

2-1955

Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 31, no. 1)

Kentucky Library Research Collections
Western Kentucky University, spcol@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler



Part of the [Ornithology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kentucky Library Research Collections, "Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 31, no. 1)" (1955). *Kentucky Warbler*. Paper 181.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler/181

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kentucky Warbler by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Official Publication

of

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XXXI

FEBRUARY, 1955

No. 1

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

News and Views	2, 20
A Breeding Bird Study in Owen County—Harvey B. Lovell, Anne L. Stamm, and Robert A. Pierce.....	3
Mid-Winter Bird Count, 1954-1955.....	10
Field Notes.....	16
Early Nesting Records—James B. Young.....	16
Snowy Owl in Washington County—James O. Moynahan.....	17
White-Winged Crossbills in Louisville—Mabel Slack and Anne L. Stamm.....	17
Occurrence of the Evening Grosbeak in Kentucky— Robert A. Pierce and Anne L. Stamm.....	18
Some Communal Species of Birds at Fort Knox Pvt. Charles L. Clagett.....	18

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

President..... Anne L. (Mrs. Frederick W.) Stamm, Louisville 5
Vice-President..... Robert A. Pierce, Frankfort
Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer..... Mrs. William B. Tabler, 6 Glen Hill Road, Louisville 7
Recording Secretary..... Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Shelbyville

Councillors:

Mrs. J. Kidwell Grannis, Flemingsburg, 1953-1955
Charles Meade, Henderson, 1953-1955
Rodney Hays, Lexington, 1954-1956
Hunter Hancock, Murray, 1954-1956

Retiring President..... Dr. Roger W. Barbour, Lexington
Librarian..... Evelyn J. Schneider, University of Louisville Library
Curator..... Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Ridge Road, Anchorage
Editor..... Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green
Assistant Editors..... Leonard C. Brecher and Roger W. Barbour

Chairmen of Committees:

Helen Browning, Membership; Leonard C. Brecher, Endowment; Rodney Hays, Conservation and Legislation.

NEWS AND VIEWS

OUR 1954-55 MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

You will enjoy in this issue the results of our annual mid-winter bird count. Here are some figures that will show you how well our members worked: number of observers, 100; number of species, 114; number of individuals, 81,324. Most of the places where counts were made had better than average numbers of species and individuals because of the open winter. The party of fifteen who counted birds at Woodlands sent in the largest list of species, 85. So far as the editor can recall, there are four new species on our combined lists this year: the White-winged Crossbill, the Evening Grosbeak, the Grasshopper Sparrow, and the House Wren. There are also records of several species that are usually rare at this season: Loon, Horned Grebe, Black-crowned Night Heron, Blue Goose, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Brown Thrasher, Pine Siskin, Palm Warbler, and Vesper Sparrow. Louisville reports the Oregon Junco again this winter. The various counters have done a good job and are to be congratulated on having seen so many birds.

* * * * *

BIRD COUNTS IN THE NEWS

Several of our counts appeared in the local papers as news. Bird watchers are not such funny people after all; even they can have their pictures in newspapers and magazines. TIME ran an excellent article on our tribe, and the Christmas Counts conducted by AUDUBON FIELD NOTES, in the January 10, 1955, issue. It was illustrated by British-born Dennis Puleston, whose name will appear later as a member of two groups of counters in the New York area.

* * * * *

JUNIOR ACADEMY BIRDERS

You will find in this issue an outstanding count by the Bunsen Science Club of Atherton High School, with our Mrs. Anne Stamm and our Miss Mabel Slack as leaders. We welcome such contributions and are mindful of the importance of our younger members and well-wishers.

* * * * *

BERT POWELL IMPROVED

It is good news to hear that our A. L. (Bert) Powell, of Owensboro, who has been "under the weather," was able to do some good birding this season. Good health to you, Bert; we need your interest and contributions to our knowledge of Kentucky birds.

* * * * *

SPRING MEETING

The thirty-second spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held in Louisville on Friday, April 15. The luncheon and afternoon program will be in the Reynolds Room of the Seelbach Hotel. The field trip the next morning will be to some interesting

(News and Views Continued on Page 20)

A BREEDING BIRD STUDY IN OWEN COUNTY

By Harvey B. Lovell, Anne L. Stamm, and Robert A. Pierce

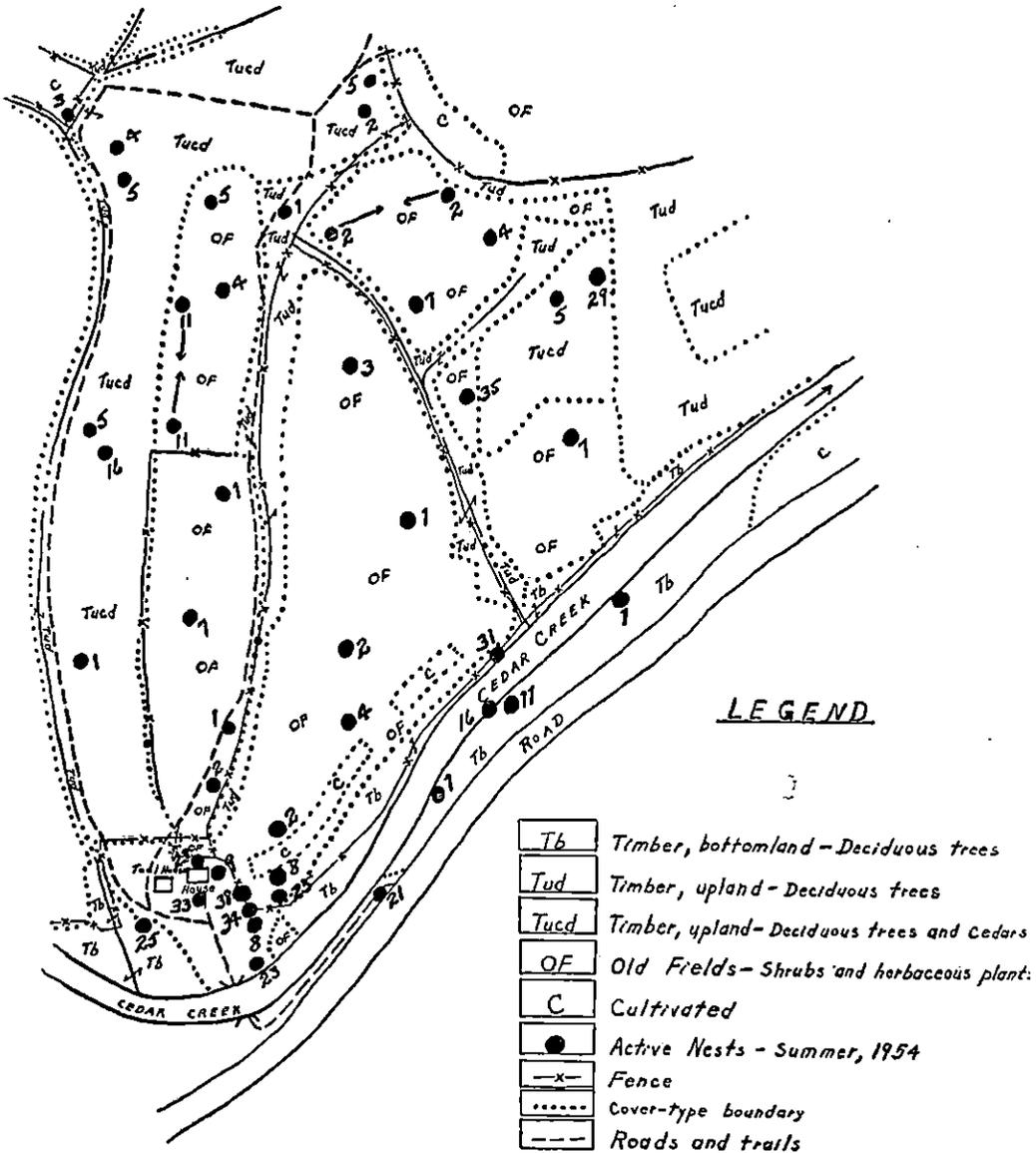
A study of the breeding birds was made on a 40-acre tract of the John A. Kleber Song Bird Sanctuary in Owen County, Kentucky, during the summer of 1954 (Stamm, Lovell, and Pierce, 1954). The objectives were to determine the breeding population density, to secure information on the habitat requirements, and to find as many nests as possible. A brief description of the sanctuary has been given by Pierce (1954). The area selected for study lies along the main highway and Cedar Creek, and consists of abandoned farm lands with fairly large trees along fence rows and along two wet-weather creeks. Cedar Creek is also fringed with large trees. The area is submarginal land with very thin soils and rolling hills with northern and eastern slopes, with an elevation of approximately 975 feet. The old fields have started to grow up in briers, sumac, elms, red cedars, and other pioneer vegetation. The surrounding areas are very similar in habitat and had the same species of birds. An abandoned house with one side torn away stands near the creek. In this area a dozen Bluebird houses and two Colonial Martin houses have been erected. The yard in front of the house was mowed with a tractor several times, and a half acre near the house was planted with multiflora rose, shrub lespedeza, and assorted plants useful to wildlife. However, during the period of the nesting study the food plants had not matured any seeds.

Large trees present along old fences are chiefly oak (*Quercus* spp.) shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), ash (*Fraxinus*, sp.), honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), Ohio buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*), and red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). Along the banks of Cedar Creek with their roots more or less in the water flourish bottom-land species such as sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), blue beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*), and box elder (*Acer negundo*). The ground cover consists in part of coral berry or buckbush (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*), trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*), blackberry (*Rubus* spp.), teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris*), blazing star (*Liatris scabra*), bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), ironweed (*Vernonia altissima*), giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*), and many other species. Patches of grass still survive in many of the old fields, but they are rapidly being crowded out by the coarser perennials except around the deserted house.

The summer was unusually dry, especially after the middle of June. The two wet-weather creeks dried up entirely, and even Cedar Creek ceased to flow and was reduced to several pools. However, two or three of these were rather large and deep and furnished plenty of water for the wildlife.

Two or more of us visited the study area during the nesting season between the hours of 6 a. m. and 3:30 p. m. on the following days: May 22, 23, 30, July 2, 17, 27, and August 6. Two evening visits were also made. The total man hours were 67.

As one would expect, the more common birds were those which are associated with open brushy fields and pioneer vegetation. Indigo Buntings were extremely numerous, and two or three males were singing within hearing on almost any part of the area. Field Sparrows were also very common on the more open bushy areas. The Yellow-breasted Chat had established territories around many of the



FORTY ACRE SECTION OF THE
JOHN A. KLEBER SANCTUARY
OWEN COUNTY, KENTUCKY.

KEY FOR MAY STUDY OF ACTIVE NESTS*

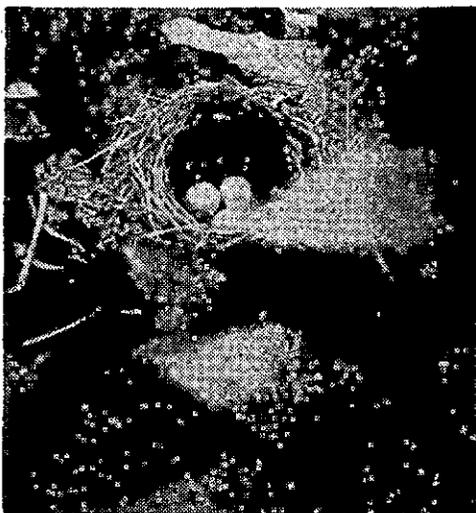
1—Indigo Bunting, 2—Field Sparrow, 3—Yellow-breasted Chat, 4—American Goldfinch, 5—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 7—Prairie Warbler, 8—Purple Martin, 9—Carolina Wren, 11—Cardinal, 16—Acadian Flycatcher, 21—White-eyed Vireo, 23—Phoebe, 25—Chipping Sparrow, 29—Whip-poor-will, 31—Red Bellied Woodpecker, 33—Catbird, 34—Bluebird, 38—English Sparrow.

* Key corresponds to map study used for breeding census (1954)

• • • • •

patches of low shrubs. Later in the season the American Goldfinch was also common in similar habitats. The Prairie Warbler was present in many of the old fields where low shrubby elms were abundant. In the wooded stretches the Blue-grey Gnatcatcher and the Red-eyed Vireo were the most common species. We shall now take up those species in which 3 pairs or at least 3 singing males were recorded.

Indigo Bunting, *Passerina cyanea*, was the most common species. For the sixteen pairs found in the area, we located 7 nests, 3 in oak sprouts, 3 in box elder, and 1 in an ash sprout. Their average height from the ground was 4.1 feet with a range from 3 to 6 feet. Two of the nests contained a Cowbird egg only and were apparently



Nest of Indigo Bunting in an ash sprout, 44 inches from ground, August 6, 1954.—
Photograph by Anne L. Stamm.

abandoned. Of the other five nests, 3 contained 3 eggs, and two contained two eggs or young. All five of these were successful as far as we could tell. Indigo Buntings nested rather late. On July 2, a nest was being built in a box elder along Cedar Creek, 6 feet up. It contained 2 eggs on July 17, and two well-feathered young on July 27. Two nests were found on August 6; one 40 inches high in an oak sapling near the end of a leafy branch had 2 newly hatched young.

This nest was very well concealed and faced a grassy area 20 feet wide. The other was placed 44 inches up in an ash sapling. This was in an open shrubby field near the bottom of a steep slope and 15 feet from a row of trees. This nest contained 3 eggs (see photo). Two other nests built in box elder were along Cedar Creek, where the vegetation was more dense, but the creek bed furnished an open area in front of the nests.

Typical nests of this species had a foundation of dead leaves and grasses, giving a loose, interlacing structure, whereas the inner part was compactly lined with finer grasses and leaf stalks. One nest measured as follows: Outside diameter, 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches; inside diameter, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches; height, 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches; inside depth of cup, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches.

Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*, was the second most abundant nesting species, with 9 pairs recorded for the area. Six nests were found, averaging 17 inches from the ground, with one on the ground to 2 nests 36 inches high. The ground nest was at the base of a cluster of sweet clover in the field north of the old house and contained 5 young birds when found on May 22. A nest on the slope on the southwest corner of the plot was 10 inches high in a tiny red cedar, and on May 22 it contained 1 Field Sparrow egg and 1 Cowbird egg. It was apparently deserted, as no sign of the parents could be found. On July 2, a nest with 3 eggs was found near a fence row in another small cedar. On July 17, this nest was empty. (The young could have hatched and left in the 15-day interval).

All nests of this species were well rounded on the bottom and neatly made of fine dried grasses and lined with even finer grasses and considerable horse hair. The following measurements of a nest were typical: Height, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches; depth of cup, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches; interior diameter, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches.

Yellow-breasted Chat, *Icteria virens*, was the next most common species, being represented by 7.5 pairs. (When the range of a singing male was only half within the study area, we counted it as .5 of a pair). On May 23, three nests were found, two with eggs and one in the process of being built. The latter nest was never finished. A nest 33 inches high in a patch of coral berry along a fence contained 4 eggs on May 23 and 3 young and 1 egg on May 30. This nest was surrounded by open country except for a couple of small trees. A second nest with 4 eggs was placed 4 feet up in a red cedar on the north ridge. Here several cedars were surrounded by tall deciduous trees, a quite different habitat.

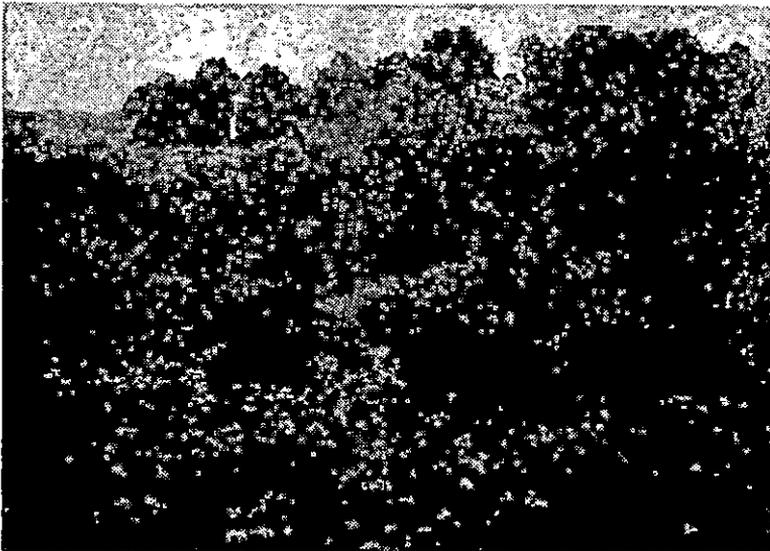
The nests of the Chat were much alike, the foundation consisting of dead oak and elm leaves, coarse weed stems, and with the inner lining firmly woven of fine rootlets. The dimensions of a typical nest were: Outside diameter, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; inside diameter, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; the external height, 3 inches; and the depth of the cavity slightly more than 2 inches.

American Goldfinch, *Spinus tristis*, occupied the more open areas where the ground cover included goldenrod and blazing star but thistles were scarce. Seven pairs were present. Four nests were found, one on July 17, two on July 27, and one on August 6, but none contained eggs. These nests averaged 11.8 feet from the ground, the highest being 25 feet up in an upright fork of a shagbark hickory, and the lowest nest 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet up in a nine-foot elm sapling.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, *Poliptila caerulea*, was represented by 6 pairs of breeding birds. We were fortunate to find 6 nests, one of which was on the margin of the area being studied. These nests averaged 21.5 feet from the ground, the lowest being 9 feet and the highest 40 feet. One nest on May 23 was already abandoned when found, but a pair of birds were taking pieces of the nest and apparently using them for a new nest. On the following day only 50 percent of the nest remained. Bent (1949) comments on this peculiarity of the species, "tearing up a completed nest or partly built nest and re-using the material to build a new nest a short distance away." He mentions that L. L. Hargrave summarized a number of published accounts of this habit and concludes that nests are deserted because of a change of conditions that make the first site unsuitable or no longer desirable. We found two nests with young on July 17, one 35 feet up in a shagbark hickory and the other 15 feet up in a walnut tree. The latter was on the edge of an open area, and the two nests were only 250 feet apart.

A Gnatcatcher nest collected on May 23 seems typical. It was saddled on an upright fork, and is beautifully constructed of plant down, delicate stems of small weeds, hair, and bits of a rust-colored downy substance scattered about in the inner part. There is no special lining, but the outside is completely covered with small pieces of greenish lichens fastened securely with spider webs. The depth of the cavity of this soft, down, cup-shaped structure is $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches; the external height, 3 inches; the outside diameter, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; with the thickness of the wall $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*, was represented by 6 breeding



View of study area looking southward, showing tree growth along dry gulch. Prairie Warblers nested in the foreground and on area between gulch and ridge of trees.—Photograph by Anne L. Stamm.

pairs. It was the second most common woodland bird, a pair occupying almost every patch of large trees. No nests were found.

Prairie Warbler, *Dendroica discolor*, was a typical breeding bird of the brushy fields, where 6 pairs were located. Three nests were found, all in small bushy elms. They were 3, 5, and 6 feet up, an average of 4.7 feet. The first one was found on May 22 and contained 1 host egg and 1 Cowbird egg. The next day the nest was empty. The second nest contained 4 eggs on May 23, and the third nest contained 2 eggs on May 30. Old fields filled with bushes and small saplings are the typical habitat of this species in central Kentucky, where coniferous trees are scarce.

Nests of the Prairie Warbler were compactly made of plant down, fine grass, and a few feathers firmly woven in the body of the nest and lined with soft, light-colored hair. A nest we measured had an internal depth of 1¾ inches, the external height of 2¾ inches, with the external diameter being 2½ inches.

Purple Martin, *Progne subis*, had been attracted to the area by the two large colonial boxes. Four pairs occupied the boxes, but we did not examine them.

Carolina Wren, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*, was represented by 4 pairs on the study area. The only nest found was in the old house on a beam of the outer room with the side torn away. The nest contained 3 well-fledged young on May 23.

Common Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis trichas*. Four pairs were located on areas near the creeks. No nests were found, but a fledgling unable to fly was seen on July 2.

Cardinal, *Richmondia cardinalis*. Four pairs were present, and nests of 3 of these were found. Two were in red cedars, and 1 was in an ash sapling. Two contained 3 eggs, and one had 2 eggs. The average height of the nests was 4.8 feet, the lowest being 4.2 feet and the highest (near Cedar Creek) being 6 feet up.

Wood Pewee, *Contopus virens*. We located 3.5 pairs on the area in spots where the larger trees were growing.

Bob-white, *Colinus virginianus*. There were apparently 3 pairs breeding on the area.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus*. We listed 3 pairs. They range rather widely in the taller trees of the area.

Downy Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos pubescens*. Only three pairs were found on the area. The scarcity of woodpeckers was apparently due to the absence of dead or dying trees.

Acadian Flycatcher, *Empidonax virens*. Two pairs were breeding along Cedar Creek, and a third singing male was found along the wet weather creek. Two nests were found which were easily identified as belonging to this species by their fragile structure and pendant streamers. A flycatcher was observed working on one of these on May 23.

Carolina Chickadee, *Parus carolinensis*. Three pairs were listed for the study area.

Tufted Titmouse, *Parus bicolor*. Three pairs were present on the more wooded portions of the area.

Cowbird, *Molothus ater*. It is difficult to determine the number of

Cowbirds since they do not build nests and appear to wander over the area. We estimated 3 pairs. Eggs were found in the nests of the Phoebe, Prairie Warbler, Indigo Bunting, and Field Sparrow. In addition, on July 2 a Yellow-throated Vireo was observed feeding a young Cowbird (out of the nest).

Eastern Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. Three pairs were recorded. They were in patches of underbrush in the wooded areas.

Fewer than 3 breeding pairs were found of the following species: White-eyed Vireo, (2.5), Summer Tanager (2.5), Phoebe, (2), Kentucky Warbler (2), Chipping Sparrow (2), Mourning Dove (1.5), Orchard Oriole (1.5), Green Heron (1), Whip-poor-will (1), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (1), Red-bellied Woodpecker (1), Crested Flycatcher (1), Catbird (1), Bluebird (1), Yellow-throated Vireo (1), Black and White Warbler (1), Louisiana Waterthrush (1); English Sparrow (1), Pine Woods Sparrow (1), Screech Owl (+). We shall comment briefly on the nests found for these less common species.

Two nests of the Phoebe, *Sayornis phoebe*, were found, one with 3 eggs, over the window ledge inside the back room of the house on May 30. The young were found dead on our next visit. The other nest was in the culvert under the road. This nest was stuck onto the side of a circular cement culvert and on May 23 contained young. A Cowbird's egg was stuck to the outside rim as if it had been rolled out of the nest by the Phoebes. Friedman (1929) reports that the Phoebe is one of the most victimized birds at Ithaca, New York, but does not mention any case where the eggs of the intruder were thrown out. A second brood was reared in the same nest, and 4 newly hatched birds were present on July 2.

A nest of the Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella passerina*, containing 4 young was found on May 23, 12 feet up in small elm near the old house. A second nest high up in an elm tree near Cedar Creek had an incubating bird.

A Whip-poor-will, *Caprimulgus vociferus*, was flushed, and two young were found near the wooded area along the back ridge on May 30. One young was larger than the other, and both birds had their eyes closed and remained as motionless as clods of earth. When persistently touched, they suddenly jumped or hopped in a toad-like fashion. The brownish-buff tones of the young made them well camouflaged as they rested on the dead leaves beneath some saplings of beech and dogwood trees.

One pair of Bluebirds, *Sialia sialis*, nested in one of the martin boxes, as did a pair of English Sparrows. The Red-bellied Woodpecker, *Centurus carolinus*, was observed to enter a hole 35 feet up in a dead tree along Cedar Creek on May 23.

The total nesting species recorded were 40. A total of 127 territorial males was listed and plotted on maps of the area. This is equivalent to 318 territorial males per 100 acres. This is a fairly heavy population considering the submarginal nature of most of the area studied.

The following visitors were also recorded: Chimney Swift, 14; Crows, 4; Blue Jay, 4; Robins, 4; Nighthawk, 3; Barn Swallows, 2; Turkey Vulture, 2; Starling, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Eastern Kingbird, 1; Purple Grackle, 1. The Barn Swallows started two nests on

the porch of the house on May 30, but since they never finished them and were not present on later visits, we recorded them merely as visitors.

LITERATURE CITED

BENT, A. C.

1949. Life Histories of North American Thrushes, Kinglets, and their Allies. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

FRIEDMAN, HERBERT

1929. The Cowbirds. Springfield, Illinois.

PIERCE, ROBERT A.

1954. The John A. Kleber Sanctuary. *Ky. Warbler*, 30:39.

STAMM, ANNE L., HARVEY B. LOVELL, and ROBERT A. PIERCE

1954. Shrubby Fields and Open Woods. *Audubon Field Notes*, 8:375.

University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky;

2118 Lakeside Drive, Louisville, Kentucky;

Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Frankfort, Kentucky.

* * * * *

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1954-'55

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (7½ mile radius centering near the junction of old Highway 58 and the ridge road and extending northward to Kentucky Dam Village and southward to the Mulberry Flat road, eastward to the Cumberland River, and westward to the west side of Kentucky Lake; open water 15%, marsh 10%, fields 60%, woodlands 10%, urban 5%).—Dec. 26; 6:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear to partly cloudy; temp. 30 to 62; wind S to SW, 0 to 8 m. p. h. Ground with thin crust of ice, which melted during the day; open water not frozen; smaller protected pools with thin layer of ice in early morning. Fifteen observers in six parties. Total party-hours, 54 (40 on foot, 10 by car, 4 by motor boat); total party-miles, 205 (31 on foot, 164 by car, 10 by motor boat). Total, 85 species, about 19,573 individuals. We covered the ground better this year than ever before. However, there were some conspicuous absences like Cormorants, Grebes, Turkey Vultures, Canvas-backs, Coots, and Ruddy Ducks. The Loggerhead Migrant Shrike is fairly common in western Kentucky but for some reason is rare between the rivers. We feel lucky in being able to report the Golden Eagle, Bonaparte's Gull, House Wren, Chipping Sparrow, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Putnam, Smith, Mathis, and Cypert all saw Golden Eagles. Bonaparte's Gull was seen by Beck. Putnam saw the House Wren and the Chipping Sparrow, and Mrs. Cypert and Mrs. Barbig saw the Red-breasted Nuthatch.—EVELYN BARBIG, HOWARD BARBIG, JOHN BECK, FRED CUNNINGHAM, EUGENE CYPERT (compiler), MARY LOU CYPERT, ROY GRISSELL, HUNTER HANCOCK, KENNETH MAYNARD, TAYE MAYNARD, TIM MAYNARD, CROCKETT MATHIS, CHARLES McPHERSON, LAUREN PUTNAM, GEORGE SMITH (Kentucky Lake Natural History Society).

MARION (City of Marion and Ohio River bottoms, fields and woodlands).—Dec. 26; noon to 4:30. Clear; strong wind; temp. 36.

Total, 50 species, 1549 individuals.—DR. T. ATCHISON FRAZER and C. L. FRAZER.

PENNYRILE FOREST STATE PARK (Deciduous and pine woods and fields within the park area, Pennyrile Lake, and adjoining farmlands; wooded area 40%, open fields in the park 30%, farmlands 20%, lake shore 10%).—Dec. 20; 7:00 A. M. to 4:15 P. M. Cloudy, snow flurries; wind NW, 1-7 m. p. h.; temp. 24 to 30. Total hours, 9¼; total miles, 19 (8 on foot, 11 by car). Observers together. Total, 34 species, 352 individuals. There was an increase noted in Tree Sparrows and more Winter Wrens than are usually recorded, but many species were scarce.—BILLY WINSTEAD and JAMES W. HANCOCK.

MADISONVILLE (W. W. Hancock farm, Clear Creek, Brown and Frostburg Roads, and five lakes at Madisonville; open fields 20%, deciduous woodlands and thickets 50%, lake shore 30%).—Jan. 5; 6:45 A. M. to 4:45 P. M. Cloudy; wind SW, 13-18 m. p. h.; temp. 59 to 66. Total hours, 10; total miles, 37 (5 on foot, 32 by car.) Total, 41 species, 1208 individuals. Other species recorded near the time of the count: American Widgeon, Pintail, Coot, Belted Kingfisher, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, and Rusty Blackbird. On January 10 I saw 700 Red-wings, in two flocks. Also Brasher C. Bacon trapped a Brown Thrasher at his Spring Lake Bird Banding Station on January 4 and another on January 10.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

HENDERSON (7½ mile radius centering in Audubon State Park Museum—typical western Kentucky habitats). Dec. 26; 7:30 to 4:00. Clear. Eleven observers in five parties. Total, 78 species, 16,908 individuals. We did not have as many observers as we had planned to have, but, as things turned out, we succeeded in choosing the only good day in the time acceptable. There is a possibility that Miss Smith found the Harris's Sparrow again this year, but it was very late when it was seen. One observer reported a Baltimore Oriole, but that record is not yet confirmed.

King Benson and W. P. Rhoads are responsible for the reports of the Grasshopper Sparrow and the Broad-winged Hawk. The sparrows were found in the old broom sedge part of the park area. We had a good view of them, both with the unaided eye and with our bifocals. We were within 25-30 feet and above them for several minutes before they flew. All the distinctive markings were plainly visible. According to both Pough and Peterson, they are within the range of the wintering places of the species, as southern Illinois is specified. The Broad-winged Hawk was soaring; its distinctive marking, shape, and size were quite apparent, as it was only about two tree-lengths up.

Rather oddly, as we were watching a bird feeder in the park about 4:00 P. M., two bats came by, making us wonder whether this was winter or spring.—WALTER ALVES, KING BENSON, MRS. LORA CLARK, GARLAN HAYS, AMELIA KLUTEY, JERRY McKINNEY, WILLIAM H. RHOADS, W. P. RHOADS (compiler), FRANK SAUERHEBER, ROBERT C. SOAPER, and VIRGINIA SMITH.

OWENSBORO (Daviss County: Ohio River bottoms, Carpenter's Lake, river shore and water, lake shore and water).—Dec. 31; 7:45 to

12:00 noon. Overcast. Nearly all observing done from River Road, little hiking. Two observers together. Twenty miles by car, about a mile on foot. The starred species were found in the same area on December 26 and January 1. Joe Ford observed from 2:00 to 4:00 P. M. on December 26; Mr. and Mrs. Powell observed from 9:45 to 11:45 A. M. on January 1, 1955. Total, 31 species, 574 individuals.—JOE FORD and A. L. POWELL.

BOWLING GREEN (Chaney Marsh, Three Springs, Schneider Farm, Mouth of Gasper area; marsh 10%, fields 50%, stream banks 20%; open woods 20%).—Dec. 29; 6:45 A. M. to 4:45 P. M. Cloudy all day; several showers; storm at 11:00 A. M., with winds up to 35 m. p. h. and driving rain. Windy the rest of the day. Temp. 40 to 64. Six observers in three parties. Total, 55 species, 3656 individuals. We saw 20 unidentified ducks. Though this was the thirty-seventh census here, seven species were found in greater numbers than ever before: Pied-billed Grebe, Rough-legged Hawk, Winter Wren, Meadowlark, Savannah Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow. The Pine Siskin is a new Bowling Green census record, though we have other winter records. Seven species were found in greater numbers than ever before since 1944. Starlings, English Sparrows, Crows, and White-crowned Sparrows, however, were far below average for our counts.—L. Y. LANCASTER, DAN RUSSELL, RUSSELL STARR, CHARLES L. TAYLOR, J. R. WHITMER, and GORDON WILSON (compiler).

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (Silent Grove, Turnhole Bend, Katy Pace Valley, Beaver Pond, Central Area, New Entrance, Union City, and Chaumont).—Dec. 23; 8:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Clear; snow in patches. Temp. 30-54. Two observers together. About eight miles on foot, 40 miles by car. Birds hard to find; woodpeckers astonishingly scarce. Total, 32 species, 541 individuals.—L. Y. LANCASTER and GORDON WILSON (compiler).

OTTER CREEK PARK (Ohio River, the park area and adjacent farmlands; river 10%, mature woods 10%, brush fields 50%, open meadows and farmlands 30%).—Jan. 2; 8:30 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Sunny; temp. 40 to 55; wind slight, variable, west to northwest, 7 m. p. h. Four observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 12 (8 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 30 (12 on foot, 18 by car). Total, 44 species, 1281 individuals.—FRANK X. KRULL, HARVEY B. LOVELL, ANNE L. STAMM, and FREDERICK W. STAMM.

LOUISVILLE (Cave Hill Cemetery, Indian Hills, Cherokee Park, Ohio River, Seneca Park).—Dec. 23; 8:00 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Total, 43 species, 5947 individuals. Also 600 unidentified ducks. Seven members of the Bunsen Science Club of J. M. Atherton High School and Miss Mabel Slack and Mrs. F. W. Stamm.

LOUISVILLE (Ohio River from Louisville to Twelve-Mile Island and inland about twelve miles to Anchorage and Prospect).—Dec. 26; 5:00 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Clear, with bright sunlight; temp. 37 to 60; wind south to southwest, 0-5 m. p. h.; ponds frozen over, creeks and river open. Thirty-two observers in ten parties. Total party-hours, 69 (58 on foot, 11 by car); total party-miles, 110 (32 on foot, 78 by car). Total, 79 species, 17,128 plus individuals. The Palm Warblers

were found by the Krulls; The White-winged Crossbills were found in Cave Hill Cemetery by Mabel Slack; the Vesper Sparrow was found by the Ellingtons. Two well-marked Oregon Juncoes, reported by Shackleton, are wintering at Sleepy Hollow.—MR. AND MRS. YANCEY R. ALTSHELER, LEONARD C. BRECHER, PVT. CHARLES L. CLAGETT, MRS. W. R. COLE, JOSEPH CROFT, AMY DEANE, CHARLOTTE AND DOROTHY ELLINGTON, THOMAS C. FULLER, PAXTON GIBBS, MRS. A. W. HALVERSON, FRANK H. AND FRANK X. KRULL, DR. AND MRS. HARVEY B. LOVELL, JOHN H. LOVELL, MRS. JOHN H. McCHORD, ERIC MILLS, BURT L. MONROE, SR. (Compiler), MRS. H. V. NOLAND, LOUIS H. PIEPER, MARIE PIEPER, WALTER H. SHACKLETON, MABEL SLACK, MR. AND MRS. FREDERICK W. STAMM, CHARLES STRULL, MRS. WILLIAM B. TABLER, EDWARD WETHERELL, VIRGINIA WINDSTANLEY, AUDREY A. WRIGHT (Members of the Beckham Bird Club).

KLEBER SONGBIRD SANCTUARY, OWEN COUNTY (On foot along Elm Branch and Cedar Creek bottoms and adjacent hillsides; cultivated fields 20%, brushy fields 25%, cedar thickets 5%, pasture 10%, mixed cedars and deciduous trees 20%, deciduous woods 20%, in car along Ky. 368 through the sanctuary to Elmville).—Jan. 8; 8:30 A. M. to 12:30 P. M., 1-3 P. M. on foot, 3-3:30 in car. Partly cloudy; wind W, 10-15 m. p. h.; temp. 35-45. Total hours, 6½; total miles, 9½ (4½ on foot, 5 by car). Three observers together. Birds do not appear to be as abundant in this area this winter as they were last year. The Evening Grosbeak, a female, was observed for about fifteen minutes through 7-power binoculars at a distance of about twenty-five feet. It was sitting in a box elder tree which was growing at the edge of Elm Branch (on the boundary of the sanctuary) and was feeding on box elder seeds. Total, 39 species, 466 individuals.—MR. AND MRS. FRED W. STAMM and ROBERT A. PIERCE.

DANVILLE (Most roads in and near Boyle County; farm lands, thickets, and ponds).—Jan. 2; 6:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Rain most of the day; temp. 35 to 53; wind SW, 5-20 m. p. h. All water open but ponds so full there were no margins. Nine observers in four parties. Total party-hours, 30 (9 on foot, 21 by car). Total party-miles, 225 (15 on foot, 210 by car). Total, 39 species, 9682 individuals. Crows and Starlings were partly estimated. We missed a number of the common species but attributed this partly to the very bad day; late in the day it was so dark that it was hard to identify small birds.—JOHN CHEEK, FLORENCE DAVIS, JACKSON DAVIS, MARGARET GLORE, SCOTT GLORE, JR. (Compiler), EDNA DRILL HECK, FRANK HECK, BETTY ULLRICH, AND LeROY ULLRICH.

ASHLAND (Wildwood Park area, including lake, southwest to Naples, Kentucky, east to Summit, northeast to southeast limits of Ashland—Boyd and Greenup Counties).—Jan. 1; 7:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Partly cloudy; temp. 35 to 65; no wind until around 3:00 P. M., then 5 to 15 m. p. h. Cloudy and slight rain after that. All water open. Three observers in one party. Total party-hours, 30 (24 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 120 (30 on foot, 90 by car). Total, 41 species, 2164 individuals. After a very beautiful autumn in which great numbers of migrating birds were observed, many more winter residents are in evidence than during the winter of 1953-54. Natural

MID-WINTER
BIRD COUNT
1954-'55

	Woodlands	Marion	Pennyrite S. P.	Madisonville	Henderson	Owensboro	Bowling Green	Mam. Ca. N. P.	Otter Creek P.	Louisville 1	Louisville 2	Kleber Sanct.	Danville	Ashland	Willard
No. Observers	15	2	2	1	11	2	6	2	4	9	32	3	9	3	1
No. Species	85	50	34	41	78	31	55	32	44	43	79	39	39	41	21
No. Individuals	19573	1549	352	1208	16908	574	3656	541	1281	5947	17123	466	9632	2164	297
Common Loon					2										
Horned Grebe											3				
Pied-b. Grebe							2							2	
G. B. Heron	3	2			12	1	1						1		
B-c. N. Heron											39				
Canada Goose	3500				269		*								
Blue Goose		18													
Mallard	10800	40		250	5450	300	1	16	8		2600		43		
Black Duck	1250	16		10	280	7	25	15		16	600		5		
Gadwall	105														
Am. Widgeon	58			*											
Pintail	87			*	202						9				
G-w. Teal	1				13										
Shoveller	1														
Wood Duck					10										
Redhead	18				2										
Ring-n. Duck	61			115		3				6	10				
Canvas-back						24					25			2	
L. Scaup Duck	47	4			27					3	350		1		
Am. Golden-eye	5					1					3				
Buffle-head	6									3	2				
Ruddy Duck										2	2				
H. Merganser	120									2	2			2	
Am. Merganser	348														
R-b. Merganser	2				6										
Turkey Vulture		2			8		3				13		61		
Black Vulture	2	5									9				
Sh.-sh. Hawk		1			11				1						
Cooper's Hawk	2				4					1	1				
Red-t. Hawk	1	1	1	1	11	2	3		4		5	1	2	2	
Br.-w. Hawk					1										
Red-sh. Hawk	7	3			2	1	1		1		9	1			
Rough-l. Hawk					5		3								
G. Eagle	2														
B. Eagle	16										1				
Marsh Hawk	5	4		1	14	*	1				6				
Per. Falcon					2						1				
Pigeon Hawk					1										
Sparrow Hawk	1	5		2	9	10	3		1	7	20		21		
Bob-white	21	23	16	16	52		3		5		47	4			
Turkey	2														
Coot		4		*	26						1				
Killdeer	21			3	5	*			1	2	23				
W. Snipe											3				
Herring Gull	22	17			73					4	37				
Ring-b. Gull	630			8						2	433				
Bon. Gull	1														
M. Dove	22	131		33	817	150	160		1	8	50		1		3
Barn Owl		1			4										
Screech Owl					4						3				
Horned Owl	7										2				
Barred Owl	2				1	*	2				3				2
Sh.-a. Owl					1						2				
B. Kingfisher	3	2		*	4	1	2		3	2	5	1	3		
Yel.-sh. Flicker	12	5	5	10	12	8	35	7	7	3	44	3	1	25	1
Pil. Woodpecker	3	2	1		2		11	4	2		5			1	1

**MID-WINTER
BIRD COUNT
1954-'55**

	Woodlands	Marion	Pennyville S. P.	Madisonville	Henderson	Owensboro	Bowling Green	Man. Ca. N. P.	Otter Creek P.	Louisville 1	Louisville 2	Kleber Sanct.	Danville	Ashland	Willard
Red-b. Woodpecker	13	7	2	5	9	2	21		3	1	36	2	1	2	
Red-h. Woodpecker	1				13		1				1			50	
Yel.-b. Sapsucker	1	1			2		1		1	1	1	1	1	2	
Hairy Woodpecker	5	3	1	3	5	*	7		1		13	3		15	2
Downy Woodpecker	62	13	3	4	14	3	28	8	4	5	28	13	16	20	3
Phoebe	2			1			1					2			
Horned Lark	1	19		1	66	*	179	5	1	34	98		5		
Blue Jay	41	14	6	8	34	2	43	8	32	17	46	9	6	25	
Crow	64	77	34	4	4850	10	477	19	68	1	200	37	8000	1500	7
E.-c. Chickadee														25	
Car. Chickadee	63		13	10	30	5	70	21	42	13	133	35	56	12	3
Tuft. Titmouse	94	16	4	7	24	1	70	14	17	18	44	26	46	50	6
Wh.-br. Nuthatch	39	2		*	11		*	7	3		20	1	4	6	
Red-br. Nuthatch	1		2		3		*	2	1		2			4	
Brown Creeper	3						3	2	1	1	3	1		3	1
House Wren	1										2			2	
Winter Wren	1		5		2	1	6					1		1	
Bewick's Wren	1	3	3	*	1		1						1	1	
Car. Wren	12	6		17	11	2	25	3	6	1	33	9	16	15	3
S.-b. Marsh Wren														3	
Mockingbird	7	5		1	21	*	12		2	5	62	4	8		
Brown Thrasher	2			*							1				
Robin	53	10	3	224	16		132	55	83	3	529	22	22	12	2
Hermit Thrush	2		2	2	2		6	2							
Bluebird	67	19	7	15	50	15	56	40	21		61	13	41	12	3
G.-c. Kinglet	8		8		3		*	1	1	1	7	2		15	7
R.-c. Kinglet	1				2										
Cedar Waxwing	6	5	12	18	24	1	222	30	47		21	18	1		
Log. Shrike				*	1		1			3	5				
Starling	265	300	10	21	3500	25	474		600	5000	10000	7	520	50	
Myrtle Warbler	19		6		1		*	21	15		2		1	2	
Palm Warbler											6				
Eng. Sparrow	58	165	8	115	275	100	159	23	30	1	256	10	347	40	35
Meadowlark	115	8	5	30	95	40	192		27		72		15		
Red-wing	87	12		59	2		6	1		24	24				
Rusty Blackbird				*			*								
Purple Grackle	208	4			21	*	*		1						
B.-h. Cowbird	3	260			6										
Cardinal	107	22	15	27	92	8	145	22	26	19	229	31	106	30	4
Evening Grosbeak												1			
Purple Finch	104	8	5	3			29	27	11	1	1	1			
Pine Siskin							1	2		36	98	6			
Goldfinch	92	150	10	27	34	5	203	34	47	1	146	11	20	36	152
White-w. Crossbill										14	23				
E. Towhee	45	5	13	10	6	2	33	8	11	1	85	23	4	24	1
Sav. Sparrow	5						11	1			1				
Grass Sparrow					6										
Vesper Sparrow					17						1			4	
S.-c. Junco	443	61	76	61	162		198	121	95	40	246	58	126	50	53
Oregon Junco											2				
Tree Sparrow	1	32	44	20	15	3	2		26	1	1	19			
Chipping Sparrow	2				6									10	1
Field Sparrow	14		8	21	22	*	16	2	2	1	23	6	31	25	4
Wh.-cr. Sparrow	5	20		4	38	*	11			11	28	1	52	15	
Wh.-th. Sparrow	209	8	6	20	29	4	378	14	2	1	105	10	34	30	
Fox Sparrow	32		1	6	3		19				1	9		10	
Swamp Sparrow	4		7	5	9	6	15		4		15	9			
Song Sparrow	10	12	10	12	8	*	25	7	14	3	51	55	59	25	5

food supplies are abundant. One of the oddities of this winter is the vast number of Robins observed over the entire area. As a rule, this species is extremely scarce in winter in this area. There is also a marked increase in the Red-headed Woodpecker, which has been rare in the past several years. Of interest was the presence of many flying insects, including grasshoppers and myriads of gnat-like flies late in the afternoon of the day of the count.—OKIE S. GREEN (Compiler), HENRY J. HUGHES, JR., and WALTER W. FORSON.

WILLARD (About four miles through fields and woodlands).—Dec. 26; 9:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Clear; temp. 52 to 64. Total, 21 species, 297 individuals.—ERCEL KOZEE.

THREE RIVERS, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, MICHIGAN—Jan. 2, 1955. Clear; temp. 34 to 41; moderate westerly wind. Observer alone and on foot, covering northern part of city, much open area, some ponds and rivers and also a small woodland. Ponds partly frozen over; rivers open; little snow on ground. Six and a half miles. from 7:00 A. M. to 10:15 A. M. Mallard, 127; Am. Golden-eye, 26; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Blue Jay, 22; Crow, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 4; Tufted Titmouse, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown Creeper, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 29; English Sparrow, 134; Meadowlark, 1; Cardinal, 9; Evening Grosbeak, 18; Purple Finch, 1; Goldfinch, 5; Slate-colored Junco, 5; Tree Sparrow, 11; Song Sparrow, 1. Total, 22 species, 407 individuals. Species observed recently but not on the date of the census: Dec. 31: Prairie Horned Lark, 1; Bob-white, 1; Jan. 1: Sparrow Hawk, 1; Mourning Dove, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Jan. 6: Canada Goose, 8; Snow Bunting, 1.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS.

FIELD NOTES

EARLY NESTING RECORDS

Just how early and how late do various species nest in Kentucky areas? It seems to me that this sort of data, collected over a sufficient length of time, could prove extremely useful. For the Louisville area I offer the following:

Robin:

March 29, 1954.....	nest building
April 3.....	first egg
April 15.....	first egg hatched
April 29.....	young left nest

Cardinal:

April 12, 1954.....	nest building
April 15.....	first egg
April 29.....	first egg hatched
May 3.....	young left nest

For late dates I have only one:

Robin:

August 19, 1954.....	adult seen feeding young in nest
----------------------	----------------------------------

—JAMES B. YOUNG, Louisville.

(Too many ornithologists and bird students take for granted data pertaining to our more common species. As a result, there is a paucity in the literature of much valuable data, especially that of nesting records of well-known and much-observed birds. There are great gaps in Kentucky's ornithology, many of which can be filled by the publication of records which might seem commonplace to advanced students; however, the lack of such records at the moment is the big obstacle to be overcome to those who might be doing research work in this state. All members of the K. O. S. should be encouraged to record in print items pertaining to the life history of all of our birds.—Comment on Mr. Young's note by Burt L. Monroe, Sr.)

* * * * *

SNOWY OWL IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

On November 21, 1954, a Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) was found shot in Washington County. It had been in the vicinity of St. Rose Priory for two or three days before it was shot. It was found on the property of the priory, about two miles west of Springfield, by Ernest Kelty. I have the dead bird in my possession for mounting. The owl was banded, but the number and exact place are not definitely known, as the band was sent in by Kelty before I was notified that he had the owl. He thinks the following information was on the band: "Dr. Dillon, El Paso, Canada, June 21, 1952." He has not yet received word from sending in the band. I am still trying to get the exact data and will report it to the WARBLER if I do so.—JAMES O. MOYNAHAN, District 9 Biologist.

* * * * *

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

The recent appearance of a flock of White-winged Crossbills, *Loxia leucoptera*, in Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Kentucky, is an event of major interest since it was in this same cemetery that this northern species was recorded 17 years ago, when Slack found 5 and established what we believe to be the only record for the state. Especially significant is the fact that the present flock seems to be wintering here as did those in 1937-38 (*Ky. Warbler*, 14:17-18).

It was on December 23, 1954, when we made a Christmas census with the Science Club of Atherton High School, that we first discovered 14 of these birds. Since that time we have found them in widely scattered areas of the 291-acre tract on the following dates: December 24, 26, 31, 1954; January 2, 7, 8, 15, and 16, 1955. At least 20 other members of the Beckham Bird Club have seen them during this period.

The birds have been found in flocks of 5, 9, 11, 13, 14, and 23, but on two occasions a single female was seen. On two days only we found 23 birds, December 26, 1954, when we recorded them on the Christmas census of the Beckham Bird Club, and on December 31, 1954. On one occasion at least 8 males were counted.

On every visit to the area the crossbills have been seen feeding on the fruits of the numerous hemlock and sweet gum trees. There is an abundance of food, which may be a determining factor in their length of stay.

They have also been seen drinking and bathing in the lotus pond and at a large ornamental fountain.

Their presence in this area is consistent with this winter's southern movement, as we have had reports that they have been seen in Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio; West Virginia; and Illinois.

At the present the birds are still here and evidently finding food and cover suitable to their needs. We hope to keep them under careful observation, and if they stay, we expect to publish further notes about them.—MABEL SLACK and ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

* * * * *

OCCURRENCE OF THE EVENING GROSBEAK IN KENTUCKY

While making the mid-winter bird count on January 8, 1955, on the Kleber Song Bird Sanctuary in Owen County, Kentucky, a female Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) (Cooper) was observed on this area. The bird was sitting alone in a box elder tree and was feeding on box elder (*Acer Negundo* L.) seeds, which were hanging on the tree in which it was sitting. The tree was situated on the bank of Elm Branch on the boundary of the area. The bottoms along this creek have been planted to various seed-bearing plants, such as cane, milo, soybeans, cowpeas, millet, and sunflowers. Most of the sunflower seeds had been consumed by birds, but the other seeds were abundant. The bird was observed for about 15 minutes through 7-power binoculars at a distance of about 25 feet, during which time the bird continued to feed. We then continued slowly past the bird, approaching to within 15 feet without apparent disturbance to the bird, but when a Grosbeak was discovered a few minutes later in the top of a tall tree, a check failed to disclose a bird in the box elder tree. Checks of this area on January 12, 14, and 20 failed to produce further observations of this bird.

A search of the literature shows that there are four published accounts of the occurrence of the Evening Grosbeak in Kentucky. A small flock was observed near Hickman, Fulton County, Kentucky, on March 18, 22, 23, and 25, 1887, by L. O. Pindar (AUK. IV:257). Burt L. Monroe and Robert M. Mengel collected an adult male at Anchorage, Ky., February 24, 1946 (Wilson Bul. 58 (2):116), and Robert Steilburg and Jerry Smith found one female while making a Christmas Census in 1951 at Prospect, Ky. (Ky. Warbler 28(1):12). On December 30, 1951, a small flock was discovered on the Bernheim Forest Park, Bullitt County, Ky. (An. Ky. Nat. Hist., 1:57-60) by Burt Monroe, Sr., Burt Monroe, Jr., and Thomas Fuller. These birds remained in the park until January 20, 1952. The observation herein recorded thus appears to be the fifth published account of the Evening Grosbeak in Kentucky and is apparently the most easterly record for this species in the state.—ROBERT A. PIERCE and ANNE L. STAMM.

* * * * *

SOME COMMUNAL SPECIES OF BIRDS AT FORT KNOX

Only July 16, 1954, a five-species roost was found in front of the Post Chapel, Dixie Street and Seventh Avenue, Fort Knox, Kentucky. The roost was centered in three tall, densely-foliaged trees, a White Ash and two Norway Maples. The inhabitants, in decreasing order of abundance on that date, were Bronzed Grackles, Purple Martins, Starlings, Red-wings, and Cowbirds. The following observations were made during a series of visits to this area in the late-summer months.

ROOST BEHAVIOR.—There was a well-defined order in which the various species entered the roost in the evening. The Starlings were the first to enter, coming in from their day's foraging roughly

an hour before sunset. Right after most of them had settled down in the trees, the Grackles arrived, with about half of their total number appearing within ten minutes, just about half an hour before sunset. The Red-wings and Cowbirds came in with the Grackles as small flocks or as individuals.

The behavior of the Martins was most interesting. Although they were the last species to enter the roost, they were the first ones to arrive in the vicinity, some showing up an hour before the Starlings. Instead of entering the trees immediately, they congregated on the nearby telephone wires and water towers. Their number increased steadily until the last half-hour before sunset. But it wasn't until shortly before dark and after practically the last blackbird had found itself a perch for the night that the husky swallows left their wires in a long column and entered the roost.

As the weeks passed and their number increased to several thousand, the Martins would form a single loose flock, about a half-hour before dusk, and would fly over the roost in a great circle for fifteen or twenty minutes, gradually dropping into the trees. This behavior is quite similar to that of a Chimney Swift colony in entering its home chimney at dusk. It was quite a spectacle as the big swallows would appear to fill all the available sky, like a swarm of bees, their soft chirruping and the patter of their droppings providing an odd contrast to the angry squealing of the blackbirds. Occasionally, a portion of the flock would dip low over the trees and would seem to rain birds as a large number of Martins dived down simultaneously into the foliage.

VARIATIONS in NUMBERS.—Martin.—The Martin flock was just beginning to build up on July 16 when some 500 birds were counted. Its peak was reached in the middle of August, when William Shuler and I estimated at least 6000 present one evening. By the end of August, only half this number remained, and a cold spell in early September quickly cleaned out all but a few hundred. The last birds were seen on September 12.

Grackle.—The initial observation on the Chapel Roost revealed approximately 1500 Bronzed Grackles. By the end of July, this entire flock had gone away, leaving a dozen or so individuals. What may have been the same flock or at least a similar-sized one was seen on September 11, flying over Muldraugh, some four miles to the northwest of the Post Chapel. In early October a large mixed blackbird roost, with more than a thousand Grackles, was found near the Fort Knox Parade Ground, some 500 yards northeast of the Chapel Roost. The Grackles were still there when I wrote this (November 4).

Starling.—The number of Starlings in the Chapel Roost remained fairly constant from the middle of July to the end of August, some 750 birds. This number was doubled to 1500 birds in September, and then, like the Grackles, the Starling flock deserted the roost en masse on or about the ninth of September. There are some 300 Starlings in the Parade Ground Roost now.

Red-wing.—The Red-wing was never an abundant species, some fifty individuals remaining at the Chapel Roost from July 16 until early September, when a flock of 200 appeared. They usually mingled with the Starlings or Grackles when flying in at dusk. They disappeared from the Chapel Roost in the middle of September. Some 100 are now in the Parade Ground Roost.

Cowbird.—The Cowbird was the rarest of the five species at the Chapel Roost, remaining from July 16 through the middle of September. About fifty are now at the Parade Ground Roost.

The Chapel Roost is now entirely deserted. The Martins have gone south, and the blackbirds have moved off to parts unknown or perhaps are still present at the Parade Ground Roost. It will be interesting to see whether the trees around the Chapel will be utilized again next summer by these various species.—Pvt. CHARLES L. CLAGETT, Fort Knox.

* * * * *

(Continued from Page 2)

wooded areas. Plan now to attend. Mark your calendar and "make a date" to meet new members and renew friendships. Detailed announcements will be mailed to members at a late date.

* * * * *

BROLEYS IN LOUISVILLE

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Broley passed through Louisville on their way to Tampa, Florida, to continue their banding of Bald Eagles. Mr. Broley addressed the Beckham Bird Club on Saturday night, December 4, in the Allen Court Room at the University of Louisville. He showed one film on the "Swallows of Eastern North America," which gave some interesting shots of the birds building nests. The other film was on the Bald Eagle and showed closeup studies of eaglets in their nests, being fed by their parents. The final scene showed a beautiful Bald Eagle, our nation's emblem, flying back and forth over an American flag. Mr. Broley finds that the habits of the Bald Eagle are very beneficial and that they seldom if ever molest domestic animals.

* * * * *

Mr. Okie S. Green, in reporting the count from Ashland, added this brief note:

"Chimney Swifts, or what appeared to be, were observed by Green, flying in the pattern peculiar to Swifts, although they would be most unusual and improbable. Further investigation is being made."