officers were elected for the year 1949-50: President, Donald Summerfield; Vice-President, Helen G. Browning; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Harvey B. Lovell; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Leonard Brecher; Treasurer, Mrs. Wm. B. Tabler; Directors: Mrs. Francis Shannon, Evelyn J. Schneider, Leonard Brecher. Seventeen new members were added during the year.

Beckham Bird Club members who attended national ornithological society meetings were: Mr. Burt Monroe, American Ornithological Union meeting at Omaha, Nebraska, October 12-15, 1948; Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Misses Mabel Slack and Helen Browning, Messrs. Burt Monroe and Leonard Brecher and Dr. William Clay, the Wilson Ornithological Club meeting at Madison, Wisconsin, April 20-22, 1949.

The Club ended the year with its annual Cuckoo Party at Iroquois Lodge on June 14, 1949, where a delightful supper was served under the chairmanship of Mrs. Leonard Brecher, and a very entertaining program was presented under the direction of Mr. Donald Summerfield, Chairman of the Social Committee. Eighty-five members and friends attended.

—HELEN G. BROWNING, Recording Secretary

**SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES** is the name of a new publication of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union. The first issue of 20 pages contains a variety of interesting articles about S. D. birds and ornithologists. The price seems a little high, dues \$3.00 a year, or subscription \$4.00, single copies \$1.00. Prospective members or contributors should contact the treasurer, S. H. Rames, Mitchell, S. D., or editor, E. R. Lamster, Pierre, S. D. The format is good, the tone is serious, the articles informative. We congratulate editor Lamster on his propitious start.

Burt Monroe, Jr., is naturalist at the camp of the Junior Conservation Clubs at Dale Hollow this summer. The State Department of Fish and Game are doing a fine job of education through these Clubs, which have been organized in a large number of schools throughout the state.

Robert Mengel is again touring Kentucky this summer collecting data for his thesis at the University of Michigan. Reports of his activities have come to us from various parts of the state.

**K. O. S. FALL MEETING AT HENDERSON.** A joint meeting will be held with the Indiana Audubon Society on October 14, 15 and 16. An interesting program is being planned, which will include a trip to Audubon State Park. There are some fine cabins at this park equipped for light house-keeping. The largest hotel at Henderson is the Soaper. When making reservations, mention the K. O. S. **BE SURE TO ATTEND.**