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## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 27, no. 1)

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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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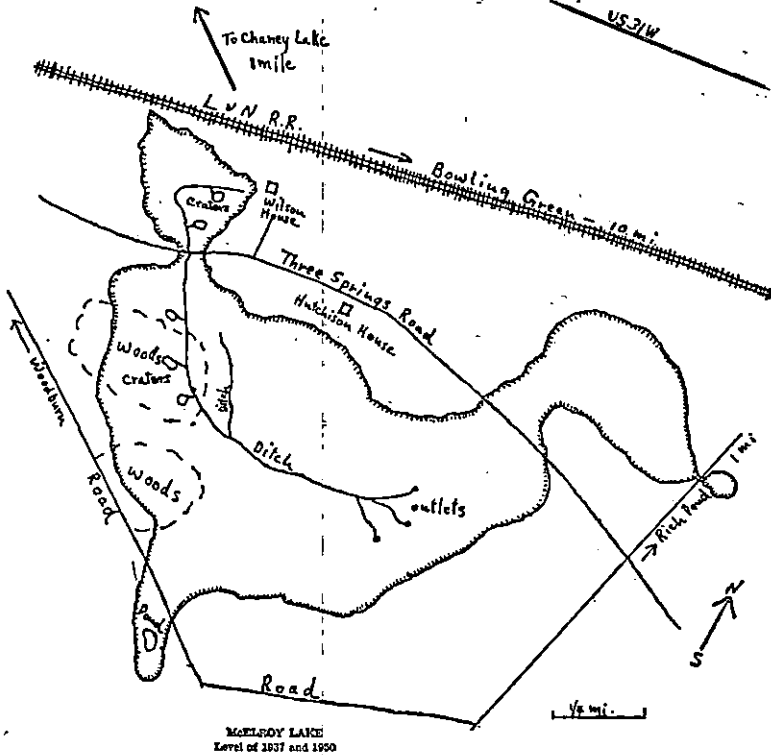
## THE WOODBURN LAKES SINCE 1939

By GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green

It has been eleven years since my last extensive article on the wet-weather lakes near Woodburn, ten miles south of Bowling Green. (See "The McElroy Farm—A Study of a Transient Lake," *Kentucky Warbler*, 16: 13-21, Spring, 1940). I have published only a few short notes on my observations there since the remarkable year of 1939. The year 1950 has in every way brought the most unusual experiences of my long period of study of the lakes. Therefore, I think it well to bring up to date my records of these eleven years. The Soil Conservation Service, through the courtesy of its local office and the manager, Mr. Frank Melton, put at my disposal the aerial photographs made of this area in 1937, when the water of the lakes was at the same level as that of 1950. By carefully tracing these maps, observing the drift lines, I was able to make the outline maps accompanying this article.

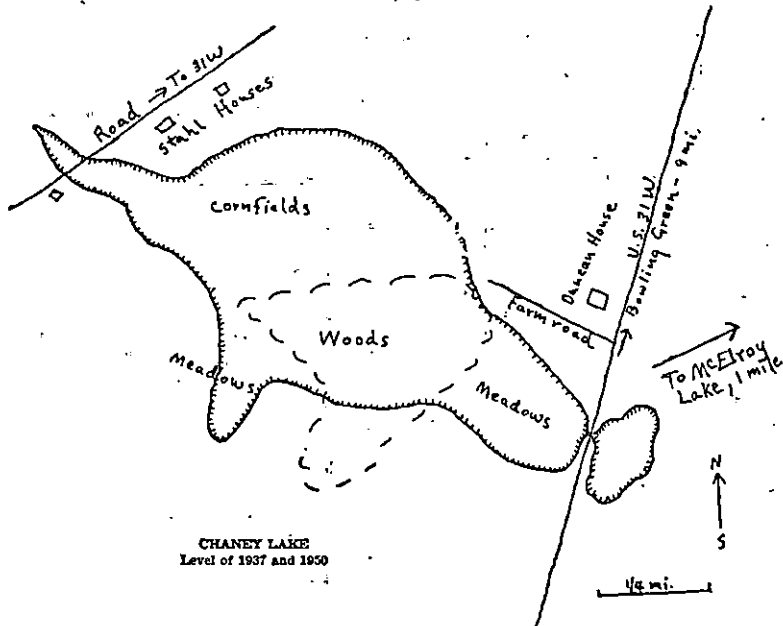
For the five years 1940-1944 the lakes were so small that they were practically negligible. The highest number of species for any one year was only 29, in sharp contrast to the 54 species recorded in 1939. The only records of unusual value for these years were some repeats of rare species, such as the Florida Gallinule in 1940, the Golden-eye in 1943, and the Dowitcher in 1944. The lakes rose to a maximum of 150 acres each in 1943, which is much smaller than they were in many of the former years of my study.

The season of 1945 brought 300 acres of water at the McElroy Farm, 200 at the Chaney Farm, and a total of 46 species. The Glossy Ibis was added as a new species. (See



"Bird No. 100," *Kentucky Warbler*, 21: 48, Summer, 1945). Dr. Harvey Lovell joined me on a good observation trip to the Chaney Lake on March 24. In this season I got some more good supporting records: Holboell's Grebe, Horned Grebe, Gadwall, Redhead, Greater Scaup (See "Greater Scaups on Chaney Lake," *Kentucky Warbler*, 22: 10, Winter, 1946), Buffle-head, Sora, and Dowitcher. In this year I began to shift my emphasis from the McElroy to the Chaney Lake and have spent more time on the latter in all the years since then. I have found the lake more likely to remain longer, a kind of strange cycle that I am unable to explain, as formerly it disappeared before the McElroy Lake each year. When ducks are numerous, the Chaney Lake offers a much better place to observe, as there are not so many intervening fence rows. The large tract of woods, almost in the center of the overflowed area when the lake is large, furnishes a great hiding place for water birds.

The seasons of 1946 and 1947 were poor, relatively speaking. On March 9-10, 1946, I shared my lakes with



twelve K. O. S. members, when the two lakes were at their best. In 1948 the McElroy Lake rose to 300 acres, the Chaney Lake to about the same size, extending to U. S. 31-W for the first time since 1937. The water went down slowly, finally disappearing after July 1. Some good supporting records for 1948 were: Ruddy Turnstone, Baird's Sandpiper, Red-backed Sandpiper, Dowitcher, and Caspian Tern. On May 6, 1948, I found a brood of ten downy young Wood Ducks at the McElroy Lake, the first young of this species on either lake; on June 5 of the same year I recorded nine very small Blue-winged Teal. It was a scant six months from the end of the 1948 season until the beginning of the 1949 season, which in turn lasted from January 15 to July 10. A visit by ten K. O. S. members on March 12-13, 1949, by Hayward Brown on May 2, and two collecting trips in May and June by Robert and Jane Mengel helped to swell my total of water species for the year to 54. New species added for the lakes were: Snowy Egret, Virginia Rail, and White-rumped Sandpiper. The Mengels made a number of unusual collections, which they will describe later. The Chaney Lake remained so long that none of the central area behind the woods was in cultivation.

| WATER SPECIES AT<br>CHANEY AND<br>MCELROY LAKES,<br>1950 | RECORDS         |                |               |              | Numbers and Remarks  |
|--|-----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|--|
|  | First<br>Spring | Last<br>Spring | First<br>Fall | Last<br>Fall |  |
| Loon   | 5-13            | 5-13           |               |              | 1  |
| Holboell's Grebe   | 4-20            | 5-9            | 7-1           | 7-4          | 1-2  |
| Horned Grebe   | 4-20            | 4-20           |               |              | 3  |
| Pied-billed Grebe  | 3-23            |                |               | 11-2         | 1-25, through season   |
| Gr. Blue Heron   | 4-20            | 4-20           | 7-1           | 10-28        | 1-6  |
| American Egret   | 5-20            | 5-30           | 7-1           | 9-13         | 2-4 in spring, up to 15 in fall                                      |
| Snowy Egret  | 5-20            | 5-20           | 7-29          | 9-13         | 1 in spring, up to 20 in fall  |
| L. Blue Heron  | 5-1             | 5-1            | 7-1           | 9-13         | 1 in spring, up to 50 in fall  |
| Green Heron  | 4-13            |                |               | 8-29         | up to 15; below usual numbers  |
| B-c. Night Heron   | 4-9             |                |               | 8-25         | up to 25   |
| Y-c. Night Heron   |                 |                | 7-4           | 8-25         | 1-4  |
| American Bittern   | 4-13            | 5-27           | 7-29          | 8-18         | 1-3  |
| Canada Goose   |                 |                | 10-19         | 10-22        | 3-9  |
| Blue Goose   |                 |                | 10-19         | 10-19        | 9  |
| Lesser Snow Goose  |                 |                | 10-19         | 10-19        | 6; my first Bowling Green record                                     |
| Mallard  | 2-4             | 5-9            | 7-1           | 10-28        | up to 50   |
| Black Duck   | 2-4             | 4-13           | 7-1           | 11-12        | 1-8  |
| Gadwall  |                 |                | 8-18          | 10-7         | 3-8  |
| Baldpate   | 2-25            | 5-13           | 8-25          | 10-28        | 1-25   |
| Pintail  | 2-25            | 3-25           | 10-19         | 10-28        | 1-100 in spring, 1-40 in fall  |
| Blue-winged Teal   | 2-25            |                |               | 11-2         | 200 in sp., 3-6 in sum., 100 in fall                                 |
| Shoveller  | 3-4             | 5-20           |               |              | 1-50   |
| Wood Duck  | 2-25            |                |               | 11-2         | 1-8 in sp., up to 100 in late sum.<br>and early fall                 |
| Redhead  | 3-4             | 5-13           |               |              | 1-12   |
| Ring-necked Duck   | 2-25            | 4-22           | 7-29          | 7-29         | 100 or more sp., 1 in fall   |
| Greater Scaup  | 4-22            | 4-22           |               |              | 1 with Lesser Scaup at McElroy's                                     |
| Lesser Scaup   | 2-4             |                |               | 8-10         | 200 in sp., 4-6 in sum., 1-14 in fall                                |
| Buffle-head  | 2-25            | 3-4            |               |              | 1-4  |
| Ruddy Duck   | 3-23            | 5-13           | 8-29          | 8-29         | 1-6 in spring, 1 in fall   |
| Hooded Merganser   | 2-18            | 3-4            |               |              | 1-10   |
| American Merganser                                       | 3-23            | 3-23           |               |              | 1  |
| Red-br. Merganser  | 3-4             | 4-22           |               |              | 2-3  |
| King Rail  | 5-1             | 5-13           |               |              | 1  |
| Sora   | 4-13            | 4-13           |               |              | 1  |
| Florida Gallinule  |                 |                | 7-1           | 7-1          | 1  |
| Coot   | 2-18            |                |               | 11-2         | up to 500 in spring, 50 in summer,<br>100 in fall                    |
| Semipalmated Plover                                      | 5-1             | 5-30           | 7-27          | 9-13         | up to 30 in spring, 1-5 in fall                                      |
| Killdeer   | 2-4             |                |               | 11-2         | always common to abundant  |
| Black-bel. Plover  | 5-24            | 5-30           | 10-19         | 10-19        | up to 35 in sp., 1 in fall   |
| Ruddy Turnstone  | 5-24            | 5-24           |               |              | 1  |
| Woodcock   |                 |                | 11-2          | 11-2         | 2  |
| Wilson's Snipe   | 2-18            | 5-13           | 8-10          | 11-12        | 5-50 in sp., 1-10 in fall  |
| Upland Plover  | 4-9             | 4-9            | 7-8           | 9-2          | 1 in sp., 1-8 in fall  |
| Spotted Sandpiper  | 4-22            | 5-27           | 7-8           | 10-22        | 2-8 in spring, 1-8 in fall   |
| Solitary Sandpiper                                       | 4-20            | 5-20           | 7-8           | 9-2          | 2-10 in spring, 1-10 in fall   |
| Willet   |                 |                | 8-13          | 8-13         | 2: 1 at Chaney's by me; 1 at Mc-<br>Elroy's by Lovell and Su'erfield |
| Greater Yellow-legs                                      | 4-9             | 5-24           | 7-16          | 11-12        | 2-25 in spring, 1-20 in fall   |

| WATER SPECIES AT<br>CHANEY AND<br>McELROY LAKES,<br>1950 | RECORDS         |                |               |              | Numbers and Remarks   |
|--|-----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---|
|  | First<br>Spring | Last<br>Spring | First<br>Fall | Last<br>Fall |   |
| Lesser Yellow-legs                                       | 3-23            | 5-24           | 7-16          | 11- 2        | 5-100 in spring, 12-140 in fall                                 |
| Pectoral Sandpiper                                       | 3-25            | 5- 1           | 7-27          | 11- 2        | 3-100 in spring, 2-100 in fall                                  |
| Wh.-rumped Sandpiper                                     | 5-14            | 5-30           |               |              | 1-8   |
| Baird's Sandpiper  | 5-30            | 5-30           | 8-13          | 8-13         | 2 in spring, 10 in fall   |
| Least Sandpiper  | 4-26            | 6- 1           | 7-16          | 11- 2        | 1-50 in spring, 2-20 in fall                                    |
| Red-backed Sandpiper                                     | 5- 9            | 5-13           | 11- 2         | 11- 2        | 1-3 in spring, 9 in fall  |
| Dowitcher  | 5- 1            | 5-13           | 7-16          | 8-10         | 3-6 in spring, 1-11 in fall                                     |
| Stilt Sandpiper  |                 |                | 7-16          | 7-16         | 1, a new record for Bowling Green                               |
| Semipalm. Sandpiper                                      | 5- 9            | 5-30           | 8-29          | 11- 2        | 2-12 in spring, 3 in fall                                       |
| Western Sandpiper  | 5-14            | 5-14           |               |              | 1, identified by Summerfield; a<br>new record for Bowling Green |
| Herring Gull   | 4- 9            | 4- 9           |               |              | 1   |
| Common Tern  |                 |                | 8-29          | 8-29         | 1, identified by Eugene Cypert                                  |
| Black Tern   | 4-26            | 5-30           | 7- 4          | 8-29         | 1-8 in spring, 1-36 in fall                                     |

Late in the fall of 1949 the big corn field at Chaney's was plowed up, in order to have it ready for early planting in 1950. Heavy rains set in almost at once. The last two months of 1949 and the first nine of 1950 were among the rainiest ever known at Bowling Green, the rainfall for the January-September, 1950, period measuring over fifty inches. The lakes, as shown in the maps, rose to their high level of 1937. The Chaney Lake lasted from late November, 1949, to mid November, 1950; the McElroy Lake, though it rose at the same time, went away completely in mid August, 1950, rose again to 200 acres in late August and early September, and finally disappeared in late October.

Some twenty out-of-town bird students shared my experiences with me at the lakes, including thirteen K. O. S. members on May 13-14, Dr. Lovell on May 24, Dr. Lovell and Don Summerfield on August 13, and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Cypert on August 29. There were also several local enthusiasts with me.

Through the years the sources of food for such flocks of water birds have varied greatly. In 1927 a thousand bushels of corn that could not be gathered the previous fall because of the sudden rise of the McElroy Lake must have accounted for the remarkable numbers of ducks that year. In 1937 and 1939 neighboring fields of winter oats, rye, and barley suffered considerably because of the hungry water-

fowl. In 1949 and 1950 pond weed (*Potamogeton*, sp.) was very plentiful at the Chaney Lake, in addition to the normal water vegetation there. Both lakes in 1950 were connected with some permanent ponds on neighboring farms and thus brought in great numbers of Bluegills and a kind of small catfish, to add to the semi-blind fish that regularly come up out of the sinkholes when the water rises (*Forbesichthys papilliferus*). Water snails and other small shellfish were present in large numbers. After the water went down, there were left thousands of small fish and bullfrog tadpoles. The herons had long been gone, or else they could have had a feast. Grain fields were not molested much in 1950.

The table accompanying this article shows the 60 species of water birds for 1950; with some necessary comments. In spite of the long life of the lakes in 1950, I saw a few young birds: three broods of Wood Ducks, a few Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night Herons, one Pied-billed Grebe, and one Lesser Scaup that was quite immature. The two last-named were shown to me by a local hunter, who said that they had been brought to his office by some one else. I saw and examined several birds that had been shot by wanton hunters, including a Snowy Egret. The lakes were so large in the duck migration season that I could not see well; consequently, my numbers for ducks are below those of such years as 1937 and 1939. The really memorable experiences came in the summer and fall, when the water stayed up several months longer than ever before in my experience. The mud flats brought many herons and shore birds, several of them for my first fall records.

If the lakes follow the usual cycles of high and low, it may be half a lifetime before any other such year as 1950 will come. It was a realization of this exceptional condition that prompted me to visit the farms as often as I could in 1950. All told, I visited one or both on 43 occasions in 1950, and rarely was any trip without its remarkable experiences.

#### SOME PREVIOUS ARTICLES ON THE LAKES

1929. Bird Life of a transient lake in Kentucky. *Wilson Bulletin*, 41: 177-185.
1936. Additions to "Bird Life of a transient lake in Kentucky." *Wilson Bulletin*, 48: 59-50.
1938. A bird paradise in a cornfield. *Bird-Lore*, 40: 246-252.
1940. The McElroy Farm—A study of a transient lake. *Kentucky Warbler*, 16: 13-21.

## FIELD NOTES

### BREEDING STATUS OF THE CEDAR WAXWING IN KENTUCKY

In a hackberry tree approximately fifty feet from a well-traveled road in Seneca Park, I found, on June 11, 1950, a nest of the Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). The nest was about thirty feet from the ground, located on a horizontal limb, and so well concealed by foliage that it was visible from only one angle.

Visits to the nest area were made on the 12th and 13th. Incubation was started on the 15th, and on the 18th the bird on the nest was seen being fed by the mate. Sometimes the mate, presumably the male, would fly to the nest tree and usually perch on a branch above the nest and to one side. A willow nearby with a dead branch seemed to be the main lookout perch.

Since the nest was inaccessible, no data regarding eggs could be obtained. Neither of the birds were seen on the 21st and 22nd, although not much time was spent in the area. No more visits were possible, since I left the city for three weeks. Upon my return I visited the area, hoping to find a second nesting, but instead only fragments of the original nest were found. This perhaps was due to heavy rain storms which had taken place. It is unfortunate that it is not known whether the nesting was successful.

On August 12, 1950, while visiting in Maysville, Kentucky, I found a nest of this species, with young. The exact number could not be determined, but three were seen, and they were well fledged. The nest was in the very top of a thirty-foot maple tree. It is interesting to note that the nest was in the same yard where I had observed a young Cedar Bird being fed in July, 1947. (*Ky. Warbler* Vol. 25, No. 10, 1949).

Since the Cedar Waxwing has not been considered a breeding bird in the lowlands of central and western Kentucky, it seems worthwhile to summarize the recent breeding records which have been published in the past four or five years. In northern and central Kentucky we have had records from Jefferson, Harrison, Woodford, and Mason Counties. A nest with young, in the Crescent Hill area, Louisville, was found in 1934 by Monroe (*Ky. Warbler*, 22: 45-46, 1946). Two nests were found by Zimmer in Jefferson County, five miles from the city limits of Louisville, in June and July, 1946 (*Auk*, 65: 461-462, 1948). Van Arsdall reported a nest near Tyrone in Woodford County in July, 1947 (*Ky. Warbler*, 24: 29-30, 1948). Tabler discovered a nest in her yard with young in July, 1947, Jefferson County, Louisville (*Ky. Warbler*, 24: 54, 1948). The writer found the young of this species just out of the nest and being fed by the parent bird in July, 1947, at Maysville, Mason County; also in July, 1948, a nest with young at Maysville (*Ky. Warbler*, 25: 16-17, 1949). Mayer reported two nests during the summer of 1948 at Cynthiana, Harrison County (*Ky. Warbler*, 25: 29-31, 1949). Clark's report in the last issue adds another for Jefferson County.

Earlier literature reveals few records of the species occurring in the state in June or July, and none of these mention actual nests, but some suspected breeding of the bird. Wetmore found that "on Black Mountain southeast of Lynch, Harlan County the Cedar Waxwing was fairly common from 3900 to 4100 feet, an adult female



being taken on June 25" (Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus., 88: 529-574, 1940). In Rowan County, also in the eastern mountainous district, Welter and Barbour reported the species as a rare breeding bird but did not indicate they had found a nest (Ky. Warbler, 18: 17-25, 1942). Murray listed two birds seen in Letcher County from June 4 to 11, 1935 (Ky. Warbler, 14: 1-4, 1938). Blincoe reported that in Nelson County it was "unusually scarce in mid-summer; Beckham did not find it breeding and I found nothing to indicate that it did." (Auk, 42: 404-420, 1925).

Wilson in his "Birds of Bowling Green" (1922) stated, "I have never seen it in July or found its nest." Later he found "the Cedar Waxwing present in the summer only during the 1930 season, when three to ten were seen every day on the college campus." In 1937, however, he reported seeing Cedar Waxwings in Bowling Green on June 20, June 30, July 16, July 19, and July 22. On June 29 he also observed two at the edge of Mammoth Cave National Park. He stated further, "I still hope to find the nest of this species here or at Mammoth Cave." (Ky. Warbler, 23: 44, 1947). Lovell reported seeing "two waxwings in both July and August, 1945, at the Otter Creek Recreational Area in Meade County." (Auk, 65: 461-462, 1948).

Louis Putnam in his recent study on Cedar Waxwings (Wils. Bull., 61: 141-182) states that "the birds are dependent upon the seasonal fruits and berries which abound and their activities throughout the summer shift over the area in relation to the development of these food plants." It is interesting to note that the nests which I have found and observed have been adjacent to wild cherry trees.

The recent records of the breeding status of the Cedar Waxwing would seem to indicate that the species is extending its range in Kentucky as it finds suitable habitat and available food supply. An intensive study in these counties might reveal more nesting waxwings than heretofore believed.—ANNE L. STAMM, Lakeside Drive, Louisville.

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#### NOTES FROM DAVIESS COUNTY, 1950 Season

My observations for the most part have been confined to Carpenter's Lake, Pup Creek bottoms, Miller's Mill Road, and environs. Pup Creek lies adjacent to Carpenter's Lake (about 8 miles east of Owensboro) and is ideal for nearly every type of bird life. It is heavily wooded in places, and large sections of overgrown and cultivated fields sprawl on either side of the stream. When my wife and I visited this section on April 15, 1950, we were completely surrounded by early migrants, when we had the good fortune to flush a female Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) from its nest. The wood duck had placed her nest in the hollow end of a huge sycamore tree about 15 feet above the water of Pup Creek.

Carpenter's Lake is about 25 to 30 acres in extent and is nearly surrounded by summer cottages. It is constantly loaded with fishermen, but in spite of this a fairly large list of waterfowl has been observed. On April 15 we recorded a Red-breasted Merganser. Other ducks observed on the lake during the spring migration were: Red-headed Duck, 1; Buffle-head, 2; Ruddy Duck, 2; Blue-wing Teal, 1; as well as numerous Coots and Pied-billed Grebes. A Hooded Merganser was recorded on November 5; a flock of about 10 Lesser Scaup and a female Common Loon on November 12. On December 2, 4 Golden-eyes and 4 Ring-neck Ducks were added to the list. Other

water birds seen in the same area include: Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, and Solitary Sandpiper.

A nest of the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) was found at Audubon Memorial Park near Henderson by Virginia Smith and her Audubon Club on May 7, 1950. The nest was on the ground about 100 feet from the edge of the lake in a clump of grass under a small tree. The well-hidden nest was discovered when the female was flushed. It contained no eggs. As the writer has been in Kentucky less than a year, it came as a surprise to learn that the summer status of the Song Sparrow in western Kentucky has not yet been adequately ascertained. There seems to be every indication that this species nested rather extensively around Owensboro in 1950. In June we had a singing male in our yard and also witnessed parent birds feeding their young. Several field trips during this month also disclosed Song Sparrows in fair abundance.

About the middle of May I found a young King Rail still in the black plumage along the edge of a marsh on Highway 60 about 18 miles west of Owensboro.

On Miller's Mill Road at Dermont, 4 miles from Owensboro, we heard the Chuck-will's-widow and the Whip-poor-will from the middle of March to the first of June. A short-eared Owl was also found by Mrs. Powell and the writer in a large field west of Owensboro during the first week in March.

A pair of House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon*) nested in a bird box on Fleming Avenue in Owensboro during the 1950 season. We moved to this street June 1, and discovered the singing male House Wren almost immediately. The owners of the bird box did not know of a previous brood, but we saw the parents feeding the young once or twice. There were at least 3 young, probably many more. We also found two migrating House Wrens at Audubon Memorial State Park on September 22.—ALBERT L. POWELL, JR., 1908 Fleming Avenue, Owensboro.

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#### SOME NESTING RECORDS FOR HOPKINS COUNTY, 1950

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, *Icteria virens*.** A nest of this species was found on June 1, containing 6 eggs. Two eggs were apparently laid by a Cowbird and the other four by the chat. The nest was two feet up in dense briars.

**BROWN THRASHER, *Toxostoma rufum*.** On June 10 of this year, I found a nest of a Brown Thrasher in an open grove of oak, hickory, and sweet gum trees. The nest which contained three eggs, was under a hickory sapling 18 inches in diameter at Municipal Park. This is the second ground nest I have found of this species.

**PRAIRIE WARBLER, *Dendroica discolor*.** I watched a Prairie Warbler building a nest on June 10, 4½ feet up in a sapling of a post oak. The habitat was along a roadside in a scrub-growth of young oak, elm, redbud, tulip trees, etc., with some larger oaks. On June 19 the nest contained four eggs. The nest was empty and deserted on July 3.—JAMES W. HANCOCK, Madisonville.

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#### A WINTER LIST FROM TAYLOR COUNTY

I am presenting a list of birds which I observed chiefly on December 29, 1950, in my project's pheasant refuge 1½ miles southwest of Saloma. Habitats were as follows: cropped fields, 28%;

pasture, 27%; idle land, 18%; mature woodland, 27%. Ring-necked Pheasants have been released in the area and are being carefully observed to learn their survival rate and the causes of their death. Turkey Vulture, 3; Bobwhite, 5 (1. covey); Ring-necked Pheasants, 4 (2 cocks, 2 hens, recent releases); Flicker, 3; Blue Jay, 8; Crow, 5; Carolina Chickadee, 2; Cardinal, 11; English Sparrow, 5. Other birds observed recently in or near the area include: Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Mourning Dove, Starling, and Eastern Meadowlark.—LEE K. NELSON, R. R. 5, Hodgenville.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 1950 CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

Three Rivers, St. Joseph County, Michigan—December 31; 9:00 A. M. to 2:00 P. M., weather, overcast in A. M., partly cloudy in P. M., temp. 14 to 34F.; moderate southeast wind. Verlynn Reed, a Boy Scout who began bird study by keeping daily records of observations on January 23, 1948, was with me on this trip. Observers on foot, covering 8½ miles. Type of territory: Some of vicinity of Three Rivers, farming areas, edges of woods, St. Joseph River, and Scidmore Conservation Park. River frozen over on most of the territory visited outside the limits of Three Rivers, and most open within the limits. Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Common Canada Goose, 38; Common Mallard, 46; Black Duck, 5; American Golden-eye, 474 (chiefly of individuals counted as they came in, in the evening, to spend the night on open area of St. Joseph River in city limits); Buffle-head, 1; American Merganser, 2; Eastern Bob-white, 19 (1 covey); Ring-billed Gull, 1; Domestic Pigeon, 17; Eastern Mourning Dove, 1 (32 on Dec. 25); Eastern Belted Kingfisher, 1; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 12; Northern Blue Jay, 14; Eastern Crow, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; Tufted Titmouse, 7; White-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Brown Creeper, 7; Eastern Robin, 1; European Starling, 59; English Sparrow, 88; Eastern Cardinal, 18; Eastern Goldfinch, 9; Slate-colored Junco, 26; Eastern Tree Sparrow, 16; Mississippi Song Sparrow, 6; Total, 27 species, 883 individuals. Other species observed in this census period, but not on the date of above census. Dec. 25: Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Migrant Shrike, 1; Eastern Meadowlark, 1; by both observers; Dec. 29: Screech Owl, 1; Prairie Horned Lark, 1; Jan. 1: Eastern Vesper Sparrow, 1, by Bryens; Dec. 26: Purple Finch; Jan. 1: Northern Flicker, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Jan. 5: Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Jan. 6: Sparrow Hawk, 2; Jan. 11: Ring-necked Pheasant, 2; and Herring Gull, 5; by Reed.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS, 231 South Main Street, Three Rivers, St. Joseph County, Michigan.

## MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1950-'51

Edited by GORDON WILSON

The unexpected early winter, beginning with sub-zero temperatures at Thanksgiving, apparently drove many of our birds southward. Nearly everyone who participated in our 1950-'51 count expressed regret at the fewness of individuals. Several places reported Red-breasted Nuthatches in 1949-50; only Henderson in 1950-51. Red-headed Woodpeckers appear on only three lists this year as against six last year. There are a number of oddities this year: the Double-crested Cormorant appeared at Mammoth Cave for a first record in winter, though it has often been reported from Kentucky Woodlands and other western places; the Virginia Rail was found at Louisville, the Least Sandpiper at Marion, the Brown Thrasher at Woodlands, the Catbird at Henderson, the Olive-backed Thrush at Otter Creek, the Pipit at Bowling Green, the Vesper Sparrow at Bowling Green and Louisville, and the Chipping Sparrow at Owensboro. We are glad to welcome some new groups on our censuses: Bernheim, Henderson, and Owensboro. Some years ago Virgil King made a few Henderson censuses, but this is the first count by a large group. Owensboro is entirely new. Seventy-four observers, counting all participants, took part in this annual event, an impressive number for our club and especially for such unfavorable weather. The editors take this opportunity to thank every one who dared the weather to see the birds and request further cooperation in similar counts, including the Big Spring List.

**KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE** and lower **KENTUCKY LAKE** (7½-mile radius extending from the west side of Kentucky Lake at Jonathan Creek eastward across the lake and Kentucky Woodlands Refuge to the Cumberland River, northward to state highway 58 and southward to the Turkey Creek Road. Fields 60%, woodlands 30%, lake shoreline 10%).—Dec. 27; 7:00 A. M. to 6:00 P. M. Bright and cloudy; temp. 11 to 30; wind west, 4-6 m.p.h.; ground frozen and ice covering all shallow water. Eight observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 27 (24 on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles, 68 (14 on foot, 54 by car). Total, 48 species, 10,788 individuals. We dropped off on our waterfowl from what we had last year. We also missed many things we should have had, largely because we needed more observers.—EUGENE CYPERT (compiler), MARY LOUISE CYPERT, G. C. HUDSON, C. W. KEMPER, KATHLEEN KEY, BILLY MANN, A. M. WOLFSON, and NANCY WOLFSON.

**MARION** (around Marion and in Ohio River bottoms; fields, woods, swamps, city streets). Dec. 25; 7:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. No wind; temp. 32; weather fair. Robins have been very plentiful since the census, literally hundreds of them coming into the town and its suburbs. Total, 48 species, 3312 individuals.—DR. T. ATCHISON FRAZER, CHASTAIN FRAZER, and DOUGLAS TRAVIS.

**MADISONVILLE** (W. W. Hancock farm, four lakes at Madisonville, Brown and Frostburg Roads, and cat-tail marsh. Open fields

**MID-WINTER  
BIRD COUNT  
1950-'51**

|                    | Kentucky<br>Woodlands | Marion | Madisonville | Pennyrite S. P. | Henderson | Owensboro | Bowling Green | Mammoth Cave | Otter Creek | Louisville | Bernheim F. P. | Harrodsburg | Danville | Berea | Willard |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|--------------|-------------|------------|----------------|-------------|----------|-------|---------|
| No. Species        | 50                    | 64     | 40           | 36              | 38        | 22        | 52            | 36           | 42          | 73         | 30             | 28          | 34       | 27    | 20      |
| Species for Period | 50                    | 65     | 46           | 36              | 38        | 22        | 62            | 41           | 43          | 86         | 30             | 28          | 34       | 31    | 20      |
| No. Individuals    | 10791                 | 3312   | 1745         | 684             | 6281      | 166       | 2191          | 626          | 767         | 5050       |                | 296         | 880      | 1232  | 528     |
| No. Observers      | 8                     | 3      | 1            | 1               | 11        | 1         | 4             | 4            | 6           | 27         | 1              | 1           | 5        | 1     | 1       |
| Pied-billed Grebe  |                       |        |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | *          | x              |             |          |       |         |
| D-c. Cormorant     | 11                    | 4      |              |                 |           |           | x             | 1            |             |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| G. B. Heron        | 3                     |        |              |                 |           |           | 1             |              |             | 1          |                |             |          |       |         |
| L. B. Heron        |                       | 4      |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| B-c. N. Heron      |                       |        |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | *          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Canada Goose       | 700                   | 41     |              |                 | 300       |           |               |              |             | 21         | x              |             |          |       |         |
| Mallard            | 6000                  | 360    |              |                 | 5000      |           | 1             |              |             | 86         |                |             |          | 1     |         |
| Black Duck         | 3000                  | 42     |              |                 |           |           | *             | 1            |             | 169        |                |             |          |       |         |
| Pintail            |                       |        |              |                 | 3         |           |               |              |             | *          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Green-winged Teal  |                       |        |              |                 | 22        |           |               |              |             | *          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Black-winged Teal  |                       |        |              |                 |           | 1         |               |              |             | *          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Wood Duck          |                       |        |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | *          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Redhead            |                       |        |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | 1          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Ring-necked Duck   | 27                    | 5      |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | *          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Canvas-back        |                       |        |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | 4          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Greater Scaup      |                       | 6      |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Lesser Scaup       |                       | 20     |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Golden-eye         |                       |        |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | 60         |                |             |          |       |         |
| Buffle-head        |                       |        |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | 13         |                |             |          |       |         |
| Hooded Merganser   |                       | 3      |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | 5          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Am. Merganser      |                       | 12     |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | 1          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Turkey Vulture     | 5                     | 5      |              |                 | 2         |           | 1             | *            |             | 1          | x              | 1           | 35       | 4     | *       |
| Black Vulture      |                       | 4      |              |                 |           |           | 2             | *            |             | 8          |                | 7           | 6        |       |         |
| Sharp-sh. Hawk     |                       | 1      |              |                 | 2         |           | 1             | 2            |             | 1          | x              |             | 2        |       |         |
| Cooper's Hawk      | 1                     | 2      |              |                 |           |           | 1             |              | 1           | 1          | x              | 1           |          | 1     |         |
| Red-tailed Hawk    | 3                     | 2      |              | 2               | 6         |           | 4             |              | 2           | 6          | x              |             | 11       |       |         |
| Red-sh. Hawk       | 3                     | 3      | 1            |                 |           |           | 3             |              | *           | 18         |                |             |          |       |         |
| Broad-w. Hawk      |                       | 2      |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Rough-leg. Hawk    |                       |        |              |                 |           |           | 3             | 1            |             |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Bald Eagle         |                       | 1      |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | *          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Marsh Hawk         |                       | 5      | 1            |                 |           |           | *             |              |             | 7          |                | 1           |          |       |         |
| Osprey             |                       | 1      |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | *          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Duck Hawk          |                       |        |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | *          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Pigeon Hawk        |                       |        |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             |            |                |             | 1        |       |         |
| Sparrow Hawk       | 1                     | 8      | 2            |                 | 5         | 2         | 3             |              | 1           | 76         | x              | 2           | 12       |       | 1       |
| Ruffed Grouse      |                       |        |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Bob-white          |                       | 35     | 2            | 22              |           |           | *             | 18           | 27          | 13         | x              | 3           |          |       |         |
| Wild Turkey        | 7                     |        |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Va. Rail           |                       |        |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | 1          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Coot               |                       | 4      |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | 8          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Killdeer           |                       | 4      |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | 8          |                |             | 8        |       |         |
| Woodcock           |                       |        |              |                 |           |           |               | *            |             |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Wilson's Snipe     |                       |        |              |                 |           |           | 1             |              |             |            |                |             | 24       |       |         |
| Least Sandpiper    |                       | 1      |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Herring Gull       | 6                     | 31     |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | 103        |                |             |          |       |         |
| Ring-billed Gull   |                       | 6      |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | 58         |                |             |          |       |         |
| Mourning Dove      |                       | 10     | 35           |                 | 26        |           | 15            |              |             | 57         | x              |             |          |       |         |
| Screech Owl        |                       | 2      |              |                 | 1         |           |               |              |             | 4          | x              |             |          |       |         |
| Horned Owl         |                       |        |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | 1          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Barred Owl         | 1                     | 2      | 1            |                 |           |           | *             |              |             | 3          | x              |             |          |       |         |
| Short-eared Owl    |                       |        |              |                 |           |           |               |              |             | *          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Belted Kingfisher  | 2                     | 1      | 1            | 1               |           |           | 2             | 1            | 1           | 6          |                | 1           | 4        | 1     |         |
| Flicker            | 5                     | 6      | 18           | 8               | 6         | 4         | 15            | 10           | 31          | 27         | x              | 1           |          | 1     | 3       |
| Pil. Woodpecker    | 3                     | 4      | 1            | 2               |           |           | 8             | 8            | 1           | 5          | x              |             | 2        |       |         |
| Red-b. Woodpecker  | 19                    | 6      | 6            | 5               | 8         | 8         | 13            | 9            | 4           | 29         |                |             | 4        |       |         |

| MID-WINTER<br>BIRD COUNT<br>1950-'51 | Kentucky<br>Woodlands | Marion | Madisonville | Pennyrile S. P. | Henderson | Owensboro | Bowling<br>Green | Mammoth<br>Cave | Otter<br>Creek | Louisville | Bernheim F. P. | Harrodsburg | Danville | Berea | Willard |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|----------------|-------------|----------|-------|---------|
| Red-h. Woodpecker                    | 3                     |        | 5            |                 |           | 1         |                  |                 |                |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Y-b. Sapsucker                       |                       |        |              |                 | 2         |           | 1                | 3               | 3              | 4          | x              |             |          |       |         |
| Hairy Woodpecker                     | 2                     | 6      | 3            | 1               | 8         |           | 3                | 4               | 1              | 9          |                |             | 2        | 2     |         |
| Downy Woodpecker                     | 21                    | 10     | 7            | 7               | 11        | 2         | 12               | 7               | 13             | 53         | x              | 3           | 16       | 4     | 5       |
| Phoebe                               |                       |        | *            |                 |           |           | 3                |                 |                | 1          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Horned Lark                          |                       | 26     | 2            |                 |           |           | 119              |                 | 12             | 139        |                |             | 27       |       |         |
| Blue Jay                             | 30                    | 22     | 20           | 9               | 16        | 14        | 34               | 11              | 9              | 21         | x              |             | 2        | 4     | 3       |
| Crow                                 | 27                    | 50     | 8            | 18              | 38        | 4         | 506              | 6               | 50             | 741        | x              |             | 178      | 445   | 1       |
| Car. Chickadee                       | 19                    | 25     | 12           | 26              | 24        | 4         | 36               | 21              | 20             | 105        |                | 20          | 37       | 14    | 29      |
| Tufted Titmouse                      | 31                    | 35     | 9            | 10              | 17        | 10        | 57               | 19              | 11             | 101        |                | 2           | 25       | 6     | 4       |
| W-b. Nuthatch                        | 10                    | 2      | 1            | 3               | 2         |           | *                | 3               | 4              | 19         |                |             |          | 4     |         |
| R-b. Nuthatch                        |                       |        |              |                 | 1         |           |                  |                 |                |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Brown Creeper                        |                       |        |              |                 | 2         | 1         | *                | 3               | 2              | 16         | x              |             |          |       |         |
| Winter Wren                          | 1                     |        | *            | 4               |           |           | 3                | 4               | 3              | 2          |                |             |          |       | 2       |
| Bewick's Wren                        |                       | 5      | *            |                 |           |           | 2                |                 |                | 1          |                |             |          | *     |         |
| Carolina Wren                        | 11                    | 4      | 7            | 3               | 15        | 4         | 39               | 9               | 11             | 69         |                | 5           | 12       | *     | 6       |
| S-b. M. Wren                         |                       | 2      |              |                 |           |           |                  |                 |                |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Mockingbird                          | 2                     | 15     | 7            | 4               | 9         | 1         | 14               | 2               | 14             | 40         |                | 7           | 5        | 1     |         |
| Catbird                              |                       |        |              |                 | 1         |           |                  |                 |                |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Brown Thrasher                       | 1                     |        |              |                 |           |           |                  |                 |                |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Robin                                | 10                    | *      | 2            | 81              | 2         |           | 15               | *               | 132            | 21         | x              | 2           |          | 9     |         |
| Hermit Thrush                        |                       |        | 2            | 10              | 2         |           | *                | 5               | 9              | 1          |                |             |          |       |         |
| O-b. Thrush                          |                       |        |              |                 |           |           |                  |                 | 2              |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Bluebird                             | 3                     | 65     | 32           | 4               | 22        |           | 31               | 17              | 23             | 48         | x              |             | 7        | 7     |         |
| Golden-c. Kinglet                    |                       |        | 4            | 6               |           |           | 7                | 7               | 24             | 70         |                | 10          |          | 3     | 5       |
| Ruby-c. Kinglet                      |                       | 8      |              |                 |           |           |                  |                 | 3              | 2          |                | 3           |          |       |         |
| Pipit                                |                       |        |              |                 |           |           | 5                |                 |                |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Cedar Waxwing                        |                       | 35     | *            |                 |           |           |                  |                 |                | 7          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Log. Shrike                          | 1                     |        | *            |                 |           |           | 7                |                 |                | 1          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Starling                             | 11                    | 2000   | 1170         | 130             | 231       |           | 483              | *               | 12             | 900        | x              | 100         | 205      | 557   | 300     |
| Myrtle Warbler                       |                       |        | 7            |                 |           |           | 5                | 3               | 16             | 13         |                | 1           |          |       |         |
| Palm Warbler                         |                       |        |              |                 |           |           |                  |                 |                | *          |                |             |          |       |         |
| English Sparrow                      | 53                    | 110    | 23           | 16              | 80        | 30        | 112              | 1               | 25             | 312        | x              | 12          | 76       | 44    | 6       |
| Meadowlark                           | 2                     | 8      | 75           | 34              | 14        | 3         | 47               |                 | 3              | 41         | x              |             | 16       | 2     |         |
| Red Wing                             |                       | 20     |              | 1               |           |           |                  |                 |                | 13         |                |             |          | 16    |         |
| Rusty Blackbird                      |                       |        | *            | 25              |           |           |                  |                 |                | 3          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Grackle                              |                       |        |              | 1               |           |           | 1                |                 |                | 1          |                |             | 22       |       |         |
| Cowbird                              |                       | 73     |              |                 |           |           |                  |                 |                |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Cardinal                             | 220                   | 40     | 50           | 28              | 70        | 33        | 143              | 51              | 52             | 575        | x              | 14          | 53       | 9     | 33      |
| Purple Finch                         |                       |        |              | 8               |           |           | 10               | 19              | 21             | *          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Goldfinch                            | 32                    | 17     | 12           | 38              | 41        | 1         | 77               | 21              | 16             | 91         |                | 4           | 35       | 3     | 5       |
| E. Towhee                            | 23                    | 15     | 28           | 13              | 12        | 2         | 27               | 7               | 15             | 42         |                | 2           | 2        |       | 18      |
| Savannah Sparrow                     | 1                     |        | 2            |                 |           |           | 6                |                 |                |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Vesper Sparrow                       |                       |        |              |                 |           |           | *                |                 |                | 2          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Slate-c. Junco                       | 336                   | 56     | 57           | 67              | 26        | 27        | 74               | 144             | 103            | 291        | x              | 50          | 2        | *     | 75      |
| Oregon Junco                         |                       |        |              |                 |           |           |                  |                 |                | *          |                |             |          |       |         |
| Tree Sparrow                         | 1                     | 13     | 58           | 14              |           |           | 12               |                 | 53             | 147        | x              |             |          |       |         |
| Chp. Sparrow                         |                       |        |              |                 |           | 2         |                  |                 |                |            |                |             |          |       |         |
| Field Sparrow                        | 3                     | 4      | 24           | 32              | 4         | 2         | 28               | 47              | 4              | 72         | x              | 11          | 2        | 18    | 13      |
| W-c. Sparrow                         | 1                     | 40     | 3            |                 | 4         |           | 98               |                 | 1              | 10         |                | 8           | 12       |       |         |
| W-t. Sparrow                         | 95                    | 4      | 26           | 30              |           |           | 21               | 14              | 3              | 12         |                |             | 10       | 1     | 6       |
| Fox Sparrow                          | 6                     |        |              |                 |           |           | *                | 2               |                | 3          |                |             |          | 1     |         |
| Swamp Sparrow                        | 19                    | 4      | 7            | 9               |           |           | 23               | 5               | 4              | 6          | x              |             |          |       |         |
| Song Sparrow                         | 19                    | 20     | 14           | 12              | 8         | 10        | 32               | 24              | 25             | 241        |                | 7           | 24       | 6     | 12      |

NOTE—\* Indicates birds found near the time of census but not found on actual census.  
x Indicates that no individuals were counted.

40%, deciduous woodlands and thickets 30%, lake shores 20%, cattail marsh 10%.) Dec. 27; 6:45 A. M. to 4:45 P. M. Partly cloudy; wind N. E., 8-12 m.p.h.; temp. 10 to 30; lakes practically open, but were frozen the week before. Total hours, 10; total miles, 26 (21 by car, 5 on foot). Starlings have been unusually plentiful this winter around Madisonville; the estimates given are really conservative. Some of the species I failed to find were the following: Killdeer, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, and Fox Sparrow. As the lakes have been frozen over, very few ducks may be found here, though there may still be some on Pond River. Total, 40 species, 1745 individuals.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

PENNYRILE STATE PARK, CHRISTIAN COUNTY (Deciduous and pine woods and fields within the park area, Pennyrile Lake, and adjoining farmlands. Wooded area 50%, open fields in park 25%, farm lands 15%, lake shore 10%). Dec. 28; 7:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Calm and clear in morning, partly cloudy in afternoon; wind S. W., 1-7 m.p.h.; lake frozen; temp. 9 to 40. Total hours, 9; total miles, 12 (5 on foot, 7 by car). Total, 36 species, 684 individuals. Golden-crowned Kinglets apparently have decreased this season, and no Red-breasted Nuthatch could be found. On the other hand, White-throated Sparrows showed a definite increase and are well distributed in the park. A flock of 40 wildfowl, ducks presumably, were too high for identification.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

HENDERSON (inside the city, Audubon State Park, Diamond Island, Horseshoe Bend, and five mile south of the city). Dec. 29; 7:30 A. M. to noon. Weather cloudy and foggy at first, clear later; temp. 28-40; wind N. W., 1-3 m.p.h. after 9:00 A. M. Total, 37 species, 6280 individuals. The Catbird was seen by four of our best observers on North Elm Street in the city. Miss Smith saw a Brown Thrasher about December 1 in some thin woods near her home, five miles south of Henderson; Mr. Rhoads saw three Woodcocks in Audubon Park about the same time.—W. P. RHOADS, KING BENSON, ROBERT C. SOAPER, MR. AND MRS. WALTER ALVES, MRS. RICHARDS STITES, EDNA VOGEL, AMELIA KLUTEY, MRS. J. B. BERRY, MRS. ARCH SHELTON, VIRGINIA SMITH (compiler).

OWENSBORO (Carpenter's Lake area: 20% cultivated and overgrown fields, 20% lake shore and water, and 60% deciduous woods in the Pup Creek bottoms). Dec. 31; 9:30 A. M. to noon. Approximately 3 miles on foot. Weather clear and bright; wind, almost too brisk for birding; temp. 33. Total, 22 species, 166 individuals.—A. L. POWELL, JR.

BOWLING GREEN (College Farm, Chaney and McElroy Farms, Three Springs, and Mouth of Gasper; stream banks 25%, open woods 25%, farmlands 50%). Dec. 23; 6:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Clear; temp. 30 to 52; wind S. W., 8-12 m.p.h.; ground bare; ponds frozen over, streams open. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 18 (12 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 60 (12 on foot, 48 by car). Total, 52 species, 2191 individuals. Most birds were about normal in numbers; these species, however, were below the average for the preceding ten years: Bluebird, Carolina Chickadee, Crow, English Sparrow, Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, and Slate-colored Junco. It has been twenty years since the total of individuals was so low.—FRANK EWING, L. Y. LANCASTER, J. R. WHITMER, and GORDON WILSON.

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (Central area, Sloan's Crossing, Katy Pace Valley, Turnhole Bend, Chaumont, First Creek Lake, Houchins Ferry). Dec. 20; 7:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Cloudy; wind S. W., 1-7 m.p.h.; temp. 27-24. Ground hard frozen; ponds frozen over; streams clear; remains of a snow of a week before. Four observers in two parties. Total hours, 17; total miles, 60' (20 on foot, 40 in car). The great event of the day was the finding of the Double-crested Cormorant at First Creek Lake, the only winter record for the species for the park or for Bowling Green. Most birds were hard to find. Total, 36 species, 626 individuals. One hawk and 15 ducks were too far away for positive identification.—Park Naturalist HENRY W. LIX, FRANK EWING, L. Y. LANCASTER, and GORDON WILSON.

OTTER CREEK, MEADE COUNTY (Same territory as last year, except for more coverage of adjacent farm land; deciduous woods 30%, bushy fields 40%, farm land 15%, creek and river banks 15%). Dec. 31; 9:00 A. M. to 4:45 P. M. Clear except for fog in early morning; temp. 19 to 42; wind 2-5 m.p.h.; ground bare, ponds frozen over, rivers open. Six observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 17 (15 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 22 (12 on foot, 10 by car). Total, 42 species, 767 individuals. Red-shouldered Hawk seen in the area on December 29. The two Olive-backed Thrushes were seen separately by Mrs. Stamm and Don Summerfield. The ring around the eye was very clearly seen.—MR. and MRS. FRED STAMM, DONALD SUMMERFIELD, JACK CLARK, JOHN H. LOVELL II, and HARVEY B. LOVELL.

LOUISVILLE (Ohio River from Louisville to Twelve-mile Island, and inland about twelve miles to Anchorage, Prospect, and Valley; Ohio River and banks 30%, fields and farmlands 25%, brushy fields and new growth 20%, deciduous woodlands 25%).—Dec. 23; 5:20 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear and mild; temp. 26 to 58; wind S. to S.W., 12 m.p.h.; ponds and streams frozen in early morning. Twenty-seven observers in 13 parties. Total party-hours, 93 (48 on foot, 27 by car, 18 by boat); total party-miles, 136 (45 on foot, 82 by car, 9 by boat). Dave Wilson added the Virginia Rail, our first Christmas record. Walter Shackleton found the Bewick's Wren. Carl Cornette and Tom Fuller found the Vesper Sparrows. The Oregon Junco was viewed at close range on December 30 by John Flexner, Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Burt L. Monroe, Sr., and Walter Shackleton.—LEONARD C. BRECHER, FLOYD S. CARPENTER, DR. and MRS. WILLIAM CLAY, GERALD COLE, CARL CORNETT, JACOB P. DOUGHTY, TOM FULLER, PAXTON GIBBS, HARVEY B. LOVELL, JOHN LOVELL II, BURT L. MONROE, JR., BURT L. MONROE, SR., LOUIS PEIPER, EVELYN J. SCHNEIDER, WALTER H. SHACKLETON, MR. and MRS. P. SHANNON, MABEL SLACK, THOMAS P. SMITH, MRS. F. W. STAMM, ROBERT STEILBERG, DONALD SUMMERFIELD, MRS. FAN TABLER, DAVE WILSON, VIRGINIA WINSTANDLEY, AUDREY WRIGHT (Beckham Bird Club).

BERNHEIM FOREST PARK, CLERMONT, BULLITT COUNTY. Dec. 27-29. Total, 30 species, plus 6 other species unidentified. No individual numbers were counted.—LOUIS F. MULLER, Conservationist.

HARRODSBURG (Vicinity of Harrodsburg, Burgin Road, Herington Lake, Wildwood Sub-division, Kennedy's Bridge, Shakertown Road; open farmland 40%, brushy fields and new growth 25%, thickets and deciduous woodland 25%, shoreline 10%). Jan. 11;



10:00 A. M. to 2:00 P. M. Clear; temp. 30-50; wind, light northwest to none. Total hours, 4; total miles, 30 (25 by car, 5 on foot). Total species, 28; total individuals, 296.—Lt. (j. g.) C. A. VAN ARSDALL.

DANVILLE (Main and connecting roads in Boyle County; farm pasture land and deciduous farm woodlands 80%, deciduous wooded hills 15%, thickets and overgrown fence rows 5%). Dec. 29; 7:00 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Cloudy; temp. 33 to 38; wind S. W. to W., 5 m.p.h.; all ponds and parts of streams frozen. Five observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 15 by car; total party-miles, 65 by car. Total, 34 species, 880 individuals.—MRS. McBRAYER MOORE, MRS. RODES-READ, JOHN CHEEK, MR. and MRS. W. SCOTT GLORE, JR.

BEREA (Silver Creek, pastures and cornfields, Twin Mountain, pine and deciduous woodlots). Dec. 23; 7:45 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Clear; temp. 39-56; wind S. W., 14 m.p.h.; tiny pockets of snow on slopes. Total, 27 species, 1282 individuals.—MARGARET R. FOWLER.

WILLARD (Six miles over fields and woodlands). Dec. 24; 9:00 A. M. to 3:00 P. M. Total, 20 species, 528 individuals.—ERCEL KOZEE.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### A BROLEY EAGLE RECOVERY FROM KENTUCKY

Mr. Charles L. Broley, who has banded more than 1100 Bald Eagles during the last eleven years, reports that one of his birds was killed at Elliston, Kentucky, in Grant County. This bird was banded as a nestling on January 11, 1946, at Indian Rocks, Florida. It was killed on May 20, 1947, at which time it was about 1½ years old. Of the 100 returns that Mr. Broley has had from his eagles, 90 have been shot by irresponsible persons in violation of a Federal law protecting the Bald Eagle. All of his recoveries have been of immature birds. He estimates that there are 700 to 800 adult eagles wearing his bands. Adult eagles are much more wary and harder to shoot than immatures. Also they are easily recognized by their white head, and for that reason, Mr. Broley believes fewer gunners attempt to kill the bird.

Dr. Alex Van Arsdall has been inducted into the Navy and has been sent to Japan. He had a few days' leave and took time to make a bird count at Harrodsburg.

Helen Browning spent two weeks at the Audubon Camp in Maine, where she took field trips with Allan Cruickshank and Joseph Cadbury to bird islands off the coast. Among the birds she saw were Black Guillemots, Leech's Petrel, the nest of the Parula Warbler in Usnea, and many others.

Mr. and Mrs. William B. Tabler toured the western parks for three weeks and saw many new birds, including the Western Tanager, White-headed Woodpecker, and Audubon's Warbler.

Evelyn Schneider, Helen and Dorothy Pell, Audrey Wright, and Amy Deane spent their vacation in King's Canyon National Park in California, with a visit to Sequoia National Park. Evelyn showed pictures of her trip taken by her and Amy Deane at the December meeting of the Beckham Club.

Mr. and Mrs. John Mayer have moved to Melbourne, Florida (Box 453). Mrs. Mayer has been a member of the important Advisory Committee for several years and has contributed several articles and bird counts from her county. Her departure leaves a gap in that part of the state that will be hard to fill. She is keeping up her subscription to the KENTUCKY WARBLER, we are glad to say.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Charles Thacher toured the Great Smokies and drove north to Maryland over the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Sky-line Drive. In Maryland with their daughter they spent a day helping the Maryland Bird Club in its migratory hawk census.

Dr. Roger Barbour, who has contributed many articles to the Warbler, has accepted a position in the Zoology Department at the University of Kentucky. He will teach a course in ornithology this spring. He takes the place of Dr. Ernest Edwards, who resigned to carry on research on the birds of Mexico.

Mr. Howard Rollin of Weldona, Colorado, has sent the K. O. S. another of his beautiful bird paintings as a Christmas gift. This very striking painting portrays a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on a branch above its favorite food, a nest of caterpillars. As in his other works, the detail is meticulously carried out and the coloring is excellent.

Mr. Oscar McKinley Bryens writes that a Savannah Sparrow which he had banded was retaken 8 years later at Thompsonville, Michigan, and that a Great Blue Heron banded by him was found dead near Webbwood, Ontario, nearly 10 years later. His total banded species now stand at 102, since he added a Warbling Vireo and a Baltimore Oriole during the year. He banded 317 Tree Sparrows over a period of many years and finally obtained his first return this winter at Three Rivers, Michigan, where this species winters.

JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE BIRD COUNTS. Fourteen counts were made this winter, one of the largest series yet reported. Atherton High School, assisted by their sponsor, Mabel Slack, and by Ann Stamm, turned in the excellent number of 54 species and 748 individuals. The species found on Dec. 16 and 17 included: Pied-billed Grebe 1; Mallard, 25; Am. Golden-eye, 3; Bufflehead, 5; American Merganser, 2; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Horned Lark, 53; Winter Wren, 2; Bronzed Grackle, 1; Fox Sparrow, 1; Tree Sparrow, 12.

Lawrence O'Barr, LaGrange (Oldham County), on Dec. 31 reported 26 species including: Red-headed Woodpecker, 9; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Mourning Dove, 15; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Fox Sparrow, 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Turkey Vulture, 3; Robin, 2; Tree Sparrow, 2.

Henry Wade Giles, Model High School, reported 35 species in 10½ hours between Dec. 26 and Jan. 1. Interesting examples are: Red-headed Woodpecker, 4; Killdeer, 14; Meadowlark, 28; Shrike, 13; Turkey Vulture, 17; Marsh Hawk, 2.

Other fine counts were made by Eldon Powell, Kingston High School with 21 species; Walter Foreman of Morehead High School with 12 species; Carl Kays of Old Kentucky Home School with 17 species; the John Fitch Science Club of Old Kentucky Home School with 32 species.

Several of the counts contain species not present in Kentucky in the winter. It is to be hoped that the sponsors will check the lists against the winter range of the species in any good bird book to eliminate these from the counts in the future. Accuracy is the cardinal principle of science. The students of the science clubs who took part are, however, to be highly commended for their efforts and for the unusually large lists compiled this year.

## EDITORIAL

There are more bird counts this winter than ever before, and they are well scattered throughout the state, although we still lack census takers in the extreme eastern and western ends of Kentucky. If any of our members knows a bird student who lives near the West Virginia border or along the Mississippi River, be sure to urge him to take part in our activities.

The spring migration count should be taken between the 1st and 10th of May for best results. The time of arrival of the later migrants is less dependent upon the type of season than is the time of the earlier ones, although it has recently been discovered that changes in the barometer accelerate migration. This spring keep a record of numbers as you do on the Christmas count. It is true that birds hidden in foliage are much harder to count, but even an estimate is of some value. Plan to be in the field before sunrise and work as many hours as possible. Ask other bird students to work with you or, if none are available, at least have a companion to write down the birds as you identify them.

The nesting season will soon begin. Plan now to find some new nests for your locality. Horned Owls begin incubating in January, and other hawks and owls will soon follow their example. Other early nesting species are the Horned Lark, Killdeer, Phoebe, Robin, Mourning Dove, Titmouse, Starling, the Woodpeckers, and the Bluebird. During warm springs these permanent residents start building in March (the Horned Lark in February), long before the transient warblers appear from the south. Send in a list of the occupied nests you find to the editors, giving the earliest date on which eggs or young were found. Record also where the nest was found. Many state bird clubs print annually a summary of all the nests found in the state for that year. If all field workers will cooperate, we shall try to do the same in the fall issue. H. B. L.

**1951 DUES NOW PAYABLE.** This is the last issue that can be sent to members in arrears. If you wish your name kept on the mailing list and plan to pay later, please notify the secretary. Beckham members send dues to Lily Fay Thomas, 1314 Everett, others to Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, 2918 Brownsboro Road, Louisville. If you do not feel that you can continue your membership, be sure to send in your resignation, promptly.