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THE  
KENTUCKY  
WARBLER



Vol. 28, No. 1

February 1952

## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1923 by

B. C. BACON, L. O. PINDAR, and GORDON WILSON

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All members are urged to send notes, articles, news  
items, or other material for publication to one of the editors.

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COVER PICTURE. Nest of Worm-eating Warbler at Bernheim  
Reservation described by Virginia Wiegand in the November issue,  
page 56.

## NOTES ON PHEASANT DISPERSAL IN KENTUCKY

LEE K. NELSON, Hodgenville, Kentucky

One of the phases of the Pheasant Investigations Project of the Kentucky Division of Game and Fish is to obtain data on the dispersal of released pen-reared pheasants. Although data regarding movement of pheasants away from the study areas are meager at the present time, several reports received from outlying areas bear recounting.

The study is confined to two areas in Central Kentucky, one at Boston in Nelson County and the other near Saloma in Taylor County. A total of 959 pheasants were released on the areas in 1950 and 2,000 in 1951. All birds were banded with numbered leg bands and marked with rubber neck tags attached to a pinch of skin at the back of the neck with a safety pin.

A report was received of a cock flying into a farmhouse six miles northeast of Lebanon, Kentucky, on August 11, 1951. Both the band and the tag were recovered. This cock was released on the Boston Area on October 18, 1950. The bird had moved a distance of approximately 31 miles in ten months.

An observation of a hen pheasant in a garden located near the business section of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, was made by the local conservation officer on October 19, 1951. This bird had traveled a distance of about 12 miles. An injured hen, possibly the same bird, was picked up in the vicinity of Elizabethtown on October 28 and taken to a veterinarian at Fort Knox, where it died the next day. The band and tag were sent in by the veterinarian. This bird was released on the J. R. Botto farm on the Boston Area on September 8, 1951.

A hen pheasant flew into a closed window of the Dupont-Manual High School in Louisville on November 8, 1951. The bird was picked up immediately and found to be dead. The band number was reported by one of the teachers at the school. The bird was released on the Boston Area on August 3, 1951, at the J. E. Edwards farm. It was estimated that this bird had traveled a distance of 42 miles. This is the longest known distance a pheasant has ranged since the project was initiated.

A band was received from the conservation officer of Washington County from a hen pheasant shot by a hunter one mile east of Springfield, Kentucky, during the last week

of November. A check of the records revealed that this bird was released on the E. F. Noe farm on the Saloma Area on July 26, 1951. The distance ranged was 28 miles.

Various theories have been advanced by pheasant researchers regarding long-range dispersal of the birds. Leopold, Lee, and Anderson (1938) found that native pheasants in Wisconsin dispersed from areas lacking suitable food or cover, or both. Some dispersed while others remained where food was good, but cover only fair. All birds dispersed where both food and cover were poor. None of the birds released in an area of good food and cover were observed to disperse farther than a nearby feeder. Pearce (McAtee, 1945) states that there is some evidence that the phenomenal flights of 25 to 50 miles within a few days after release are the results of head injuries inflicted in handling the birds.

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### THE NESTING OF THE CEDAR WAXWING IN DAVISS COUNTY

ALBERT L. POWELL, JR., 1908 Fleming Ave., Owensboro

Bird-hikers like to pride themselves on their knowledge and skill in field work and rant long and loud on the discovery of a particular species that has eluded the most active observers in the area. A lot of the finding is due to real luck, and to paraphrase a well-known saying "Birds are where you find them." We certainly found this true of June 10, 1951, for Harvey Lovell and I ran into a bit of luck as we found the nest of a Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) at Carpenter's Lake, near Owensboro.

We had finished an intensive search of the shores of the lake and had already got into our car to leave, when we both looked up into a large sycamore tree hoping to locate an Orchard Oriole that was singing. Suddenly we both spotted a bird just as it stepped onto its nest and began incubating. We both thought it belonged to the Oriole until we studied more carefully through our glasses and discovered the tail protruding over the edge had a yellow band across the tip, a sure diagnosis for a Cedar Waxwing.

The nest was about 60 feet off the ground on an extended limb and was built between a horizontal fork. Because of its inaccessibility we were not able to determine the contents of the nest. The outside of the nest was rather bulky and not very neat.

On June 23, the writer revisited the lake and found the female still setting. Apparently the eggs had not yet hatched. Another visit was not made until July 8. No sign of the Waxwings could be found. English Sparrows were in possession of the nest.

News of the nest got to the ears of Jack Keeley, Owensboro City Engineer and longtime bird student of this area. He informed me that the Cedar Waxwing had always been present here during the summer months. Although he had not found a nest personally, he knew of a nest on the Reid Farm. We went to this farm and were assured by Mr. Reid that the Cedar Waxwing had nested on his place for a number of years. He had witnessed the parent bird feeding young just a day or so before I talked to him. Mr. Keeley also said that as a boy he remembered seeing waxwings every summer.

In view of the above evidence plus the finding of a pair of these birds in July at Lincoln Memorial Park in southern Indiana, we can feel reasonably sure that the Cedar Waxwing is established as a breeding bird in Daviess County. It further extends the known breeding range about 100 miles west of Louisville, until now the most western known breeding site in Kentucky.

## CATASTROPHE TO BIRDS AT A LOUISVILLE AIRPORT

HARVEY B. LOVELL, Louisville

To the hazards of night migration must be added the cellometer. A series of accidents were reported on the night of Sunday, October 7, 1951. The most serious falls occurred at Knoxville, Tennessee (Migrant; 22: 61, 1951), where Howell and Tanner recorded 1044 individuals belonging to 46 species. At the Sewart Air Force Base near Smyrna, Kenneth A. Laband estimated that there were about 1000 dead birds. At Nashville, Tennessee, Amelia R. Laskey was present from 10:50 until after midnight and reported that myriads of small birds were fluttering in the light of the beam. The next day a total of 476 birds of 40 species were picked up. Of these over 30 were still alive and were released after banding.

In Louisville the ceiling was between two and three

thousand feet, and the ceilometer was therefore on all night. In the control tower at Standiford Airport, the operator noted that there were a lot of flying creatures in the beam of the ceilometer. A careful look through field glasses showed that in addition to the bugs which are often attracted to the powerful mercury-arc light, there were many birds flying in and out of the beam. Mr. Regan turned on the biscuit light (a small portable light used to signal planes) and was able to follow the flight of some of the birds. He estimated that there must have been 900 birds circling at one time. He insisted that some of the birds were quite large, but this seems to have been in comparison with the usual insect fauna. He finally agreed that by large he meant on the order of a Starling or Robin.

The next morning it was discovered that the ground around the ceilometer was covered with dead birds. At least seventy-five were picked up by the weather bureau and brought in. By an unhappy chance no ornithologist heard of the catastrophe, and the birds were thrown into the garbage without being examined by anyone capable of identifying even one species. On Wednesday A. F. Ganier wrote the author that he had read an associated press dispatch about the birds killed at Louisville. I immediately called the weather bureau, and they promised to check the ground around the light to see if all the birds had been picked up.

On Thursday noon I went to Standiford Field and found they had recovered the bodies of six more birds. With the aid of a weather-bureau observer I made a careful search of the ground around the tower. We found fifteen more, two of which were so badly mashed by a tractor they were not taken. One bird, a Virginia Rail, was recovered from the roof of the Administration Building just below the control tower and may have flown into the tower.

The nineteen birds were carefully identified with the aid of James B. Young and his fine collection of skins of warblers in fall plumage. A total of 13 species were present. These were: Blackburnian Warbler, 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1; Tennessee Warbler, 2; Bay-breasted Warbler, 3; Ovenbird, 4; Yellowthroat, 1 M; Magnolia Warbler, 1 M; Woodthrush, 1; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 1; Scarlet Tanager, 1; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1 M; Indigo Bunting, 1 M; and Virginia Rail, 1.

## HISTORY OF THE HENDERSON AUDUBON SOCIETY

VIRGINIA SMITH, Henderson

The Henderson Audubon Society, organized in 1898 at the home of Mrs. Montgomery Merritt, was the first in Kentucky and one of five in the United States at that time. The following is a known list of the Charter members: Mrs. Montgomery Merritt, President; Mrs. Gaston M. Alves, Vice-President; Mr. Ingram Crockett, Secretary; Mr. Gaston Alves, Treasurer; Mr. Montgomery Merritt, Mrs. Ingram Crockett, Miss Susan Towles, Mrs. William Hoyt (nee Miss Juliet Alves), Mrs. Sterling Price (nee Miss Mamie Starling), Reverend Frank Thomas (Methodist Church), Mrs. Nat Stanley, Sr. (nee Miss Margie Alves), Mrs. Ella McCormick (nee Miss Ella Norris), Mr. C. A. Katterjohn, and Mrs. Richard Cunningham.

The society did useful work, their programs including lantern slide pictures and bird talks. Some of the lectures were also given in the public schools. Boys were taken on forest tramps, and a small library on bird lore was collected.

An account of the founding of the Henderson Audubon Society was published in *Bird-Lore* in June, 1900, by secretary Crockett. Its aims were the education of youth and the general public to the appreciation of birds and the protection and preservation of bird life. "We have made a happy choice in our president and vice-president, Mrs. Merritt and Mrs. Alves," says Secretary Crockett, "who are estimable ladies, discreet and tactful and withal touched with the value of our work."

In Mrs. Julia Clore's scrapbook is a letter from the late Mrs. Juliet O. Alves, New York, who wrote, "I recall the first meeting, the small group of earnest nature loving members, the polite vows of the ladies to never again wear stuffed birds on their hats."

After a period of lessened activity, Miss Susan Towles was elected president in 1910 with the understanding that although she, as a librarian, would be unable to carry on the nature work, she would help form an Audubon collection. She already had in mind the idea of an Audubon Museum. In order to stimulate interest in an historic collection for this museum she wrote papers and gave talks on Audubon in Henderson, Evansville, Indianapolis, Frankfort, Lexington, and Paducah.

It had been hoped that the historic Audubon Mill, whose walls were covered with bird sketches by the naturalist, would become the museum; but the mill burned in 1913, a beautiful spectacle against sky and river. It was known that the 99-year lease now in the hands of the David Clark family would expire; so Miss Towles resigned in 1915 because she felt a business man would be better able to cope with a legal situation, and Mr. Leigh Harris was chosen president; Miss Towles, vice-president; Mr. Strother Banks, secretary; and Mrs. Harry Thixton, treasurer.

The society was then incorporated and given the name "Henderson Memorial Audubon Society, Inc.," this being arranged by Mr. Malcolm Yeaman. When in 1916 the lease on the Audubon Mill ground expired, Mr. Harris asked the society to appear before Mr. Hawkins Hart for the city and ask that this ground be dedicated to the memory of Audubon. Miss Towles asked that the name be Audubon Mill Park to show the naturalist had lived in Henderson.

All this time the Audubon collection had been growing, and the

society decided in 1930, under the presidency of Mr. Oscar Letcher, who was intensely interested, to ask the Federal Government for \$100,000 to build an Audubon Museum.

A state park honoring Audubon had long been considered by the citizens of Henderson. Mayor Lee Hurley, Mr. Leigh Harris, Mr. Ben Niles, and Mr. N. Powell Taylor assumed responsibility for securing the land. Mrs. Ben Niles and Mr. Leo King chose the Wolf Hills north of Henderson as the most desirable site. Here the museum is located. The park was made possible by land being donated by the following: Mr. John G. Duncan, Mr. David Clark, Mr. Henry P. Barret, Mrs. Samuel Gant, Mr. Alex Mayor, Mrs. Kate Major Campbell, Mr. Phelps Lambert; and 35 acres were purchased through subscriptions of local citizens, secured by the Business and Professional Women's Club; and 1000 given by ten citizens of Evansville.

The society, aided by the Henderson County Historical Society, organized in 1922, carried on the work of gathering Audubon, Henderson, and Kentucky records. They sponsored the sale of Audubon prints with the profits of such sales used to buy the present collection of 101 original prints now housed in the Audubon Museum. Other Audubon articles as well as many priceless items were presented by the Historical Society and the Society of Transylvanians.

Meetings of the Audubon Society were discontinued after 1942, although the members continued their interest in the Museum and its collections.

## MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1951

Edited by GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green

After the severe winter of 1950-51 it is not surprising that many species of birds are fewer in number than in most of the winters that we have conducted this count. Carolina Wrens, Myrtle Warblers, and Golden-crowned Kinglets are among the species that show most decline. However, many common species have fallen to the lowest numbers in ten years or more. On the other hand, the open weather at Christmas brought more than the ordinary number of water species, especially at Marion, Henderson, and Louisville. There are more rarities on the count than ever before: Holboell's Grebe, Horned Grebe, Black-crowned Night Heron, Snow Goose, Blue Goose, Duck Hawk, Bald Eagle, Pigeon Hawk, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Chipping Sparrow, and Lapland Longspur. The editors take this opportunity to thank all who have helped make this Christmas Count.

**MARION**—(Farm areas, river bottoms, Ohio River banks, open woods, urban areas). Dec. 25; dawn to dusk; temp. 25-40; cloudy; wind NE, light. Total species, 52; individuals, 6423.—**DR. T. ATCHISON FRAZER** and **C. L. FRAZER**.

**MURRAY**—(7½-mile radius extending from Murray State College Farm eastward to Kentucky Lake at the mouth of Blood River, southward to the Tennessee state line, northward to Jonathan Creek; woodlands 20%, hedgerow 35%, open fields 30%, lake shore 10%, urban 5%). Dec. 27, 6:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear; temp. 20 to 36; wind N, 5 m.p.h.; ground frozen. Eight observers in four parties. Total party miles, 59 (11 on foot, 48 by car); total party hours, 30 (23 on foot, 7 by car). Total species, 51; individuals, 1328. Kemper recorded a Northern Shrike in the area on December 26.—**MR. AND MRS. EUGENE CYPERT, DR. LOREN PUTNAM, DR. A. M. WOLF-**

SON, WESLEY KEMPER, MISS MILDRED SWANN, MISS NANCY WOLFSON, and MISS GRACE WYATT. (Dr. Putnam was visiting from Ohio State University, Miss Swann from Texas State College for Women).

PENNYRILE STATE PARK—(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. 24, 6:45 A. M. to 4:45 P. M. Cloudy; wind NW, 8-12 m.p.h.; temp. 27 to 42; lake mostly open. Total hours, 10; total miles, 12 (6 on foot, 6 by car). Total, species, 34; individuals 377. More Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen than I had ever recorded before at the park. A partially albino female Cardinal seen that day was white on the back of the neck and on or about the rump.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

MADISONVILLE—(W. W. Hancock Farm, Brown and Frostburg Roads, five lakes at Madisonville and two at Earlington; open fields 20%, deciduous woodland and thickets 25%, lake shores 40%, flooded bottomlands 15%). Dec. 27, 7:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Mostly clear; wind NE, 1-7 m.p.h.; temp. 17 to 26; lakes mostly open. Total hours, 10; total miles, 39 (6 on foot, 33 by car). Total, species, 47; individuals, 625. No large flocks were recorded other than a flock of 73 Meadowlarks; Starlings are relatively scarce this winter. The Blue Goose, an adult, came to Brown Meadow Lake in early November and has been there ever since, keeping company with the custodian's two domesticated ducks. The Brown Thrasher was on the Spring Lake Wild Life Sanctuary with a flock of Towhees.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

HENDERSON COUNTY—Christmas Week, Dec. 22 to Dec. 30, each group working only one day in different parts of the country. Soaper reported that 2 of the Canada Geese were smaller, apparently Hutchins' Canada Goose; the Snow Goose was shot in the Diamond Island Bend area and a picture taken; the Bewick's Wren is wintering at the home of V. Smith; the Catbird was seen by Mrs. Shelton and others at a feeder at Audubon State Park; the Brown Thrasher was observed by V. Smith and K. Benson in a little patch of woods in the same place as a year ago; the Snowy Owl was seen by Jimmy Fields and Bobby Fields on Airline Road 4 miles from Henderson. The crows were in a great roost near the home of Mrs. Walter Alves. Total 86 species, 1 additional subspecies; individuals, 46,510.—VIRGINIA SMITH, Compiler.

OWENSBORO—Brushy fields and roadside ditches 25%, open fields—airport 10%, woodlands and farm woodlot 25%, farmlands, cultivated fields, and orchards 15%, lake shore and open water 10%, Ohio River and its bottoms 15%). Dec. 24, 8:15 A. M. to 2:30 P. M. Cloudy and overcast; temp. 33; high wind, especially on river. Total miles (observers together), 35 (5 on foot, 30 by car). Total species, 34; individuals, 226.—JACK KEELEY and A. L. POWELL.

BOWLING GREEN—(Schneider, McElroy, Chaney, and Taylor Farms; Three Springs; stream banks 5%, open woods 15%, around flooded cornfields 50%, farmlands 30%). Dec. 22, 6:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear; temp. 20 to 34; wind W, 8-12 m.p.h.; ground bare; ponds frozen over, cornfield lakes frozen around edges; streams open. Three observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 18 (16 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 38 (30 by car, 8 on foot). Total species, 52; indi-

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1951	Marion	Murray	Pen. St. Park	Madisonville	Henderson	Owensboro	Bowling Green	Mammoth Cave	Otter Creek	Louisville	Russell Spring
Loon .....				2	3						
Holboell's Grebe .....							1			3	
Horned Grebe .....							1			2	
Pied-billed Grebe .....										3	
Great Blue Heron .....	3				4		1			24	
Black-crowned Night Heron.....										27	
Canada Goose .....	36				700						
Snow Goose .....					1						
Blue Goose .....	24			1							
Mallard .....	3030				20000		65			45	
Black Duck .....	2000				2000		69	25	2	119	
Baldpate .....										7	
Pintail .....					150					3	
Green-winged Teal .....					60					3	
Blue-winged Teal .....					1						
Shoveller .....						8					
Wood Duck .....					4		2			1	
Redhead .....						4				*	
Ring-necked Duck .....				*	50					1	
Canvas-back .....					200	2				*	
Lesser Scaup .....	13				1000		7			22	
American Golden-eye .....					50		10			31	
Buffle-head .....		2								1	
Ruddy Duck .....					1						
Hooded Merganser .....	5	5								4	
American Merganser .....	10	10			28				3	5	
Red-breasted Merganser .....	3	6			50						
Turkey Vulture .....	11	11			12		7	2		1	7
Black Vulture .....	5				5		*	28		10	
Sharp-shinned Hawk .....	2	1		1	1		1				
Cooper's Hawk .....		2			7				1	6	
Red-tailed Hawk .....		3	1	1	11		2	2	1	5	
Red-shouldered Hawk .....	5	3		1	24		3		2	5	
Rough-legged Hawk .....							*		1		
Bald Eagle .....					3					*	
Marsh Hawk .....	3	3			12	1	2			7	1
Duck Hawk .....					1						
Pigeon Hawk .....					1					1	
Sparrow Hawk .....	3	3	1	2	21	9	7			31	4
Bob-white .....	27		2	7	15					10	9
Coot .....	5									1	
Killdeer .....		2		2	35		6			23	
Wilson's Snipe .....							5				
Herring Gull .....	56				40	10			4	49	
Ring-billed Gull .....		30								393	
Eonaparte's Gull .....										2	
Mourning Dove .....	35	28		21	400		43			64	65
Screech Owl .....					2					3	
Horned Owl .....					3					2	
Snowy Owl .....					1						
Barred Owl .....	1			1	6	*	*	1		4	
Belted Kingfisher .....	2			1	1		*		4	5	
Yellow-sh. Flicker .....	3	27	6	14	25	1	6	6	14	24	11
Pileated Woodpecker .....	4	4		1	7		3	2		1	3



viduals, 5689. Apparently because of the severe winter of 1950-51, many species were below their usual numbers. The Holboell's Grebe was our first Christmas record for the species. The Crows were passing to and from their roost but were far below their numbers for some winters.—FRANK EWING, CHARLES L. TAYLOR, GORDON WILSON.

**MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK**—(Central area, Beaver Pond, Katy Pace Valley, Cedar Sink, Mammoth Cave Ridge, Silent Grove; stream banks 10%, deep woods 20%, old fields 40%, second-growth young timberlands 20%, roadsides 10%). Dec. 28, 7:00 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Cloudy; temp. 25 to 45; wind W, 8-14 m.p.h.; ground bare and frozen; ponds frozen over; river open. Five observers in three parties in the morning, two in the afternoon. Total party hours, 22 (20 on foot, 2 by car); total party miles, 35 (15 on foot, 20 by car). Birds were very scarce and hard to find; some species commonly found were not seen at all; others were in the smallest numbers of the seven censuses taken in the park.—FRANK EWING, MYRON HAYS, L. Y. LANCASTER, J. R. WHITMER, and GORDON WILSON.

**OTTER CREEK PARK**—(Same territory as covered in previous years; old fields 30%, deciduous woods 50%, farmland 10%, bank of Ohio River 10%). Dec. 30; all day. Temp. 59 to 62; wind, 5-8 m.p.h. Total party-hours, 13 (11 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 19 (9 on foot, 10 by car). Total species, 39; individuals, 337. (See "News Items" for further facts.—Ed.)—GERALD COLE, JOHN HARVEY LOVELL, II, HARVEY B. LOVELL, MR. AND MRS. FRED W. STAMM.

**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, 5:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear and mild; temp. 28 to 42; wind southwest, 8-12 m.p.h.; many small ponds still frozen. Thirty-two observers in 12 parties. Total party hours, 75 (43 on foot, 26 by car, 6 by boat); total party-miles, 119 (30 on foot, 85 by car, 4 by boat). Total species, 83; individuals, 8479 plus. Tom Fuller and Walter Shackleton found the Pigeon Hawk; Mrs. Stamm found the Pipits; the Evening Grosbeak was sighted by Jerry Smith and Robert Steilberg; one of the Lapland Longspurs was collected.—LEONARD BRECHER, ROBERTA BURKHARDT, FLOYD CARPENTER, DR. AND MRS. WILLIAM CLAY, JACOB P. DOUGHTY, TOM FULLER, MR. AND MRS. F. X. KRULL, DR. AND MRS. HARVEY B. LOVELL, JOHN LOVELL, BURT L. MONROE, JR., BURT L. MONROE, SR., LOUIS PIEPER, MARIE PIEPER, EVELYN SCHNEIDER, MR. AND MRS. WALTER SHACKLETON, MR. AND MRS. F. P. SHANNON, MABEL SLACK, JERRY SMITH, MR. AND MRS. F. W. STAMM, ROBERT STEILBERG, CHARLES STRULL, MRS. FAN TABLER, MR. AND MRS. S. CHARLES THACHER, VIRGINIA WINSTANLEY, AUDREY WRIGHT.

**RUSSELL SPRINGS**—(Meadows, open woods, around houses and barns, open fields). Dec. 25, 6:30 A. M. to 4:25 P. M. Total species, 29; individuals, 452.—TOMMIE HOUK.

## FIELD NOTES

### A FIVE-WEEKS STUDY OF A HUMMINGBIRD'S NEST

On June 22 I was attracted by a commotion in the young water maple tree just outside the window of the upstairs bedroom. This commotion proved to be the efforts of a female Hummingbird to drive a sparrow from the tree. After the sparrow took flight, the Hummingbird disappeared into a leafy branch of the tree. I soon discovered the tiny nest, which was not more than ten feet away from my bedroom window, fastened around an upward-slanting twig on a slender down-swinging branch well canopied by sheltering leaves. The nest was about the size and shape of a half egg shell, and the cotton from the cottonwood trees foamed over the edge. During the following weeks the female frequently added more of the fluffy cotton and so kept the nest soft and downy. The outside of the nest was a paper-thin layer of lichens and bits of bark. The tiny bird left the nest at frequent intervals during the next two weeks, but she was never gone long. I often sat by the window for an hour or so and enjoyed the close view. She cocked her head all around, and her beady eyes kept a close watch on her domain. Any bird, large or small, that dared light in the tree was soon driven off.

After two weeks, on the 7th of July, I felt sure the eggs had hatched, as the mother would perch on the edge of the nest and carefully poke her needle-like bill down into it. The nest was just barely high enough to prevent seeing down inside. In a few days I glimpsed a tiny head bobbing just above the edge of the nest, and in a week's time two nestling birds were much in evidence. At this time the female began to show her disapproval of my nearness. If I were sitting at the window when she fed her nestlings, she would hover before the screen, making a faint snipping sound. One day I heard a zooming noise and looked out to find that a sparrow had perched quite near the nest and stubbornly refused to move. The Hummingbird kept swinging swiftly back and forth with the regularity of a pendulum until the sparrow departed. She was so spent from this exhausting fight that she rested for some time on a nearby twig.

From the very first, the bills of the young birds were distinctly elongated. During the three weeks that they remained in the nest, it was amazing to see how fast those bills grew and how quickly the tiny birds feathered out. For several days before their first flight they appeared to be almost as large as the mother. They were so crowded in the tiny nest that they were constantly pushing each other under and climbing on top of each other. They would rise up, spread their wings, and spin them like propellers. They also spent much time in preening their feathers. About mid-morning of July 27th the first bird left the nest, but he stayed in the tree all day, making short flights from one branch to another. The mother bird always located him and kept him well fed, along with the one still in the nest. During the afternoon a heavy rain, lasting for several hours, set in. The young bird that was out of the nest sat with its bill pointing straight up all during the rain. The next day the other bird left the nest, and the whole family left the tree. I did not see them to know them after that.

The male Hummingbird never appeared in, or near, the tree

during the five weeks of my observations. He was seen among the flowers in the gardens, but gave no help at all in the care of the family.—VIRGINIA COOPER, 211 S. Main Street, Henderson.

#### ANTICS OF A RUDDY DUCK

On the fishing lake in Audubon State Park, Jerry McKinney, boatkeeper, and I had the rare privilege of observing a lone Ruddy Duck putting on an unusual display. He swam along with his fan-like tail held so high that it seemed almost to touch his head, which was held back at a sharp angle. He permitted us to get very close to him in our boat; then he would dive suddenly and come up some distance away. If we came too near, he would give us an exhibition of that crazy flight of his. He would rise slightly from the water, then partly fly, partly skate and partly swim for some distance. I suppose this peculiar method of his is the reason that hunters call him a fool duck. Anyway, it was very interesting for us to observe the antics of this Ruddy Duck.—KING BENSON.

#### CHIMNEY SWIFTS IN A HOLLOW TREE

In earlier times, before the advent of numerous chimneys, the Chimney Swift roosted and nested in hollow trees. Within recent times, however, the bird has forsaken its natural nesting sites in favor of the more abundant, and perhaps more suitable, sites afforded by chimneys. Records of the Chimney Swift in trees are now so rare as to warrant the publication of the following observation.

Just before dusk on June 10 and again on June 11, we observed a flock of approximately 25 chimney swifts spiralling down into the top of a hollow tree. We did not determine whether the birds were nesting in the tree, or merely roosting. The tree, a large partially dead cypress, was standing approximately 30 feet from the shore and about 100 yards above a bridge across the outlet of Fish Lake. Fish Lake is located some 2 miles west of Barlow, Ballard County, Kentucky.

Mr. Robert Mengel told us he observed the same phenomenon in the same place a day or so after we did.—ROGER BARBOUR AND WILLIAM L. GAULT, Zoology Department, University of Kentucky.

#### QUAIL AND GUINEA FOWL

Last fall on a farm next to us, a covey of quail joined the company of a flock of guinea fowl. They were very gentle, coming over into our yard every day. Both guinea fowls and quail would go back home to roost, the guineas roosting in a locust tree near the house, and the quail roosting on the ground in a semi-circle at the base of the same tree.

Some time later, all but one quail disappeared—then that one roosted up in the tree with the guinea fowl. Now that one has disappeared.—MRS. NAT M. STANLEY, SR., Reed.

#### PHOEBE HOVERING

At No. 1 Firetower in the Mammoth Cave National Park on April 8, 1950, I saw something that was new to me, a Phoebe hovering. It flew up from some small trees to about 100 feet above the ground and held its place for a minute or more, uttering meanwhile its spring call repeatedly. Then it turned down quickly, very much after the fashion of the Sparrow Hawk at the conclusion of its well-known hovering.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

## 1951 BIRD COUNT FROM MICHIGAN

Three Rivers, St. Joseph County, Michigan—Jan. 1, 1952. Covered some of city limits, farm areas, edge of woods, some of St. Joseph River, and Scidmore Conservation Park. Covered  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles, on foot. Ponds frozen over. Rivers frozen over in places. Ground covered with an average of 6 to 8 inches of snow. On trip from 7:05 A. M. to 11:05 A. M. CST. Weather, overcast; temp. 27 to 35 F; northwest wind. Common Canada Goose, 18; Common Mallard, 139; American Golden-eye, 62; Buffle-head, 1; American Merganser, 10; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Domestic Pigeon, 5; Eastern Mourning Dove, 9; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Northern Downy Woodpecker, 9; Northern Blue Jay, 18; Eastern Crow, 5; Blackcapped Chickadee, 8; Tufted Titmouse, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 8; Brown Creeper, 1; European Starling, 28; English Sparrow, 147; Eastern Cardinal, 4; Eastern Goldfinch, 10; Slate-colored Junco, 7; Eastern Tree Sparrow, 10; Mississippi Song Sparrow, 1. Total Species, 25; Individuals, 511.—OSCAR McKINLEY BRYENS, Three Rivers, Michigan.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

## IMPRESSIONS OF HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY

We planned our trip through eastern Pennsylvania so that we would arrive at the famous sanctuary before dark of the evening of July 27, 1951. After climbing a long, winding hill, the "mountain," we entered the sanctuary. There stood Maurice Braun near headquarters counting swallows against the sky, as they soared over the crest of Hawk Mountain. He was stripped to the waist in spite of the black flies and the cool evening breeze. He hobbled on one foot because a heavy pipe had broken his big toe a few days before, but a little thing like that did not keep him from his studies. An assistant, Tommy Hanson, higher up on the mountain was counting the fleet birds on the other side of the ridge.

Mrs. Braun, who had been sitting on the porch, greeted us cordially and made us welcome. Then she took over her husband's field glasses and continued the count while he directed us to a nearby leanto which was to be our home for the night. He told us the swallows, mostly Barn Swallows, had been migrating along the mountain range for several days, and that he had discovered this unusual and apparently undescribed summer migration several years before.

That night the "worst storm we had ever seen on the mountain" initiated us still further into the beauties of the spot with an awesome display of thunder and lightning, coupled with a drenching downpour. The Brauns and their volunteer assistant occupied the other half of the leanto, for they prefer to sleep out in the open air all summer.

In the morning a low cloud hid the top of the mountain from view and occasionally spilled over a little. On the porch of the lodge two feeders with a red-flower entrance attracted a pair of Hummingbirds, which were so tame that they sipped their breakfast as we sat close by and snapped their pictures. Two Golden-winged War-

blers displayed in the garden below, and a Black-capped Chickadee (banded, of course) fed from a small feeder by the fence.

Inside we admired the many ornithological souvenirs. Hammered silver pins made to represent the different hawks in flight were a special feature. A fine collection of ornithological journals, many of them with articles on hawk migration by Maurice Braun, attracted our attention. We took the addresses of the editors of 3 state bird journals, which have since been added to our exchange list. And finally, we purchased the famous book, *Hawks Aloft*, which tells the story of how Hawk Mountain was changed from a slaughter house to a sanctuary. The Brauns both graciously autographed it to "The first visit of the Kentucky Warbler to Hawk Mountain."

At noon we reluctantly left the cool, invigorating air and pleasant isolation of the world's only refuge dedicated to the protection of our birds of prey, to return to the noise and confusion of the busy highways north.—ETHEL AND HARVEY LOVELL.

### NATURE SANCTUARIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

An inventory of all important areas having natural history value, prepared by a committee headed by Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh. A total of 691 sanctuaries are listed, giving size, type of vegetation, and principal animals. The areas are arranged according to the principal vegetation types. Outline maps show locations. Price, .50 from S. C. Kendeigh, Vivarium Building, Champaign, Illinois.

A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI, by Olin S. Pettingill, Jr., Oxford University Press, New York. XXI and 659 pages, 1951, \$5.00. Designed to be the ornithologists' Duncan Hines, this book gives full and accurate directions on where to go to see birds, particularly rare species, in a great variety of places. It also describes the most interesting bird habitats and gives a significant list of birds for each of them. There are 24 chapters for the 26 states in the area (Connecticut and Rhode Island, and Delaware and New Jersey are considered together).

The Kentucky chapter, which occupies pages 166 to 190, was written by Burt L. Monroe, state ornithologist and curator of the K. O. S. He gives credit to the following for assistance: Roger Barbour, George H. Breiding, John DeLime, Victor K. Dodge, L. Y. Lancaster, H. B. Lovell, Robert Mengel, Burt L. Monroe, Jr., John Morse, Edward Ray, Robert C. Soaper, C. A. Van Arsdall, Earl Wallace, and Gordon Wilson.

The chapter begins with an excellent description of the state as a whole. A list of 36 birds typical of deciduous woods and another of 31 birds typical of farm lands gives a good introductory picture of bird life. "In all, 14,000 miles of streams traverse Kentucky"... "Kentucky's winter bird population is large and varied. During a 30-year period, winter bird counts taken in many parts of the state have recorded 123 species." The most interesting places in Kentucky to find birds include: Kentucky Lake, Kentucky Woodlands Wildlife Refuge, the wet weather lakes near Bowling Green, Mammoth Cave National Park, Cumberland Falls State Park, Audubon Memorial State Park, the Falls of the Ohio, Black Mountain, Natural Bridge State Park, and Swan Lake near Wickliffe.

A little-known heron rookery is described on page 174 as follows:

"One mile northwest of Kentucky Dam State Park is a tupelo, gum, and cypress swamp with a colony of Great Blue Herons and American Egrets. During the last few years, this colony has gradually increased in size and now contains approximately 150 nests." Directions are also given for finding the Red-cockaded Woodpecker near Cumberland Falls. It "should be looked for in the pines along state Route 90 from the Park to a point 5 or 6 miles east."

From the Everglades of Florida to the bird islands off the coast of Maine; from Deer Island off the coast of Mississippi to the Fox River Valley of Wisconsin, an ornithologist will find this book to be of inestimable aid to his enjoyment. A companion volume on the states west of the Mississippi is soon to appear.—VIRGINIA WINSTANDLEY.

**BIRD COUNTS BY THE SCIENCE CLUBS OF THE JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.** The following clubs submitted counts for the K. O. S. Prize: Atherton High School (Bunsen Club). Total species, 34; total individuals, 758. Among the interesting birds were Canvasback, 2; Goldeneye, 39; Brown Creeper, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 2; Meadowlark, 1; Goldfinch, 4.—NORMA McCLELLAN.

**BARDSTOWN**—(John Fitch Science Club). Species total, 25; total individuals, 1743. Among the interesting species reported were Bobwhite, 110; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Robin, 11; Cardinal, 74.

**BEREA** (Kingston High School). Total species, 11; total individuals, 1728. Interesting species included, Brown Creeper, 13; Killdeer, 2; Bobwhite, 46, Turkey Vulture, 5.—ELDON POWELL.

**VALLEY STATION** (Valley High School Science Club). Total species, 31; total individuals 946. Among the interesting species were Marsh Hawk, 1; Horned Lark, 96 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Cowbird, 10; White-crowned Sparrow, 12.—ANN BOOKER, BARBARA PARROTT, KAY CAMPBELL, BOB KELLOGG.

Mr. Howard Rollin, Weldona, Colorado, sent as a Christmas gift to the K. O. S. another of his beautiful bird paintings, this time a Western bird, the Pinon Jay. This handsome all-blue relative of our eastern jay is perched on a crooked low pine and exquisitely portrayed against a background of colorful rolling hills and sky, typical of the West. This recent gift will be framed and displayed with Mr. Rollin's other paintings. The society extends to Mr. Rollin our sincere thanks.—E. J. S.

In the new constitution of the K. O. S. a provision has been made for the election of outstanding individuals to honorary membership. At a meeting of the executive committee at the home of Leonard Brecher on October 17, 1951, five persons were elected to honorary membership: Lucian Beckner, director of the City Museum, Louisville; Victor K. Dodge, Bell Court, Lexington; Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, Marion; Susan S. Towles, Henderson; Tom Wallace, Editor Emeritus, the Louisville Times.

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.** Our new president, Virginia Smith is organizing a membership drive, with 150 new members by the spring meeting as the goal. Every member is urged to do his share by obtaining at least one new member. Why not give a membership to some interested person such as a Boy Scout leader, conservation officer, garden-club officer, high school biology student, or just anyone interested in birds and nature.

**1952 DUES NOW PAYABLE.** It is a great help to your officers if you will remit your dues promptly. Every year there are members who are otherwise quite active in bird study who neglect to pay their dues until they are reminded several times. This greatly adds to the burden of the secretary-treasurer. In Louisville, Beckham Bird Club Members should send dues to Mrs. Howard C. Mitchell, 4435 S. Third St., Louisville; in Henderson dues may be sent to Miss Virginia Smith, Route 1; other parts of the country should mail dues directly to Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, 2918 Brownsboro Road, Louisville. Why not increase your support of the society by becoming a CONTRIBUTING MEMBER or a LIFE MEMBER!

**ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE BECKHAM BIRD CLUB**

The seventeenth anniversary was celebrated by a dinner meeting at the Jefferson Room at the University of Louisville. Dr. J. Dan Webster of Hanover College, Indiana, was the guest speaker. His subject, "Distribution of the Birds of southeastern Alaska," was illustrated with colored slides and a large map. Dr. Webster grew up in this region and has published a series of articles upon his observations on the birds of the area. The great continental glaciers receded from southeastern Alaska only about 20,000 years ago. This gives a fairly accurate indication of the time necessary for the approximately 10 endemic sub-species in the region to have evolved. Dr. Webster's talk proved to be most entertaining and instructive. It is the policy of the club to present serious bird programs at the monthly meetings.

**CORRECTION.** Vol. 27, p. 54 in the second to the last paragraph, the sentence should read as follows: One interesting observation was that one female and one male were constant to the territory for three years.—Anne L. Stamm.

**1952 SPRING MEETING.** DATE: Friday, April 18, at 12:00 noon. PLACE: Henry Clay Hotel. A luncheon will be followed by a business meeting with reports of officers and committees. AFTER-NOON PROGRAM: 2:00 P. M. Fourth grade class demonstration supervised by Louise J. Regan Valley High School Science club supervised by Ethel Lovell and Harriet Korfhage. Gordon Wilson, "Some Riddles of Bird Life in Kentucky." Rex A. Conyers, University City, Missouri, an illustrated program on conservation education. Saturday, April 19, 7:30, Field Trip to Caperton's Swamp.



Seven past presidents: Leonard Brecher, Evelyn Schneider, Gordon Wilson, Brasher Bacon, Mary Lou Cypert, Harvey Lovell, and Mabel Slack.

Seven past presidents met at the fall meeting of the K. O. S. at Madisonville. The two living founders shake hands in front of Bacon's Museum of Oology. Absent were Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, Victor Dodge, Burt L. Monroe, and Virginia Smith.

#### RECENT ARTICLES PERTAINING TO KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGY

- HARDY, FEDERICK C.** 1950. Ruffed Grouse Studies in Eastern Kentucky. Federal Division of Game and Fish, Frankfort. Project 18-R. 26 pages, 4 photos, 15 tables, 1 map.
- RUSSELL, DAN M.** 1951. Mourning Dove Disease in Kentucky. Kentucky Division of Game and Fish, Project 25-R. 12 pages. 4 photos, 1 map.
- DELIME, JOHN L.** 1951. Live Trapping and Restocking. Kentucky Division of Game and Fish, Project 17-D. 35 pages, 12 ill. The chapter entitled "Trapping Wild Turkeys" occupies pp. 16-24.
- MONROE, BURT L.** 1952. Evening Grosbeaks in Central Kentucky. Annals of Kentucky Natural History, vol. 1, art. 9, pp. 57-60.
- LOVELL, HARVEY B.** 1952. Black Vulture Depredations at Kentucky Woodlands, Wils. Bull. vol. 64, no. 1, pp. 48-49.

**SEASON LISTS.** A recent issue of the PASSENGER PIGEON, the quarterly journal of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, contains a list of 45 members who make a season list in Wisconsin. The greatest number of species, 252, was recorded by Helmuth Mueller of Milwaukee, but Mrs. F. L. Larking with 249 and Miss Mary Donald

with 248 were close competitors. How many species did you list for Kentucky during 1951? How many will you see in 1952? Send your lists to one of the editors.

**BACK FILES OF THE KENTUCKY WARBLER.** The University of Michigan has a complete file of **THE KENTUCKY WARBLER**, according to Dr. J. Van Tyne. The University obtained a complete set when they purchased the wonderful library of the late Seth Guion; Older K. O. S. members will recall that Mr. Guion advertized several times in the *Warbler* for back issues to complete his set. Kentuckians who plan to do research or write articles on Kentucky birds would do well to emulate the example set by Mr. Guion and add to their files. Miss Schneider, our custodian, has several nearly complete sets back to about 1935, which sell for \$1.50 per volume. The first nine volumes are now very rare and would probably bring at least four times their original cost. We have an order for these right now from an ornithologist of note who offers to pay any "reasonable price" for them.

**KENTUCKY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE SPRING FIELD MEET.** On May 9 and 10 a spring field-meet will be held at Mammoth Cave National Park. Dr. Gordon Wilson will speak on the birds of the area on Friday afternoon and lead a field trip Saturday morning. Other field trips will be held to study the botany, herpetology, and cave life of the park. All K. O. S. members are cordially invited to attend—L. Y. LANCASTER, Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements.

**WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB TO MEET IN THE GREAT SMOKIES.** On April 25 and 26, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, will be site of the annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club. Many Kentucky ornithologists plan to attend the meeting; in fact a very large number of the more active K. O. S. members also belong to this national society. Burt L. Monroe is second vice-president, and Leonard Brecher is Treasurer. Dues are \$3.00 and bring **THE WILSON BULLETIN**, a most interesting bird journal.

**EVENING GROSBEEK INVASION.** The greatest flight of northern birds for many years invaded the country this winter. A single Evening Grosbeak was observed on the Christmas Count at Louisville by Robert Steilberg and Jerry Smith. Burt Monroe, Sr., Burt Monroe, Jr., and Thomas Fuller discovered a flock of these beautiful northern birds at Bernheim Forest Park on December 30, 1951. A flock of 17 were feeding on the berries of the red cedars around the lakes. Evening Grosbeaks were also present in Tennessee and throughout most of the states east and north of Kentucky, often in large numbers.

**ECHOES FROM OUR BREEDING BIRD LIST.** James Hancock writes, "I think the Breeding Bird List would make a very interesting annual feature. I see now I should have included a few other records, such as of the Cerulean Warblers feeding a young bird out of the nest in the Elk Creek bottoms on June 25. The young bird was perched on a hickory sapling near the ground; so I was able to capture and examine it closely."

**LAST CALL FOR 1952 DUES.** Send your regular dues to Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, Treasurer, 2918 Brownsboro Road, Louisville. If for some reason you do not care to continue your membership in the society, be sure to send in your resignation promptly. Why not increase your support of the society by becoming a contributing member (\$5.00) or a life member (\$50.00). We could give you a much bigger **WARBLER** with many more illustrations if we had 25 contributing members each year. We have been informed that contributions to our society are tax exempt.