

8-1958

Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 34, no. 3)

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. 34, no. 3)" (1958). *Kentucky Warbler*. Paper 167.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler/167

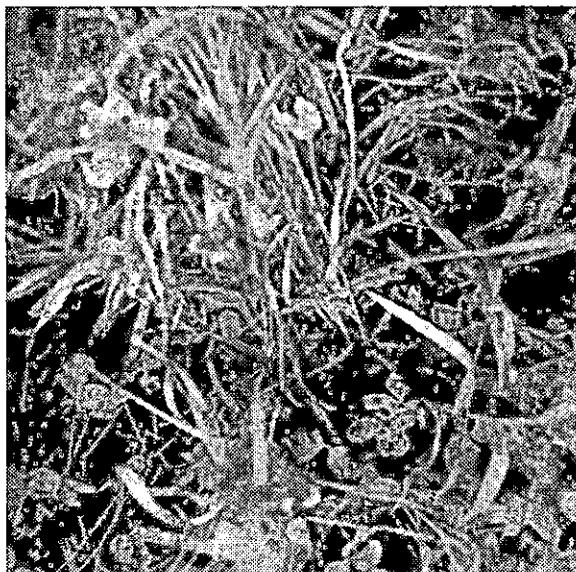
This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR[®]. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kentucky Warbler by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR[®]. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

The Kentucky Warbler

Vol. XXXIV

AUGUST, 1958

No. 3



Site of a Nest of a Dickcissel, at the City-County Airport, Bowling Green, May 24, 1958.—Photograph by Dr. Robert Pace

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

NEWS AND VIEWS.....	34
A. O. U. CHANGES IN COMMON NAMES OF KENTUCKY BIRDS, Roderic W. Sommers.....	36
A CROW ROOST AT SHELBYVILLE, SHELBY COUNTY, Anne L. Stamm and Gertrude L. Hardwick.....	38
BIG SPRING LISTS: Madisonville, Henderson, Bowling Green, Mammoth Cave National Park, Louisville.....	41
FIELD NOTES:	
A. Cerulean Warbler's Nest at Mammoth Cave, Robert Pace, Russell Starr, and Gordon Wilson.....	43
The Woodburn Lakes, Season of 1958, Gordon Wilson.....	43
Dickcissel's Nest at Bowling Green, Robert Pace.....	44
Spring Notes from Hopkins County, James W. Hancock.....	44
A Flight of Marsh Hawks at Henderson, Kentucky, W. P. Rhoads.....	44
Harris' Sparrow at Frankfort, Howard Jones.....	45
A Spring Record for Harris' Sparrow at Louisville, Roderic W. Sommers.....	45
Some Fall Migration Notes, Joseph Croft.....	46
Some Additional Observations on the Blackbird Roost in Jefferson County, Anne L. Stamm and Harvey B. Lovell.....	46
BOOK REVIEW: BIRDS OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE, by Joseph C. Howell and Murial B. Monroe (Reviewed by Harvey B. Lovell).....	48

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

President.....Dr. Hunter Hancock, Murray
 Vice-President.....Miss Amelia Klutey, Henderson
 Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.....Mr. F. W. Stamm, 2118 Lakeside Drive, Louisville 5
 Recording Secretary.....Mr. Howard Jones, Stamping Ground

Councillors:

Mr. John A. Cheek, Pikeville.....1956-58
 Dr. Russell Starr, Glasgow.....1957-58
 Mr. Al Mayfield, Lexington.....1957-59
 Miss Evelyn J. Schneider, Louisville.....1957-59

Retiring President.....Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Louisville
 Librarian.....Miss Evelyn J. Schneider, University of Louisville Library
 Curator.....Mr. Burt L. Monroe, Ridge Road, Anchorage

Editor:

Dr. Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green.

Associate Editor:

Mrs. F. W. Stamm, 2118 Lakeside Drive, Louisville 5.

Assistant Editors:

Mr. Leonard C. Brecher, Field Notes; Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, Notes on Ornithologists.

COMMITTEES—

Nominating: Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Chairman; Mabel Slack, W. P. Rhoads, Gordon Wilson.

Membership: Evelyn J. Schneider, Chairman; Cynthia C. Counce, A. L. Powell, John Cheek.

Auditing: Louis Piepen, Chairman; Floyd S. Carpenter.

Conservation and Legislation: Burt L. Monroe, Chairman; Harvey B. Lovell, L. Y. Lancaster, R. C. Soaper.

Endowment: Leonard C. Brecher, Chairman.

Gordon Wilson Scholarship: Harvey B. Lovell and F. W. Stamm, Co-Chairmen; Leonard C. Brecher, John Cheek, Frederick W. Loetscher, Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas, Mrs. F. W. Stamm.

NEWS AND VIEWS

A NEW RECORD OF WARBLER SONGS

Our readers will be delighted to know of the new 12-inch long-play phonograph record containing 522 songs, from 150 recordings, of 38 species (plus 1 hybrid) of warblers occurring in eastern United States and Canada. This fabulous recording by Dr. Donald J. Borror of Ohio University, and Dr. William W. H. Gunn, Federation of Ontario Naturalists, is designed to serve as a reference for the identification of warbler songs; it also shows some of the variation in the songs of each species. The songs on the record are arranged by species in four groups: (1) songs consisting of a series of similar phrases uttered slowly, (2) trilly songs, (3) buzzy songs, and (4) songs consisting of varied notes or phrases, not readily classified in any of the other three groups.

This fine recording should be of great interest to Kentuckians, as all songs with the exception of the Kirtland's Warbler may be heard within the state. The record will make a nice addition to one's ornithological aids. The price is \$5.95, and may be ordered from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 187 Highbourne Road, Toronto 7, Ontario, Canada.

ROBERT C. SOAPER RETIRES.

On June 30, 1958, Captain Robert C. Soaper of Henderson, retired from the position of U. S. Game Management agent after almost twenty-three years of service. Mr. Soaper has been a great defender of the law and has taken to his task of protecting the wildlife of the states under his authority with a spirit that went beyond the call of duty. Perhaps his biggest year in protecting birds came in 1939, when he took 37 men to federal court for violating the Migratory Bird Treaty act. These men had either been shooting doves over baited fields or using unplugged pump guns. Congratulations for a difficult job well done!

* * * * *

K. O. S. LOSES TWO MEMBERS BY DEATH

K. O. S. members mourn the loss of Frances Winstandley, who passed away June 19, 1958. She had been a member since 1942. One of her hobbies had been photographing birds, and one of her movies of the Kildeer will long be remembered by many.

Another member, Henry B. Hayburn, died rather suddenly on June 17, 1958. He had been a member of the Louisville Chapter (Beckham Bird Club) since 1955.

K. O. S. extends sympathy to the families of Miss Winstandley and Mr. Heyburn.

* * * * *

DR. BARBOUR IN INDONESIA

Our former president, Dr. Roger Barbour, who is now teaching in the University of Indonesia, recently wrote the editor:

"On April 10, 1958, four of us of the university staff visited Pula Dua, off the north coast of Java between Java and Sumatra. This is a small island only a few hundred yards from the coast of Java and is covered with a dense stand of mangrove and other assorted vegetation. There are a few trees as much as two feet in diameter but no water except immediately after a rain, when it collects in puddles among the mangroves. There is a house on the island, made mostly of bamboo and palm fibers, for the use of authorized visitors and caretakers.

"Mammals, as far as I could tell without trapping, consisted of a species of *Rattus*. Of reptiles I saw only two species; the ever-present little gecko *tjtjak*, and some 4-5-foot lizards of the genus *Varanus*. These are fearsome-looking beasts, but perfectly harmless.

"Birds are fairly common on this island except in December and January. We estimated 100,000 adults on the island when we were there—roughly one bird per square meter. We observed 13 species of water birds, 12 of them nesting. I had 700 feet of 16mm Kodachrome with me and was able to get some footage of nesting species. Those photographed were Wood Ibis, Stork, Black-crowned Night Heron, Pong Heron, Gray Heron (similar to our Great Blue), Purple Heron, Greater Egret, Lesser Egret, Sacred Egret, Cattle Egret, and two species of Cormorants. The Glossy Ibises were just arriving while we were there; we saw only 15 or 20. The Spoonbills had not yet arrived. This film has been sent to Australia for processing and will not get back for a month or two. I also took 80 color slides; they have now been processed and look pretty good. We ran out of water and film but plan to go back after we have seen our first movies, to try to round out the story."

A. O. U. CHANGES IN COMMON NAMES OF KENTUCKY BIRDS

By Roderic W. Sommers, Louisville

The long-awaited Fifth Edition of the A. O. U. Check-list* is a monumental compilation of ornithological data concerning the nomenclature, taxonomy, and distribution of the 1,686 species and subspecies of birds that occur in North America. Of prime interest to our members is the A. O. U. Committee's revisions of the common names of birds. Of the many name changes, no less than 49 affect Kentucky birds as listed below.

Most of the changes tend to simplify the vernacular (common) name problem. Few will disagree with the committee's choice to abandon the use of common names for subspecies. The classification of a species into races is, after all, a problem for the scientist and not one that amateurs should attempt to solve in the field.

The omission of hyphens has accounted for the changes in 13 of the names on our list. i. e. Bob-white to Bobwhite. The hyphens were added in the case of the Black-and-White Warbler.

There has been a recent trend toward omitting the names of persons from the common names of birds. The committee has now listed Red-necked Grebe (formerly Holboell's) and Common Snipe (formerly Wilson's), but three other birds on our list have acquired new proper names; Traill's Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, and Bachman's Sparrow are the species in the category. Apparently the former names, although more descriptive, caused other inconsistencies. For instance, the western form of the bird we knew as the Alder Flycatcher has long been known as the Traill's Flycatcher.

The Common Scoter is a bird that appears in the northern climes of several continents; it therefore would be less than accurate to continue to call it the American Scoter. The Common Egret is one of several other species that similarly have had their names changed because their range extends well outside this continent. Conversely, certain species are actually typically American. In order to avoid confusion with the European Woodcock, our bird has now been called the American Woodcock. Four other species on the list have been renamed for essentially the same reason.

English-speaking people elsewhere in the world have adopted common names that very often differ with our names for the same species. Certain of these differences may never be coordinated, but the committee has adopted the European common names for the American Widgeon (Baldpate), Peregrine Falcon (Duck Hawk), and Dunlin (Red-backed Sandpiper). The Redwing of Europe is a member of the Thrush family; therefore our bird has been renamed the Redwinged Blackbird.

The "splitters" appear to have gained a little ground in certain cases (the Dowitcher is now two full species), but the "lumpers" have countered by combining certain former separate species into one full species (Bronzed and Purple Grackles to Common Grackle).

Note also that the committee continues to prefer the use of the common names Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Bluebird, and American Redstart. These three species are not currently listed on our state field card this way.

*The A. O. U. Check-list of North American Birds. Prepared by a Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union. Fifth Edition. xiii and 691 pages. Published by the American Ornithologists' Union. (1957) The Lord Baltimore Press, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland, U. S. A. Cost \$8.00.

Some of these changes may not meet everyone's whole-hearted approval, but the fact remains that eleven of our nation's top ornithologists have done a tremendous job of reviewing and compiling the reams of scientific data that were finally organized into this outstanding list. Changes that affect the Kentucky Ornithological Society's Check List of Kentucky Birds are:

Old Name	New Name
Holboell's Grebe	Red-necked Grebe
American Egret	Common Egret
Baldpate	American Widgeon
Shoveller	Shoveler
Canvas-back	Canvasback
Greater Scaup Duck	Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup Duck	Lesser Scaup
American Golden-eye	Common Goldeneye
Buffle-head	Bufflehead
Old-squaw	Oldsquaw
American Merganser	Common Merganser
Duck Hawk	Peregrine Falcon
Bob-white	Bobwhite
Florida Gallinule	Common Gallinule
Coot	American Coot
Golden Plover	American Golden Plover
Woodcock	American Woodcock
Wilson's Snipe	Common Snipe
Greater Yellow-legs	Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellow-legs	Lesser Yellowlegs
Red-backed Sandpiper	Dunlin
Dowitcher*	Short-billed Dowitcher
	Long-billed Dowitcher
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Horned Owl	Great Horned Owl
Nighthawk	Common Nighthawk
Crested Flycatcher	Great Crested Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher	Traill's Flycatcher
Wood Pewee	Eastern Wood Pewee
Crow	Common Crow
Olive-backed Thrush	Swainson's Thrush
American Pipit	Water Pipit
Blue-headed Vireo	Solitary Vireo
Black and White Warbler	Black-and-white Warbler
Black-poll Warbler	Blackpoll Warbler
Oven-bird	Ovenbird
Northern Water-thrush	Northern Waterthrush
Louisiana Water-thrush	Louisiana Waterthrush
Yellow-throat	Yellowthroat
English Sparrow	House Sparrow
Meadowlark	Eastern Meadowlark
Red-wing	Redwinged Blackbird
Purple Grackle	Common Grackle
Cowbird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Goldfinch	American Goldfinch
Eastern Towhee	Rufous-sided Towhee
Pine Woods Sparrow	Bachman's Sparrow

*Each of the two newly designated species have been recorded in Kentucky.

Three birds—the American Scoter, LeConte's Sparrow and the Harris's Sparrow—are not on our K. O. S. Check-list, since these birds are rarely seen in the state. However, we have recent sight records of the American Scoter and the Harris's Sparrow by competent observers, and a specimen of the former in the collection of Burt L. Monroe, Sr., and three specimens of the Le Conte's Sparrow taken by Alexander Wetmore (October 24, 1938). These name changes are:

Old Name	New Name
American Scoter	Common Scoter
LeConte's Sparrow	Le Conte's Sparrow
Harris's Sparrow	Harris' Sparrow

* * * * *

A CROW ROOST AT SHELBYVILLE, SHELBY COUNTY

By Anne L. Stamm and Gertrude L. Hardwick

On the afternoon of November 17, 1956, about eighteen members of the Beckham Bird Club (Louisville Chapter), went on a scheduled field trip with two purposes in mind; (1) to see fall land birds, (2) to look for a crow's roost.

The trip began six miles east of Middletown, at the extreme northeastern section of Jefferson County, on Long Run road. This area was chosen as a starting point, for it was in this general area that Hardwick, formerly of Simpsonville, had observed crow flights the previous winter. The writers scouted the area the previous evening (November 16) during a heavy downpour of rain, and only two crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) were found, even though many miles were driven from 3:30 P. M. until dark. The next day, November 17, was sunny, clear, but cold. Permission had been granted from land owners to walk over fields behind the Long Run Cemetery. Here an Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) was observed. In mid-afternoon, around 2:30 P. M., small flights of crows were observed flying from the north and heading towards Simpsonville. Other groups of crows were noted coming across the sky from the west. We decided to get into our cars and follow the birds but found this a difficult task going up one graded road and down another. The crows quite naturally did not always follow the roads, and this often added miles between us. After driving many miles beyond Simpsonville with interval stops in order to determine what roads to follow, we finally noticed crows "dropping" down into an open field. Although the birds were at a great distance, our binoculars revealed hundreds of them on the ground and some perched in trees at the edge of a woods. This location was on Fox Run road. Thinking we could observe the birds from a better vantage point, we drove on, but darkness fell before this was possible. In the dim dusk, we could see additional flocks of crows flying to this area, and we felt certain that this was the roosting site.

The following day James Toy revisited the area and was surprised not to find any crows. Farmers reported to him that they had seen the birds the previous evening milling around and had shot sixty birds. This apparently caused the birds to moved elsewhere. At the same time of Toy's visit, Joseph Croft, Frederick W. Stamm, and the writers drove beyond this area and followed a flock of crows to Burke's Branch Pike Road, where thousands of birds had gathered at the Melvin Sams Farm. The birds were coming in from three directions; some settling in trees, some on the ground, and others coming in until after dark. This was definitely the main roost.

Ten days later, November 29, we arrived at the farm at 3:40 P. M., C. S. Time, with the hope of making an estimate of the number using

the roost. Hundreds of crows had already reached the area and were milling around in the open field adjacent to the road. About one quarter of a mile back from the road, the field slopes gently to the east, and in this valley, a row of trees parallels the road for approximately one half mile. These leafless trees, from top to bottom, and from one end of the valley to the other, were literally black with crows, forming a bold relief against the evening sky. A constant changing of places, with additional crows moving into trees, and others shifting from limb to limb, made counting numbers very difficult. As we watched, we noted there were three principal flight lines. Counts varied, with birds passing a given point anywhere from 300, for a two-minute period, to 1,289 crows, for a three minute period. At 4:05 P. M., the entire assemblage of crows left the trees and also flew from the ground and moved to the adjacent farm (towards Shelbyville), forming a huge black curtain silhouetted across the fading horizon. The birds stopped coming into this area around 4:35 P. M. The roost proper extended from the Sams farm to the upper end of Lake Shelby. (The lake is only one and a half mile north of Shelbyville). The concentration of crows in this valley on this evening extended three fourths of a mile in length, and we estimated contained close to 30,000 crows. (We are indebted to Harvey B. Lovell, F. W. Stamm, and Joseph Croft for assistance in counting numbers). We stayed until after dark, and the crows kept up a continual noisy cawing long after we heard the call notes of three Screech Owls (*Otus asio*) in the vicinity.

This same area was again visited on December 1, and the crows arrived as early as 3:10; by 4:00 P. M., larger groups came to this valley, and by 4:15 large black clouds of slow-flapping birds winged their way across the reddish sky and joined others that had travelled great distances to roost in this chosen area.

On December 14, 1957, we drove to this same location to see if the birds were using the roost again this winter. We found about three thousand crows, and they were nervous and did not act as settled as in the previous winter; and most birds flew across the road in the direction of Simpsonville and had evidently changed their roosting site.

On March 17, 1958, we again scouted the area and found the roost location now in a wooded area, and in an open field along the Louisville and Nashville railroad tracks. This is northwest of Shelbyville and about a quarter of a mile from Vaughn Mill Road. The roost is small in comparison with the 1956-1957 season. The birds, some 5,000, were disturbed when a train went by, and all birds took off, but soon returned to settle on the trees and ground and at 6:08 p. m. were settled for the night.

Residents in the Shelbyville area report that the crows have occupied this general territory over a period of years.

* * * * *

BIG SPRING LISTS

Our 1958 Big Spring Lists number only five, but they are quite representative of species recorded in our best years. If your area is not represented here, resolve to send in your biggest late April or early May, 1959, record for a whole day or a connected weekend.

MADISONVILLE (W. W. Hancock farm, Brown and Frostburg Roads, Municipal Park, four lakes at Madisonville, Loch Mary at Earlington, and Redwing Marsh: open fields, 20%; deciduous woodlands and thickets, 50%; lake shores, 30%).—May 9; 3:45 A. M. to

7:30 P. M. Mostly cloudy; light SE wind; temp. 47-71. Total hours, 15¾; total miles, 61 (6 on foot, 55 by car). Total, 92 species; 819 individuals.—James W. Hancock.

HENDERSON.—May 4; 5:00 A. M. to 7:00 P. M. Clear; no wind; temp. 60-75. Nine observers. We who took the count feel that it is a good one except for the small numbers of water and shore birds. Those who worked the Audubon State Park area were fortunate in having with us most of the day Mr. Jim Huffman, a member of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, as well as his brother, Al Huffman, of Evansville. They are both specialists on warblers and are excellent field men. The Western Meadowlark was on the Benson Farm (King Benson is park naturalist at Audubon) and was identified by Mr. Robert Crofts, president of the Toledo, Ohio, Naturalists Society. The Western species is with others of our common Eastern Meadowlarks. Most of our shore-bird observers were unable to be with us, especially Frank Sauerheber and R. C. Soaper. Total, 116 species.—W. P. Rhoads (compiler).

BOWLING GREEN.—May 9-11: May 9; 4-6 P. M. at Chaney Lake; May 10; 7:30 A. M. to 11:30 A. M. at the Mouth of Gasper; May 11; intermittently on Western campus and in my own yard. Rain, threatening weather every day; heavy rain on the night of May 10; cool, calm. The whole great record was almost an accident. The weather was so threatening that Dr. Lancaster and I did not do well on our morning trip near his cabin, though the water species list had been good late the preceding afternoon. Many warbler notes attracted my attention in the rain on May 11; I left my desk and walked across the street to the campus and into one of the three or four greatest aggregations of warblers I have ever seen. I was often driven into doorways by the rain while I watched the incessant movement, from south to north, of the warbler hordes. Here, within a few yards of my house, I found thirteen species of warblers, not to mention all six species of the vireos, all seven thrushes, the two tanagers, and many individuals of such unusual town birds as the Baltimore Oriole and the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Total for the weekend, 109 species, 61 of them on the campus and in my yard.—L. Y. Lancaster and Gordon Wilson (compiler).

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK.—May 3-4; Pace and Wilson on north side on May 3; 3:00 P. M. until late afternoon; two parties in Central Area and much of the south side on May 4. Weather threatening; often small showers; sultry. Total, 117 species (101 inside the park, 16 in the immediate area outside). This record is the highest ever made for the park; the warblers equal the number for 1955, a previous high. — Dr. Robert Pace, Park Naturalist Willard Dille, Dr. Russell Starr, Gordon Wilson (compiler), Mrs. Russell Starr, Mrs. James Gillenwater, Cleo Hogan, Jim Haynes, Dr. George McKinley.

LOUISVILLE (Louisville and its environs, including the Ohio River, woodlands, meadow lands, and Caperton's Swamp).—May 4; 6:00 A. M. to 8:30 P. M., D. S. T. Mrs. Stamm and Mr. Sommers found the Harris' Sparrow. Total, 132 species.—Leonard C. Brecher, Floyd S. Carpenter, Helen Moore Cole, Joe Croft, Frank Krull, Burt L. Monroe, Sr. (compiler), John Pattison, Louis Pieper, Marie Pieper, Mabel Slack, Roderic Sommers, Anne Stamm, James Joy, Mr. and Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, Audrey Wright (Beckham Bird Club).

BIG SPRING LISTS

M—Madisonville; H—Henderson; B—Bowling Green; MC—Mammoth Cave National Park; L—Louisville; * after a letter—recorded near count date; - after MC—recorded outside the park on count days.

- Common Loon—M
 Pied-billed Grebe—M, H, MC
 Great Blue Heron—M*
 Green Heron—M*, H, B, MC, L
 Bl-cr. Night Heron—B, L
 Yel-cr. Night Heron—L
 Am. Widgeon—L
 Pintail—L
 Blue-winged Teal—H, MC, L
 Shoveller—L
 Wood Duck—MC, L
 Ring-n. Duck—B
 L. Scaup Duck—M, B, L
 Ruddy Duck—M, B
 Hooded Merganser—L
 R-b. Merganser—H
 Turkey Vulture—M, H, MC, L
 Black Vulture—MC, L
 Sh-sh. Hawk—H, L
 Cooper's Hawk—H, MC
 Red-t. Hawk—H, L
 Red-sh. Hawk—M*, H, MC, L
 Br-winged Hawk—MC
 Sp. Hawks—M, H, MC, L
 Bob-white—M, H, B, MC, L
 Virginia Rail—L
 Sora—M
 Florida Gallinule—L
 Coot—M, B, L
 Sem. Plover—B
 Killdeer—M, H, B, MC, L
 Am. Woodcock—MC
 Wil. Snipe—L
 Sp. Sandpiper—M, B, L
 Sol. Sandpiper—M, B, L
 Gr. Yellow-legs—H, B
 Les. Yellow-legs—H, B, L
 Baird's Sandpiper—B
 Least Sandpiper—B
 Sem. Sandpiper—B
 Herring Gull—L
 Ring-billed Gull—L
 Black Tern—M, B
 Mourning Dove—M, H, B, MC, L
 Y-b. Cuckoo—M*, H, B, MC, L
 B-b. Cuckoo—MC, L
 Screech Owl—M*
 Barred Owl—H, B, MC, L
 Ch-will's-w—M, L
 Whip-poor-will—M, H, MC, L
 Nighthawk—M, B, MC, L
 Ch. Swift—M, H, B, MC, L
 Ruby-th. Hummingbird—H, MC, L
 Bel. Kingfisher—M*, H, L
 Yel-sh. Flicker—M, H, B, MC, L
 Pil. Woodpecker—M, B, MC, L
 Red-b. Woodpecker—M, H, B, MC, L
 Red-h. Woodpecker—M, H, B, MC, L
 Hairy Woodpecker—M, H, B, MC, L
 Downy Woodpecker—M, H, B, MC, L
 Eastern Kingbird—M, H, B, MC, L
 Cr. Flycatcher—M, H, B, MC, L
 Phoebe—M*, H, B, MC, L
 Yel-b. Flycatcher—H
 Acadian Flycatcher—M, H, B, MC, L
 Trall's Flycatcher—H
 Least Flycatcher—M, H
 Wood Pewee—M, H, B, MC, L
 Horned Lark—M, B, L
 Tree Swallow—B
 Bank Swallow—B
 R-w. Swallow—M, H, B, MC, L
 Barn Swallow—M, H, B, MC, L
 Pur. Martin—M, H, B, L
 Blue Jay—M, H, B, MC, L
 Common—Crow—M, H, B, MC, L
 Car. Chickadee—M, H, B, MC, L
 Tuf. Titmouse—M, H, B, MC, L
 W-b. Nuthatch—M, H, MC, L
 Red-br. Nuthatch—H
 House Wren—H, B, MC, L
 Bewick's Wren—M, H, B, MC, L
 Car. Wren—M, H, B, MC, L
 Mockingbird—M, H, B, MC, L

- Catbird—M, H, B, MC, L
 Br. Thrasher—M, H, B, MC, L
 Robin—M, H, B, MC, L
 Wood Thrush—M, H, B, MC, L
 Her. Thrush—H, B, MC
 Ol-backed Thrush—M, H, B, MC, L
 Gr.-cheeked Thrush—M, H, B, MC, L
 Veery—H, B, MC, L
 Bluebird—M, H, B, MC, L
 Bl-gray Gnatcatcher—M, H, B, MC, L
 Ruby-cr. Kinglet—M
 Cedar Waxwing—M*, H
 Log. Shrike—H, MC-, L
 Starling—M, H, B, MC, L
 Wh-eyed Vireo—M, B, MC, L
 Yel-th. Vireo—M, H, B, MC, L
 Bl-headed Vireo—H, B, MC
 Red-eyed Vireo—M, H, B, MC, L
 Phil. Vireo—H, B, MC, L
 War. Vireo—M, H, B, MC, L
 B. and W. Warbler—M*, H, MC, L
 Proth. Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L
 Swainson's Warbler—M
 Worm-e. Warbler—H, MC
 Gol-w. Warbler—H, MC, L
 Bl-winged Warbler—B, MC, L
 Tenn. Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L
 Nash. Warbler—M, B, MC, L
 Parula Warbler—H, MC
 Yellow Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L
 Mag. Warbler—M*, H, B, MC, L
 Cape May Warbler—H, MC, L
 Bl-th. Bl. Warbler—H
 Myrtle Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L
 Bl-th. G. Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L
 Cer. Warbler—M, H, MC, L
 Blackburnian Warbler—M*, H, B, MC, L
 Yel-th. Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L
 Ch. sided Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L
 Bay-br. Warbler—M*, H, B, MC, L
 Black-poll Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L
 Pine Warbler—MC
 Prairie Warbler—M, B, MC, L
 Palm Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L
 Oven-bird—M*, H, MC, L
 Nor. Water-thrush—M, MC
 La. Water-thrush—M*, H, B, MC, L
 Ky. Warbler—M, H, B, MC, L
 Yel-throat—M, H, B, MC, L
 Yel-br. Chat—M, H, B, MC, L
 Hooded Warbler—M*, B, MC, L
 Wilson's Warbler—B, L
 Canada Warbler—H, B
 Redstart—M, H, B, MC, L
 Eng. Sparrow—M, H, B, MC, L
 Bobolink—H, B, MC-, L
 E. Meadowlark—M, H, B, MC, L
 W. Meadowlark—H
 Red-wing—M, H, B, MC, L
 Orchard Oriole—M, H, B, MC, L
 Balt. Oriole—M*, H, B, MC, L
 Pur. Grackle—M, H, B, MC-, L
 Cowbird—M, H, B, MC, L
 Sc. Tanager—M, H, B, MC, L
 Sum. Tanager—M, H, B, MC, L
 Cardinal—M, H, B, MC, L
 Rose-br. Grosbeak—M, H, B, MC, L
 Ind. Bunting—M, H, B, MC, L
 Dickcissel—M*, H, B, MC-, L
 Pur. Finch—H, MC-, L
 Pine Siskin—MC
 Goldfinch—M, H, B, MC, L
 E. Towhee—M, H, B, MC, L
 Sav. Sparrow—B, L
 Grass. Sparrow—B, L
 Vesper Sparrow—H, MC
 Sl-colored Junco—MC
 Ch. Sparrow—M, H, B, MC, L
 Field Sparrow—M, H, B, MC, L
 Harris's Sparrow—L
 Wh-cr. Sparrow—M, H, B, MC, L
 Wh-th. Sparrow—M, H, B, MC, L
 Fox Sparrow—MC, L
 Swamp Sparrow—M, H, L
 Song Sparrow—M, H, MC-, L
 Total Species on Counts.....169

FIELD NOTES

A CERULEAN WARBLER'S NEST AT MAMMOTH CAVE

On May 4, 1958, while we were taking our annual Big Spring List at Mammoth Cave National Park, we paused for a long time at the picnic place near the Old Ferry. Because of the numerous openings in the timber, we could soon find a number of migrating warblers. While we were looking at a Cerulean (*Dendroica cerulea*) Warbler female, we discovered that it was pulling at the fine inner bark on a Tulip tree. It would tug at the bark on a small dead limb, secure one or more small fibers, and dart away into the trees slightly downstream. In a matter of a few seconds it would be back. We knew by this that the nest was close to us. Finally Dr. Starr caught sight of the small bird as it settled for a very short time on its half-finished nest, which was placed directly on an almost horizontal limb of a Hackberry, about 35 feet up. Time and again the bird returned to the dead limb of the Yellow Poplar and also visited some dead limbs of a White Oak and a White Ash. Once Dr. Pace saw it get several fibers, drop one, and then recover it before it fell to the ground. Several times the bird flew around among the new leaves and returned to its nest, going through the same motions that it made when it had fibers to add; we assumed that it had collected cobwebs and was adding them to the nest. All the time we watched the female, the male was singing lustily in the immediate area. This nest was about 150 yards from one of those found by Gordon Wilson and Harvey Lovell in 1943. (See KENTUCKY WARBLER, Lovell, "Nesting of the Cerulean Warbler in Mammoth Cave National Park," 19:39-40).—ROBERT PACE, RUSSEL STARR, and GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green and Glasgow.

* * * * *

THE WOODBURN LAKES, SEASON OF 1958

The 1958 season was not especially good at the Chaney and McElroy Lakes. The year began rather auspiciously, for there was already a lake of 80 to 90 acres at Chaney's, a smaller acreage at McElroy's. Some 200 individual ducks had been seen on the two on the 1957 Christmas Bird Count. In late January the springs at Chaney's ceased to flow, but there were still some 50 acres of water when the mid-February 9-below-zero weather froze the area for days. The water dropped some two feet during the freeze and continued to fall until late March, when only a few pools were left. Huge rains again brought the lake up at Chaney's, so that it was almost as large as it had been in the winter. This second lake lasted until late June. But the fluctuation in the duck migration time made the finds rather poor as compared with the really great seasons.

Only 49 water species appeared from January 1 to June 30. The 300-400 Pintails seen on March 1 constituted the one big flock recorded of any species. Though all twenty species of ducks commonly seen in the area appeared, their numbers were small. The European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) was added as a new species for the lakes and the whole Bowling Green area, thanks to Leonard Brecher and a powerful telescope, on our annual K. O. S. outing on April 12. Shore birds were pitifully scarce.

Two land birds offered a thrill at Chaney's. On March 8 I tentatively identified the Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) in

huge flocks of other blackbirds. I have often encountered this species on my Western camping trips, as in 1952 and 1957, and was attracted by a few birds that did not act quite like Purple Grackles; their notes were quite different. On June 6 I found the Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) at Chaney's, in the same area where I have found it before. It sang, for many minutes, its wild, ringing song.

For several days in February and March, after the water had receded, the fields at Chaney's were black with the various blackbirds from the roost near Bowling Green. I estimated the flocks there on February 22 as almost a million, with half that many on March 1, 5, and 12.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

* * * * *

DICKCISSEL'S NEST AT BOWLING GREEN

On May 11, 1958, as my family and I were parked on Lover's Lane to let our children see the airplanes come in and land, we saw several Dickcissels (*Spiza americana*) and heard them singing. We saw one with nesting material in his beak and watched it as it dropped into the red clover, growing so rankly near the runway. We soon located the nest, a three-inch cup woven of dried grass and wedged in a clump of tall grass, four inches from the ground and only about thirty feet from the road. On May 17 I visited the same place again, saw several males singing from fence posts and electric lines in the area, but could not locate the nest. On May 24 Dr. Nelson Graham and I found the nest with its one blue egg. The accompanying picture (see cover) was made of the site. On May 30 I returned to try to get more pictures, but the clover had been cut, male Dickcissels were singing from fence posts and electric lines, but I could find no nest.—DR. ROBERT PACE, Bowling Green.

* * * * *

SPRING NOTES FROM HOPKINS COUNTY

My vacation for 1958, May 9-17, was spent making observations in Hopkins County. The period was, doubtless, beyond the peak of migration, but I still recorded 92 species on May 9. My best observation was of the Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), in an oak-hickory woodland about seven miles northeast of Madisonville, where I had recorded it in June, 1955. This time the bird was seen while singing, perched about 25 feet up in a maple. I returned again on May 16 and 18 but was unable to find it again.

Shorebirds were scarce this season. However, because of frequent rains, there was also a shortage of mud flats. On May 14 I looked for the Worm-eating Warbler (*Helminthos vermivorus*) in a large upland wood where I usually find it, but had no luck. I still believe that this area, a very large one, must support a few pairs. A Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) was heard in the neighborhood on several occasions this spring, which may indicate a nesting pair. This species is usually quite rare near my home.—JAMES W. HANCOCK, Madisonville.

* * * * *

A FLIGHT OF MARSH HAWKS AT HENDERSON, HENDERSON COUNTY

After lunch, on Wednesday, April 2, 1958, as I was returning to my second-floor classroom in Henderson (City) High School, I glanced out of the hall window as I passed and saw quite a large flock of

large birds. This called for a real look. There were 35-40 Marsh Hawks (*Circus cyaneus*), in a leisurely flight riding a strong tailwind from the south. They were about one hundred feet above ground and were in a formation about a quarter mile wide and a half mile long. They just floated along in the wind, apparently using just enough wing power to keep on an even keel and maintain a proper direction.

My point of observation was only 400 yards from the center of the flight, and all of the species's characteristics were easily visible without the aid of field glasses.

Henderson High School is located in the very southern edge of the city, and the 35-acre campus slopes off to the southwest to join a couple of fields, beyond which is a widely wooded area along Canoe Creek.—W. P. RHOADS, Henderson High School, Henderson.

* * * * *

HARRIS' SPARROW AT FRANKFORT

While walking in Franklin County about four miles east of Frankfort, near noon on December 14, 1957, I was fortunate to come upon a Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). The bird was first noted on the ground beneath a clump of Osage-orange trees (*Machura pomifera*), where it appeared to be feeding on pieces of the fruit which probably had been scattered by rabbits. Also present and feeding were a number of White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), American Goldfinches (*Spinus tristis*), and Cardinals (*Richmondia cardinalis*). Nearby were other birds, including many Slate-colored Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) and a few Tree Sparrows (*Spizella arborea*). As I approached to within 30 feet of the feeding birds, the Harris' Sparrow flew up into a nearby cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), where it remained about five minutes before resuming its feeding.

The bird, an adult, was a striking specimen and easily recognized. The crown, face, and throat were black; the bill, pinkish; and the underparts, white. It did not sing. I observed the bird for about fifteen minutes with 7X glasses, as it was not shy and could be easily approached.

On December 23, and again on December 29, during the Christmas Bird Count, the Harris' Sparrow was found in exactly the same location. After this, I did not return to the area until January 19, at which time it could not be found, nor was it seen again on other subsequent visits. As far as I know, this is the first sight record for this species in Franklin County. On one or two occasions in other years I have been reasonably sure of its presence although I was unable to make positive identification.—HOWARD JONES, Frankfort.

* * * * *

A SPRING RECORD FOR THE HARRIS' SPARROW AT LOUISVILLE

On May 4, 1958, while in Seneca Park (Jefferson County) on the Spring Field Day outing, I came upon an adult Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) in breeding plumage. The bird was first seen in a dense growth of low bushes in a sort of ravine, and then it flew to a tree. Here it was easily seen. Anne L. Stamm, who had been nearby, also saw the bird. Apparently the bird was migrating, as it was not in the valley the previous day, nor was it seen thereafter. As far as I know, this is the only spring sight record in the Louisville area.—RODERIC W. SOMMERS, Louisville.

SOME FALL MIGRATION NOTES

During the late summer and fall of 1957 I made a number of interesting observations of migrants in the Louisville area.

On August 10 Eric Mills and I visited the Falls of the Ohio and noted a flock of nine rather early Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and a lone Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Two later records of the falcon were of a bird seen flying over downtown Louisville on October 30 and again on November 7.

The Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) is generally considered the least common of the five terns occurring at Louisville. Consequently, it is of note that the bird was observed on three of eight trips to the Falls of the Ohio. The first observation was made on July 28, when Eric Mills and I found three; on August 2 I noted a single individual, and Mills and I saw another with a flock of seven Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*) on September 15.

A Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) was seen near Caperton Swamp on August 7. A Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) was seen in Seneca Park on October 12.

Among early warblers were two Blackburnians (*Dendroica fusca*) and a Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) in Cherokee Park on August 17; the following day I saw a Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) in the same area. Late warblers included a Tennessee (*Vermivora peregrina*) on November 1 and 2 and again on November 4, and a Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) on November 2. Also, a Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) in my yard on October 19 was a late record.—JOSEPH CROFT, Louisville.

* * * * *

SOME ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE BLACKBIRD ROOST IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

Since writing about the blackbird roost in Jefferson County, in the vicinity of Farmer's Lane (Ky. War., Aug., 1957), the authors made occasional visits to the area during the winter season of 1957-58 and found the roost in use as early as October 13, 1957. On that date, in late afternoon, Lovell observed several large flocks of mixed blackbirds gathering on the ground and in trees near the roost.

In the late afternoon of November 18, 1957, Gertrude Hardwick, returning from Bullitt County, reported seeing a "million blackbirds and Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) circling in the area between Farmer's and Thixton Lanes. Some birds were also on the ground and others in spirals so dense, sight could not penetrate in spots."

In mid-December, the character of the roost had changed from the February, 1957, season. The number of birds had increased tremendously. Immense flocks of thousands and thousands of Starlings began arriving at dusk, the majority flying directly to the roost proper. Blackbirds were also noted, but Starlings made up the largest percentage, whereas in February, 1957, blackbirds made up 90% of the roost. Six main flight lines were observed in contrast to four of the previous season, four of these being the same as last year. The majority of the Starlings did not use the fringe area for prerooting.

The day preceding the Christmas Count, December 21, Stamm scouted the area to determine what species and numbers made up the roost. She observed millions of birds: one flight line (coming from the northwest) was continuous from 4:15 to 5:00 P. M., C. S. T.; the

birds were streaming across the sky at widths of no less than fifteen birds and no more than one hundred. Birds sighted were Rusty Blackbirds (*Euphagus carolinus*), Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*), Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), Redwinged Blackbirds, (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Starlings, and a Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). The same observer visited the area at 6:12 A. M. the following morning (Census Day) and noted that the birds left the roost at 6:22, and all had dispersed by 6:30 A. M.

Frederick W. Stamm and Joseph Croft arrived just after the birds left the roost. They were fortunate, however, in seeing many birds that lingered in the fringe area—one in particular, a male Brewer's Blackbird.

Burt L. Monroe, Sr., with Burt L. Monroe, Jr., visited the area the same evening and subsequently wrote the fine account of the roost in the former's column, "The Courier Sportsman," on December 29, 1957, of the *Courier Journal*, which was reprinted in the *Kentucky Warbler* (Feb., 1958). Readers of this journal will remember that the independent estimates of nearly five million birds made by two parties (Mid-winter Bird Count, Ky. War., 34:14) was a decided increase over the 500,000 estimate of the previous spring.

Trips were made in January, and during the middle of the month much shooting of the birds took place. Perhaps because of the wide publicity given this roost, persons from nearby counties came to shoot at the flying flocks. Because the flocks were predominantly Starlings, no protests were made. On January 18, numbers were down considerably, and home owners in the area stated it was because of the shooting which took place each evening.

On January 21, the roost area was visited during the daylight hours. Evidence of predation was found. A Starling was found "strung" on a wire fence, and wings and feathers of birds were scattered about. However, more dead birds were on the roadsides than in the roost proper. Three hawks were in the area; two were Red-shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*), the other unidentified. The depth of the droppings now exceeded the two-plus inches of the previous season, and this seems to have kept the shooters outside the roost proper.

A field trip by members of the Beckham Bird Club (Louisville Chapter) was scheduled for January 25, and they found the population down approximately one half; yet they exceeded the number of birds seen on January 18. Starlings still predominated.

A trip was made in February, and by that time more Rusty blackbirds, Cowbirds, and grackles were observed. Undoubtedly, these were early migrants. By March 1, there was a drop in the Starling population, and many birds of this species were seen roosting in vines, or cavities, in the Louisville area. Fewer birds were using the roost and had possibly returned to their potential nesting territories. The blackbirds were now making up the larger percentage of the total, and the fringe areas were once more black with birds. The roost took on the look of the previous spring when it was first found, except that the numbers had increased greatly.

Apparently, a large number of Starlings which formerly roosted in downtown Louisville used the roost at Fern Creek. Observations indicated that the number of Starlings using the buildings on Broadway and Fourth Streets was much less than when the Starlings first started roosting in the city in the 1930's.—ANNE L. STAMM and HARVEY B. LOVELL, Louisville.

ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

BIRDS OF KNOX COUNTY TENNESSEE by Joseph C. Howell and Muriel B. Monroe, *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science*, 32 (4): 247-322. 1957. (Reprinted as a paper-bound booklet).

This is a carefully prepared list of 231 species recorded for Knox County, Tennessee, of which 51 are permanent residents, 51 summer residents, 42 winter residents, 85 migratory (transients), 13 visitants, and 9 considered accidentals. For 130 of the more common species there are tables which summarize the number seen by months and by field trips, and for 46 species there are tables (based on the work of Howell) of the number of birds heard singing each month from a series of roadside counts.

By use of initials for the chief observers, the principal localities, the time of year, and for abundance and status, the authors have condensed a tremendous amount of information into a relatively small space. There is also a useful index to the species of birds, the names of which are in agreement with the recent A. O. U. check list. A map shows the regions referred to in Knox County. The physiography and types of habitats are described in one small, six-line paragraph, an important subject which would seem to have merited a more detailed analysis. For example, the average elevation is given as "a little less than 1000 feet," but no mention is made of the highest elevation.

The amount of work necessary to compile and correlate such a large mass of data must have been tremendous, and the authors are to be highly commended for such a high standard of excellence in recording it.—HARVEY B. LOVELL, University of Louisville.

* * * * *

OUR FALL MEETING

Start planning to join us at Dawson Springs for our 1958 Fall Meeting. Our field trips will be in Pennyryle State Forest and Park, a wild area that James W. Hancock has studied so long and so well. A full announcement of the program, hotel rates, and needed information will be sent you later.

* * * * *

A Footnote To "The Woodburn Lakes, Season of 1958"

On July 4, 1958, I went to the Chaney Farm in my annual effort to locate some more Swainson's Warblers, though I had found the species there on June 6. All the lake of the season had disappeared except one very offensive pool a few feet across. Naturally, I assumed that the season was over. Then there came very heavy rains throughout July, and the water began to rise in the two lakes, ruining about a hundred acres of corn at the McElroy Farm but doing little damage at the Chaney Farm, as the part covered by the water was only partially in cultivation this year. By July 27 there were some thirty acres of water at Chaney's, a hundred or more at McElroy's. The heavy rains ceased near the first of August, but there were still some puddles on August 10, with six species of water birds around or on them: Wood Duck, Green Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, and Lesser Yellow-legs. It is barely possible that enough water will remain to make the two farms great stopping places for the main migration of water birds. In the few years when there has been water in the fields in August and September the number of water species, especially the heron group, is almost beyond belief.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.