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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."*

Vol. XXVI

FEBRUARY, 1950

No. 1

RUFFED GROUSE NESTING SITES ON THE LAUREL DISTRICT CUMBERLAND NATIONAL FOREST

By FREDERICK C. HARDY, Federal Aid Project Leader

During the nesting seasons of 1948 and 1949 the writer had an opportunity to make observations on nine nesting sites of the Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) in the Laurel District of the Cumberland National Forest. Nests were reported by mine operators, farmers, or employees of the U. S. Forest Service, or were found during field surveys by personnel of Federal Aid Project 18-R, Kentucky Division of Game and Fish. Information obtained in 1949 is a contribution from the Project.

Published data on ruffed grouse nesting sites in Kentucky are scarce or lacking. Bump, Darrow, Edminster, and Crissey (1947) summarized cover and site data from 1,270 New York nests as follows: "Woodland types are strongly favored as nesting cover. Of these, nests are most likely to be found in second growth hardwoods; least likely to be placed among conifers. Most birds are reluctant to nest where the undergrowth is dense. Grouse prefer to nest at the base of a tree. Slope, degree, or aspect does not materially influence the choice of a nesting site."

The study area lies in northern McCreary County and southern Pulaski County in deeply eroded Cumberland Plateau sandstone formation. Approximately 95 per cent of the area is covered by mixed forests typical of the region. Common forest cover types are: Black Oak-Scarlet Oak, Yellow Pine, White Oak, Hemlock-Hardwoods, Northern Hardwoods, and River Birch-Sycamore. The area is drained by Cave, Beaver, Mill, and Indian Creeks, all of which are tributaries of the Cumberland River.

GENERAL LOCATION

General location of nests, dates of observation, and status when first observed are as follows:

Nest No.	Location	Date of Observations	Status When First Observed
1	2.75 Miles N.E. Greenwood, McCreary Co.	May 8—May 21, 1948	Incubating
2	4 Miles N.E. Alpine, Pulaski Co.	May 22—June 13, 1948	Incubating
3	1.5 Miles N. Sawyer, McCreary Co.	June 10, 1948	Hatched
4	2.5 Miles N. Honeybee, McCreary Co.	May 2—May 10, 1949	Incubating
5	5 Miles N.E. Greenwood, McCreary Co.	May 11—May 31, 1949	Laying
6	4.5 Miles N.E. Greenwood, McCreary Co.	May 11—May 13, 1949	Deserted
7	3.5 Miles E. Alpine, Pulaski Co.	May 19, 1949	Robbed
8	5 Miles N.E. Greenwood, McCreary Co.	May 25, 1949	Deserted
9	0.5 Miles N.E. Greenwood, McCreary Co.	May 27, 1949	Hatched

IMMEDIATE SITE

Bases of trees, under fallen treetops, and under stumps were the three sites selected for nesting. Six of the nine nests were located at the base of a tree. Nests 1, 2, and 8 were found at the base of pine trees (*Pinus echinata* and *P. virginiana*). Two of these trees were 10 inches DBH and one was 6 inches. Nests 3 and 5 were at the base of white oaks (*Quercus alba*), diameter of which were 5 and 7 inches, respectively. Site 6 was at the base of a 6-inch red maple (*Acer rubrum*). Nests 4 and 7 were located under recently-fallen pine treetops. Nest 9 was located under a hollowed pine stump.

The nest itself, in all cases, was a shallow, cup-shaped depression in the existing ground material of pine needles or deciduous leaves. Inside dimensions of Nest 1 were as follows: Diameter at top, 7½ inches; depth in center, 2½ inches. Other nests appeared to be of similar size.

Immediate nest cover, in all cases, was sparse. A degree of overhead protection was found at the sites under pine tops and at the one under a stump. At Site 6 a horizontal section of a large grapevine grew about 6 inches above the nest. Front cover at Sites 1, 2, 3, and 4 was re-

stricted to a few strands of dead *Smilax* sp. At Site 5 a front view of the nest was slightly obscured by one holly (*Ilex opaca*) and two unidentified sprouts growing at the edge of the nest. Ferns and one blueberry (*Vaccinium* sp.) partially concealed Nest 8 from a front approach. A few maple sprouts growing in front of Nest 6 gave only nominal cover.

Nests 5 and 6 were loosely covered with leaves when discovered.

All nests, with the exception of Sites 5 and 6, faced areas of relatively open cover.

COVER TYPE

Nests were found in second growth and overgrown field classes of forest cover. Sites 1 and 7 were found in the pole pine type. Site 2 was located in a pine stand containing both pole and log size trees. The second growth mixed type, a mixture of pole stage pines and hardwoods, was the site for Nest 8. The mixed upland type, containing pines and hardwoods of varying ages, was the site for Nests 4 and 9. The overgrown mixed type contained one nest, Number 3. Second growth slope hardwoods, characterized chiefly by pole stage white oak, was the site for Nests 5 and 6.

Density of stocking of understory species was recorded either as medium or light at all sites. Medium density undergrowth was found at Sites 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Light or open undergrowth was found at Sites 2, 4, and 5.

DEGREE AND ASPECT OF SLOPE

Degree of slope at nesting sites varied between level and steep, each extreme class containing one site. Six of the 9 sites (Numbers 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 9) were located on gentle slopes. Nest 8 was found on a moderate slope, Nest 2 was on comparatively level ground, and Nest 6 was on a steep slope. Of the 8 sites located on sloping terrain, 4 (Numbers 1, 3, 8, and 9) were found on north slopes, 3 (Numbers 4, 5, and 7) on east slopes, and 1 (Number 6) was on a west slope.

LAND USE

Evidence of severe land use in the past was found at all sites except Nest 9. At that site the timber stand contained several trees between 10 and 20 inches in diameter. Timber at Sites 4, 6, and 8 had been repeatedly and heavily

logged during the past 50 years, and no sizeable trees remained in the stand. Sites 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7 were on former crop lands. The interval since last cultivation ranged from approximately 20 years in the case of Site 3 to 40 or 50 years at Sites 1, 2, 5, and 7.

Logging operations were in progress at Sites 1, 4, and 7 at the time of discovery. Such activities as falling trees and snaking logs occurred within 20 feet of the incubating or laying hens. Nest 2 was within 100 feet of the opening and tippie of a truck mine. Loaded trucks, men, and mules regularly passed within 6 feet of the nest during incubation. The remaining sites were not regularly associated with human activities.

SUMMARY

1. Nine ruffed grouse nesting sites were observed in 1948 and 1949.
2. Immediate nest sites were bases of trees, under fallen tree tops, and under a stump.
3. The nests were shallow depressions in the existing ground material.
4. Immediate nest cover, in all cases, was sparse.
5. Sites were located in second growth and overgrown forest classes.
6. Pole pine, pole-log pine, mixed upland, second growth mixed, overgrown mixed, and second growth slope hardwoods were cover types represented.
7. Six of the 9 nests were located on gentle slopes, 1 on a moderate slope, 1 on level ground, and 1 on a steep slope.
8. Four of 8 nests were located on north slopes, 3 were on east slopes, and 1 was on a west slope.
9. Evidence of past severe land use, either cultivation or logging, was found at 8 sites.
10. Logging or mining operations were in progress at 4 sites during laying or incubation.

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- BUMP, GARDINER, ROBERT W. DARROW, FRANK C. EDMINSTER, and WALTER F. CRISSEY.
1947. The Ruffed Grouse, Life History, Propagation, and Management. New York Conservation Department, p. 106.

SEPTEMBER NEST OF THE YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO

By RUTH M. MITCHELL, 4435 S. Third Street, Louisville

While walking in the woods at South Park Fishing Club on the afternoon of September 11, 1949, Bud Mitchell flushed a Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) from her nest. In spite of the lateness of the season, the nest contained three eggs. Mr. Howard Mitchell and I visited the spot along a woodland path later in the day, and we too flushed an incubating bird from her nest. The nest was in a very picturesque setting about six feet from the ground in a mass of hazelnut bushes, young sassafras trees, and a dead sapling. Holding them together was a wild grapevine, with large bunches of grapes hanging close by the nest.

The nest was located in a wooded section composed chiefly of medium-sized oaks, a few maples, hickories, dogwood, and redbud. The trees were moderately spaced, allowing enough light to come through to support a luxuriant growth of small shrubs and young trees. This section had been burned over a few years ago; so only mature trees and young undergrowth covered the land.

On September 16 I returned with Harvey Lovell to check the progress of this late nest. An incubating bird flushed when we had walked to within ten feet of the nest. We took two pictures of the nest and eggs and then left immediately. The temperature was 60 degrees at noon that day, and the nights had been unseasonably cold, with temperatures as low as 48 to 56 degrees.

On September 18, the temperature was 85 degrees at noon, although the nights continued to be cool. We did not find any sign of the cuckoo, and the eggs were cool.

On September 20 we again returned to view the nest, and this time we were certain that the nest was deserted. The eggs were cold, and one had been punctured. We examined this egg and found that the embryo was very tiny. The eggs must either have been laid close to the date we first discovered the nest, or else the cold weather had chilled them soon after laying, and the cuckoo had been incubating addled eggs perhaps for several weeks.

On examining the nest more carefully, we found it set on twigs loosely woven together. It seemed each twig had an angle or fork in it, and the twigs were mostly oak. On top of this framework, there was a layer of dried seed tops, and on top of this there was a padding of closely woven

leaf petioles and leaf skeletons. The leaves had been eaten by caterpillars, and the cuckoo had used the petioles and the veins for the nest. Inside the nest were a few pine needles and some white feathers.

Brecher (1945) has described a nest which he found on August 20 and has given an extensive summary of other late nestings. Hancock (1947) reported an occupied nest on August 25 at Madisonville. The present nest, therefore, appears to be a much later record than any previously reported from the state.

It hardly seems probable that our visits to the nest caused the cuckoo to desert. In view of the cold nights and the shortening days of the fall season, it seems more probable that the impulse to migrate asserted itself, and the parent or parents (we saw only one cuckoo) left for the south. Pettingill (1946) describes an interesting case of nest desertion in Saskatchewan by a Barn Swallow. On September 24 a nest contained live young, but two days later it contained one dead nearly fledged young, and all Barn Swallows had apparently started their southward migration.

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A HERON ROOKERY AT THE FALLS OF THE OHIO

By JERRY R. SMITH, 673 Cecil Avenue, Louisville

On July 8, 1949, I made a trip to the Falls of the Ohio. Bob Steilberg had told me that twice that spring he had seen American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) at the Falls, and I thought they might be nesting on the island under the dam. The Falls being low enough to permit it, I waded across. On the way I saw several Spotted Sandpipers (*Actitis macularia*) and numerous killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*). Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) were feeding in large numbers, and I also spotted three Egrets.

Upon reaching the island, the first indication I had that birds were nesting there was a noise which sounded very much like a dog fight. I pushed my way through the undergrowth and found myself at one end of a heron rookery. This island is a sand bar about two hundred yards long and fifty yards wide. The trees are willow and poplar exclusively. There is considerable undergrowth, especially near the edges. It is situated directly under the dam, near the west end of the Falls, and is well above the usual summer water level. The rookery itself occupied the central portion of the island, being about one hundred yards long and twenty-five yards wide.

The predominant bird of the colony was the Black-crowned Night Heron. I estimated that there were two hundred and fifty nests of this bird. Burt Monroe, Sr., tells me that he went behind the island in a boat after the leaves had been shed and estimated that there were two hundred nests. However, I believe that many of the lower nests have been washed out by high water. The young were in all stages of development. One nest I examined contained an egg and a newly hatched young, and there were several large young flying about. The majority seemed to be about half grown but with the body feathers well developed. When disturbed, the young were much given to regurgitating partly digested fish. They also walked out of their nest and up the branch they were on. The number of young per nest varied from one to three, two being the usual number.

Bent (1926), describing a rookery of Night Herons in Massachusetts, says, "The nests in this rookery vary greatly in size, stability, and composition." Although the composition of the nests in this rookery was fairly constant, being chiefly sticks about a quarter of an inch in diameter with very little lining, some of the nests were so small and crudely built that I thought they must surely be nests of the Green Heron until I saw the familiar brown-spotted young perched on a nearby limb. Others were fairly large, sturdy, well-built nests. They varied in height from six to thirty feet. Most trees contained two or three nests.

I found one nest of the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) containing five downy young. It was removed a little way from the other nests. While the Night Herons were content to leave their nests with a protesting quawk, the Green Heron stayed to fuss. It is possible that the Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) was nesting there also. I saw an adult fly into the rookery. I

found it sitting in a tree containing two nests. After watching it for a while, I flushed it. Instead of leaving the rookery it moved to an adjoining tree. I flushed it again, and still it did not leave this area. Although I did not find its nest, its actions convinced me that it was nesting. This species was first observed in the Louisville area May 24, 1948, and again May 1, 8, and 21, 1949 (Steilberg 1949). Griscom (1949) says of this bird, "Breeding range extended from South Carolina, north to Long Island, New York, and erratically to eastern Massachusetts."

These herons are apparently the ones which were driven from Six Mile Island by continuous persecution. There was no sign of the birds being bothered on the Falls, and it is to be hoped that they will return this year. The location is ideal, with good feeding grounds at hand, and if the birds return and are not molested, I see no reason why they should not do well. I did not have time to cover the rookery well, and so I do not know whether or not the Egrets nested there. I returned twice, intending to check more closely, but the Falls were too high to cross.

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1926. Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds. U. S. Nat'l Mus. Bull., 135 p. 200.

GRISCOM, LUDLOW

1949. The Birds of Concord. p. 133.

STEILBERG, ROBERT

1949. Yellow-crowned Night Herons at Indian Hills Again. Ky. Warbler, 25: 75.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1949-50

Edited by GORDON WILSON

1949 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The count of 82 species by the Kentucky Lake—Kentucky Woodlands—Murray group sets a new inland record for this part of the country. Yet their list includes very few unusual species, although such birds as the Canada Goose, Blue Goose, Red-breasted Merganser, Pigeon Hawk, Brown Thrasher, and Pipit are rarely reported from Kentucky in winter. The unusually mild winter may be partly responsible for some of these. The rather large number of Mourning Doves on some of the counts is of interest in view of the heavy toll taken during the open season. Red-headed Woodpeckers and Red-breasted Nuthatches appear in much better numbers than usual. The

crop of beechnuts was much above normal in 1949; that may help to account for the increase of these two species. The Cedar Waxwing continues to be erratic, occurring abundantly in some sections of the state but being entirely absent in others. The Bewick's Wren continues to winter regularly in the western part of the state but continues absent from other areas. The editors have taken the liberty of eliminating the name of House Wren from two lists. This species is rather hard to identify in winter and closely resembles the Winter Wren. In addition, a large number of Christmas Counts that have been examined show that its normal range is limited in winter to Florida, the Gulf Coast, and perhaps the Atlantic coastal region of Georgia and the Carolinas. The editors wish to thank the many people who have participated in this year's count. In many ways it has been the most satisfactory census we have ever taken in Kentucky.

KENTUCKY LAKE—(From Kentucky Dam southward to New Concord, westward to three miles west of Murray, eastward across Kentucky Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge to Cumberland River; open water 30%, field border 40%, lowland woods 15%, upland woods 4%, shore line 10%, urban 1%).—Dec. 27; 6:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Partly cloudy; temp. 56 to 46; wind N.W., 1-12 m. p. h.; ground very wet. Thirteen observers in seven parties. Total hours, 55 (46 on foot, 6 in motor boat, 3 in car); total miles, 146 (37 on foot, 37 in motor boat, 72 in car). Total, 82 species, about 15,740 individuals.—**TOM BUTLER, EUGENE CYPERT, MARY LOUISE CYPERT, JOHN DELIME, MARY AGNES DELIME, GROVER ELGAN, REX HOLLAND, C. W. KEMPER, KATHLEEN KEY, JOHN MORSE, A. M. WOLFSON, MARY ANN WOLFSON, NANCY WOLFSON.**

MARION—(Marion, Ohio River bottoms, fields, woods and swamps). Dec. 25; all day. Cloudy; temp. 44 at highest. Observers in two parties. Total, 60 species, 12,300 individuals.—**C. L. FRAZER, DR. T. ATCHISON FRAZER, and DOUGLAS TRAVIS.**

MADISONVILLE—(W. W. Hancock Farm, five lakes at Madisonville and Earlington, Brown and Hewlett roads, and cattail marsh; open fields 40%, deciduous woods and thickets 25%, lake shores 25%, cattail marsh 10%). Dec. 29; 6:45 A. M. to 5:15 P. M. Clear; wind S.W. 1-7 m. p. h.; temp. 25 to 60. Total hours, 10½; total miles, 27 (7 on foot, 20 by car). Total, 44 species, 1,238 individuals.—**JAMES W. HANCOCK.**

PROVIDENCE—Webster, Hopkins, and Crittenden Counties; John Norwood, Frazer Brothers, and Will King Farms; woods, fields, streets, fencerows, gardens, backwater, creek and river banks; Ky. 120 from Providence to Dalton Road, Ky. 70; Ky. 120 to Tradewater River; Ky. 85 to Clay; U. S. 41 and Ky. 270 to Lisman). Dec. 29; 6:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear; temp. 23-64. Three observers: Gilchrist alone, Semple and Holt together part time. Total hours, 30; total miles, 65 (5 on foot, 60 by car). Total, 58 species, 4,413 individuals.—**SUSIE HOLDMAN GILCHRIST, MABEL SISK HOLT, and SUE WYATT SEMPLE (Tabulator).**

PENNYRILE STATE PARK—(Deciduous and pine woods and fields within the park area, Pennyrile Lake, and adjoining farmlands. Deciduous woods and thickets 25%, pine woods 25%, open fields in park 25%, farm lands 15%, lake shore 10%). Dec. 22; 6:45 A. M. to 3:45 P. M. Heavy overcast; wind N.W., 19-24 m. p. h.; temp. 46 to 31. Total hours, 9; total miles, 12 (8 on foot, 4 by car). The Red-breasted Nuthatch seems to have increased here slightly. More were

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1949-'50	Kentucky Lake	Marion	Madisonville	Providence	Pennyrite S. P.	Bowling Green	Mammoth Cave	Otter Creek P.	Louisville	Danville	Willard	Berea
	No. of Species	82	60	44	54	37	56	40	42	69	31	17
No. of Species for Period	82	60	52	58	37	62	40	42	76	31	17	31
No. of Individuals	15740	12300	1238	4413	408	6881	612	1138	4103	1198	150	803
No. of Observers	13	3	1	3	1	3	4	9	31	4	1	1
Common Loon	1											
Horned Grebe										1		
Pied-billed Grebe	4		1		3	1			4			
Double-cr. Cormorant	10											
Great Blue Heron	7	2								1		
Canada Goose	1838	7		*								
Blue Goose	3											
Mallard	4680	6000		3		30	7		216			
Black Duck	2300	5000				*	7		200			
Gadwall	76								*			
Baldpate	108									1		
Pintail	7											
Green-winged Teal	1								1			
Shoveller	1											
Wood Duck	15	4										
Redhead	1								1			
Ring-necked Duck	48	2	72						2			
Canvas-back	1		3						10			
Greater Scaup Duck		6							*			
Lesser Scaup Duck	14	8				*		1	154			
Am. Golden-eye	69								1			
Buffle-head	5								8			
Old-squaw									1			
Ruddy Duck									1			
Hooded Merganser	510	2				4						
Am. Merganser	25	2							11			
Red-breasted Merganser	20											
Turkey Vulture	18	5		12		6	48		3	2		*
Black Vulture	10	2		3		5	24		1			
Goshawk				*								
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1										
Cooper's Hawk	2		*			2	2	1	3			
Red-tailed Hawk	3	1	1	1	1	2			2	3		
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	3	*	13		2	3	2	3			
Rough-legged Hawk				1		*				1		
Bald Eagle	9						1		*			
Marsh Hawk	3	2	1	2					5	1		
Osprey		1										
Pigeon Hawk	1											
Sparrow Hawk	4	1	3	9		1			22	16		3
Ruffed Grouse												
Bob-white	25	40	7	2	24			10	1		1	
Wild Turkey	5											
Am. Coot		2										
Killdeer	6	4	*	26		8			4	8		
Wilson's Snipe			2			7				3		
Glaucous Gull									*			
Herring Gull	65	17		*					21			
Ring-billed Gull	3500								100			
Bonaparte's Gull									1			
Rock Dove	13		3	47		*						14
Mourning Dove	120	57	29	56		43	8		44		37	*
Screech Owl		1				*			1			*

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1949-'50	Kentucky Lake	Marion	Madisonville	Providence	Pennyrite S. P.	Bowling Green	Mammoth Cave	Otter Creek P.	Louisville	Danville	Willard	Berea
Horned Owl				1					1			
Barred Owl	1	2	*		2	2			1	1		
Short-eared Owl	1								2			
Belted Kingfisher	3	1	3	1		1		1	5	2		
Flicker	12	2	17	24	8	34	5	19	30	1		*
Pileated Woodpecker	3	2	3	2	2	10	4	3	4			
Red-bellied Woodpecker	24	5	4	12	3	15	2	8	19			*
Red-headed Woodpecker	4		13	56		10			6			*
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	2		2		8	1	1	5			1
Hairy Woodpecker		1	*	8		6	1	1	7	1	4	
Downy Woodpecker	13	2	7	10	6	22	4	28	24			6
Phoebe						2						
Horned Lark	4	7		20		43	3		32			
Blue Jay	34	6	20	58	2	31	10	30	88			7
Crow	101	162	10	1000	17	3100	12	77	714	160	1	7
Carolina Chickadee	79	17	19	35	21	66	19	101	104	39	8	9
Tufted Titmouse	63	22	17	24	13	48	9	38	51	21	8	4
White-breasted Nuthatch	7		1	2	1	5	1	8	11			1
Red-breasted Nuthatch					5	7	1		3			1
Brown Creeper	5				1	10	4	14	11			3
Winter Wren	1	2	*	1	1	4	2	1	1			
Bewick's Wren	2	2	2	3		1						
Carolina Wren	12	5	20	14	1	26	4	25	34	4	3	2
Short-billed Marsh Wren				1								
Mockingbird	15	4	13	27	3	16	1	11	39	8		3
Brown Thrasher	2											
Robin	148	3	35	22	34	79	181	197	29	2	3	
Hermit Thrush			3	1	1	5	4	8	*			
Bluebird	74	13	14	39	3	54	49	25	33	26	14	6
Golden-crowned Kinglet	12		*		12	2	7	13	17		3	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet						*		2	3			
Am. Pipit	6											
Cedar Waxwing		14	10	5	1	17		82				
Migrant Shrike	3			9		4			2			
Starling	259	560	210	1500	14	2225			869	665		62
Myrtle Warbler			4	2	1	10	1	20	4			
Palm Warbler				*		2			*		1	
English Sparrow	90	75	106	450	31	62	2	5	179	105	12	66
E. Meadow Lark	27	4	59	154	1	134		5	13	25		20
Red-wing	520	13	175									
Rusty Blackbird		2		79								
Grackle		6										1
Brown-headed Cowbird		50		200		*						
Cardinal	125	39	38	101	32	142	25	48	293	41	11	2
Purple Finch	16	8	*	23	16	10	14	36	*			
Goldfinch	38	16	25	98	12	95	6	89	49		12	24
E. Towhee	42	12	28	17	4	38	1	16	75		3	
Savannah Sparrow	1					7						
Slate-colored Junco	231	36	108	112	87	77	101	158	255	22	5	15
Tree Sparrow	28		25		8			13	24			
Chipping Sparrow				1				1				
Field Sparrow	45	8	54	7	14	44	11	3	21	1	12	30
White-crowned Sparrow	7	2	2	59		115		1	16	9		
White-throated Sparrow	48	2	12	33	10	101	8	1	39	5		*
Fox Sparrow	2		2	2				7	3			
Swamp Sparrow	45	1	20		4	7	4	14	13			
Song Sparrow	52	12	37	23	9	72	13	14	150	22	13	11

recorded than on my previous Pennyryle counts. Total, 37 species, 408 individuals.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

BOWLING GREEN—(Chaney, McElroy, Schneider Farms; Mouth of Gasper area; open farmland 25%, woods and thickets 50%, stream banks 25%). Dec. 24; 6:30 A. M. to 4:45 P. M. Clear; wind W., 1-7 m. p. h.; temp. 20-48. Three observers in two parties. Total hours, 19½, on foot; total miles, 14. The Red-breasted Nuthatch and the Palm Warbler appear for the first time on our count, though both have been found in winter in this area.—L. Y. LANCASTER, C. L. TAYLOR, and GORDON WILSON (Western State College).

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (Central area; Sloan's Crossing, Katy Pace Valley, Chaumont; woods 65%; along stream banks 10%, old fields 25%). Dec. 21; 6:45 A. M. to 4:45 P. M. Cloudy, threatening most of day; wind W., 8-12 m. p. h., with brisker gusts; temp. 54-65; ground very wet from recent heavy rains. Four observers in two parties. Total hours, 20, on foot; total miles, 15. Nearly all species were scarce and very hard to find. The unusual event of the day was finding so many vultures. One of the parties counted 38 Turkey Vultures in a single group. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen just outside the headquarters office by Mrs. Marie F. Greer, secretary to the superintendent of the park. Total, 40 species, 612 individuals. One hawk was not completely identified.—DR. L. Y. LANCASTER, Park Naturalist HENRY LIX, FRANK EWING, GORDON WILSON.

OTTER CREEK PARK—(Meade County) (Farmland 10%; brushy fields 25%; Ohio River banks 10%; deciduous woods 55%). Dec. 31; 8:10 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Cloudy; temp. 35 to 55; wind 1-7 m. p. h. Nine observers in four parties. The Chipping Sparrow was identified by Evelyn J. Schneider. Total hours, 30 (25 on foot, 5 by car); total miles, 30 (20 on foot, 10 by car).—FLOYD CARPENTER, JACK CLARK, BOB KAISER, HARVEY LOVELL, JOHN LOVELL, EVELYN J. SCHNEIDER, MR. and MRS. FRED STAMM, DONALD SUMMERFIELD.

LOUISVILLE—(Ohio River from Louisville to Twelve-mile Island, and inland to Prospect, Anchorage, and Valley Station, including Shawnee, Cherokee, and Seneca Parks: Ohio River and banks 25%; fields and farmland 25%; brushy fields and new growth 30%; deciduous woodland 20%). Dec. 26; 5:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Heavy clouds and rain throughout the day; strong wind only until 7:00 A. M.; no wind remaining part of day; temp. 33 to 56. Thirty-one observers in fourteen groups. Total party hours, 76½; total party miles, by car 181; by walking, 28½. Bonaparte's Gull identified by Brecher, Flexner, Monroe, Sr., and Monroe, Jr. Poor visibility and extremely bad weather conditions account for the lack of more waterfowl and several common species of land birds that were missed. The Greater Scaup Duck was seen on December 25 by Monroe, Sr. and Jr. It was an adult male in company with a pair of Lesser Scaups. The Glaucous Gull in first winter plumage was observed at the Falls of the Ohio River on December 25 by Harvey Lovell and Monroe, Sr. and Jr. Total, 69 species, 4,103 individuals.—LEONARD C. BRECHER, FLOYD CARPENTER, HARRIETT CLARK, WILLIAM CLAY, JOHN FLEXNER, PAXTON GIBBS, SABRA HANSON, LOUISE ISFORT, DORIS KLINE, ELEANOR LOVELL, MR. and MRS. HARVEY B. LOVELL, JOHN LOVELL, BURT L. MONROE, SR., BURT L. MONROE, JR., LOUIS PIEPER, MARIE PIEPER,

EVELYN J. SCHNEIDER, WALTER SHACKLETON, BERNICE SHANNON, FRANCIS SHANNON, JERRY SMITH, THOMAS P. SMITH, ANN STAMM, FRED STAMM, ROBERT STEILBERG, CHARLES STRULL, DONALD SUMMERFIELD, MR. and MRS. S. CHARLES THACHER, VIRGINIA WINDSTANLEY (Beckham Bird Club).

DANVILLE—(R. S. Dulin Farm, main roads, connecting roads covering agricultural farm lands, some woods, and along streams). Dec. 31; 8:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Cloudy; temp. 42 to 52. Total miles, 25 (23½ by car, 1½ on foot). Total, 31 species, 1,198 individuals.—MRS. McBRAYER MOORE, MRS. RODES-READ, MR. and MRS. SCOTT GLORE, JR.

WILLARD—(Three miles over fields and woodland area). Dec. 27; 8:30 A. M. to 1:30 P. M. Temp. 65; cloudy and rainy. Total, 17 species, 150 individuals.—ERCEL KOZEE.

BEREA—(Morning: a very short distance along a highway to Silver Creek, a short distance along the creek, through a pasture bordered by cornfields, into deciduous and pine woodland at the foot of Twin Mountain; afternoon: open farm country). Dec. 28; 8:00 A. M. to 12:00 M.; 1:00 P. M. to 4:00 P. M. Cloudless; no wind; temp. 33 to 60. All the trip on foot. Birds were active but did not appear in large numbers. Bird calls made one think of the approach of spring.—MARGARET R. FOWLER.

FIELD NOTES

SNOWY OWL IN BOONE COUNTY

On November 10, 1949 a Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) appeared at the Greater Cincinnati Airport near Erlanger, Boone County, Ky. The bird, perched on a gravel pile adjacent to one of the runways, was first observed by Robert Isenberg, Airport Manager, who notified Karl H. Maslowski, of Cincinnati. Photographers from the Cincinnati newspapers went to the airport and photographed the owl.

The bird appeared at the Airport again on November 13, and Mr. Maslowski went there to verify the identification. During his observation, he noticed that the owl was barred very heavily with dark streaks. It appeared to be shy and would not permit anyone to approach within 100 feet. It perched on the runway and on grassy areas nearby, far from any tree or elevation.

The weather in Kentucky during the visit of the owl was warm and unseasonable, and compared similarly with the weather during the visit of a Snowy Owl to Louisville on November 6, 1937.

—BURT L. MONROE, SR., Anchorage, Ky.

1949 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FROM MICHIGAN

Three Rivers, St. Joseph County, Michigan—December 25. Weather, partly cloudy; moderate south wind; temp. 32 to 43 F. Observers on foot; covering some of city limits of Three Rivers; some of country out east and west of city; Portage, Rocky and St. Joseph Rivers. No snow; rivers open. Covered six and a half miles. Time, from about 9:00 A. M. to 12:30 P. M. Common Canada Goose, 21;

Common Mallard, 59; American Golden-eye, 20; American Merganser, 1; Eastern Sparrow Hawk, 1; Domestic Pigeon, 12; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 2; Northern Blue Jay, 9; Eastern Crow, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 2; Tufted Titmouse, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; European Starling, 204; English Sparrow, 163; Eastern Cardinal, 7; Slate-Colored Junco, 8; Eastern Tree Sparrow, 5; Mississippi Song Sparrow, 1. Total, 20 species, 522 individuals.—Oscar McKinley Bryens and Verlynn Reed.

A WINTERING BROWN THRASHER AT LOUISVILLE

On November 17, 1949, I trapped and banded a Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) at my home on the edge of Louisville. At the time this was my latest fall date for the species. The same bird was again taken on December 19, identified by the band No. 44-214,919. It was taken for the third time on January 9, 1950. The Thrasher had not been seen between these dates, but has probably been wintering in George Rogers Clark Park, an undeveloped area filled with Japanese Honeysuckle vines and other weedy plants, less than 100 yards below my yard.

Several years ago (Lovell, Ky. Warbler, 15: 20, 1939), I reported the arrival of a Brown Thrasher on February 5 at Louisville and summarized available data on its winter distribution. Walter Shackleton (Ky. Warbler, 22: 24, 1946) obtained a record on February 27 and 28, 1946, at Sleepy Hollow, in Oldham County, and comments on the absence of January records. An examination of Christmas bird counts during the last four years reveals that the Brown Thrasher has been reported on 6 counts from 4 localities, namely, Murray, Providence, Pennyrite State Park, and Kentucky Lake, all localities 150 to 225 miles southwest of Louisville in the part of Kentucky which is more southern in aspect. All but one of these records were made in December. The exception is a January 1, 1949, record of 3 from Kentucky Lake area. From the accumulation of winter records, it can now be concluded that the Brown Thrasher is a rare and irregular winter resident at least in the western half of Kentucky.

—HARVEY B. LOVELL, Louisville.

NEWS AND VIEWS

HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY

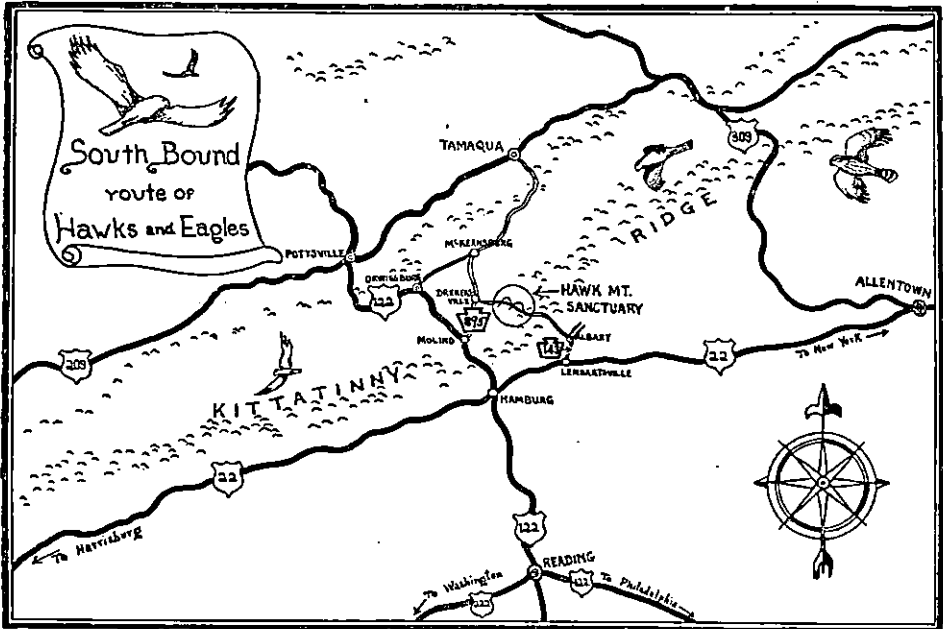
Hawks have long been the subject of relentless persecution by man. Until fairly recently many states offered bounties for them, and "Hawk shoots" have been popular pastimes for many game clubs. It was therefore news in the best tradition when a group organized a sanctuary in 1934 for the protection of this group of predators. Hawks migrate southward along mountain ranges, and so-called sportsmen had discovered that they could slaughter them by the hundreds along Kittatinny Ridge in eastern Pennsylvania.

Led by a courageous conservationist, Rosalie Edge, funds were raised for the purchase of the chief mountain of this ridge, Hawk Mountain, which had long been frequented by the hawk hunters. Maurice Broun was installed as curator, custodian, and warden of the park, and so this strange sanctuary came into being. Careful counts are now made each fall from lookouts on the mountain, not only by

Mr. Broun but by dozens of visiting ornithologists from all over the country. In 1948, for example, the total count was 21,173 plus hawks. It includes 14 Goshawks, 1,651 Sharp-shins, 203 Cooper's, 2,499 Red-tails, 268 Red-shoulders, 10 Rough-legs, 15,454 Broad-wings, 40 Golden Eagles, 88 Bald Eagles, 33 Peregrines, 19 Pigeon Hawks, and 142 Sparrow Hawks. The members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society have been given a special invitation to visit the mountain sanctuary, where shelters and camp sites are available for overnight visitors. Let us quote from a recent letter (October 3, 1949) by Mrs. Edge:

"Polish up your bird-glasses—it is time to go to Hawk Mountain. The best months to see hawks at the Sanctuary are October and November."

"As I write this, the great Broad-wing flight has already gone by. But that flight, though exciting in the numbers and the beauty of the little Buteos, is of short duration, all over in a few days. Now we are perched at the Lookout, each on his favorite rock, watching the best flights of the year. The little Sharp-shinned Hawks are darting by, with a few Cooper's Hawks among them; the Bald Eagles, which were first seen in August, are coming in increasing numbers. The first Golden Eagles have just appeared, and the excitement among the hawk counters reaches a new high. October is the month when you might see that particular hawk you need to round out your hawk list, for this month brings the greatest number of species. A Goshawk perhaps or that swift-flying falcon could be a Gyrfalcon. Such things happen at Hawk Mountain.



MAP OF KITTATINNY RIDGE

"If you want to read the whole thrilling story of the Sanctuary, read the Curator's entertaining and informative book, **Hawks Aloft**. There's a book so full of birds that one forgets everything else—and so full of human interest that one forgets the birds."

More than 1,200 naturalists and conservationists have joined the Association. Dues of \$2.00 may be sent to the Treasurer, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, Route 2, Kempton, Pennsylvania.



OBSERVATION ROCKS, HAWK MOUNTAIN, COUNTING THE
MIGRATING HAWKS

Photo by Maurice Broun



RUFFED GROUSE NEST NO. 4, McCREARY COUNTY
MAY 4, 1949



NEST OF YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO, JEFFERSON COUNTY
SEPTEMBER 16, 1949