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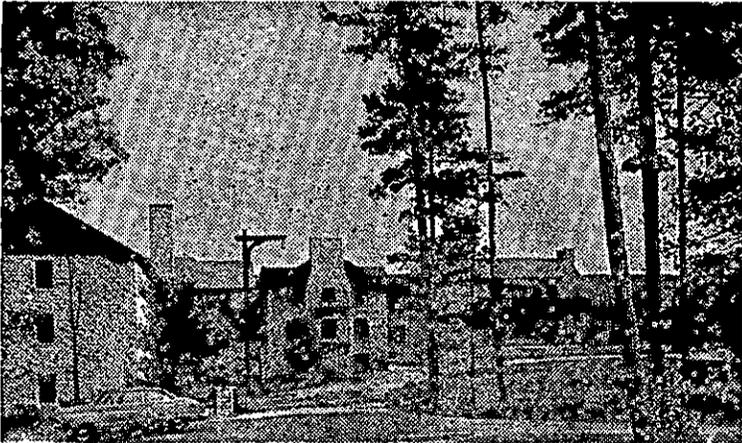
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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER



DU PONT LODGE, CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE PARK
THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE K. O. S. AT ITS
FALL MEETING, OCTOBER 9-11, 1953

Vol. 29 No. 4

November, 1953

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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NEST OF THE PILEATED WOODPECKER IN BERNHEIM FOREST

By Kay Altsheler, Louisville

On Saturday, May 9, 1953, Dr. William M. Clay and Mr. Burt Monroe, Jr., took the University of Louisville class in Ornithology on an early-morning field trip to Bernheim Forest in Bullitt and Nelson Counties, Kentucky. As a member of that class I went along. My husband, Yancey Altsheler, met me there at noon, and together we explored some of the trails.

On Memorial Day we returned to the Forest, arriving at the parking lot below the fire tower about 10:30 in the morning. We decided to follow Trail No. 7, leading from the left of the parking area and away from the fire tower. We continued on Trail 7 about 250 yards beyond the spot where Trail 8 branches off to the left. Yancey was about 50 feet ahead of me when he signaled to me to come quietly to where he was standing. He had seen a Pileated Woodpecker (*Hylatomus pileatus*) fly through the deep woods on his right. We stood silently and searched the area with our binoculars. Before long Yancey discovered a dead tree about 100 feet to the right of the trail. It was about 50 feet tall, without bark, and broken off at the top. Although its base was surrounded by lower trees and there were tall living trees nearby, the top extended 20 feet in the open. About 5 feet below the top there was an oval hole approximately three and one-half by four and one-half inches in size. Three small heads protruded through this oval.

About one-half hour later an adult Pileated Woodpecker flew through the woods to the nesting tree. It flew about 20 feet above the ground and alighted on the dead tree 4 or 5 feet below the hole, looking cautiously to the right and left. After apparently assuring itself that it was not under observation, it fed the nestlings. As it fed by regurgitation, its whole body shook violently. The entire feeding operation took less than one minute. The adult then flew back into the trees, and the three nestlings continued to peer out of the hole.

One week later, on June 6, we returned to Bernheim Forest. We stopped at the Museum in the Nature Center, where we were joined by Charles Tribble, assistant naturalist, who went with us to the nesting area.

As we left the parking lot below the fire tower and proceeded down Trail 7, we heard a great racket, which seemed to come from the vicinity of the nest. There obviously were several Pileated Woodpeckers "kuk-kuking" at the same time. We proceeded cautiously, but by the time we had reached our observation point, all was quiet. There was only one nestling poking its head out of the hole. Its brilliant flame-colored crest, long bill, and long neck were very conspicuous. At times it protruded so far out of the hole that we could see its shoulders. Its bill appeared to be white, and its head and neck markings like those of the adult.

The three of us waited quietly for about one-half hour, but there was no further action. We decided to investigate the area surrounding the base of the dead tree. The diameter of the trunk at the base was about three feet, and the tree was dead down to the ground. There was some bark adhering to the lower part of the trunk. We collected a piece, and it was later tentatively identified as red oak. While we were in there, we could look straight up the trunk to the nesting hole. The young bird appeared to be watching us.

We took Mr. Tribble back to the Museum, and then Yancey and I returned to our observation point. We waited very quietly. After about 20 minutes, we heard the nestling in the hole cry. Soon there was a tremendous clatter from some nearby deciduous trees. We caught glimpses of one, or possibly two adults flying in these trees, and we distinctly saw two fledglings flutter from branch to branch in the same group of trees. They came to rest on the trunk of one of the trees, which they appeared to hug much more closely than do adult Pileated Woodpeckers.

We continued to wait quietly while the crying continued in the trees and from the nestling. We thought we could distinguish the young cries from the answers of the adult. The former seemed to be more piercing, insistent, and constant. Soon one of the adults, which we identified as the male by his red cheek stripe, alighted on the dead trunk and hitched himself up towards the nesting hole. As before, he watched carefully to the right and left. The adult apparently noticed a motion on our part and disappeared into the woods.

The crying of the nestling and the fledglings continued for about one-half hour, when we again saw the male reach the nesting tree, climb it, and proceed to feed the nestling. The nestling withdrew into the nest, and the adult put his head and neck up to his shoulders into the hole and repeated the pumping process we had noticed previously. He then flew back to the tree where the fledglings had continued to cry all of the time he was tending the nestling. They had moved while we were watching the proceedings at the hole; so we did not actually see the adult feed the fledglings but assume that he did so, as all was again quiet. The adult disappeared into the woods. We waited another 30 minutes, but there was no further activity, and we left.

The following morning, after a stormy night, Mr. and Mrs. John McChord of Louisville visited the spot and reported that they had seen two young heads protruding from the nesting hole and a fledgling in a nearby tree. They twice saw an adult feed the two in the nest. Had one fledgling returned to the hole, or had there been four instead of three young hatched? At no time during the entire period of observation were more than three young seen at one time.

The next morning Mrs. Frederick Stamm, Mrs. Whiteford Cole, Jr., and I returned to the area. There were no birds in the hole. We heard some young Pileated Woodpeckers crying in the woods. We saw an adult fly across the trail close to the parking area. In a few minutes we located one of the fledglings hugging a dead tree deeper in the woods than had been the nesting tree. We had an excellent view of it and watched it for about ten minutes. It was slate gray with a brilliant red crest, white bill, and marking on the head and neck as the adult. We noticed its powerful feet, which were grasping the tree trunk.

We soon heard cries of other young. I went still deeper into the woods. I saw two fledglings and an adult flying away through some tall oak trees. They went too deep into the woods for me to follow, and I did not see them again. While I was in there, the fledgling which had been on the trunk of the dead tree disappeared. It apparently had joined the others.

Another trip was made on June 13, but we saw no Pileated Woodpeckers. We heard faint calls, but they seemed to come from far away.

DOVE AND ROBIN SHARE SAME LIMB**By Amelia Klutey, Henderson**

(See cover picture, August, 1953)

Could it be that a pair of Doves and a pair of Robins thought of a housing shortage, or did it just happen that they chose the same branch of a young hackberry tree and then held on to their rental rights?

The closeness of the two nests afforded a very interesting observation for twelve days for several members of the Henderson Audubon Society and me. No one could recall having ever heard of such a happening before. It was especially questionable whether all would be well through the whole incubation period, with only eleven inches of space between the two nests, only sixteen inches from center to center.

It was possible to make quick, long, and frequent observations of the birds, as the tree was only eighteen feet from the office window of the Klutey Brick and Clay Products Company. The building stands in the midst of grassland and trees, with thick woodland in the distance and with the highway only two blocks away.

The Robin had been seen in the tree earlier, but it was on June 17, 1953, that I first noticed the two nests, ten feet above the ground, each with its rightful owner seated back to back. For the next five days everything was harmonious, and no changes were noted except that if a visitor came too close, the Robin would leave her nest, but the Dove remained. On Monday, June 22, after seeing the Robin feeding her young, I ascended a ladder and found that the Dove also had two young, apparently several days old. On Wednesday, June 24, Thomas V. Miller, Jr., *Courier-Journal* photographer, took pictures of the birds, which appeared in the July 12 issue. He spent about two hours trying to get the parent birds with their young, but they would not accommodate him. It was he that noted that there were only three young Robins. Throughout his stay the Dove did not appear, but late in the afternoon, after everything was quiet, she returned, but this time to her neighbor's nest. As she hovered over the little Robins, they opened their mouths wide, not sensing that this was not their mother. She was determined to feed them and thrust her bill deep into the throat of one Robin while it clambered higher, and the other young Robins tried to receive attention also. Soon the Robin came to her nest but was scared off by the Dove, which flapped her wings rapidly. Fearing the Dove, in its method of feeding, would injure the young Robins, I scared it away. Later she returned to her own nest, the Robin came back to hers, and life was again peaceful that day and the next. The following day Matt Brown took several pictures, one of which appeared on the cover of the August, 1953, *WARBLER*. The Dove remained away, but the male Robin cleaned its own nest and then cleaned the Dove's nest, a thing which the Dove never did while we observed it. One of the small Doves left the nest but could not be found. It was about twelve days old, as well as could be determined, but too young to be on its own. Not long after Mr. Brown left, the Dove cautiously returned to her nest, fed her one remaining baby, and again went over to the young Robins. Again she was shooed away. Mr. R. C. Soaper, Federal Wildlife Conservation Agent of Henderson, came and banded the little Dove, and everything seemed settled.

Early the next morning I discovered the second Dove in the nest; somehow it had got back in the night, but I still do not know how. It soon followed its mother in flight and was never seen again. The

remaining Dove walked over to the Robin's nest, where it was not apparently noticed by either of the adult Robins. At eight o'clock that evening it was still in the Robins' nest. I placed it back in its own nest, but it soon got out into another tree and flew away the next day.

The Robins left their nest on June 29, already well feathered.

FIELD NOTES

NOTES ON THE PURPLE FINCH

A flock of Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) moved into my yard on April 16, 1953, and remained for ten days. I counted as many as thirty in the flock; there may have been more. While this species winters in the Louisville area, we seldom find them in our immediate vicinity; they usually frequent the more wooded areas. This is the first time in twenty years that we have recorded them in our yard. Evidently the migration was above normal, since they were very much in evidence throughout the middle and latter part of April. The birds seemed to feed on the new buds of the trees, but liked especially those of the Chinese elm. Long before dawn I heard their lively notes, which seem akin to those of the Warbling Vireo. Their spirited notes sounded throughout the day and at times became tiresome. They were such persistent singers that one warbled softly and cheerfully while I held it in my hand. I banded ten of the flock, using a water-drip trap.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

* * * * *

Brasher C. Bacon is writing a weekly column for the Hopkins County Times entitled "Leaves from a Naturalist's Scrap Book." The first two "Leaves" contain some very interesting nature lore, some of it about birds. For example, he writes that "Bronzed Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Cowbirds arrived February 12th in large flocks." In another place he writes of his special favorites, the hawks: "The Eastern Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) is beginning to nest (March 24). I have examined several nests on this date, all of which had fresh or slightly incubated eggs. They often nest in oak and sycamore trees, usually at quite a height. The nest is flat and shallow, of large sticks, lined with strips of bark, dead leaves, corn husks, and a few sprigs of cedar or pine. The two to four eggs are dull white, irregularly marked with cinnamon-brown. This is one of the farmers' best friends and should be protected. Field mice make up a large part of its diet." Here is still another useful bird note: "Purple Martins arrived from the south last year on March 14th, becoming common on the 26th. The males precede the females by a few days. The average date of arrival over a period of 32 years is March 26th." An interesting recovery of a large aquatic bird was this item: "An American Coot banded and liberated on Spring Lake on April 18, 1952, was shot on a marsh near Gobles, Van Buren County, Michigan, on October 5, 1952."

A DAY ON THE OHIO

March 22, 1953, began with a hard rain, a continuance from the night before. It looked bad for a boat trip down the river, but our party could not be bluffed by the clouds and rain. Three of us pushed off from the boat dock at Henderson for a trip down the Ohio. We soon were able to discard our raincoats.

As we had been having an unusually early spring, we did not expect to see many of the water birds but sighted two Pied-billed Grebes as we pulled out of the harbor. They refused to fly and persisted in diving and popping up yards away from where they had gone down.

As we skimmed along close to the willows, we saw eight or ten species of ducks, but no large flocks: Baldpate, Ruddy, Black, Mallard, Bufflehead, Lesser Scaup, and Red-breasted Merganser. We enjoyed the Mergansers most of all, especially their fearlessness as our boat wove in and among them. We found one Mallard female that we thought had been wounded, as she was unable to raise herself from the water. She managed to hide in the willows.

Near noon we circled around a point of land and turned into a sort of bayou between the bank and a sand bar. The birds were rather plentiful here, especially Great Blue Herons. Many of them flew when we entered, but they returned as we ate our lunch and did a deal of talking among themselves. We passed Mount Vernon, Indiana, and circled Slim Island, still scaring up groups of ducks, from two to twelve in each group.

On the way back up the river we sighted two different pairs of Belted Kingfishers but could not get near them. Several miles in shore we sighted the heronry, where there are hundreds of nests in some very tall trees. As the leaves had not yet appeared, we could see what the famous bird village is like. Soon after our seeing the heronry the annual hordes of herons and egrets would arrive for the summer.

We watched a flock of gulls feeding on some small silver-colored little fish. We also saw one Red-tailed Hawk. At 4:00 P. M. we docked our boat after a good day, though it had started off rather gloomily.—HELEN A. WATSON, Henderson.

* * * * *

WATERFOWL BROOD STUDIES

On July 8, 1953, a limited waterfowl brood study was made on Green River by personnel of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. The study was conducted by the local district biologist, Mr. Francis W. Collins, and assisted by Conservation Officer Clark Bailey. The section of the river covered was from Rochester, Butler County, to Calhoun, McLean County, a distance of about fifty-one miles. The time was from 9:15 A. M. to 7:00 P. M. of the same day. The equipment consisted of a sixteen-foot boat, powered by a 10 h. p. outboard motor. Binoculars were used for observation.

During the trip a total of 39 ducks were flushed, all of them identified as Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*). Two flocks of six birds each were recorded and two flocks of three birds each. One pair of ducks were seen, at which time a sex identification was made. One brood of three juveniles, estimated to be 9-11 days old, accompanied by an adult hen, was seen in the morning. Because of heavy brush, a close examination of the young was impossible. They escaped by going into the shoreline vegetation. About 6:30 P. M. another brood of five juveniles and one adult were seen, but again they escaped into

the vegetation. The age of these was estimated at 15-20 days. Also during the day three broody hens were flushed, and concentrated efforts were made to find the nest of the young. However, nothing came of this. What appeared to be a juvenile hen Wood Duck was found floating on the water and was on the verge of death. Since no indication of shot wounds could be found, it was assumed that the bird was suffering from some disease or parasites.—F. W. COLLINS, Madisonville.

* * * * *

SOME NESTING NOTES FROM DAVIESS COUNTY

May 9, 1953, brought me several interesting nesting records. One was a Wood Thrush's nest seven or eight feet from the ground in a box elder, with the bird incubating. The nest was on a branch about an inch in diameter in a fork. At Pup Creek that day I saw a Louisiana Water-thrush feeding two young, but I was unable to find a nest. In a cattail marsh I located the nest of a Red-winged Blackbird, only eighteen inches above the water and containing four eggs. Four immature Song Sparrows were found the same day, out of the nest. In what I took to be a Field Sparrow's nest I found a Cowbird's egg. Cowbirds were common in this area, and I later saw many young ones in the area around the lake.

Wood Pewees and Crested Flycatchers had nests at Kingfisher Lakes, across the road from Carpenter's Lake. The Crested nested in a dead tree right over the water, the Pewee on a large horizontal limb about twenty-five feet from the ground. Under the eaves of a cabin at Carpenter's Lake I saw a Phoebe incubating, but I could not reach the nest to determine the number of eggs. On the same day in June when I found the nest of the Phoebe I saw several young Kingbirds.

The House Wren seems to be common this year, as I have found two nests and have heard singing birds all over the town of Owensboro. The ordinary nesters—such as Robins, Cardinals, Mockingbirds—have been found in the usual numbers. On a level with the third story of the office where I work I observed a Robin's nest from the first materials that were brought until the young left the nest. It was in a maple on a forked limb, twenty feet off the ground. Incubation started on May 20; there were two young on June 1, only one on June 10, and the young one left the nest on June 13.

Sonny Ellis reported a Hummingbird's nest at Carpenter's Lake. It was ten feet above the ground on an extended limb of a beech.—ALBERT POWELL, Owensboro.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Professor A. S. Bradshaw of Transylvania University, who spoke so eloquently and scientifically on "Viewpoints in Ornithology" at our spring, 1953, meeting, has recently accepted a position in the Zoology Department of Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio. The K. O. S. regret losing such a fine outdoor man from Kentucky but hope that he will often return for our meetings, spring and fall.

* * * * *

Mr. Ben J. Blincoe, who attended our fall meeting, was on the very first program given by our society, at Louisville, in April, 1924. He left Kentucky shortly afterwards for Ohio; this was his first visit to the society since 1924.

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

For many years the K. O. S. has taken an annual mid-winter bird count. We need more and more of these censuses, particularly this year, when it will be interesting to discover whether the long-continued drought has had any appreciable effect on bird life. Please take an all-day count, some time between Christmas Day and January 3, and send your results to the editor at once. The spring issue of the WARBLER will print all these lists.

* * * * *

NEW EDITOR

The officers chose for the editor of the WARBLER for the next year Dr. Gordon Wilson, Western State College, Bowling Green. Please send notes and articles to him and help keep our publication the distinctive little magazine that Dr. Harvey Lovell has made it in his long service as editor.

* * * * *

THIRTIETH ANNUAL FALL MEETING

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its thirtieth annual fall meeting at Cumberland Falls State Park on October 9-11, 1953, with the Tennessee Ornithological Society as guests. About 120 people attended the meeting, 14 of them from Tennessee. The following were among the distinguished guests present: Mr. and Mrs. Ben J. Blincoe, Dayton, Ohio; Oscar McKinley Bryens, Three Rivers, Michigan; Professor Maurice Brooks and Mrs. Brooks, the University of West Virginia; Albert F. Ganier and Dr. George R. Mayfield, founders of the Tennessee Ornithological Society; and R. C. Soaper, Henderson, agent for the Federal Game Management activities in the state. Professor Brooks is a past president of the Wilson Ornithological Club; Burt Monroe, Sr., who introduced him on Saturday evening, is the present president of that great regional society.

Dr. Joseph C. Howell, of the University of Tennessee, spoke on Friday evening on "The Measurement of Roadside Bird Populations," outlining his methods of counting and indicating the use of the data he has amassed. He has discovered, by his persistent counts, that bird populations in Knox County, Tennessee, are declining or are shifting. Some species, however, seem to hold their own in spite of the building of suburbs over some of the observation territory. Some excellent films on game management were presented by Mr. Soaper.

Saturday morning and afternoon were devoted to field trips under the direction of Eugene Cypert, Paris, Tennessee; Dr. Roger W. Barbour, University of Kentucky, Lexington; Dr. Harvey Lovell, University of Louisville; and Dr. Gordon Wilson, Western State College, Bowling Green. The combined lists gave a total of 58 species, which is fairly good for the season.

Dr. Brooks gave the address on Saturday evening: "The Southern Highlands as a Place for Bird Study." He stressed the unique advantage of being able to find in a fifteen-mile ascent to the tops of the tallest mountains a range of species like that to be found from the Carolinas to Canada.

At the business meeting the following officers were elected:

President.....	Dr. Roger W. Barbour, Lexington
Vice-President.....	Mrs. Anne Stamm, Louisville
Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.....	Mrs. William B. Tabler, 2923 Riedling Drive, Louisville 6
Recording Secretary.....	Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Shelbyville
Councillors.....	Mrs. J. Kidwell Grannis, Flemingsburg, two years; Mr. Charles Meade, Henderson, two years; Mr. James Hancock, Madisonville, one year.

Mr. Walter Shackleton, Louisville, was elected a Councillor in 1952 for a two-year term.

The society is deeply indebted to Miss Virginia Smith, the retiring president, for this most satisfactory and inspiring meeting as well as for the highly successful meeting at Mammoth Cave National Park in 1952.—ESTHER MASON, Acting Recording Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT, OCTOBER 10, 1953

RECEIPTS:

Balance on hand, October, 1952.....	\$101.92
Membership dues.....	423.00
Donation from Beckham Bird Club.....	75.00
Sale of Bib. of Ky. Ornithology.....	3.00
Sale of WARBLERS.....	5.50
Sale of Field Cards.....	13.50
Dividends from Jefferson Savings Stock.....	21.00
Balance from Spring Luncheon.....	1.55
Sale of 4-year Index—4 at 25c.....	1.00
Total Receipts.....	\$645.47

EXPENDITURES:

To Selby Smith, 4 Issues of WARBLER, plus postage and cuts.....	\$395.28
Selby Smith, cost of 4-year Index.....	49.50
Expense for Fall Meeting.....	4.00
Postage, Stamps, Envelopes, for mailing WARBLER and Notices of Meetings.....	44.57
Duplistickers (300).....	2.88
To Courier-Journal, Map of Sleepy Hollow.....	7.70
Filing Fee for Annual Statement to Frankfort....	1.00
Spring Programs and Rubber Stamp.....	5.00
Expense, Spring Luncheon.....	2.00
Bank Tax and Charge.....	.75
Total Expenditures.....	\$515.68

Balance In Bank October 9, 1953.....\$129.79

Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, Treasurer.

BIRD NAMES

There have come to the editor's desk reprints of two learned and interesting articles about bird names. The author, Mr. W. L. McAtee, now retired, was, as many of us know, long associated with the Bureau of Fish and Game of the United States Department of Agriculture. Though a life-time biologist, Mr. McAtee has always had a keen interest in folklore, particularly as it relates to plant and animal life. One of the articles, "Bird Names Connected with Weather, Seasons, and Hours," appeared in the December, 1951, issue of AMERICAN SPEECH. This article, for which some of us furnished distinctly Kentucky folk names, lists many such names as Raincrow, Stormbird, May Plover, October Duck, Winter Owl, and Frost Bird. One of the interesting Kentucky names for a bird is Dogwood-winter Bird, a term sometimes heard in our mountain area for the Scarlet Tanager, which, quite obviously, appears just about the time of the spring cold spell that all of us call dogwood winter. The second article, "Longevity of Bird Names," appearing in NAMES, June, 1953, is a discussion of the changing common names for birds. Quite often the folk name is quite strange to those who have been reared with a bird book in their hands; some of us older people will recall how many folk names we have heard for such common birds as the Phoebe, the Flicker, the Nighthawk. You might be interested to know that the Barn Swallow was so called as early as 1778, the House Wren as early as 1799, the Kingbird as early as 1776. In recent years Mr. McAtee has published several comprehensive word lists of regions he has studied in America and has thus added another field to a long and scholarly life.

* * * * *

OUR COVER PICTURE

The picture of DuPONT LODGE at Cumberland Falls State Park comes with the compliments of the Division of Publicity of Kentucky. We have many delightful places for bird study in our state parks, places that we must come to utilize to the greatest extent. From time to time we shall have other pictures of our recreation areas, furnished by Mack Sisk, editor of IN KENTUCKY and publicity director for the state.

* * * * *

NEW MEMBERS OF THE K. O. S.

The following people have become members since our last published list:

- Brown, Matt, 224 Second Street, Henderson.
- Collins, F. W., Madisonville
- Darrow, Kenneth W., Sr., 231 South Main, Three Rivers, Mich.
- Garrett, Mrs. Paul L., State College, Bowling Green.
- Gill, Helen, 204 West Maple Ave., Lancaster.
- McClure, Dr. George, 304 South Fourth Street, Danville.
- McClure, Mrs. George, 304 South Fourth Street, Danville.
- Quinn, R. C., 224 Washington Street, Henderson.
- Quinn, Mrs. R. C., 224 Washington Street, Henderson.
- Short, Walter D., 918 Governor Street, Evansville, Ind.
- Soaper, Mrs. Edith W., Henderson.

KEEPING RECORDS

We who have studied birds a long time realize how often an observation seems inconsequential; as a result, we fail to record our find and thus lose a chance to add to human knowledge. Personally, I wish all our members would keep voluminous records, following their own bent in the type of things put down in writing. For example, why not make yourself famous in our state organization by keeping a year-by-year account of all nests and young? Even one year's data would be interesting; after a few years you would have not merely some interesting notes for our columns but a longer article. Maybe you are interested, like the editor, in migration data. Too few people take the trouble to record the first and last dates of our migrants. Try it one season and find yourself with a lifetime interest. There should be two dozen migration-record students working all the time in our state. What do birds eat, how much, how often? Your observation might add something very strikingly interesting to ornithology. The late Cal Rogers, of Glasgow, as some of our older members will recall, had a perfect mania for knowing what birds feed their young. Through a long life he remembered fascinating things he had learned while watching adult birds feed their young; his notes formed the basis for a valuable article in the WARBLER written by Dr. Lovell after Mr. Rogers's death. I do not know of any continuous study such as this that is being made in the state today. Some of you with good ears should devote some time to learning and recording the varying songs of any given species. Why not become a song expert? The older scholars in this field are passing away pretty rapidly; they would have been the first to declare that they had merely started a study that should be carried on further by younger and more persistent students. The address by Dr. Howell at our recent meeting opened up a field that has had too few people to cultivate—population studies over a given area annually. Our censuses are valuable and should be kept up, whether they represent a one-day count at Christmas or in nesting season or are carried on at stated intervals in every season. Recently I suggested to one of the park naturalists of the state a monthly census in his park, taken with the same care that all of us lavish on our Christmas censuses. My own interest in ecological factors, as in the Mammoth Cave National Park, has made me wish that we could have a good number of other studies of areas that are undergoing ecological changes because of the retiring of farm lands from cultivation, the development of plantings, the changes resulting from farm practices that are promoting the "green pastures" program. Stake out some such area and begin, however sketchily, a study that will ultimately make you a scholar in your little area. Only an occasional person can hope to discover a new subspecies; trained museum men will have to do that kind of work. But even the humblest of us can observe and record what might otherwise escape people less bright-eyed than we. And here is a selfish interest I have in this, selfish for our society: report your findings systematically to the WARBLER. What you have found out might be something valuable and would make good reading for all our members.

—THE EDITOR.