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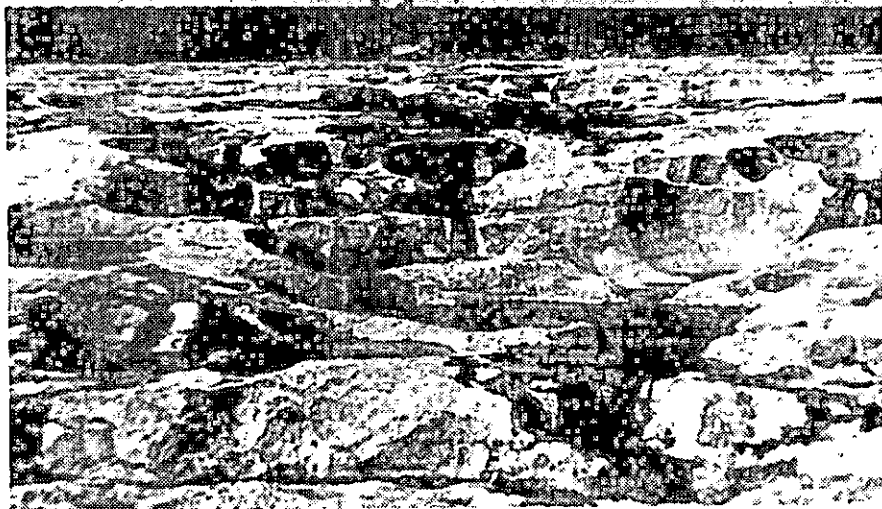
The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. XXXVI

FEBRUARY, 1960

No. 1



POTHOLES AT THE FALLS OF THE OHIO

(Wickets in background)

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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NEWS AND VIEWS

SPRING FIELD STUDY AT BOWLING GREEN

The Spring Field Study will again be held at Chaney and McElroy Lakes, Bowling Green, Kentucky, on April 22-24, 1960. Announcements regarding plans, etc., will be mailed to the membership later. Keep the date in mind.

* * * *

WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETS AT GATLINBURG

K. O. S. members will be glad to know that the Wilson Ornithological Society will hold its Forty-first Annual Meeting in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, May 5-8, 1960. Many Kentuckians plan to attend this meeting; in fact, many of our members also belong to this national organization, and some have been active in the society's work, having served as officers and committee members during the past years.

(Continued on Page 20)

THE 1959 AUTUMN SEASON AT THE FALLS OF THE OHIO

By Anne L. Stamm, Leonard C. Brecher, and Harvey B. Lovell

The late summer and autumn season of 1959 was one of the best years the writers have known for observing shore and wading birds at the Falls of the Ohio during their many years of study there; numbers were down, but the varied species, some unusually rare, made it a season of ornithological interest. The Falls have long been a stopping-off place for the migratory shore birds heading south; but seldom, if ever, have species been so diverse. For example, on September 10, an Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*), Baird's Sandpiper (*Erolia bairdii*), and four Knots (*Calidris canutus*) were seen; on September 12 and 13 such uncommon species as the Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus?*), Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes mauri*), American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*), Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*), Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*), and Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) brought excitement to the "lister". On the latter two dates it was possible to record as many as twenty species of the order Charadriiformes. The season was a decided contrast to that of the fall season of 1958. (1958 Ky. War., 34: 51-53).

Undoubtedly, the climatic conditions were a contributing factor in attracting the migrants to the Falls. The summer was unusually hot and dry, with temperatures averaging above normal for August and September. Most ponds, streams, and low-lying farmlands were dry during the greater part of the four-month migration season. The rainfall was below normal for July and September, but August's rainfall was heavy, particularly during the middle of the month, and averaged 2.14 inches above normal.

Unlike some seasons there were few, if any, large waves of shore birds. The pattern seemed to indicate a slow but steady day-by-day migration from mid-July through early October. Five days after October 4's high temperature reading of 92.3 (the hottest ever reached this late in the year) a cold front moved in, and the high was 69 and the low 46 degrees; this period brought a flock of 50 Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) to the shallow water below the Falls, and some Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*). Again during the latter part of the month another cold front developed; this period brought numbers of Coots (*Fulica americana*) and flocks of ducks.

The authors made observation trips to the Falls from July 15 through November 29, or the entire length of time the potholes and rocky ledges were accessible during the autumn migration. On the latter date, a large majority of wickets were open, and the entire tableland from the dam to the Indiana shore was covered with water. Study trips were made on the following dates: July 15, 23, 24; August 1, 8, 12, 15, 16, 22, 29, 30, 31; Sept. 2, 7, 10, 12, 13, 20, 23, 25, 26, 27; October 4, 12, 17, 18, 25, 31; November 7, 8, 22, 29. The trips, totaling 32, were frequent and in some cases on consecutive days, thereby permitting us to ascertain arrival dates for a few species, and also species' length of stay. The purpose of this paper is to make available the findings of our pooled trips, which add to the present knowledge of the water birds at the Falls of the Ohio.

On some occasions the writers were together, and on a few trips one or two of the authors were accompanied by Roderic Sommers, Floyd Carpenter, James Craddock, or F. W. Stamm. Joseph Croft and Haven Wiley were on the August 16 and September 13 trips, and we are also indebted to them for certain data which they obtained on

additional trips prior to September 13 other than ours. Other individuals are given credit for reporting data on particular species in the appropriate places.

Common Loon. (*Gavia immer*). Two recorded on October 25.

Horned Grebe. (*Podiceps auritus*). Eight birds on October 25 above the dam; thereafter recorded throughout November 29 in adjacent areas.

Pied-billed Grebe. (*Podilymbus podiceps*). Two were in the pool adjacent to the dike on September 12, numbers increased on September 25, ten were recorded on October 25, but only one bird on October 31.

Double-crested Cormorant. (*Phalacrocorax auritus*). Only one bird was observed, and that was on August 1, although one or two were in the harbor until November 29.

Great Blue Heron. (*Ardea herodias*). July 15 to October 25. Seven birds on August 8 were the greatest number recorded.

Common Egret. (*Casmerodius albus*). Seven recorded on July 15; numbers increased on August 1, when forty-five were noted, and from August 8 until September 26, sixty to eighty were in the area. Only four birds could be found on October 4; apparently they left ahead of the cold front.

Little Blue Heron. (*Florida caerulea*). July 24 to September 19. On the latter date the birds were seen by Miss Brockschlager and Miss Brinkmann of Cincinnati, Ohio. No more than five birds were seen at any one time. In 1949, as many as sixty birds were counted on August 28, and all but one were in the immature plumage. (Lovell. *Ind. Aud. Quarterly*, 29:2). The past nine or ten years have shown a steady decrease in population.

Green Heron. (*Butorides virescens*). Summer resident in the area and was last recorded on September 27. The most observed were eighteen on August 8, and numbers decreased after September 12.

Black-crowned Night Heron. (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). A colony nests in the wooded area below the dam. Seventy birds were counted as they came in to feed on the evening of September 23; this contrasts with a count on the evening of September 18, 1949 when Lovell counted 821 birds. The colony has been reduced somewhat from previous years because of cutting of trees for the enlargement of the locks.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron. (*Nyctanassa violacea*). Nine immatures on August 30, three on September 4 (JC and HW); also recorded on September 6 (JC and HW).

Canada Goose. (*Branta canadensis*). A flock of fifty of this species arrived on October 10 and 11 and were observed by Charles Long; twenty birds were counted on October 17 in the shallow water at the lower end of the Falls by Stamm.

Mallard. (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Six birds were seen on August 1 and others noted on numerous occasions through November 29. A small number remain through-out the winter above and below the Falls.

Pintail. (*Anas acuta*). Two birds on September 13 (JC, HW); one on 19 through 23.

Green-winged Teal. (*Anas carolinensis*). One bird on September 20.

Blue-winged Teal. (*Anas discors*). An early migrant. One on August 22, greatest number—65—on September 10, and last noted on October 18.

Lesser Scaup. (*Aythya affinis*). First noted on Falls November 8; some remain throughout the winter in adjacent waters.

Common Goldeneye. (*Bucephala clangula*). One on November 29, in the swift water that flowed over the bedrock near the dam (RS & ALS). However, earlier records were obtained in the harbor.

Red-breasted Merganser. (*Mergus serrator*). As a rule not common here, especially in late summer and early fall. A single bird was recorded from September through October 17, and for the greater part of time it fed in the pool adjacent to the dike. Six to ten recorded in the harbor from November 7 through 29.

Common Gallinule. (*Gallinula chloropus*). One bird on September 20, at lower end of Falls by Brecher and a group of observers from Cincinnati, Ohio; as far as we know, this is the only record for the Falls. It was interesting to note that a single immature of this species was seen the previous day in Caperton's swamp (RS, ALS & Beatrice Short).

American Coot. (*Fulica americana*). Five birds seen on October 17 (usually arrive earlier), and thirty were recorded on October 25. This species is quite common in spring and fall, yet seldom do we find large flocks on the Falls proper; but two rafts totaling perhaps four to five hundred birds were counted on November 7, above the dam beneath the Clark Memorial Bridge.

Piping Plover. (*Charadrius melodus*). A rather uncommon species; no more than two were seen at one time. Records are for the following dates: August 19 and 25 (Mrs. Y. Altscheler, Mrs. H. V. Noland, and Mrs. E. V. Thompson); August 22 (LCB, RS); August 24 (JC, HW); August 29 (LCB, HBL); August 30 (JC, HW).

Semipalmated Plover. (*Charadrius semipalmatus*). Few were seen this season. Our records start from August 1 through September 26 but Joseph Croft and Haven Wiley reported one on July 26.

Kildeer. (*Charadrius vociferus*). Recorded from July 15 to November 7; greatest number, 100 recorded on August 22. Number began to decrease after September 7.

American Golden Plover. (*Pluvialis dominica*). Never common. No more than six birds recorded at any one time; this contrasts with ten birds recorded on October 28, 1951, by Lovell and Stamm. One reported on September 4 (JC, HW). Our records are for September 12, 13, 20, 23, 25, and October 4. The birds left the area earlier than in some years, as Mable Slack and Stamm recorded them as late as November 11 in 1951 (1952. *Ky. War.*, 28: 42).

Black-bellied Plover. (*Squatrola squatarola*). Not common, but a fairly regular fall migrant. Our records are for August 8, 22, 31; September 10, 12, 13, 20, 26; October 4, 31. Three were seen on the latter date, the highest number this season. The bird on August 8, (HBL and Craddock) was in spring plumage.

Ruddy Turnstone. (*Arenaria interpres*). An uncommon species, yet a few show up each year at the Falls. No more than two birds were recorded at any one time. Records are for September 10, 12, 13, 20,

and October 4; the latter is a late-departure date. October dates are rare. The bird on October 4 fed on the rocks at the edge of the channel on the Indiana side; all others were across the channel.

Common Snipe. (*Capella gallinago*). Records began on September 12, and the last was on October 31; four were the largest number and were seen on September 26.

Upland Plover. (*Bartramia longicauda*). Uncommon here. One record September 10, by Stamm; as far as we know, the only one for the Falls. This apparently is a late date as well as an arrival date, as Croft and Wiley did not see it on September 9 or 11. The bird may have moved on the same day.

Spotted Sandpiper. (*Actitis macularia*). Recorded for most of the season; largest number—6—on August 8, and latest date was October 17, which is a late-departure record. As a general rule, departure dates for this species are for the first week in October.

Solitary Sandpiper. (*Tringa solitaria*). Not many recorded; one seen on each of the following dates: July 19 (JC, HW); August 30 (JC, HW); September 20; and October 17 by authors.

Willet. (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*). This is a very rare species here. Two birds were observed on August 16 by the Stamms Croft, and Wiley. There had been a ten-degree drop in temperature from the previous day, and some rain had fallen during the night; and it was believed the birds had arrived during the early morning hours, as Brecher and Carpenter had covered the area thoroughly the previous day. A single bird was found on August 22 by two groups (LCB, RS) and (JC, HW).

Greater Yellowlegs. (*Totanus melanoleucus*). A few came in earlier than usual. Croft and Wiley found them on July 19, which is the earliest record we have; formerly it was July 26. This species is never as common as the Lesser Yellowlegs, but it was interesting that as many as eighteen birds were seen on September 7; and on October 31, the last date recorded, we found eight against one of the Lesser Yellowlegs.

Lesser Yellowlegs. (*Totanus flavipes*). Largest number—40—on August 22. Birds recorded from July 19 through October 31. The July 19 record by Croft and Wiley is a few days earlier than previous records, and October 31 date by authors and Sommers is later than usual save for the year 1951, when birds were here on November 11.

Knot. (*Calidris canutus*). A very rare species. A single bird was observed on September 7 by Sommers; one on September 9 by Croft and Wiley; and four on September 10, by Lovell and Stamms. This is the largest number ever recorded here. September 7 is apparently the arrival date, as the Falls area was covered on September 6 by Wiley. The length of stay for the species was from September 7 through 13, as it was not recorded after that date.

Pectoral Sandpiper. (*Erolia melanotos*). Observed from July until October 4. Not as numerous as in some years, yet thirty to one hundred were recorded from August 8 to September 7; numbers were just a scattered few after September 12.

Baird's Sandpiper. (*Erolia bairdii*). A rather uncommon species and one difficult to identify. Our earliest record was on August 15; also seen August 30, and a few were noted during most of September and two on October 4.

Least Sandpiper. (*Erolia minutilla*). Numerically this species lower than in recent years. Recorded from July 19 (JC, HW) through September 23, after that date no "peeps" were found until October 31, when three were seen.

Dunlin. (*Erolia alpina*). Rare, a flock of twenty on October 18 by Lovell; these birds apparently arrived during the night or early morning and established an arrival date as the entire Falls area had been covered the previous day by Stamms. Nineteen birds observed on October 31.

Dowitcher. (*Limnodromus griseus?*). One in rusty plumage (LCB) on August 15, and a single bird in fall plumage recorded intermittently from August 22 until September 25; another one on October 17 and 18.

Stilt Sandpiper. (*Micropalama himantopus*). Not common. No more than four birds were seen on any one day; records are for July 26 (JC, HW); August 22; September 12, 19, 20, 26. The four were observed on September 19 by Miss Brinkmann and Miss Brockschlager of Cincinnati.

Semipalmated Sandpiper. (*Ereunetes pusillus*). Records from August 8 to September 20. Not as numerous as in some seasons.

Western Sandpiper. (*Ereunetes mauri*). Few recorded this fall. Records are spotty: one on August 2 (JC, HW); one on August 19 (Altsheier, Noland, and Thompson); two on September 7, three on September 12, and one on September 13, by authors.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper. (*Tryngites subruficollis*). Rather uncommon. On our 32 trips we had only one record of a single bird on September 20. However, three birds were observed on September 6 by Wiley, and one on September 9 (JC, HW).

Sanderling. (*Crocethia alba*). Only a few appeared on the Falls. This species formerly seen regularly and in greater numbers. Records this season rather spotty, first noticed on August 2 (JC, HW), and ours are from August 31 through September 23.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*). A rare migrant. A single bird on August 8, by Sommers and Brecher; as far as we know, this is our earliest record by a month. A single bird on August 22 (JC and HW); one on September 12 and 13; one on September 17 observed by Croft.

Northern Phalarope. (*Lobipes lobatus*). One in company with above species on September 12 and 13; both species discovered on the morning of September 12 by Croft and Wiley, and in afternoon by Sommers and writers. (See additional date in this issue by Croft and Wiley). Because we have so few records of this species, it may be well to add one for September 27, 1953, which two of the authors have in their files.

Herring Gull. (*Larus argentatus*). A single bird on October 18, three on October 31 and the population built up after November 7. Formerly this species was more common than the Ring-billed Gull; now it is in reverse.

Ring-billed Gull. (*Larus delawarensis*). An early record was established when a single gull was seen on August 8 by Sommers and Brecher. Six were noted on October 12, twenty-one on October 25, forty to fifty on October 31. Numbers increased by November 22, when hundreds were in flocks on the rocky ledges opposite the channel.

Franklin's Gull. (*Larus pipixcan*). A rare species this far east. Six observed October 25 (LCB, RS) above the Falls.

Bonaparte's Gull. (*Larus philadelphia*). Our first record was on October 31. Twenty were seen by Burt L. Monroe, Jr., on November 27; scattered numbers have been recorded during December and early January, 1960, above the Falls.

Forster's Tern. (*Sterna Forsteri*). An uncommon migrant: three on July 19, two on July 26 (JC, HW); twelve on September 26 (LCB, ALS).

Common Tern. (*Sterna hirundo*). Uncommon this season. Two records only: eight observed on September 10, and twenty on September 26.

Least Tern. (*Sterna albifrons*). Always one of the more uncommon terns. Three on August 15 (FC, LCB); another record on August 19 (Altsheler, Noland, Thompson).

Caspian Tern. (*Hydroprogne caspia*). Small numbers on numerous occasions from August 30 to September 13.

Black Tern. (*Chlidonias nigra*). Usually a common tern at the Falls, but few were recorded this season. August 15, (Craddock, Lovell); August 16 (ALS, JC, HW).

No attempt has been made to include other than waterbirds that frequent the Falls area, although it may be well to mention a few species that we found feeding there, such as the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), which was recorded on September 20 and October 4. Two and three Kingfishers (*Megaceryle alcyon*) worked from one end to the other from September 10 to October 31. The Water Pipits (*Anthus spinoletta*) were noted on October 17, and seventeen were seen on October 31.

In summarizing this paper, we have attempted through our 32 trips to record the waterbirds as we found them during the entire autumn season of 1959 and point out arrival dates for the Upland Plover, Dunlin, Willet; departure dates for the Little Blue Heron, Ruddy Turnstone, and Spotted Sandpiper. It was interesting that the greatest number of species occurred between the 10th and 13th of September.

We should also like to mention some of the changes we have noticed over a period of many years of observation, such as: (1) the smaller numbers of Little Blues appearing each autumn; (2) the increased numbers of Ring-billed Gulls, and the decrease in Herring Gulls, which formerly was the direct opposite; (3) the smaller number of shore birds frequenting the Indiana side. The latter may be because of less sewage than formerly, due to installation of the Clarksville sewage plant. In former years, and particularly after rains, one could sit on a rock on the Indiana side and watch hundreds of "peeps" and other shore birds as they fed along the pitted ledges.

We hope this paper will be helpful as a guide for future observations of the waterbirds on the Falls of the Ohio.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1959-1960

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (Same area as in previous years).—Dec. 30; 6:00 A. M. to 4:00 P.M. Overcast, intermittent light snow; temp. 33 to 41; wind S to SW, 0-5 m. p. h. Twelve observers in four parties. Total party-hours, 20 (14 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 52 (14 on foot, 38 by car). Total, 56 species, about 27,574 individuals.—J. A. COSSEY, HUNTER M. HANCOCK (Compiler). KENNETH A. MAYNARD, CECIL E. McMULLAN, ROBERT PACE, CLELL T. PETERSON, WILLIAM T. SLEDD, PAUL W. STURM, WILLIAM STURM, KENNETH B. TENNYSON, KENNETH W. TENNYSON, GORDON WILSON.

NOTES ON WOODLANDS COUNT

The waterfowl estimates are based on the official census taken by the refuge personnel just before our count. These men state that the waterfowl population was much less numerous, both in species and individual numbers, than during previous Christmas Counts.

Unusually heavy concentrations of Rufous-sided Towhees were encountered in two areas, and a heavy concentration of Crows in another.

Thirteen fallow deer and six Virginia deer were also observed by the counters.

* * * *

MARION (same area as usual, in Crittenden County, with Marion as the center).—Dec. 25; 6:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Cloudy; temp. 40-60. Light wind. The spring-like day brought out many birds. Total, 50 species, 7742 individuals.—CHASTAIN L. FRAZER.

* * * *

MADISONVILLE (same area as usual: open fields 20%, deciduous woodlands and thickets 50%, lake shore 30%).—Dec. 28; 7:00 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Heavy overcast; frequent drizzles; bottom lands partially flooded; wind S. W., 13-18 m. p. h.; temp. 45 to 36, Total hours, 9½; total miles, 38 (6 on foot, 32 by car). Total, 42 species, 2938 individuals.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

NOTES ON MADISONVILLE COUNT

Some of the species not recorded during the count period are scarce this season, such as Mallard, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Fox Sparrow.

A Chukar Partridge was recorded on January 2 on Outer S. Main, Madisonville, alongside the busy traffic of Highway 41; it was observed at very close range.

Approximately 925 Robins, a total of several flocks, were observed on December 24.

* * * *

PENNYRILE FOREST STATE PARK (Deciduous and pine forests and fields within the park area, Pennyrile Lake, and adjoining farmlands; wooded area 50%; open fields in the park 20%; farmlands 20%; lake shore 10%).—Dec. 27; 6:45 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Partly cloudy to overcast; occasional showers or drizzle; wind SW, 13-18 m. p. h.; temp. 55 to 64. Total hours, 9¼; total miles, 21 (6 on foot, 15 by car). Total, 37 species, 2094 individuals.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

**MID-WINTER
BIRD COUNT
1959-1960**

	Woodlands	Marion	Madisonville	Pennyrite S. P.	Henderson	Sorgho	Owensboro	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave N.P.	Glasgow	Otter Creek	Louisville	Frankfort	Kieber Sanct.	Willard	Ashland
Common Loon.....			*									3				
P-b. Grebe.....			1									4	1			
D-c. Cormorant.....					2											
G. B. Heron.....	7	3			4				2				1			
B-c. N. Heron.....												30				
Canada Goose.....	11500	36			1616						16		13			
Blue Goose.....	*												5			
Mallard.....	9100	4000			49		30		94			12	114			
Black Duck.....	4200	2000			77		10		159	*	7	62	54			
Gadwall.....												2	4			
Am. Widgeon.....	200		3		1								17			
Pintail.....					1							1				
G-w. Teal.....	2							1								
Wood Duck.....			4		2					*		2				
Redhead.....							1									
R-n. Duck.....	300	2	487									22	1			
Canvasback.....			30						1			25				
G. Scaup.....					1											
L. Scaup.....		84					1					100				
Bufflehead.....			*								2					
H. Merganser.....	*	5	*									8				
C. Merganser.....							1					1				
R-b. Merganser.....												2				
Turkey Vulture.....	1	7			3			4	72	15		8	2			
Black Vulture.....									8	11		41	3			
Sharp-s. Hawk.....		1		1		1		1				1				
Cooper's Hawk.....					2						3	2	2	3		
Red-t. Hawk.....	2	4			2		3	5	5	3		10	2	1		
Red-s. Hawk.....	4		1		3		3	2	4	4	3	6		1		1
Rough-l. Hawk.....	2								2	2						
Bald Eagle.....	13				1											
Marsh Hawk.....	1	7	2		3		*	1		*		2				
Sparrow Hawk.....	2	5	2	1	7	2	4	8		17	3	28	3	1		5
Bobwhite.....	4	52	27	7	23			*	8	1	13	2	18	*		20
Chuk. Partridge.....			*													
Wild Turkey.....	*															
Amer. Coot.....	*	5	216		20			1				2	1			
Kildeer.....			5		9			4		5		68		2		
Common Snipe.....								*		*		2				
Herring Gull.....	1	48			6							43				
Ring-b. Gull.....	54						1					321				
Mourning Dove.....	25	13	26	29	2517	10	11	575	4	86	39	142	77	45		
Screech Owl.....		1			1											
Horned Owl.....		1			1					*			1			
Barred Owl.....	3	2			3		1	1		2		2				1
Short-eared Owl.....						1										
B. Kingfisher.....	2	3	4		9		3	*	2	*	2	5	2	4		1
Y-s. Flicker.....	39	6	6	8	29	1	8	19	35	25	23	33	9	14	1	25
Pil. Woodpecker.....	14	2		1	8		2	10	30	7	4	4		3	4	
Red-b. W'dpecker.....	47	8	7	1	11		10	28	31	12	6	33	9	16	4	3
Red-h. W'dpecker.....					5			15	3	3		4		1	2	
Y-b. Sapsucker.....	9		1	1	3			4	3	4	5	5	2	1		1
H. W'dpecker.....	1	4	2	1	15		*	3	13	1	4	8	5	4	3	10
D. W'dpecker.....	38	9	4		18	4	5	21	33	32	11	44	31	21	11	6
E. Phoebe.....	1							*	1			2		1		
Horned Lark.....		30		1	55	3	50	68	7	3		93	48			
Blue Jay.....	65	13	13	8	47	19	25	91	80	57	98	89	15	54	11	12

**MID-WINTER
BIRD COUNT
1959-1960**

	Woodlands	Marion	Madisonville	Pennyrite S. P.	Henderson	Sorgho	Owensboro	Bowling Green	Mam. Cave N.P.	Glasgow	Otter Creek	Louisville	Frankfort	Kleber Sanct.	Willard	Ashland	
Common Crow.....	274	150	31	3	150	130	2	10	82	221	146	27	270	252	658	7	250
B-c. Chickadee.....																	10
Car. Chickadee.....	60	14	7	9	20	13	7	61	96	88	51	143	141	75	10	10	16
Tuft. Titmouse.....	70	14	9	3	35	4	7	53	58	65	41	131	36	99	26	30	30
W-b. Nuthatch.....	16		*	1	6			*	9	2	6	14			1	6	6
R-b. Nuthatch.....					1		1			1	2	2	5	13	1	3	3
B. Creeper.....	2		*	1	4			1		2	4	2	5	13	1	1	1
Winter Wren.....	3			1	4			*	11	1	1	2	2				13
Bewick's Wren.....		2	2	2	3			1	1	3		2	1	2			1
Car. Wren.....	33	11	16	7	20	6	10	26	37	22	18	85	32	34	8	25	25
S-b. Marsh Wren.....																	1
Mockingbird.....	12	9	8	5	21	9	4	30	4	28	6	72	9	13	1	5	5
Brown Thrasher.....			*														
Catbird.....															1		
Robin.....	24	7	74	830	11	1	1	16	76	14	258	131	103	508		260	6
Hermit Thrush.....			*		1		1	4	14	1	6			1		6	6
E. Bluebird.....	27	11	14	14	2	4	4	12	28	54	15	52	11	47	3	10	10
G-c. Kinglet.....				10	5			*	24	2	6	5	6	6	*	10	10
R-c. Kinglet.....	2				1				10		1					5	5
Water Pipit.....								*									
Cedar Waxwing.....		14	*	1				*	4	4	512	218	9	252			
Log. Shrike.....			*		3			6		6		6					
Starling.....	14	500	1560	1015	378	75	25	27280	133	2192	328	1125000	245	719		150	
Myrtle Warbler.....	29		5	3	3			2	26	7	46	18	11	24			
House Sparrow.....	12	175	54	11	154	50	70	272		60	34	679	84	112	8	100	
E. Meadowlark.....	45	18	105	7	36	17	9	245	4	98	16	126	7	14		5	
Red-w. Blackbird.....	4	19						5				5000				1	
Rusty Blackbird.....	21		15		10							35000				10	
Brewer's B'bird.....																	
Common Grackle.....		28			23		12	30	34	9		260000	4			2	
B-h. Cowbird.....		250			49			*		20		180000	8	3		2	
Cardinal.....	230	22	51	21	55	32	20	138	102	72	101	579	99	174	27	50	
R-b. Grosbeak.....										14							
Purple Finch.....	146	9	12	10	1			13	225	15	26	25		63			
Pine Siskin.....								1				24					
Amer. Goldfinch.....	51	18	5	2	12	7	15	316	119	71	50	112	84	88	14	28	
Rufous-s. Towhee.....	119	8	15	7	9		12	52	32	45	18	26	14	28	3	25	
Sav. Sparrow.....	4							2		1							
Grass Sparrow.....					3												
Vesper Sparrow.....									2								
Slate-c. Junco.....	407	64	49	46	25	1	14	130	187	90	141	570	207	236	*	300	
Oregon Junco.....												2					
Tree Sparrow.....			22		1		5			3	3	77	3	57			
Chip. Sparrow.....					46									1			
Field Sparrow.....	5		11	3	14		10	33	43	43	4	34	1	6	6	20	
White-c. Sparrow.....		28	5	6	33	22	5	144		34		130	55	9			
White-t. Sparrow.....	205		15	8	24		20	110	34	90	23	159	56	21	6	6	
Fox Sparrow.....	9				1		1	*	7	22	1	10	1	1			
Swamp Sparrow.....	48		6	3	21			27	3	13	7	44		5			
Song Sparrow.....	25	16	20	8	4	30	40	41	50	37	43	310	35	74	7	10	
Lap. Longspur.....												1					
Snow Bunting.....																	*
Date of Count.....	Dec.30	D.25	D.28	D.27	Dec.26	D.24	D.25	Dec.23	D.27	D.31	D.23	Dec.27	D.26	J. 2	D.25	J. 2	
Species.....	56	50	42	37	71	22	41	48	52	55	44	80	52	44	22	44	
Individuals.....	27574	7742	2938	2094	155717	310	462	20994	2192	3686	2037	1630340	1966	8499	162	1441	
Observers.....	12	1	1	1	12	1	3	6	24	7	5	25	1	4	1	6	

(Italics indicate a note on this species or number.—Ed.)

NOTES ON PENNYRILE COUNT

Several species were missed that might normally be expected, such as the Red-tailed Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Tree Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow.

HENDERSON (area the same as in previous counts).—Dec. 26; 7:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Cloudy; temp, 51-56, Twelve observers in five parties. Total, 71 species, 155,717 individuals.—KING BENSON, JAMES CLARK, MRS. LORA CLARK, MRS. LORAIN LETT, MRS. ROSS PARSONS, W. P. RHOADS (Compiler). FRANK SAUER-HEBER, C. B. SMITH, VIRGINIA SMITH, MRS. GEORGE W. STANLEY, JR., JAMES STANLEY, MRS. NAT STANLEY, SR.

NOTES ON HENDERSON COUNT

The Grasshopper Sparrows were studied by Miss Smith and Mr. Benson again the next day. Mr. A. F. Ganier has been invited to come to collect some of them.

Mr. Sauerheber, our state game warden, says that all of the Crows in the country must have congregated here. A careful comparison of the other counts will show what he means, for the Crow population is down in most parts of the state.

* * * *

SORGHO, DAVIESS COUNTY (Fields and roadsides, ditches, fence rows, some woods,—chiefly on the Ford Farm).—Dec. 24; 9:00 A. M. to noon. Weather warm, clear. Total, 22 species, 310 individuals.—JOE FORD.

* * * *

OWENSBORO (Maceo, Yelvington, Kingfisher and Carpenter's Lakes, Ohio River from Maceo to county line at Blackford Creek—same area as in previous years).—Dec. 25; 7:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Overcast; warm. Eight miles by car;—3 to 4 miles on foot. Total, 41 species, 462 individuals.—A. L. POWELL, MILDRED POWELL WILTON POWELL.

NOTES ON OWENSBORO COUNT

Unseasonable weather seemed to be the reason so few birds were seen. There was so much warmth that bats were feeding on swarms of insects.

The Horned Larks were observed at a large cleared area at the Ohio River.

A preliminary count was made on December 19 by Julian Wilson and Wayne Duncan (Davie County High School Science Club members) and A. L. Powell. Twenty-nine species and 320 individuals were counted. The presence of hunters on the Ohio River evidently scared away the few ducks that might have been present.

* * * *

BOWLING GREEN (Approximately same area as the one covered for the last forty-two years, with Kuykendall's Store, six miles northwest of Bowling Green, as the center of a circle of 15 miles diameter).—Dec. 23; 6:15 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Partly cloudy; temp, 32 to 45; wind NW, 5-12 m. p. h.; ground frozen slightly; ponds partially frozen over. Six observers in three parties. Total party-hours, 23 (20 on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles, 54 (10 on foot, 44 by car). Total, 48 species, 29,994 individuals.—MILLARD GIPSON, CHARLES L. TAYLOR, ROBERT N. PACE, ROBERT ROLD, L. Y. LANCASTER, and GORDON WILSON (Compiler).

NOTES ON THE BOWLING GREEN COUNT

The Green-winged Teal, a female, was the first Christmas Count record for the species, though it appeared on the count period in 1942. Similarly, the Coot appears for the first time on a count, but it was also seen in the 1942 count period.

The following species set new records for individuals: Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, Eastern Meadowlark, American Goldfinch. These species set next-highest records for the whole period of forty-two years: Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike, Rufous-sided Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow.

At the other end of the count—the lowest—are the Common Crow, with the second lowest for the whole long period, and the Bluebird, with the lowest since 1951.

Many species were much less obvious than they had been on December 19 and 21. The following were recorded on one or both of those dates but not on the count proper: Bobwhite, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Phoebe, White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Cowbird, and Fox Sparrow.

* * * *

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (Almost the entire area of the park, including a motor-boat trip down the Green River from the Mammoth Cave Ferry almost to Houchins Ferry).—Dec. 27; 6:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Partly cloudy with occasional drizzles in morning; heavy rains in afternoon, beginning shortly after noon; temp. 54-65. Twenty-four observers in seven parties. Several parts of the state were represented in the group of observers: Mammoth Cave National Park, 7; Glasgow, 5; Bowling Green, 5; Park City, 2; Murray, 1; Calhoun, 1; Owensboro, 1; Maceo, 1; Sorgho, 1. Total, 52 species, 2192 individuals.—STANLEY CLARK, WILLARD DILLEY, JOE FORD, ALICE FURBER, MRS. JAMES GILLENWATER, MILLARD GIPSON, HUNTER M. HANCOCK, JIM HAYNES, CLEO HOGAN, JR., CLEO HOGAN, SR., L. Y. LANCASTER, GRANVILLE LILES, JERRY LILES, GEORGE MCKINLEY, CHRIS METTLEMAN, RAYMOND NELSON, TOM NORRIS, ROBERT N. PACE, A. L. POWELL, RUSSELL STARR, CHAS. L. TAYLOR, WALTER TAYLOR, GORDON WILSON (Compiler), JAY YOUNG.

NOTES ON MAMMOTH CAVE COUNT

The heavy rain drove most of us into shelter from one to two hours before dark.

The following species were new for the counts in the park: Great Blue Heron, Canvasback, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Vesper Sparrow.

Dr. Pace and Professor Gipson took the motor-boat trip, finding nearly all the ducks reported and also most of the Winter Wrens. They also saw six beaver.

The following species were found in greater numbers than on any previous count: Mallard, Black Duck, Turkey Vulture (a huge roost near the western end of the park was found by Dr. Starr and his party), Hairy Woodpecker, Common Crow, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, and Song Sparrow. We counted 55 deer.

GLASGOW (Starr, Darter, Winger farms, along Beaver Creek; Park City and Chestnut Grove farming areas and slashes; the Armstrong farm on Barren River below Finney; Gillenwater and Simpson farms near South Fork Creek; and a cross-country coverage of the Temple Hill, Freedom, Etoile, and Roseville sections along Skeggs Creek, Caney Fork, and Rose Creek).—Dec. 31; 6:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Clear most of morning; cloudy all afternoon; temp. 21 to 33. Ground frozen hard in morning and ponds frozen over. Seven observers in four parties.—ALICE FURBER, MARQUITA GILLENWATER, JIM HAYNES, CLEO HOGAN, JR., CLEO HOGAN, SR., FAYE STARR, RUSSELL STARR (Compiler).

NOTES ON GLASGOW COUNT

At an old spring near Stovall Crossing, in a tangle of vines, weeds, and brush, some strange-looking birds were seen. When they were flushed, they flew into the lower branches of a near-by tree and were easily recognized, with or without binoculars, as Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. This is not the first December record of this species for Glasgow, as Dr. Starr found seven feeding in the back yard of his home, west of Glasgow, on December 23, 1936.

Since December 1 we have had the daily appearance of a Red-breasted Nuthatch at the feeder and suet in the rear of our Glasgow residence; during the winters of 1955 and 1956 there was a one-legged Red-breast present almost daily, but we have not seen one during the years since then until this winter.

The Barred Owl is a very definite bird in Glasgow, especially in the southern end, where there are a lot of old beeches and where South Fork Creek ambles through the town. These woods birds congregate in our yard or in neighboring yards every night of the year; they are most vociferous in very early spring, when we have counted as many as five in the large elm and pecan trees in our yard. Presently, we hear them best just before dawn.—RUSSELL STARR.

* * * *

OTTER CREEK (Meade County; same territory as in previous years; deciduous woods 35%, brushy fields 44%, creek and river banks 8%, open fields 13%).—Dec. 23; 7:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Cloudy and overcast all day; rain began at 3:05 P. M.; ground bare; ponds partially frozen over; Otter Creek and Ohio River open; temp. 29 to 44. Five observers in two parties. Total party hours, 18 (14 on foot, 4 by car); total party miles, 34 (13 on foot, 21 by car). Total, 44 species 2037 individuals.—JOSEPH E. CROFT, C. O. JOHNSON, OLIVIA JOHNSON, ANNE L. STAMM (Compiler), F. W. STAMM.

NOTES ON OTTER CREEK COUNT

We found an unusually large number of Blue Jays, 98, the highest number since the counts began in 1941.

Cedar Waxwings were found widely scattered over the area, and this year's count, 518, was the highest recorded.

Slate-colored Juncos were down from the past two years.

The Johnsons found the Brown Creepers at their feeder.

* * * *

LOUISVILLE (Same area and coverage as last year).—Dec. 27; 5:30 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Clear in morning; heavy rain in afternoon;

temp. 51 to 68; wind SE 2-10 m. p. h.; Ohio River high; all flowing streams and ponds open. Twenty-five observers in eight parties. Total party-hours, 47 (31 on foot, 16 by car); total party-miles, 242 (32 on foot, 210 by car). Total, 80 species, about 1,630,340 individuals.—MR. and MRS. YANCEY ALTSHELER, LEONARD C. BRECHER, FLOYD S. CARPENTER, JOSEPH E. CROFT, MARY ANN ESCH-RICH, PAXTON GIBBS, MRS. CHARLES HORNER, FRANK X. KRULL, HARVEY B. LOVELL, MRS. SPENCER F. MARTIN, ESTHER MASON, BURT L. MONROE, SR. (Compiler), MRS. H. V. NOLAND, LOUIS PIEPER, MARIE PIEPER, EVELYN SCHNEIDER, BERNICE SHANNON, MABEL SLACK, RODERIC W. SOMMERS, ANNE L. STAMM, FREDERICK W. STAMM, MRS. W. B. TABLER, HAVEN WILEY, AUDREY A. WRIGHT, (Beckham Bird Club).

NOTES ON THE LOUISVILLE COUNT

Blackbird Roost: The roost was down again this year from about 3,000,000 to 1,625,000; Starlings down about 500,000; Common Grackles down nearly a million; Rusty Blackbirds down 25,000, and Redwinged Blackbirds down about 35,000. Brown-headed Cowbirds were about the same as last year. The roost has moved from its former site to about two miles closer toward the city of Louisville.

Brewer's Blackbird: Two were observed carefully by Croft and the Stamms.

Cedar Waxwings: Extremely plentiful this year.

Waterfowl: The high water in the Ohio River and the fact that the Falls of the Ohio were completely covered over made the waterfowl count the lowest in years, both from the standpoint of species and individuals.

* * * *

FRANKFORT (Eastern Franklin County and State Game Farm Lakes).—Dec. 26; 6:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Overcast and damp, with intermittent drizzle; temp. 55. Area and coverage same as last year. Total miles, 53 (13 on foot, 40 by car). Total, 52 species, about 1,966 individuals.—HOWARD JONES.

NOTES ON FRANKFORT COUNT

As usual, there were some disappointing aspects of the count. On the day selected the wet weather kept bird activity down; so I missed recording some standbys that are on several December lists. This also seemed to hold down the number of individuals.

About a week earlier there were many more Robins here, but I failed to locate them in the count period.

Brown Creepers were more numerous than ever before and have been unusually abundant all winter.

Ducks seem scarce, particularly on Elkhorn Creek; however, in both numbers and variety they have compared favorably with previous years at the Game Farm Lakes.

The Killdeer, usually easily found, has been very scarce since fall.

I found my first Pileated Woodpecker in Franklin County on November 21, along Elkhorn Creek in an area I have visited regularly for more than twenty years. I wonder whether they are reported regularly in other areas of the Inner Bluegrass. I notice that they appear rather regularly at Danville.

KLEBER SONG BIRD SANCTUARY and vicinity, Owen County.—Jan. 2; 7:20 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Cloudy; rain in the afternoon; ponds and creeks open; wind variable, 2 to 5 m. p. h. Censused area same as in previous years; brushy fields 75% grassy fields 15%; deciduous woods 10%. Four observers (two parties on foot, one in car). Total party-hours, 18 (14 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 34 (10 on foot, 24 by car). Total, 44 species, 3499 individuals.—JOSEPH E. CROFT, ANNE L. STAMM (Compiler), FREDERICK W. STAMM, CONLEY WEBSTER.

NOTES ON KLEBER COUNT

James Mullinex flushed 13 Bobwhites on the day before the count, but none could be found on the count day.

Blue Jays and Crows: Highest number since the first count in 1954. Most of the Crows were found in meadows outside the sanctuary proper.

Robins and Cedar Waxwings were numerous; in fact, it was the highest count for the Waxwing.

It is interesting to note that the Bluebirds have increased over the past six years.

The Chipping Sparrow was seen at close range by Conley Webster.

* * * *

WILLARD, CARTER COUNTY.—Dec. 25; 9:00 A. M. to 3:30 P. M. Cloudy; temp. 48-54. Ten miles on foot over cultivated fields and through woods. Total, 22 species, 162 individuals.—ERCEL KOZEE.

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ASHLAND-EAST KENTUCKY (Northern half of Boyd County, Bear Branch section of Greenup County, Coldwater and Wolf Creek in Martin County near Lovely, Peter Creek area of Pike County).—Jan. 2; 7:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Partly cloudy; intermittent rains; temp. 37-50. Wind SW, 5 m. p. h. All water open; ground bare. Six observers in three parties. 60% mixed woodlands, 10% river front, 10% old fields, 10% marshland, 5% cultivated fields, 5% slashes. Total, 43 species, 1441 individuals.—OKIE S. GREEN (Compiler), WALTER FORSON, RUFUS M. REED, ROBERT CHAPMAN, CLINE DALE MOORE, MRS. MABLE REES.

NOTES ON EASTERN KENTUCKY COUNT

Reed fears that the Pileated Woodpecker is rapidly vanishing in Martin County because of the decline in the food supply and the habitat.

The Short-billed Marsh Wren was observed at close range, by Green and Forson in a swampy, willow-bordered area at the Mouth of Bear Branch, Greenup County; this being an area where this species has been seen many times but never before at this season of the year. Identification was positive and observation made for several minutes as the bird moved back and forth in clear view.

Robins were quite abundant in the Ashland region, but none were found in the Martin County area.

Bluebirds continue to be scarce in the mountains.

Reed also reports that he sighted a Snow Bunting in Martin County a few days before the count.

Because of the increase of hunting in our area, game birds are decreasing.

FIELD NOTES

Sight Records of the Franklin's Gull at Louisville.—On the morning of October 24, 1959, the author observed eight Franklin's Gulls (*Larus pipixcan*) in the Ohio River Harbor at Louisville. The group was watched for a quarter of an hour with 7X binoculars and a 20X telescope. The gulls flew up and down the river well out in the middle, at a considerable distance from the Kentucky side, and occasionally dropped to the water to feed. Six adults in winter plumage and two immatures were present in the flock. The distinctive white bars across the wings of the adult birds were clearly observed. The weather of the previous night was cold and rainy, with a strong westerly wind, which possibly accounted for the gulls' appearance in Louisville.

From the Indiana side on the morning of October 25 the flock was observed resting on the river with three larger Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*). Mr. Roderic Sommers and Mr. Leonard Brecher observed six of the Franklin's Gulls in the Harbor that afternoon.

On November 6 following another cold front an adult and an immature gull of this species were identified flying past Cox's Park, about four and a half miles upstream from the Harbor. A young Franklin's Gull was seen in the Harbor area by Mrs. Frederick Stamm, Mr. Sommers, and Mr. Brecher on the afternoon of November 7.

The November dates were almost two weeks after those in October. The Franklin's Gulls were not seen during the intervening period, although the river was twice thoroughly scouted by the writer. It seems likely that the flock left the area sometime shortly after its first appearance. At least two Franklin's Gulls, possibly from this original flock, visited Louisville later, after a second cold wave.

There have been two previous sight records of the Franklin's Gulls at Louisville published in the *Kentucky Warbler*. Lovell and Carpenter reported a flock seen on November 11, 1943 (*Ky. War.*, 21: 31). In 1957 a single Franklin's Gull was seen on December 22 during the Christmas Count by Brecher (1958. *Ky. War.*, 34: 24). In addition, two records of the occurrence of this species in Kentucky during the late nineteenth century have been published. L. Otley Pindar (1925. *Wilson Bull.*, 37: 78) during the years 1884 to 1893 found this species to be "a rare migrant and occasional winter visitant" in Fulton Co., in extreme western Kentucky (see also 1889. *Auk*, 6: 311). Sadie F. Price (1904. *Amer. Ornith.*, 4: 166-167) records a specimen of this gull which was shot (apparently in Warren Co.). The occurrence of the Franklin's Gull in Kentucky in 1959 appears to have been the third in recent years.—HAVEN WILEY, Louisville.

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Records of the Wilson's and Northern Phalaropes.—The remarkable influx of shorebirds at the Falls of the Ohio in the late summer of 1959 included, among other unusual species, at least four Wilson's Phalaropes (*Steganopus tricolor*) and one Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*). In view of the rarity of phalaropes in Kentucky, some details on these finds are in order.

Our first observation of the Wilson's Phalarope came on August 22, when an unusual-looking shorebird landed by itself in a

shallow pool and began feeding. Observation through a 20X telescope quickly disclosed the identity of the bird. We eventually approached to within a few feet of the phalarope, and in the bright sunlight we were able to get a good view of its markings. The very white breast without any streaking, dark patch through the eye, very thin bill, and dull yellow legs were all noted. When we flushed the bird, we saw the pattern of dark wings and back and white tail.

This was the second Wilson's Phalarope to appear at the Falls this season, for on August 8 Mr. Leonard C. Brecher and Mr. Roderic W. Sommers had observed one.

The third Wilson's Phalarope of the season appeared in the company of a Northern Phalarope on the morning of September 12. Our attention was first drawn to the two birds when we saw the Northern Phalarope swimming about in a pool. Although the birds were at a considerable distance, we were again favored with excellent light, and the Northern Phalarope was easily recognizable with 7X binoculars and with the telescope. We were so engrossed in watching this phalarope that it was not until a few minutes later, when we had approached more closely, that we realized that the second bird was a Wilson's Phalarope.

We watched the two birds for more than half an hour, and throughout this time they stayed within a few feet of each other, even after being flushed. Next to the Wilson's Phalarope, the Northern Phalarope looked much smaller. Several times while in flight the Northern Phalarope gave a call resembling that of a Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*), but somewhat harder. The difference in the call notes was great enough to distinguish the phalarope from the Sanderling, for on several occasions we heard one or the other call while flying by, before we saw it, and in each instance our identification by the call note was confirmed when we saw the bird.

The behavior of the two phalaropes was particularly interesting. The Northern Phalarope, in true phalarope fashion, would spin around very rapidly on the surface of the water, frequently dipping its bill into the water. The Wilson's Phalarope, on the other hand, would run very rapidly in such small circles that we wondered that it did not trip itself in the process; later in the morning, we did see the bird trip over itself momentarily, but only on this one occasion. We have not come across any mention in the literature of this peculiar behavior. The possibility suggests itself that it was in imitation of the Northern Phalarope's spinning, but this is no more than a conjecture.

That afternoon Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm, Mr. Brecher, and Mr. Sommers visited the area and also observed the phalaropes, identifying them as Wilson's and Northern without knowledge of our observations, thus confirming the identifications.

The following morning, September 13, the Beckham Bird Club took a regularly scheduled field trip to the Falls, and thirteen members of the Club had ample opportunity to observe the two phalaropes. On this trip Mr. Frederick W. Stamm made three colored slides of the two birds at very close range. These turned out excellently, and both species are very clearly identifiable. On this trip we observed the Wilson's Phalarope occasionally swimming and spinning about, though to nowhere near the degree the Northern Phalarope indulged in such behavior.

The final observation was on September 17, when Croft visited the Falls alone. The weather had turned much colder during the

week, and the number both of species and of individual shorebirds had decreased considerably. The Northern Phalarope had apparently left the area, but a Wilson's Phalarope was observed. This latter bird was definitely a different individual from the one seen earlier in the week. The Wilson's Phalaropes we had previously seen had no markings on the neck and were uniformly gray on the back. This bird however, had a very distinct brown wash on the neck in the pattern such as the female Wilson's Phalarope shows in spring, and also showed a certain amount of brown on the back. Three times the phalarope was approached to within a dozen feet or so. Three days later it had apparently left, for a group of Cincinnati, Ohio, observers visiting the Falls were unable to find it. No more phalaropes were reported during the remainder of the year.—JOSEPH CROFT and HAVEN WILEY, Louisville.

* * * * *

Nests of the Black and Turkey Vulture.—On August 4, 1959, I chanced upon two young vultures at Devil's Backbone ridge, Oldham County. These birds fled hissing into a large crack, the nesting cavity, at the base of a large ridge. On August 8 Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Stamm and I revisited the spot. At this time I took one bird from the cavity, and Mrs. Stamm identified it as a Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*),

The site overlooked Harrod's Creek to the north in an area predominantly forested with maples. The abundant ground cover consisted mainly of poison ivy, wild hydrangea, and wild flowers, growing in rich black loam. The nest was situated on the ground at the bottom of a fissure, formed by two massive chunks of limestone about 15 feet high, leaning against each other. These huge weathered blocks, split from the ridge, are characteristic of the area. The width of the opening was about 23 inches; the cavity was approximately 18 feet deep and 13 feet high. There was a smaller second opening that faces the ridge, above ground level inside the "cave." An adult wing feather found here may indicate that the parent used this secondary entrance. The hole was divided into two compartments by a projecting rock; the birds hid in the smaller one, to the left of the main chamber. This pocket was quite small; it must have been a tight fit for two birds. Bare dirt formed the floor of the den.

Mrs. Stamm banded this young bird, which was about the size of a plucked chicken, though the wings were disproportionately large, and had pale orange-buff down, a black bill, and feet that were a dirty white. Black feathers about 3 inches long were developing along the outer wing edges. To our surprise, the young vulture did not regurgitate, but did show extreme annoyance at being handled. It could not fly, but ran back into the den when freed. There was no evidence of a parent's presence on either visit.

On the same morning (August 8) we checked another cavity across the ridge 75 yards from the nest described above; we found young Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) occupying the "cave". These young were clearly distinguishable from the orange-buff Black Vulture in having cotton-white down. No further details could be perceived in the gloom of the hole. The den was 3 feet wide, 2½ high, 12 to 15 feet deep, and 3 feet from the top of the ridge. No strong offensive odor was noticed at either nest. It was interesting that two Black Vulture eggs had been found here on the ground on March 7, 1959, by the author in company with Floyd Carpenter and Dr. Vero Wynne-Edwards; the eggs disappeared later that spring.

It appears that Devil's Backbone is attractive to nesting vultures; at least three nests have been found there this past year. Accordingly, the ridge should provide ample opportunity for more thorough observations in the coming season.—WILLIAM BLOCH, Louisville.

Ed. Note: This area has been known for many years as a breeding site for both the Turkey and Black Vultures; but little has been written on the subject.)

NEWS AND VIEWS

(Continued from Page 2)

ANOTHER HOWARD ROLLIN PAINTING

The K. O. S. collection of bird paintings has been augmented by another gift from this talented artist with a portrayal of a pair of Ruddy Turnstones. With his usual meticulous work, this 9" x 12" painting shows the striking spring coloration of the male, and the female in her less gaudy plumage. The painting will be framed by the Beckham Bird Club and prepared for display. This is the sixteenth consecutive year in which this good friend has so honored the K. O. S.

Mr. Rollin's address is Route 1, Weldona, Colorado.

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Mrs. Sue Semple died at her home in Providence on August 16, 1959. She was active in the work of the society prior to her illness. Mrs. Semple was the author of many poems on birds and nature some of which were published in the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Nature Magazine*, and *The Kentucky Warbler*. Among her writings was an interesting account of "Song Sparrows Breeding at Providence" in western Kentucky, which she co-authored with Mable Sisk Holt.

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R. Haven Wiley, Jr., one of our student members, has an interesting and scholarly article in the December, 1959, issue of the *Wilson Bulletin*. "Birds Observed During Two Atlantic Crossings." K. O. S. is proud of his ornithological contributions. Congratulations!

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Are you interested in nature photography? The Hamilton Naturalists' Club is sponsoring an International Exhibition of Nature Photography in April, 1960. According to the president Robert O. Elstone, one of the purposes of this venture is to bring to the attention of the public "the need of saving our few remaining natural beauty areas." If any of our members care to enter their photography, please write for entry forms to Mr. John Giles, Exhibition Chairman, Hamilton Naturalists' Club, Main Post Office, Box 384, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.