

11-1957

Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 33, no. 4)

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The Kentucky Warbler

Vol. XXXIII

NOVEMBER, 1957

No. 4



Some of the 87 K. O. S. Members and Guests who attended the Fall Meeting at Cumberland Falls State Park

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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.....Hunter Hancock, Murray
 Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.....Mrs. William B. Tabler, 6 Glen Hill Road, Louisville 7
 Recording Secretary.....Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Shelbyville

Councillors:

W. P. Rhoads, Henderson, 1955-1957
 Okie Green, Ashland, 1955-1957
 John A. Cheek, Jr., Pikeville, 1956-1958
 Amelia Klutey, Henderson, 1956-1958

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, Field Notes; Harvey B. Lovell, Notes on Ornithologists

Chairmen of Committees:

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

NEWS AND VIEWS

A SLIGHT APOLOGY

This issue is somewhat later than our issues usually are. There are a number of reasons: (1) the editor was "under the weather" for several weeks and was unable to attend the fall meeting; however, the numerous get-well cards received almost overbalanced the pain from sinusitis; this is a recognition of all those cheerful messages; (2) our retiring president, Mrs. Stamm, joined the ranks of fashionable people who have had Asiatic influenza and was unable to send in some material, most of this issue; (3) some of the notes promised came in late, but here they are. Anyway, this issue should reach you in the month of November. One of our exchanges, dated September, 1956, arrived in March, 1957; maybe we are not so late after all.

* * * * *

A SUGGESTION

Mr. Rufus M. Reed writes: "We had one magnificent migration of Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*) in our vicinity on October 12, 1957, but I wasn't privileged to see it, as I was away. But my observers reported a flock of over a hundred of these birds circling high over the vicinity of Lovely, Martin County, Kentucky, on that date. They reported that the hawks circled for a while and then took a course southward towards the head of Wolf Creek." (Editor's note: This date seems unusually late for such a large number of Broad-wings. At Bowling Green, in forty-one successive seasons the latest dates on which even a single Broad-wing has been recorded are October 2, 1956, and October 11, 1952.)

OUR NEW "PATCH"

The Kentucky Ornithological Society has had an attractive sleeve patch for field jackets made. This "patch" has an embroidered Kentucky Warbler and the letters "K. O. S." on a light blue twill and is washable. Every member will want one for his field jacket. The price is \$1.25 for one, provided we can get orders for 100. Please send in your order promptly to our treasurer, F. W. Stamm, 2118 Lakeside Drive, Louisville 5, Kentucky. Of course, we all should have one.

* * * * *

MR. MITCHELL DEAD

We regret to announce the death on August 21, 1957, of Howard C. Mitchell. He died rather suddenly while visiting his daughter in Denver, Colorado. Although he had not been well for the past few years, illness did not prevent him from attending K. O. S. meetings. He was one of our valued members upon whom we could always depend. Mr. Mitchell was a very active business man, but he found time to observe birds and greatly enjoyed his hobby of ornithology.

* * * * *

MRS. CHARLES HORNER IS NEW LIFE MEMBER

Mrs. Charles Horner of Louisville is our newest Life Member. She is a native Kentuckian and spent the greater portion of her girlhood in the country, where she says she "just took birds for granted." However, in the past three years she has become vitally interested in ornithology and finds much pleasure in studying the birds around Louisville and at Nantucket Island, where she spends the summers. The "trigger" that set off this new interest was the sight of a Great Blue Heron as it stalked amid the brackish waters on the island. Suddenly Mrs. Horner thought how wonderful it would be to know the names of the different species of birds. She then joined the K. O. S. through its Louisville Chapter, the Beckham Bird Club, where she is an active member. She enjoys participating in the summer bird walks at Nantucket, where trips are led by Edith Folger Andrews, an authority on birds in that area. Mrs. Horner is also a member of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. We welcome Mrs. Horner to our growing list of Life Members. May her interest in birds continue to expand.

* * * * *

DR. CLAY HONORED

Dr. William M. Clay, head of the department of biology of the University of Louisville, has been elected president of the Kentucky Academy of Science for the coming year. Congratulations! Dr. Clay, one of our members, has spoken to our society on a number of occasions. He has also contributed several articles to THE KENTUCKY WARBLER.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Again the editor urges our members to send in a Christmas Bird Count. Organize as many parties as you have capable leaders and cover as much territory as you can. Be sure to limit your count to one day, but add in a supplementary list all species seen near the time of the count. Send in your count as soon as possible, for the tabulation of counts will start on January 15, 1958. It would save much trouble if you would put your figures on one of our Check List cards and attach it to a sheet of paper that gives all the details. Please add, also, any notes or interesting comments on your finds on the count or recently.

* * * * *

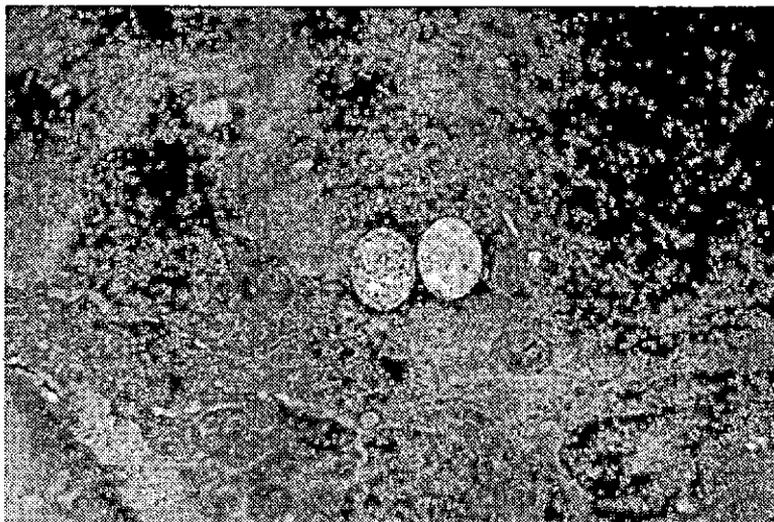
NIGHTHAWKS AT MURRAY

By Mabel Slack, Louisville

The summer of 1957 was spent at Murray State College, Murray, Kentucky, from June 10 to August 3. During that time I found the Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) very numerous in the vicinity of the school buildings of the campus. They were so evident that at any time of the day they could be seen and at night heard. In fact, they were so numerous that I could not begin to count numbers.

I made arrangements to investigate the roofs which were gravel-topped and accessible and on June 22 made the ascent up a ladder to the roof of Wells Hall to search for eggs or young. None were found; but I noticed from this vantage point the roofs that were flat-topped and graveled: the Science Building, the Training School, and Wells Hall. I was told by Mrs. Brown, house mother at Wells Hall, that a half-grown Nighthawk was found on the ground early in June and was returned to the roof by one of the students. As I found the Training School and Wells Hall inaccessible, I visited the Science Building, where an elevator took me all the way. On this roof of two levels the late Miss Grace Wyatt had studied the Nighthawks and had taken pictures of them several years ago. I could not find any on the roof at the time, but the custodian said that on several mornings when he arrived around 6:30 one had been sitting there and had flown as he approached. A student helper informed me that he had found a half-grown one on the ground near this building on June 4 and had carried it back to the roof. I had previously talked to Mr. B. Tillman, meteorologist at the college, who had told me that there were no Nighthawks nesting on the Auditorium roof, where his weather instruments were stationed. I did not look further at this time, believing that it was too late for the nesting of this species.

In the third week of July Mr. Tillman informed me that there was a Nighthawk nesting on the roof of the Auditorium. On July 18, after much difficulty in climbing to the roof, I found the bird in the south-



Nighthawk's Nest at Murray State College, July 18, 1957

Photograph by Mabel Slack

west corner, incubating two eggs. The bird flew as I approached, and the two eggs, even though scuffed, showed up very light against the tarred roof. The nest was about a foot from the railing and the same distance from a five-foot wall and, therefore, had protection on two sides. I photographed the eggs, which were in the shadow of the wall, while the female sat on a ledge of the roof nearby and the male "boomed" at me from above, several times just missing my head. I had no further opportunity to visit the roof, but Mr. Tillman said that on July 28 the bird was still on the nest. This is believed to be a late nesting date. Other records of the nesting of this bird include two eggs on May 25, 1956 (KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXXII, 63, by Ringo) and young in early June, 1939 (KENTUCKY WARBLER, XVIII, 15, by Slack). Judging from the number of Nighthawks in this area, this would be a perfect place to make a nesting study of this bird.

* * * * *

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL FALL MEETING

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its thirty-fourth annual fall meeting October 11-13, 1957, at Dupont Lodge, Cumberland Falls State Park. On Friday evening Mrs. F. W. Stamm, the president, after welcoming the members and guests to the first meeting of the convention, introduced Dr. Harvey E. Lovell, who gave an illustrated address on "Birds of Cumberland National Forest and Black Mountain." Dr. Hunter Hancock introduced Mr. Frederick C. Hardy of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources, who gave slides and data concerning the status of the Ruffed Grouse in the Cumberland Mountains. Mr. Albert F. Ganier spoke on his bird observations on the Cumberland Plateau of Tennessee.

On Saturday morning the members made field trips under the leadership of Mr. Burt L. Monroe, Sr., and Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, co-chairmen, assisted by Mr. Albert F. Ganier and Mr. Howard Jones.

In the afternoon business meeting the minutes of the spring meeting, as published in the KENTUCKY WARBLER, were approved. Mrs. William B. Tabler gave the treasurer's report, which was approved. The recording secretary summarized the actions of the Executive Board taken at their meeting on Friday evening:

1. The board agreed that the registration fee should be applied to any person attending all or any part of the conference.
2. In order to encourage the purchasing of ornithological books through the society, the board voted to continue giving members the 10% discount on such purchases.
3. The board selected a washable twill emblem with the K. O. S. monogram on a blue shield, designating membership in the society. This emblem, priced at \$1.25, was on display at the registration desk, where paid orders were taken to determine the number of emblems to be ordered.
4. It was also voted to accept an invitation to join the Nature Conservancy organization.
5. Mrs. Stamm announced that the society had published a leaflet explaining the functions and purposes of the society, this leaflet to be used primarily for information for prospective members. Miss Evelyn Schneider and Mrs. Stamm were co-chairmen of this project.
6. Mrs. Stamm also announced that a paper on bird flight, written by Herbert Taylor, Atherton High School, Louisville, had been selected by the judges as the winning manuscript of those presented by the members of the Junior Academy of Science. This award entitles the winner to a three-year subscription to the KENTUCKY WARBLER.

On account of lack of time the board adjourned to reconvene on Saturday afternoon prior to the business meeting. At that time Miss Schneider reported on the requests for back numbers of the KENTUCKY WARBLER, saying that approximately thirty issues would need to be reproduced. After some discussion, including the suggestion that Miss Schneider write to early members asking for these issues, Mr. Hancock moved that Mrs. Stamm be empowered to have the needed issues reproduced by a new dry process, as needed, provided that this could be done at a reasonable cost. One member of long standing, Mr. Ganier, told the society that he was willing his collection of KENTUCKY WARBLERS to the society. Dawson Springs was selected as the place for the 1958 fall meeting.

Mrs. Stamm then asked for reports from committees. A motion to accept the report of Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, chairman of the committee to establish a scholarship honoring Dr. Gordon Wilson was tabled until the spring meeting so that more time could be given for formulating plans for such a far-reaching project. Mr. Leonard C. Brecher, chairman of the endowment fund, reported the addition of three Life Members during the past year. Mrs. Tabler, in the absence of Miss Helen Browning, chairman of the membership committee, read Miss Browning's report. The society has 302 members, including the 23 Life Members, 255 active members, and 24 new members. There are 19 libraries that subscribe for our journal. The society has lost five members by death. Mr. F. W. Stamm reported a profit of \$21.43 from the sale of books. Miss Schneider, librarian, reported that Mr. Howard Rollin has now contributed, as Christmas presents, thirteen of his bird paintings, which have been framed by the Beckham Bird Club. Regional reports were given as follows: Henderson, Miss Klutey; Frankfort, Mrs. Ringo; Louisville area, Mr. Shannon; Lexington, Mr. Simpson; Ashland, Mr. Green (report read by Mr. Hancock).

The nominating committee, composed of Dr. Wilson, Mr. Rhoads, Miss Browning, and Miss Slack, presented the following names for election:

President.....	Dr. Hunter Hancock, Murray
Vice-President.....	Miss Amelia Klutey, Henderson
Corresponding Sec'y and Treas.....	Mr. F. W. Stamm, Louisville
Recording Secretary.....	Mr. Howard Jones, Frankfort

Councillors:

Mr. Al Mayfield, Lexington.....	1957-'59
Miss Evelyn Schneider.....	1957-'59
Dr. Russell Starr, Glasgow.....	1957-'58

The secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for this slate.

After a brief intermission, Mr. John Cheek, presiding, introduced a motion picture, "Know Your Hawks," shown through the courtesy of Mr. Robert C. Soaper, United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

The annual dinner was held Saturday night in the Banquet Room, with 86 in attendance. Mrs. Stamm, after welcoming the members and guests, introduced the officers, councillors, and distinguished guests. She read notes from Mr. Brasher Bacon and Mr. Okie Green and told of a telephone call from Dr. Gordon Wilson, expressing regret at not being able to attend the conference. Miss Schneider introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr. Karl Maslowski, Audubon Screen Tour lecturer, who gave a very artistic film called "Waterway Wildlife."

The convention concluded with a Sunday morning field trip.

—Vestina Bailey Thomas, Recording Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand April 13, 1957.....\$ 438.48

Receipts:

Dinner reservations at spring meeting.....	\$ 107.25
Membership dues to date.....	73.50
Check lists sold.....	8.50
Profit on book sales.....	5.29
Back issues of WARBLER sold.....	10.00
One Life Membership.....	50.00
Dividend on Jefferson-Federal.....	12.25
Total receipts.....	\$ 705.27

Disbursements:

Dinners at spring meeting.....	\$ 102.50
Postage	18.95
Deposited in savings account (Life Memberships).....	50.00
Cost of printing May and August issues of WARBLER....	310.92
Filing fee for corporation.....	1.00
Bank tax.....	.37
Total disbursements.....	\$ 483.74

Balance on hand.....\$ 221.53

In our Endowment Fund we have seven shares (\$100 each) of Jefferson-Federal Building and Loan Association.....\$ 700.00

In our Savings Account at Jefferson-Federal (our Life Memberships and interest).....\$ 385.08

Total assets.....\$1,306.61

—Fan B. Tabler, Treasurer.

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ATTENDANCE AT MEETING, OCTOBER 11-13, 1957

KENTUCKY: Anchorage: Mr. and Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Sr.; Brooks: Amy Deane; Bowling Green: Mrs. Paul L. Garrett, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Pace; Cynthiana: Eugenia Lair; Danville: Mr. and Mrs. Scott Glore, Jr.; Frankfort: Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jones, Elizabeth Satterly, Mrs. W. P. Ringo; Flemingsburg: Mrs. J. Kidwell Grannis; Glasgow: Mrs. James Gillenwater, Mary Clyde Nuckols, Lillian Simmons, Mrs. Russell Starr; Henderson: Matt Brown, Lillian Hoffman, Amelia Klutey, Charles Meade, E. W. Selle, Virginia Smith; Lancaster: Helen Gill, Martha Gill; Louisville: Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Floyd Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Chamberlain and Martha, Mrs. Charles Hardwick, Dr. and Mrs. Harvey B. Lovell, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Patterson, Dorothy

Peil, Henry Pieper, Louis Pieper, Marie Pieper, Kent Previette, Mrs. H. C. Mitchell, Evelyn J. Schneider, Mrs. C. E. Schindler, Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Shannon, Mabel Slack, Roderic Sommers, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Tabler, Audrey Wright, George Wolke; Lexington: Mrs. G. L. Burns, Barbara Burns, John Burns, Margaret Combs, Anna Heaton, Dr. and Mrs. George Gregory, Mr. and Mrs. Al Mayfield, Mrs. Robert Meyers, Jr., A. C. Reece, Virginia Reece, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Simpson, Conley Webster; Murray: Hunter Hancock; Owensboro: Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Powell; Pikeville: John Cheek; Reed: Mrs. Nab Stanley; Shelbyville: Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas.

NEW YORK: Charles Eldredge.

INDIANA: Evansville: Mrs. James C. Bower; Lynnville: Mrs. Isabella Thiry.

TENNESSEE: Nashville: Albert F. Ganier; Knoxville: Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Garlinghouse, Elizabeth O'Kelley, Onea Rogers, Mrs. E. Overton.

OHIO: Karl Maslowski.

* * * * *

FIELD NOTES

WILLETS AT LAKE CUMBERLAND.—On a trip to Lake Cumberland at Derby Day weekend in 1956 we saw five Willets. We had views of them feeding along a sandy shore and also flying in formation close to the water. In addition to Yancy (my husband) and me, the following people also identified them: Dr. and Mrs. H. V. Noland, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Martin, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McChord, and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Thompson, Jr. All of us are members of the Beckham Bird Club.—Kay Altsheler, Louisville.

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HORNED OWL ROUTS BLACKBIRDS.—In my back yard there are twenty or more large, tall trees. About the 20th of July, 1957, I noticed thousands of blackbirds gathering in these trees about sunset. Their chatter was very noisy, and I was much disturbed over their presence. Probably two or three weeks later I heard the Blue Jays, Robins, and other birds creating quite a noise. This was early, about 6:00 A. M. I went out into the back yard to investigate the cause. I suddenly saw a large owl fly away; he was so large that I concluded that he was a Horned Owl. No blackbirds have returned since then. I would gladly give this owl board and lodging in my trees in exchange for the noisy, pesky blackbirds.—Dr. Cynthia Counce, Princeton.

* * * * *

ROBIN RAISES THREE BROODS IN SAME NEST IN SAME SEASON.—During the summer of 1956, a pair of Robins (*Turdus migratorius*), raised three broods of young in a nest located on the gutter pipe, under the eaves, of my neighbor's house on Eastview Avenue. Although the birds were not banded, I could easily identify one of the pair, the female, as she had a white or "bald spot" on top of her head. While I had observed her raising the first and second

broods, I did not keep notes until I again noticed her back on the nest on July 19. This was exactly ten days after the last nestling of the second clutch had left the nest. On July 25, Carlyle Chamberlain came over, climbed up to the nest, and found it contained three eggs. On the 27th, the female was seen to leave the nest occasionally to feed; so apparently the eggs had not hatched. However, on the 31st, the adults were busy feeding young. In one hour of observation the parents brought food to the nest sixteen times. The nestlings remained until August 14. It seems to me a bit unusual for a Robin to raise three broods in one season.—Beatrice Short, Louisville.

* * * * *

SOME NOTES FROM PIKE AND MARTIN COUNTIES.—On October 18, 1957, at 3:00 P. M., while I was on top of a high ridge, doing civil engineering work with my crew, we suddenly heard the strange, nasal honks of wild geese. We dropped everything and ran to where we could find an opening in the trees. Then we sighted them. There were over one hundred Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*). I immediately turned the telescope of my transit due south, and they were flying a direct course south by the transit. They were flying about 300 feet above the tops of the highest ridge. This is near Little Blackberry Fork of Pond Creek, Pike County.

Two days later, in the same vicinity we again heard the cries of the geese; this time a flock of 200 birds were flying about one thousand feet above the hills.

Here at Lovely (Martin County), where I live, I had heard the geese as early as the first week in October. They had come down during a fog on Wolf Creek, three miles south of Lovely.—Rufus M. Reed, Lovely, Kentucky.

* * * * *

NEST OF THE BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER IN BERNHEIM FOREST

While we know the Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) is a summer resident and breeds in Kentucky, very few nests of this species are found. At least, we can not find much in the literature. Therefore, we believe it would be of interest to describe the nest which we found on May 19, 1956, at Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County, Kentucky. This was while we were on a scheduled field trip of the Beckham Bird Club (Louisville Chapter).

The nest was discovered as we walked along Rice Orchard Road, which is east of the fire tower. Here the road winds through a heavily-wooded area with many deciduous trees at the road's edge; many of the trees have dead branches with large cavities where woodpeckers and owls may nest. As we paused along the path, we noticed a male Black and White Warbler with food in its bill; the bird was "creeping" down the trunk of a large beech tree. Occasionally it flew to a small sapling and back again to the beech. This went on for some time before the bird flew to the ground and actually betrayed the nest. The warbler's approach was by means of working down the trunk of the beech tree, then flying to the sapling mentioned above (which was not more than an inch in circumference), and down to the ground. It was interesting to us that as the male flew to the nest, the female, apparently brooding the young, left immediately and flew to the same beech trunk. This exchange of places was done rapidly and caused

some of the observers to believe it to be the same bird. However, by a careful study of the ground it was noted that now there were two birds: one on the beech tree and one on the ground feeding the young, thus revealing its nest. All of this took place as we watched only ten feet away.

The nest, about three feet from the path, was tucked near the top of a small bank and fairly close to the base of the sapling. It was seven feet from the large beech, flush with the ground, and hidden among the dead leaves. It was made of dried grasses and leaves; the inner lining seemed to contain tiny bits of moss and finer grass. In this well-camouflaged nest were four newly-hatched young.

Other birds noted in the immediate vicinity were Red-bellied Woodpecker, Wood Pewee, Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, and Summer Tanager.—Anne L. Stamm and Mabel Slack, Louisville.

* * * * *

A ROBIN ROOST IN 1881

In FOREST AND STREAM, for February 24, 1881, page 70, occurred the following paragraph:

"ROBIN ROOST.—A Glasgow, Kentucky, paper has this report of a robin roost in that vicinity which is very like the one reported in this journal last week: (A cedar thicket of about 60 acres furnishes the birds a lodging place. About sundown every morning constant streams from every direction pour into the grove, and almost obscure the heavens in their flight. Night finds almost every bush in the thicket bending with its red-breasted load. For the past few weeks lovers of sport for miles around have visited the place, and every night the thicket is illuminated with the torches of men with clubs and sacks gathering the feathery harvest. Mr. Smith has killed over 2000, and hundreds are carried away every night, but they don't seem to decrease. There are millions of them. Large quantities of them have been cooked in town. They are very fat and make, when cooked, a dish good enough for anybody.)"

Robins were esteemed as food in the nineteenth century, and every roost that was discovered quickly became the nightly haunt of every "lover of sport" who could spare the time to raid it. But the Robins are such prolific birds that there is no evidence that their numbers were seriously reduced by this winter hunting. Unlike the Passenger Pigeon, which nested in great colonies and laid only one egg per year, the Robin was and is a solitary nester, has broods of 3 to 5 at a time, and breeds at least twice each season. During the breeding season there appear to have been no organized attempts to collect them for food, except perhaps in a few local instances. Luckily for the Robins, the small size of their breasts made it unprofitable to expend shot and shell to collect them one at a time.—Harvey B. Lovell, University of Louisville.

WHAT DO PURPLE FINCHES EAT?

Scott Glore, Jr., in reporting his Christmas Bird Count from Danville for 1956, mentioned noticing Purple Finches feeding on the seeds of the ash tree. That set me thinking. All of the fall and early winter after the Purple Finches had arrived that year, I saw these birds feeding daily on the ash seeds on the trees in my own yard. Late in the season, after nearly all of the seeds had fallen off, making almost a carpet on the ground, the birds were always in evidence. Even when a light snow came on January 25, 1956, the birds were in the usual places, picking up the seeds in the snow. So far as I can now remember, this season was the first one I had ever noticed this type of feeding. Thanks, Mr. Glore, for opening up a new field of observation.—Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.

* * * * *

MORE WILD BIRDS IN CITY

From time to time I have reported finding wild "woods" birds in my own yard. Just behind my lot is a bushy area that seems very attractive to migrating woods warblers and other species rarely seen outside their habitats. On May 17, 1954, I saw in my yard the following species: Kentucky Warbler, Veery, Connecticut Warbler, and Ovenbird. Nearly every year at least one Ovenbird visits me and sometimes gives me a strange woodland thrill as it sedately walks up and down my driveway. The Connecticut Warbler paid one visit before the one here mentioned, but this was the first record of the Kentucky Warbler inside the city. The Veery makes the bushy area its temporary home every spring on its way north and sometimes remains until near the end of May, often being the last land-bird migrant recorded.—Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.

* * * * *

ANOTHER STRANGE BIRD NOTE

Many years ago I was intrigued by the strange night notes of some bird that often passed over the Mouth of Gasper when I would be visiting Dr. L. Y. Lancaster there and would even pass over the city of Bowling Green, at almost any time after early spring. I wrote to several bird students in Kentucky and elsewhere and got little help, for no one seemed to have heard my strange bird. Then, later, as recorded in a WARBLER note, I found it to be the Woodcock. Ever since then I have regularly heard this species and rejoiced that I had finally broken its code. But then another strange note appeared, as long ago as September 2, 1950, when, in a thicket at the McElroy Farm, where I had gone with Dr. Lancaster to help seine for semi-blind fish in the "craters" there, a rich melody appeared. I left off seining and gave chase, but a very heavy thundershower prevented my getting a satisfactory view of the bird. The song reminded me of that of the Cardinal, with Purple Finch variations. Since I have never heard the Blue Grosbeak sing, I wonder whether it might not have been that species. If any of you K. O. S. readers can help me locate my strange species, I would appreciate it greatly.—Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.