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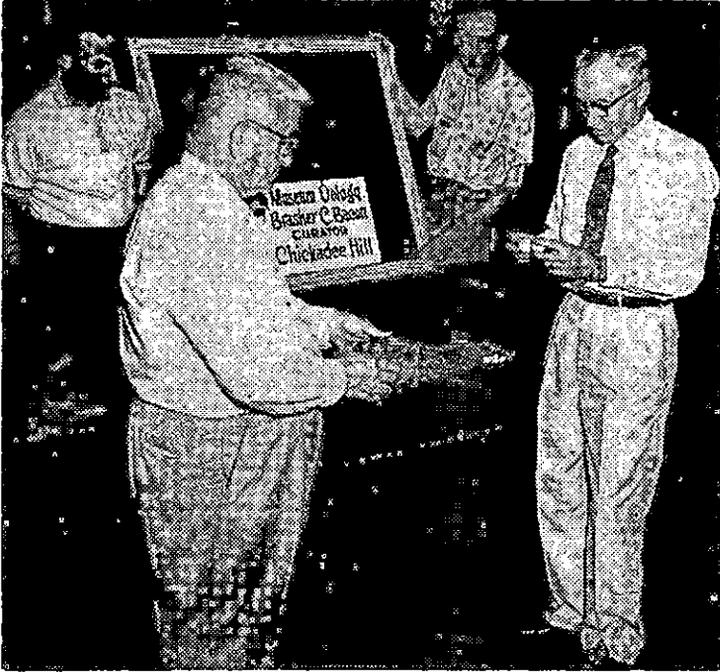
The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. XXXV

NOVEMBER, 1959

No. 4



EXAMINING SOME OF THE BACON-SUTHARD COLLECTION

Left to right: Frank Bacon, Dr. Gordon Wilson, Gayle Carver, curator of the Kentucky Building at Western, and Dr. L. Y. Lancaster.

See Page 66 (Photograph courtesy Robert G. Cochran).

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NEWS AND VIEWS

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AWARDS

Mabel Slack, Atherton High School, Louisville, attended the Summer Institute of Biology sponsored by the National Science Foundation at Claremont College, Claremont, California. She studied under a National Science Foundation stipend and did graduate work in biology and physiology. The program stressed the latest methods and findings in biology rather than instructional methods. Specialists in their fields called attention to the most important developments and discoveries in science in the last several years.

* * * *

W. P. Rhoads, our vice-president and science teacher at Henderson High School, Henderson, also received a N. S. F. stipend and studied physics and graduate biology at the Summer Institute at Murray College, Murray, Kentucky, also sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

* * * *

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Mrs. William Krieger (Amelia Klutey), of Tanafly, New Jersey, is joining the growing number of Life Members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. Mrs. Krieger was vice-president of K. O. S. at the time of her marriage (1958) when she moved from Henderson, Kentucky, to New Jersey. Her interest in ornithology is of long standing and she is active in ornithological groups. She served as secretary of the Henderson Audubon Society for about eight years and was president when she moved to New Jersey. Mrs. Krieger was assistant curator at Audubon Park Museum for four years. She holds a degree from Lawthrop School of Landscape Architecture at Groton, Massachusetts.

Mrs. Krieger attended the Annual Meeting of the New Jersey Audubon Society at Cape May, New Jersey on the same weekend as K. O. S. held its Annual Meeting at Mammoth Cave; our loss is New Jersey's gain.

* * * *

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If your address changes, please notify the society at once. Send your complete new address to the treasurer, F. W. Stamm, 2118 Lakeside Drive, Louisville 5, Kentucky. This will facilitate your receiving the Kentucky Warbler and notices promptly and also reduce extra postage and mailing expenses.

* * * *

DR. LOVELL'S ARTICLE HONORED

THE PARK CITY DAILY NEWS for October 4, carried a summary of the "Biographical Sketch of Sadie Price" by Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, which was the leading article in our May, 1959 issue. Hundreds of people who did not get to see the original article have shown an interest in this very scholarly study done by our K. O. S. stalwart. Numbers of people have called the editor to know where they can get a copy of the entire article. The cover cut and the picture of Miss Price used in the original article were used by permission of Dr. Lovell and the K. O. S.

A YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERONRY IN LOUISVILLE

By Henry Fitzhugh, Jr.

On April 8, 1959, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Collins, our guests from Massachusetts, called attention to a single Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) perched about fifty or sixty feet up in a hundred-foot sycamore tree on our property, between Cherokee and Seneca Parks, just off Alta Vista Road, in Louisville. Beal's Branch, a tributary of Bear Grass Creek, flows directly beneath the sycamore. The sight of a heron in that spot was very interesting to me, as I had seen one in virtually the same place approximately fifteen years ago. Three hours after the discovery of the first bird a second one appeared. It perched about three feet from the other one, and for the rest of the day they moved around very little, if at all.

On the morning of April 9, when passing the spot in a car, we noticed that two more birds had arrived and were perching, a few feet apart, in a walnut tree some thirty yards from the sycamore. These trees, being about thirty yards from our driveway, were in an ideal location for the observation of the herons. There were no leaves on the trees at that time; so the large birds were very conspicuous.

A fifth heron arrived on the morning of April 10 and took a position in the sycamore on the side nearest the road and about the same height as the first two birds, which were on the far side of the tree. This later bird spent the rest of the day standing patiently alone and had moved only a few feet one way or another on the several occasions when we passed by during the day. It was on this day, April 10, that the first two pairs started nesting. Each pair had placed, or rather balanced, about three twigs on a fork of the branch on which they perched.

On April 11 a mate came to join the lonely bird of the previous day, and a fourth pair showed up in another sycamore thirty yards from the walnut tree. Now there were three occupied trees in a row along the creek, about thirty yards apart. The fourth pair chose a branch perhaps ten feet higher than the other pairs and spent the day quietly and inactively. Pairs 1 and 2 showed more activity now, as they flew from tree to tree along the creek, collecting twigs for the nests. Most of these twigs seemed about the thickness of pencils and were probably a foot or more long. One bird always remained at the nest while the other searched for building materials, and several times the returning bird gave a twig to its mate, passing it from bill to bill to be adjusted in the nest. This was all a very slow process, so that only a few twigs were collected.

On April 12 four nests were being constructed, each at the approximate position first chosen by the birds. On several occasions, while passing in the car, we found birds missing. Presumably, they were hunting for suitable building material.

On April 13, when I stopped to watch the birds, as I did each time I passed by, one of them raised its yellow crest beautifully above its head. This was probably a gesture of courtship. Pairs 1 and 2 began setting on the small and flimsy nests. Presumably these setting birds were females.

By April 14 all of the pairs had commenced setting, though the nests did not look substantial enough to hold an egg if one were laid. The attentive mates remained close to the nests, flying off only occasionally. It was difficult to tell whether my presence disturbed

them, or whether they were simply making routine trips to procure more sticks. The nests were gradually increasing in size; so I suppose each trip was for the purpose of finding material to add to them.

It was on April 15 that two of the birds flew up from the creek-bed on my arrival. This was late in the afternoon and the first time I had seen any of them on the ground.

From April 16 to April 25 there was no noticeable change in the actions of the birds; however, the nests were slowly but steadily growing larger.

From April 25 to April 30 I was in New York City, and by the time I returned, the leaves had come out enough to make the nest in the walnut quite difficult to locate. The nests had grown so that it was almost impossible to tell whether the birds were on them, but, by looking very closely, I could spot a bit of yellow crown, thus proving the presence of the bird.

For the first three weeks in May very little was seen of the attending birds, because of the thick foliage, though there were birds on the nests all the time. On May 20 in Nest 1 I saw the first two youngsters and was surprised at their size. They appeared to be about eight inches high while standing with necks withdrawn. Before now they had not been visible from the ground. The parent bird stood with wings partly outstretched to shade the young from the hot May sun.

On May 21 I discovered that there were at least two young in Nest 2. These appeared larger than those in Nest 1, where three small ones could now be seen. And in Nest 3 I found three youngsters twice the size of those in Nest 1. While the young of Nest 1 were completely covered with gray down, the brood in Nest 3 had already become a mottled brown with the growth of feathers. The heads of these young birds were covered with downy fuzz, which stood erect and was about one and a half inches long. This gave them a very startled appearance.

On May 22 I noticed that the foliage beneath the nests was whitewashed by the droppings of the birds and that the young laboriously backed to the edge of the nest in their efforts to keep it clean. One youngster lost its balance and only by flapping its pin-feathered wings was able to keep from falling out. The parent stood imperterbably by, with no sign of alarm at the prospect of losing a baby overboard. This was a very hot day, and all the brooding parents shaded their young by spreading their wings.

On May 23 it was evident that Nest 3 had grown considerably. Some leafy sycamore branches had been added, giving the effect of camouflage.

I called Mr. and Mrs. Yancey Altsheler on May 24, telling them about the birds, and after observing the nests a few hours later, they persuaded me to prepare this report.

From May 25 through May 28 a trip to Virginia kept me from observing the birds, but on May 29 it was evident that all the nests had grown appreciably, especially Nest 3, which now had a considerable amount of wilting green leaves on the east side, but none on the west. This might have been done to protect the nest from the morning sun, as this nest was more exposed to the sun in the early morning than the others.

On May 30 I was able to find the off-duty bird near Nest 4, very

cleverly concealed behind leaves and branches and standing motionless. Since none of these off-duty birds had been visible for about two weeks, I was curious as to their whereabouts. It is now my belief that they remain well hidden during the day in the vicinity of their nests.

May 31: Mr. Paul Jones and Burt Monroe, Jr., took some pictures of the birds through a high-powered telescope. At this time we ascertained that there were four young in Nest 1. While they took pictures, I hunted for the off-duty bird near Nest 1, finally discovering it by locating the dark orange eye peering at me through a cluster of leaves. The rest of the bird was completely concealed.

June 1: This was the first day that I saw a young one out of the nest. Half-grown, it had ventured six inches out on the branch, only to be stopped by the parent, which blocked the way.

From June 2 to June 4 I paid special attention to Nest 4, because I had seen no youngsters in it. Though the brooding bird had been setting as long as the others, no young appeared to have hatched.

June 5: The first youngster in Nest 4 showed himself, while both parents stood on the edge of the nest regarding the baby. One parent moved to its favorite spot three feet from the nest as I watched. This evening at dusk there was a great deal of activity by the birds along the creek. Much squawking could be heard and a lot of flying from one tree to another. I followed one bird by its squawks for a quarter of a mile up the creek to the nest.

June 6: Today I tried to find egg shells beneath Nest 4 but without success. The parent bird left the nest and flew to a tree forty yards away as I approached.

June 7: There were definitely five young in Nest 1 today. This was the first time I had been able to see more than four. The parent was, as usual, in attendance on the edge of the nest.

June 8: Five young could be seen in Nest 3. This is the biggest nest, yet one young one persists in standing outside the nest on the branch.

By June 9 the birds in Nest 1 were so crowded that I wondered how they managed to stay in it. With both parents there, making seven birds in all, they looked very uncomfortable. Apparently the young were being fed in the nest. Only two young ones could be seen in Nest 2, with both parents in attendance. Nest 3 had one parent on guard, and the other one flew into the tree as I watched. It lit fifteen feet from the nest. Two downy heads were visible in Nest 4. With the exception of this nest, all the young have taken on the appearance of large immature birds in their final immature plumage. The crests are now obvious, though paler and not so pronounced as those of the adults. The feathers are mottled brown and creamy white, and the wings are almost fully developed.

On June 10 I noticed that one bird (probably the female) from Nest 4 had gray legs from the tibia down. In other words, the whole tarsus was gray, while that of its mate was yellow. I have seen the legs of brooding chickens change from yellow to gray in this same manner.

June 11: This was the first time I had a good view of a parent bird regurgitating into the nest while the young birds fed. There was much spreading and flapping of wings as the young scrambled for the predigested food; this was at 10:30 A. M.

June 12: I was able to stop only for a moment and found Nest

1 with all five young accounted for and a parent standing near by.

At 10:30 on June 13 the birds in Nest 1 were alert and moving about, with a parent on the edge of the nest. By 11:15 all the young had settled down and apparently were asleep. In Nest 2 two of the young were visible, and a parent was on the edge of the nest. Nest 3 had all five birds showing, with four in the nest and one on the limb a foot above. One parent was three feet away. Nest 4 definitely has three young birds in it. Two were standing with their long necks extended upward, while the third lay between them. Both parents were on the limb, three and four feet away. All the birds were motionless for long periods and watching me with intense interest, their heads pointed directly at me, so that they were watching me with both eyes, like hawks and owls. After fifteen minutes the young birds gradually turned their heads and retracted their necks very slowly, so that no motion was visible; and thus they settled down out of sight in the nest.

June 14: All the young birds in Nest 1 were standing around the edge and looking very crowded. One parent was a few feet away on the limb. At Nest 2 two youngsters and a mature bird were standing on a branch a few feet from the nest. There were seven birds in and around Nest 3; they seemed to be suffering from the heat, with their bills open and necks vibrating. Nest 4 had two young in the nest, two on a branch one foot above, and one on a branch slightly to the side of the nest.

On June 15, as I watched two of the young ones and one old bird in Nest 4—all of which were watching me—I suddenly became aware of a third young one's head hanging from the nest at the end of a long, limp neck. It opened and closed its eyes and allowed its beak to drop open several times. The head was about three inches below the bottom of the nest. In a few minutes it went slowly back into the nest and out of sight.

June 17: I found that one old bird each in Nests 1 and 3 has grayish-yellow tarsi, and the mates have plain yellow tarsi, as is the case in Nest 4. At 8:00 P. M. no adults were in attendance, and none returned during the half hour I watched. One bird flew up from the creekbed on my arrival and looked as if it were about to travel a considerable distance, because it rose fairly high above the trees and headed east. The creek has now dried up completely.

At 9:45 A. M. on June 18 there were five young standing around Nest 1, with a parent in the usual place three feet away. The gray on the legs was clearer today, and apparently only on the front of the legs. Two young were in sight at Nest 2. The third one was either concealed in the nest or out on a branch hidden by leaves. No parents were present. Three young could be seen at Nest 3, with both parents, which stood three and four feet away. There were two birds slightly outside Nest 4 and three sleeping in the nest; with heads hanging limp and bills resting on the side.

On my arrival at the heronry at 8:00 P. M. on June 19, two adult birds left Nest 1 and flew in a southeasterly direction: I judged that they would cross Seneca Park and were probably headed for Bear Grass Creek at the eastern end of the park. So after looking at the remaining nests and finding all the young present and no adults in sight, I drove to the suspected feeding ground, only to find many picnickers along the creek, and no birds!

June 20, 2:30 P. M.: In Nest 1 five young were standing in the nest; one adult in its usual place near the nest. One young bird

was in Nest 2 and one adult two feet below. Three young were in Nest 3 and two ten feet away in a clump of leaves on the same branch as the nest. I am almost certain now that there are four young in Nest 4; three were plainly in sight, and a bit of head fuzz could just be distinguished, indicating a fourth bird.

June 21, 8:00 A. M.: Seven birds were at Nest 1; all the young were in the nest, with both parents standing side by side a couple of feet away. Nest 2 had one youngster in it, and after long scrutiny I found a second young one standing on a branch forty feet away, on the other side of the tree. The young were showing signs of becoming more venturesome. In Nest 3 all the young but no adults were present. The young were scattered along the branch. Nest 4 had two young showing themselves. A loud squabbling noise came from Nest 3. The disturbance was brief and sounded much like a cat fight. There was some flapping of wings, as if the birds were trying to keep their balance on the limb. By the way, the wings of all the birds except those in Nest 4 seem to be fully feathered.

June 22: There was nothing out of the ordinary to report for Nests 1 and 3, but in Nest 2 no birds were visible. A noise almost above my head in an ash attracted my attention, and there I found one of the young. It was very nervous and walked back and forth on the branch in obvious concern over my nearness. It was probably thirty feet up and thirty-five yards from the tree in which it was hatched. One bird in Nest 4 raised its crest, which could not compare in beauty with that of an adult. All this was at 4:00 P. M.

June 23, 10:45 A. M. In Nest 1 were seven birds; five were in the nest and two old ones on the branch. The one nearest the nest took wing and flew off, and immediately the other adult moved to the nest and regurgitated into it, while the young scrambled for the food. This occurred three times at intervals of about two minutes; then the parent moved out on the limb again. At 7:45 P. M. I found three birds back in Nest 2, showing that they return to the nest after learning to fly. All the young were accounted for in the other nests, but all parents were absent.

June 24, 9:00 A. M.: All five young were sitting around Nest 1 in a slight drizzle of rain. No parents were to be seen. There were no birds in or near Nest 2. I finally located two young twenty-five feet away on a branch at the west side of the tree, about the same height as the nest. Nest 3 had one bird on the edge, and two were on the branch close by; one was ten feet farther out. I could not locate the other bird or the parents. Nest 4 had three birds standing with necks extended, but the fourth one was not in sight and no parents were present. At 5:00 P. M. two young were back on the edge of Nest 2, and one young one came down on the road thirty feet in front of my car. After walking around the road for a few minutes, it flew without effort for fifty yards and alighted at the base of an oak, where it was almost completely camouflaged. If I had not seen it land there, it would have been extremely difficult to find it.

June 25, 9:30 A. M.: The birds at Nest 1 were spread out from the nest along the branch; there were no adults in sight. At Nest 2 there were no young and only one adult. There were two young at Nest 3, one in the nest and one near by. The other three were down in the road. When I approached them in my car, they flew across the fence, where they perched on low branches in a woody section below the nesting trees. At Nest 4 three young were standing with necks extended. They stared at me motionlessly, with their beaks pointed directly toward me. No adult was there.

June 26: One young bird was on the road at 7:30 A. M. At 11:00 there were three young in Nest 1 and two on the branch. No birds were in Nest 2, but three were on a branch thirty feet away at the west side of the tree. There were three young on Nest 3 and one in an elm about sixty feet away and sixty feet high in the tree. I could not find the fifth bird of this nesting. Four young were in Nest 4, and both parents were near by, one four feet away, the other one about fifteen feet away. At 5:15 P. M. five young were in Nest 1, none in Nest 2, three in Nest 3, and three visible in Nest 4. Across the fence in the Speed property one adult was walking about on the grass with three young from Nest 2 and two from Nest 3. One bird was stalking a squirrel in a most amusing manner and finally got within four feet of it before the squirrel escaped up a tree.

June 27: At 9:00 A. M. three birds were on the ground on the other side of the fence, two from Nest 2 and one from Nest 3. The remaining bird from Nest 2 was in a tree thirty feet away. Four birds were in Nest 3. All the other birds were accounted for in their respective nests. At 7:45 P. M. there were two birds in Nest 1 and three on the branch but no parents. One bird was in Nest 2 all alone, four young were in Nest 3, and four in Nest 4. No adults were at any nest. One bird made a pass at Nest 3 but shied off and lit on the ground fifty or sixty yards away. Two others flew into near-by trees. I believe that they are the same ones I saw on the ground earlier in the day.

June 28: At 9:30 A. M. all the young were in Nests 1 and 4, and none were in the other nests. No old birds could be seen. One youngster flew from a pin oak to a walnut, a forty-yard flight. I was able to locate only one other bird, sitting in a walnut. At 3:00 P. M. four birds were seen on the road, and two flew up from the creekbed at the approach of the car. Those on the road were so indifferent to the danger of being run over that I had to stop the car to keep from hitting them. At 8:00 P. M. all of the young were back in their nests, but no parents were in sight.

June 29: Between 9:45 and 10:45 A. M. three birds made their first flight from Nest 1. There were only two in Nest 2, four in Nest 3, and four in Nest 4. Two left Nest 3 in the next few minutes. At 8:00 P. M. all birds were back at Nest 1, two at Nest 2, five in Nest 3, and four were standing along the branch by Nest 4. They moved down into the nest as I watched.

June 30, 9:30 A. M.: There was one bird in Nest 1, none in Nest 2, two in Nest 3, and three on a branch near Nest 4. One was down on the grass across the fence. At 5:45 P. M. there were three on the branch near Nest 1, none at Nest 2, none at Nest 3, and three in Nest 4. One flew up into the trees on my approach; no other birds could be sighted.

July 1, 9:30 A.M.: Three birds were in Nest 1, one on the fence below the nest, and one on the ground a few feet away. I judged that these last two were from Nest 1. One was in Nest 2, two in Nest 3, four in Nest 4. Most of them were very sleepy and dozed off, letting their heads droop gradually until their bills touched the nest, and thus they would remain for long periods, with the sun beating down upon them.

July 2, 9:45 A. M.: Two birds were in Nest 1, and two on the branch. All birds were missing from Nests 2 and 3, but all four birds were by Nest 4 on the branch. Two of them moved down into the

nest, one after the other. At 5:30 P. M. there were five birds in Nest 1, four in Nest 4, but no others could be seen.

July 3, 9:00 A. M.: All five birds occupied Nest 1 and four were on the branch by Nest 4; there were none around Nests 2 and 3. One bird flew from the branch at Nest 4 up to a perch twenty feet higher and on the far side of the sycamore. It spent some minutes apparently picking insects from the leaves and preening itself. I spent approximately an hour searching the trees and ground for a quarter of a mile up the creek but found no other herons. However, at 6:00 A. M. I had heard several squawks of the adult birds and thus knew that they had not left the vicinity. At 8:30 P. M. Nest 1 had five birds, Nest 2 one, Nest 3 two, and Nest 4 four.

July 4: My only chance to observe the heronry was at 5:15 P. M., when there were four young in Nest 1, none in 2 and 3, and three in Nest 4. Five young were on the road and appeared quite tame. The noise of firecrackers in the distance was enough to startle them into flying a few feet, and when I passed slowly by in the car, they flew only about forty feet to the side of the road and settled on the ground again. I believe these five were from Nest 3. Sporadic fireworks and a noisy party at a neighbor's that lasted well into the night left the birds virtually undisturbed.

July 5, 5:45 P. M.: Three young were in Nest 1, none in Nest 2, three in Nest 3, and three in Nest 4. This was a casual observation, as I had no time to search for others.

July 6, 9:30 A. M.: There was only one bird at any of the nests, an adult at Nest 1. However, five of them were on and beside the road. They flew only ten yards away when I passed in the car. Two birds were standing on a horse jump in the Lamp-ton's property, across our eastern fence line.

July 7, 9:45 A. M.: Four birds that were down on the ground near the road did not get up as my car passed. No birds were in or near any of the nests.

July 8, 10:00 A. M.: Four young ones were on the road, and none in any of the nests. At 11:30 there were seven along our side of the fence in the shade. They were quite hard to see in that particular light. Other birds were flying from tree to tree and almost impossible to spot in the thick foliage. This shows that they remain close to the nesting site for some time after leaving the nests. I believe that all the birds are still around but keep pretty well hidden among the leafy branches.

July 9: Throughout the day birds were seen singly and in groups on the ground and flying into the trees. None were in the vicinity of the nests. It looks as if the nests had been abandoned.

July 10: A few birds were seen on and near the road, as well as on the fence and in the creekbed. There were as many as nine on the ground at once.

July 11: My observations came to an end on this day, as I left early in the morning for a motor trip to Canada. The two people whom I delegated to keep an eye on the birds for me reported that little was seen of them after my departure and that by July 13 they all had gone.

It took these herons ninety-three days of patient and devoted work and attention to raise their broods. Eight birds arrived on April 8, and twenty-five left on July 13. I wonder how big the herony will be in 1960.

THE BACON-SUTHARD COLLECTION

At the 1958 fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society at Dawson Springs, Dr. Gordon Wilson read a letter addressed to him from Mr. Brasher C. Bacon in which Mr. Bacon told of his plan to leave his collection of nests and eggs to the Kentucky Building at the Western Kentucky State College because of his long friendship for Dr. Wilson and Dr. L. Y. Lancaster and because of his respect for the alma mater of his sons: Brasher C. Bacon, Jr., and Frank. None of us knew how seriously ill Mr. Bacon was at that time and hoped that he would have many more years of working on the collection, which had been a major project of his since his early youth. He died on February 9, 1959, just twelve days after his sixty-seventh birthday. The family rejoiced that, though he was in poor health for some time, he was never a bed-ridden invalid but that he could devote some time every day to his study of birds. As soon as it was possible after Mr. Bacon's death, steps were taken to transfer his collection to Western. He had requested that it be called the Brasher Bacon-James Suthard collection because Mr. Suthard had helped for a long time in the earlier days of this monumental oological collection. Dr. L. Y. Lancaster, of the biology department of Western and the teacher of the course in ornithology that has been a distinctive part of the college offerings for many years, and Mr. Gayle Carver, the curator of the Kentucky Building, took a truck belonging to the maintenance department of Western and so skillfully packed the exhibits that not an egg was broken and not a nest disarranged. They were aided in this careful packing by Mrs. Bacon and her son Frank. Gradually the 450 sets of eggs and dozens of nests are being arranged and are to be seen on the third floor of the Kentucky Building, which is open every day. Among the many merits of the collection are its representation of virtually all the birds native to Kentucky, besides excellent displays of sea-bird eggs which Mr. Bacon had secured by exchanging surplus specimens with other collectors. Western deeply appreciates having on display this remarkable collection and is grateful to the memory of Mr. Bacon and Mr. Suthard for feeling that the college is worthy to own and display this work of a lifetime of bird study.

Though a few things about Mr. Bacon appeared in the May, 1959, issue of THE KENTUCKY WARBLER, some more data on his active and useful life should be given here. Brasher Collins Bacon, born January 28, 1892, started keeping records and collecting specimens when he was only eight years old. In 1908 he began work at the Madisonville postoffice and remained there until he retired in 1948, serving under eight postmasters. He was Civil Service Clerk and Examiner in addition to his regular duties. In all his spare time he returned to his birds. In 1928 he organized the Spring Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and kept his collections there until his death. Dozens of ornithologists visited the place and marveled at his collections and at his extensive bird banding. At one time he ran fifty banding traps. He also was able to secure for wildlife refuges the various waterworks lakes around the city as well as several privately-owned areas. He banded an average of 1500 birds a year in the active years of his life. Locally and in the state he served in nearly every organization that has for its purpose the study and protection of wildlife. In 1923 he, with Dr. Wilson and Dr. L. Otley Findar, organized the Kentucky Ornithological Society, which has grown steadily ever since its inception. Though an ardent fisherman, he never hunted and was active in helping enforce the game laws. He always said that he preferred to educate the younger

ones to protect wildlife rather than prosecute the older ones for hunting out of season but that the latter had to be done to keep man from destroying nature. Because of this philosophy he was active in working with Boy Scouts, conservation clubs, woman's clubs, and numerous service clubs that tried to help in the battle with the people who hindered rather than helped nature. In his church, the Presbyterian, he was always active and was an enthusiastic supporter of its programs. Madisonville and the whole state of Kentucky lost an able, enthusiastic naturalist and philosopher when Mr. Bacon died.

-- His family have said that he was fond of quoting to the various groups that he addressed the following lines from Longfellow:

"If thou art worn and hard beset
With sorrows that thou wouldst forget;
If thou wouldst learn a lesson that will keep
Thy heart from fainting and thy soul from sleep;
Go to the woods and fields! no tears
Dim the sweet look that nature wears."

Any of you ornithologists will always be welcome to stop at the Kentucky Building whenever you are in Bowling Green. Mr. Carver extends this welcome and trusts that many of you will take advantage of Mr. Bacon's generosity to the college of his two sons. (The data for this article were furnished by L. Y. Lancaster and Frank Bacon.)

* * * *

FIELD NOTES

AN ODDLY-MARKED JUNCO

Attracting birds to the Audubon State Park Museum, Henderson, by means of feeding has given the curators much enjoyment during the past winter months as well as a look at an unusually-marked bird. Normally those coming to the feeding stations are the more common winter birds; but on February 10, 1959, Mrs. Hust saw what appeared to be a strange-looking species. It was a little shy at first, but the bird soon learned that the grain around the feeder was put there "for the birds." We looked through the bird book we keep on the window sill, but could not find a description of a light-gray bird with snow-white head, one wing with a white patch, and the other with wing bars! We called Sherman Combest, Park Superintendent; King Benson, Park Naturalist; and W. P. Rhoads, vice-president of K. O. S., and the bird was pointed out to them; all were of the opinion it was an albinistic junco.—LORINE C. LETT, Curator, Audubon Memorial Museum, Henderson.

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WOOD DUCK CAUGHT ON LIMB-LINE

While conducting the scheduled July Duck Brood Census on Drake's Creek in Simpson County, one sub-adult Wood Duck was found caught on a limb-line (a fish hook on a short cord tied to an overhanging limb). The duck had swallowed bait, hook, and the line up as far as it could. When I cut the line close to the bill, it promptly gulped down the short piece.

No hook could be located by feeling the neck and breast region; it must have gone down without catching. If so, the acid and grind-

ing action of the gizzard would probably dissolve the hook in a short time.

The duck was banded and released, apparently none the worse from its experience.—DAN M. RUSSELL, Bowling Green.

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A LATE SINGING DATE FOR THE WHITE-EYED VIREO

On September 23, 1959, I was standing on a wooded hillside at the edge of Jefferson County Forest and was rather surprised to hear the spring-like notes of the White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*). I listened, and the bird sang its full "chip-per-a-weoo-wink" song seventeen times during a four-minute period. This date seemed rather late, and on checking records I found that Aretas Saunders (Bulletin 197, United States National Museum) says of this species: "The song is revived after the molt, in late August or September, my dates varying from August 30, 1917, to September 20, 1907; and the last song averaging September 9. I have records at this season for ten years, but in a good many years have heard no singing at this season." Later, as I moved down the hillside, I heard another White-eyed Vireo, but its song was rather feeble and only a fragmentary portion of its usual one.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

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STARLING TAKES OVER NESTING SITES OF OTHER CAVITY-NESTING BIRDS

For some time I have been concerned as to what will happen to the Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) and the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) as both species compete with the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) for nesting sites.

In 1950, when I built my house on Maple Avenue, Owensboro, Kentucky, I had hoped to have Red-headed Woodpeckers in our yard during the summer months, but this idea was short-lived. On one particular occasion I observed a band of Starlings trying to drive a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers out of a nesting hole that they had occupied for years. At first it did not alarm me, for several times I saw a woodpecker drive a Starling to the ground, but the Starlings had their own way of working. There were about a dozen of them, and eventually a Starling got into the hole in the tree, and the woodpeckers couldn't get it out. I called my neighbor, Jay O'Flynn, Jr., and the two of us killed six Starlings in about ten minutes, but the one in the cavity did not budge. The tree was such that we could not climb it. It was a losing fight there as elsewhere. In less than one year there was not a woodpecker left on Maple Avenue. The same thing is happening to the Flickers. I actually saw a Starling take young Yellow-shafted Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) out of a hole in a maple tree beside our walk, and drop them one by one on the concrete beneath the nesting site.

In spite of all this I do not believe that the woodpecker family is doomed by the Starling. They will nest in the deep woods, and the Starling likes the open country. I do believe, however, that the Bluebird is doomed. It is not a woods bird. It likes the same habitat as the Starling and is no match for it. As a boy living in the suburbs of Owensboro, I had Bluebirds nesting in boxes in my back yard; today there are none at all in the city, and they are scarce throughout the entire country. It is my sincere belief that the next fifty years will find the Bluebirds almost, if not completely, out of existence. Will the friendly little Bluebird, with its useful habits and

plaintive song, go the way of the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*)?—FOREST G. MERCER, Lexington.

Editor's Note: We know Starlings take over nesting sites of the above species. However, Red-headed Woodpeckers have a habit of swooping low across highways in front of speeding cars, thus increasing the species mortality rate.

Some of the Bluebird shortage in February, 1959, may be attributed to the severe winter of 1958-59, when Bluebirds were found frozen in nesting boxes as far south as Nashville, Tennessee. Also, the absence of Bluebirds in the city of Owensboro today is not necessarily caused by Starlings. Because of the growth of the city, with its houses, trees, and shrubbery, there is less suitable habitat for Bluebirds, and they normally disappear with the advance of urban growth.

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THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL FALL MEETING

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its thirty-sixth annual fall meeting at Mammoth Cave National Park Hotel, on October 9-11, 1959.

On Friday evening Hunter Hancock, the president, introduced Mr. Willard E. Dilley, Park Naturalist, who welcomed the members to the park and called attention to the things that should be looked for in the forest, illustrating with colored slides which were very beautiful and interesting.

Mr. W. P. Rhoads, vice-president, introduced Dr. Gordon Wilson, who spoke on "The Ecology of Bird Life at Mammoth Cave," which he has been studying since 1938.

Field trips were made on Saturday morning under the leadership of Gordon Wilson, Harvey Lovell, L. Y. Lancaster, and Willard Dilley.

In the afternoon business meeting Dr. Hancock opened the meeting with the announcement that the 1960 Fall Meeting would be held in Henderson, Kentucky. The next item of importance presented was the ever-increasing printing cost of the Kentucky Warbler. The treasurer said that the estimated income for 1960, based on present dues, would not meet expenses. After some discussion it was moved by Donald Summerfield and seconded by Harvey Lovell that the recommended increased dues of students from \$1.00 to \$2.00, regular membership from \$2.00 to \$3.00, corresponding memberships from \$1.50 to \$2.50, and contributing membership remain at \$5.00 be accepted. Vote unanimous.

Dr. Hancock mentioned that the board of directors went on record as favoring the Model Hawk and Owl Law for Kentucky, urging protection for the birds of prey except where they are found in the act of destroying poultry; and urging the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources to work for its adoption.

The minutes of the spring meeting as published in the Kentucky Warbler were approved.

Mr. Stamm gave the treasurer's report, which was accepted, and a commendation was given for his excellent work.

**REPORT OF TREASURER
GENERAL FUND**

Balance in bank as shown by last report dated
October 1, 1958 \$ 259.34

Receipts

Membership dues	\$569.00	
Dividends—Jefferson Federal Savings & Loan Association	65.56	
Sale of Kentucky Warblers	20.00	
Sale of check lists, bibliographies, etc.	7.50	
Sale of sleeve patch	22.50	
Receipts—Fall Meeting, Dawson Springs	169.00	
Receipts—Spring Meeting, Bowling Green	118.00	
Contributions to Gordon Wilson Fund for Orni- thology	358.00	
Donations	1.00	
Total Receipts		1330.56

Total \$1589.90

Printing Costs—The Kentucky Warbler	630.39	
Treasurer's Expenses: Postage, stationery, envelopes	56.80	
Programs, printing costs, etc.	14.72	
State of Kentucky—Corporation filing fee	2.00	
Fall Meeting, Dawson Springs	182.00	
Spring Meeting, Bowling Green	106.75	
Miscellaneous Expenses	5.34	
Transfer to Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology	358.00	
Total Disbursements		1406.00
Balance on hand in Lincoln Bank & Trust Co., Louisville, Kentucky, October 1, 1959		\$ 183.90

ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance in Savings Account as shown by last
report dated October 1, 1958 \$ 399.20

Receipts

Dividends on Savings Account	15.11	
TOTAL		\$ 414.31

Disbursements

Transfer of dividends for years 1956, 1957, 1958, and 1959 to general fund	39.31	
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Balance in Savings Account, Jefferson Federal Sav- ings & Loan Association, Louisville, Kentucky, October 1, 1959	\$ 375.00	
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Securities Owned:		
Full paid shares (7) in Jefferson Federal Savings & Loan Association, Louisville, Kentucky, October 1, 1959	700.00	

TOTAL		\$1075.00
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GORDON WILSON FUND FOR ORNITHOLOGY

Balance in Savings Account, Greater Louisville First Federal Savings & Loan Association, Louisville, Kentucky, October 1, 1958.....	\$ 100.00
Receipts	
Contributions to fund, 1959	358.00
Dividends on Savings Account	8.56
	\$ 466.56
Balance in account, October 1, 1959—Total.....	

BALANCE SHEET

as of

October 1, 1959

Assets:

Cash in bank	\$ 183.90
Endowment Fund	1075.00
Gordon Wilson Fund	466.56

TOTAL ASSETS	\$1725.46
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Net Worth of Society	\$1725.46
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FREDERICK W. STAMM, Treasurer

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Report of the Auditing Committee**

Floyd Carpenter reported that the books and the accounts of the treasurer were examined and found to be in good order. He reported the net worth of the society as of September 30, 1959, to be \$1725.46.

Report of Endowment Committee

Mr. Brecher reported a balance of \$1075.00 in the Endowment Fund as of September 30, 1959. He also reported that Amelia Klutey Krieger had become a Life Member.

Report of the Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology

Dr. Lovell reported a balance in the Fund of \$466.56 as of September 30, 1959.

Dr. Wilson gave the recommendations of the nominating committee for new officers:

President	James W. Hancock, Madisonville
Vice-President	W. P. Rhoads, Henderson
Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary	Frederick W. Stamm, Louisville
Recording Secretary	Helen G. Browning, Louisville

Councillors:

Virginia Smith, Henderson, 1959-61
Conley Webster, Lexington, 1959-61.

The motion was made and carried that the slate of officers be accepted.

Mr. Rhoads put the motion before the house to indorse Dr. Hancock's excellent work as president, and Mr. Stamm was given a standing ovation for his contribution to the K. O. S.

Motion was made and seconded to appoint a committee to investigate Mr. Ganier's suggestion that some various foundations would possibly make a contribution to K. O. S. for its scientific publications.

The annual dinner meeting was held in the hotel dining room, with an attendance of 102. Dr. Hancock, president, introduced guests and members at the speaker's table, and Dr. Wilson recognized the attending members by their localities.

Harvey Lovell, University of Louisville, was a delightful after-dinner speaker; his illustrated "Intimate Glimpses of Kentucky Birds" showed many shore birds at the Falls of the Ohio and many of our commoner land birds at his home garden.

The Sunday morning field trips concluded a very excellent annual fall meeting. The birds were unusually active for the time of year; 79 species were recorded during the days of the meeting.—MARGARET RINGO, Recording Secretary.

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ATTENDANCE

Members and guests attending the meeting totaled 107: BOWLING GREEN: Mildred Allen, Mrs. H. W. Gingles, Dr. L. Y. Lancaster, Dr. and Mrs. Robert N. Pace, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Riley, Dr. A. C. Tucker, Dr. Gordon Wilson; BROOKS: Amy Deane; BURKESVILLE: Mrs. John W. Drake; CALHOUN: Walter Taylor; CLARKSON: Mrs. Walter Kelley; CORYDON: Malcolm Arnett, Mary Lee Arnett; FRANKFORT: Dr. and Mrs. Don Howard, Mrs. W. P. Ringo; GLASGOW: Alice F. Furber, Mr. and Mrs. James Gillenwater, James Haynes, Dr. George McKinley, Dr. Robert N. McKinley, Mrs. Clyde Nuckols, Lillian Simmons, Dr. and Mrs. Russell Starr; HENDERSON: Katherine Reuter, Louise Reuter, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Rhoads, Edna Vogel, James Wilke; LAWRENCEBURG: Elizabeth Satterly; LEXINGTON: Dr. and Mrs. Roger Barbour, Anne Heaton, Mr. and Mrs. Al H. Mayfield, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred M. Reese, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Simpson, Conley Webster; LEITCHFIELD: Mrs. Aubrey Moorman; LOUISVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Yancey Altsheier, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Floyd Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. James Craddock, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Duncan, Mrs. Charles Horner, Dr. and Mrs. Harvey B. Lovell, Dr. and Mrs. H. V. Noland, Anna R. Peil, Dorothy Peil, Evelyn J. Schneider, Mrs. F. P. Shannon, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Elsie Stewart, Mrs. W. B. Tabler, Mr. and Mrs. S. Charles Thacher, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Weatherell; MACEO: Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Powell; MAMMOTH CAVE: Mr. and Mrs. Willard E. Dille, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Scott; MURRAY: Dr. and Mrs. Hunter M. Hancock, Dr. Clell Peterson; PARK: Mr. and Mrs. Brant Loper; PARK CITY: Cleo Hogan, Cleo Hogan, Jr.; PRINCETON: Dr. Cynthia C. Counce; ROCKFIELD: Mr. and Mrs. Roy P. Milliken; RUSSELLVILLE: Mrs. Carrie McKenzie, Maybelle Morton; ST. CHARLES: Robert Sneed; STAMPING GROUND: Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jones; VALLEY STATION: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Summerfield; FLOYD KNOBS, INDIANA: Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Webster, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Wolking; WHITE PIGEON, MICHIGAN: Oscar McKinley Bryens; CINCINNATI, OHIO: Bertie Heis, Olivia Marckworth; NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: Albert F. Ganier.