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# The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

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AUGUST, 1961

No. 3



Young Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) at "Milbert's Gardens"  
Photograph by Mildred Powell

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## THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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## NEWS AND VIEWS

K. O. S. has lost a staunch member, S. Charles Thacher, who died on May 22, 1961. He was particularly active in the Louisville Chapter, serving for many years as a field-trip leader; his knowledge of plant-life and its relationship to birds highlighted his trips. He was also president of that group (Beckham Bird Club) in 1945-46; director for three years; and treasurer of the Louisville Audubon Screen Tours from February, 1954, until the time of his death. Mr. Thacher was a personal friend to many, and the warmth of his association and fellowship will be greatly missed.

\* \* \*

Haven Wiley, Louisville, a student member, is spending the summer at the Maine Audubon Camp, Hog Island, in Muscongus Bay; he is on the staff as a student assistant.

## SOME BIRDS OF THE OWENSBORO LAKES—IV

By A. L. Powell

**WHITE-EYED VIREO.** *Vireo griseus*. A fairly common summer resident. We have found a few nests but not nearly as many as we should have, for this species is an expert at hiding its nest. During the extreme cold weather of 1961, while the lakes were frozen over, my children and I took a hike around the edges of Kingfisher No. 1 and No. 2 and were amazed at the number of old nests that we found, a large percentage of them being vireo nests.

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.** *Vireo flavifrons*. Probably more common than we realize. For the past two summers we have found this species nesting in the area. In fact, we have in our collection of old nests two fine specimens. My wife observed this species eating aphids in the climbing rose at our front door. We see it occasionally and hear it often in summer.

**SOLITARY VIREO.** *Vireo solitarius*. We have only one record, October 6, 1960, in the woods behind our house.

**RED-EYED VIREO.** *Vireo olivaceus*. About as common as the White-eyed Vireo. On a summer hike we are rarely out of earshot of this species.

**WARBLING VIREO.** *Vireo gilvus*. A common summer resident and a constant singer. As yet we have not found its nest.

By way of introduction to the Warblers, I am forced to compare the great waves of migrants that I used to see with the few that I now record. Of course, the warbler waves that I remember were in the Memphis area, in the very heart of the Mississippi Flyway. Although Owensboro is in that flyway, it is toward its eastern edge. This apparent scarcity of warblers has been noticed in a series of articles in AUDUBON MAGAZINE. On certain days of the spring migration we do find what might, outside the great flyway, be regarded as fairly good. The Pup Creek bottoms are our best warbler territory.

**BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER.** *Mniotilta varia*. Seen in spring and fall migrations every year, but as yet we have found no nest or seen the bird in summer. It should breed here.

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER.** *Protonotaria citrea*. This beautiful warbler is common in the area and nests in everything it can find. I have found the nests in the ends of clothesline poles, in tin cans, and in abandoned woodpecker holes.

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER.** *Vermivora pinus*. Seen in both migrations but not in summer.

**TENNESSEE WARBLER.** *Vermivora peregrina*. Seen in each migration but not common at any time.

**NASHVILLE WARBLER.** *Vermivora ruficapilla*. A rare migrant.

**PARULA WARBLER.** *Parula americana*. We find a few regularly each year. I feel sure that it nests in this area, but we have never seen a nest or young.

**YELLOW WARBLER.** *Dendroica petechia*. We have found only one nest of this species, on the peninsula that splits Carpenter's Lake. We find a number of these birds during the summer months in widely scattered sections; so we assume that it is a fairly common breeder. It occurs in fair abundance in migrations.

**MAGNOLIA WARBLER.** *Dendroica magnolia*. A few seen during migrations but never in large numbers. In some seasons we failed to see even one.

**CAPE MAY WARBLER.** *Dendroica tigrina*. On the morning of April 21, 1957, as my wife and I were eating breakfast, we glanced out the window and spotted a Cape May, the first one for our life list. Since that day we have seen at least one during migration every year.

**MYRTLE WARBLER.** *Dendroica coronata*. Very common in migrations. The winter status varies; in the past few winters it has been rare. In earlier years it seems to have been a fairly common winter resident. I feel sure that it suffered very heavily during the prolonged snows of the past two winters.

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.** *Dendroica virens*. Found only in migrations; we failed to find even one in the 1960 spring migration.

**CERULEAN WARBLER.** *Dendroica cerulea*. A few each migration. I am sure that the species breeds here, as a few can be found in the woods in the summer months; as yet we have found no nests or young.

**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER.** *Dendroica fusca*. Only one migration record for this species.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** *Dendroica dominica*. Although we have not found the nest of this species, my wife saw a female gathering nesting material. Some of the material consisted of strands of nylon thread that the bird was pulling out of an old frayed mop that was hanging on a low branch in the pines. We have also had this warbler eating peanut butter at our feeding station.

**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER.** *Dendroica pensylvanica*. One or two seen on each migration.

**BAY-BREASTED WARBLER.** *Dendroica castanea*. This may be significant, but I have found this species only during the fall migration. I know that they must come through here in the spring.

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER.** *Dendroica striata*. A fairly common migrant.

**PINE WARBLER.** *Denroica pinus*. We have had this species visit our pines every year that we have lived at Milbert Gardens, we have also found it in other pine woods near Carpenter's Lake, but we have found neither nest nor young.

**PRAIRIE WARBLER.** *Dendroica discolor*. We see and hear this species during the summer months but have not found a nest or young; we see a few in migration.

**PALM WARBLER.** *Dendroica palmarum*. This species seems more nearly to resemble the warbler waves of our earlier experience than any other. We sometimes have seen as many as fifteen within a very small space, in the trees and on the ground. In the spring of 1960 one practically lighted on my hand, and all around me were other Palms.

**OVENBIRD.** *Seiurus aurocapillus*. One June morning I watched this bird, with food in its beak, pacing up and down in front of a rotted log. I thought I was well hidden, but evidently the bird saw me and did not approach its nest.

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH.** *Seiurus noveboracensis*. One record for this area.

**LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH.** *Seiurus motacilla*. I saw an adult bird feeding young on the banks of Pup Creek. The two immature birds had evidently left the nest. I consider this species a fairly common summer resident.

**KENTUCKY WARBLER.** *Oporornis formosus*. The wet woods behind our house have at least two pairs of these birds during the nesting season, but we have never seen a nest or young bird. A fairly common migrant.

**YELLOWTHROAT.** *Geothlypis trichas*. A common summer resident and migrant.

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.** *Icteria virens*. This bird clown is a common summer resident. In the summer of 1960 I searched hard for a nest of this species because of the actions of the adult birds when I approached too near. My wife finally located the nest in a clump of honeysuckle; it contained three eggs.

**HOODED WARBLER.** *Wilsonia citrina*. Fairly common migrant and nester.

**CANADA WARBLER.** *Wilsonia canadensis*. A few each migration.

**AMERICAN REDSTART.** *Setophaga ruticilla*. Rare to fairly common summer resident. We find it more commonly in the Pup Creek bottoms than in the hillside area. A few have been found in the wet woods behind our house.

**HOUSE SPARROW.** *Passer domesticus*. As there are a number of stock farms and a riding stable in the area, this species is a little more common than in other sections. Most of the nesting boxes on our place are taken over by this persistent nester. They also visit our feeding shelf in numbers.

**EASTERN MEADOWLARK.** *Sturnella magna*. Common permanent resident.

**REDWINGED BLACKBIRD.** *Agelaius phoeniceus*. Abundant nester in the cattails.

**ORCHARD ORIOLE.** *Icterus spurius*. Fairly common summer resident.

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE.** *Icterus galbula*. A rare migrant and summer resident. We have found no nests but always see a few birds in summer.

**RUSTY BLACKBIRD.** *Euphagus carolinus*. A few flocks found each winter but never in great numbers.

**COMMON GRACKLE.** *Quiscalus quiscula*. A few flocks now and then but never in the huge numbers recorded in Memphis and Louisville. A permanent resident; fairly common in summer.

**BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD.** *Molothrus ater*. Far too common for the good of the small species nesting in the neighborhood. I have seen the Chipping Sparrow victimized several times. I once saw a female Chipping Sparrow feeding her own young and a Cowbird fledgling at our feeding station. I have found Cowbird eggs in the nests of the Rufous-sided Towhee and the Field Sparrow, also.

SCARLET TANAGER. *Piranga olivacea*. A rare migrant and possibly also a rare summer resident, but we have never found this species in summer at the lakes.

SUMMER TANAGER. *Piranga rubra*. A common summer resident; we find a number of nests each year.

CARDINAL. *Richmondena cardinalis*. During the snows we have as many as thirty male Cardinals feeding in the yard at one time. This species is abundant summer and winter; we find many nests every season.

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK. *Pheucticus ludovicianus*. A rare migrant.

INDIGO BUNTING. *Passerina cyanea*. A common summer resident.

DICKCISSEL. *Spiza americana*. A fairly common summer resident. There is a farm near Kingfisher Lake No. 2 where this bird is unusually common.

PURPLE FINCH. *Carpodacus purpureus*. We have only three records for the ten years of study in this area.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH. *Spinus tristis*. A fairly common permanent resident.

RUFOS-SIDED TOWHEE. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. Abundant permanent resident; we find a number of nests each year. As abundant as the Cardinal.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. *Ammodramus savannarum*. There are a number of records throughout Daviess County, but we have only two in the lakes area. As this species is so secretive, there may be many more than we have seen.

VESPER SPARROW. *Poocetes gramineus*. At times in winter I can find one or two of this species in a flock of Field Sparrows. A few are recorded in migrations.

LARK SPARROW. *Chondestes grammacus*. I have only one record of the Lark Sparrow in the area; since it was a hot day in July, I feel that the bird must have had a nest in the vicinity.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW. *Aimophila aestivalis*. My wife flushed one bird of this species from a field adjoining Milbert's Gardens, our only record for this species.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO. *Junco hyemalis*. A common winter resident.

TREE SPARROW. *Spizella arborea*. Rare to fairly common in winter.

CHIPPING SPARROW. *Spizella passerina*. On very rare occasions this bird is found in winter; it is common in spring and summer.

FIELD SPARROW. *Spizella pusilla*. A common permanent resident.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. A common winter resident: it usually arrives in the middle of October and leaves about the first of May.

**WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.** *Zonotrichia albicollis*. Common winter resident, about like the White-crowned.

**FOX SPARROW.** *Passerella iliaca*. The Fox Sparrows were rare for the first few years of our record-keeping, but in the last two years they have become fairly common. We had eight feeding in our yard at one time in an early 1961 snow.

**SWAMP SPARROW.** *Melospiza georgiana*. From rare to fairly common winter resident; I found twelve at one time feeding near the cattail marsh at the north end of Carpenter's Lake.

**SONG SPARROW.** *Melospiza melodia*. A fairly common permanent resident. We usually find a couple of nests each year. In season, singing males can be heard from all parts of the lake.

As we bring this fourth section of "Some Birds of the Owensboro Lakes" to a close, we have recorded 167 species for the Carpenter and Kingfisher Lakes area. This is by no means a large list, and, as I said in the first section (KENTUCKY WARBLER, May, 1960), we feel there are many more to be found and recorded. We plan to add, in short notes, any further species found.

\* \* \*

#### BIG SPRING LISTS, 1961

**WOODLANDS**—April 30; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cloudy, occasional showers, 60-70, wind variable, with occasional gusts. Area approximately that covered by our Christmas Bird Counts. Six observers in two parties. Party-hours, 19 (9 on foot); party-miles, 32 (10 on foot, 22 by car). Species, 72; individuals, about 870. —Clell T. Peterson (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Brown, David Batajik, Dick West, Mrs. Paschal West.

\* \* \*

**MADISONVILLE**—May 6, 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mostly cloudy, light rain in early morning, fairly strong SW wind, 65-83. Area of usual Christmas Bird Count. Species, 92; in period of study, 117. —James W. Hancock.

\* \* \*

**HENDERSON**—May 7; dawn to dusk. Hard rain until noon. Much of our usual territory was under water and we did not have enough workers to cover all above water. Total species 126. —W. P. Rhoads (compiler), Frank Sauerheber, W. Parker, King Benson, Malcolm Arnett, Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. E. Stanley, L. Spainhoward, and M. Spainhoward (Henderson Audubon Society).

\* \* \*

**BOWLING GREEN**—May 2; morning in my yard; 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Chaney Lake. May 3; 5:00 to 7:30 a.m. at Covington Woods Park with Dr. Jesse Funk. May 2 clear, cool, still; May 3 cloudy, mild, windy. Species for May 2, 78, with 17 added early next morning; total for the two days, 95. Warblers unusually numerous, 17 species being found in my yard. —Gordon Wilson.

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK—April 29-30. Variable weather: clear, then cloudy, slight rain, threatening frost, on April 30. Wilson alone on April 29; others with him all day April 30. Species, 101 for the two days, 125 for the period. Warbler species tied with our previous high number, 31. —Gordon Wilson (compiler), Dr. George McKinley, Dr. and Mrs. Russell Starr.

\* \* \*

LOUISVILLE—May 7, all day. Very rainy and discouraging weather but lots of birds. Ducks few, hawks and vultures hard to find, warblers excellent. Bird of the day was Pigeon Hawk, found by the Stamms and Helen Cole; it flew close to their car. This group (Stamms and Cole) spent 13 hours in the field and recorded 110 species; Burt Monroe spent part of the day alone in the field and added 10 species. The Black-throated Blue Warbler found by the Stamm-Cole party; Frank Krull got the Connecticut. Species, 140. Roderic Sommers (Compiler), Burt L. Monroe, Evelyn Schneider, Virginia Winstandley, Mrs. Eugene Short, Mrs. E. P. Shannon, Marie Pieper, Louis Pieper, Helen M. Cole, Anne L. Stamm, Frederick W. Stamm, Fan B. Tabler, Frank X. Krull, Mabel Slack, Haven Wiley, Leonard C. Brecher, and Amy Deane.

\* \* \*

FRANKLIN COUNTY—May 6-7. Thunderstorms, with heavy rains, windy; temp. up to 70. Sora, Black-bellied Plover, and Olive-sided Flycatcher are first records for me and for Franklin County. Species, 113. —Howard P. Jones.

\* \* \*

LAKE CUMBERLAND—May 6, 7, and 8. Mild. overcast, windy. Time—Friday noon to Sunday at 2:00 p.m. The most interesting single find was a pair of Blue Grosbeaks (male and female), which we observed three times in a field near the Point Lookout picnic area; a very large number of Scarlet Tanagers, everywhere. The Olive-sided Flycatcher was another important record. —Kay Altsheler (Compiler), Yancey Altsheler, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Martin, Dr. and Mrs. H. V. Noland, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin V. Thompson.

### BIG SPRING LISTS, 1961

W—Woodlands, M—Madisonville, H—Henderson, BG—Bowling Green, MC—Mammoth Cave, L—Louisville, F—Franklin County, LC—Lake Cumberland.

Common Loon—M  
P-b Grebe—Mx, H, BG, MCx  
G. Blue Heron—H, Mx  
Com. Egret—H, L  
Snowy Egret—H  
L. B. Heron—H

Green Heron—W, M, H, BG, MCx, L, F  
B-c. N. Heron—BG, MCx, L  
Y-c. N. Heron—W, L  
Amer. Bittern—Fx  
Canada Goose—H  
Mallard—H, L, F

- Black Duck—F  
 Amer. Widgeon—BG, MCx, F  
 B-w. Teal—M, H, BG, MCx, L, F  
 Shoveler—W, H, MCx  
 Wood Duck—H, L, F  
 Ring-n. Duck—MCx  
 Lesser Scaup—M, H, L  
 Red-b. Merganser—M  
 Turkey Vul.—W, M, H, MC, L, F, LC  
 Black Vulture—L, F, LC  
 Red-t. Hawk—W, Mx, MC, L, F  
 Red-s. Hawk—Mx, H, MC, L  
 Broad-winged Hawk—L  
 Marsh Hawk—L  
 Osprey—Mx, L  
 Pigeon Hawk—L  
 Sparrow Hawk—M, H, MC, L, F  
 Bobwhite—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, Fx  
 Turkey—W  
 Sora—H, F  
 Common Gallinule—Mx  
 Amer. Coot—W, M, H, BG, MCx, L, F  
 Piping Plover—H  
 Semipalmated Plover—M, H  
 Killdeer—W, M, H, BG, MCx, L, F  
 Black-bellied Plover—F  
 Common Snipe—H, L  
 American Woodcock—F  
 Upland Plover—W  
 Spotted Sandpiper—W, Mx, BG, MCx, L, LC  
 Solitary Sandpiper—M, BG, MCx, L, F, LC  
 Pec. Sandpiper—BG, MCx, F  
 Least Sandpiper—MCx, L, F  
 Ring-billed Gull—L  
 Forster's Tern—L  
 Black Tern—BG, MCx, L  
 Mourning Dove—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Y-b. Cuckoo—W, M, H, BG, L, F, LC  
 B-b. Cuckoo—LC  
 Screech Owl—W, L, F  
 Chuck-will's-widow—M, MC  
 Whip-poor-will—M, H, MC, L, Fx, LC  
 Com. Nighthawk—M, H, BG, MC, L, F  
 Chimney Swift—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 R-t. Hummingbird—M, H, MC, L, LC  
 Y-s. Flicker—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Pil. Woodpecker—W, M, H, MC, L, LC  
 Red-b. W'pecker—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Red-h. W'pecker—M, H, BG, MC, L
- Y-b. Sapsucker—H, MC, L  
 Hairy W'pecker—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F  
 Downy W'pecker—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 E. Kingbird—W, M, H, BG, MCx, L, F, LC  
 Crest. Flycatcher—M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 E. Phoebe—W, M, H, MC, L, Fx, LC  
 Acad. Flycatcher—M, H, MC, L, Fx, LC  
 Traill's Flycatcher—H  
 Least Flycatcher—H, MC, L, LC  
 E. Wood Pewee—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Olive-s. Flycatcher—F, LC  
 Horned Lark—M, BG, MC, L  
 Tree Swallow—W, BG, L, Fx  
 Bank Swallow—L  
 Rough-w. Swallow—M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Barn Swallow—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Cliff Swallow—W, L  
 Purple Martin—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Bl. Jay—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Com. Crow—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Car. Chickadee—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 T. Titmouse—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 W-b. Nuthatch—H, MC, L, LC  
 Red-b. Nuthatch—H  
 House Wren—Mx, H, BG, MCx, L, F  
 Bewick's Wren—H, BG, MC, L, F  
 Car. Wren—M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 M'bird—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 C'bird—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 B. Thrasher—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Robin—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Wood Thrush—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Hermit Thrush—H, Lx  
 Swainson's Thrush—W, M, H, MC, L, F, LC  
 Gray-ch. Thrush—Mx, H, MC, L, F, LC  
 Veery—Mx, H, MC, L, LC  
 Bluebird—M, H, MC, L, F, LC  
 B-g. Gnatcatcher—W, M, H, MC, L, F, LC  
 R-c. Kinglet—W, Mx, L, F, LC  
 Cedar Waxwing—M, BG, MC, L, F

- Loggerhead Shrike—Mx, H, MC, L  
 Starling—M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 White-e. Vireo—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Bell's Vireo—MCx  
 Y-th. Vireo—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Solitary Vireo—MC, F, Lx  
 Red-e. Vireo—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Philadelphia Vireo—H, MCx, L, LC  
 Warb. Vireo—W, M, H, BG, L, F, LC  
 Black-and-white Warbler—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Proth. Warbler—W, M, H, MC, L, F  
 Swainson's Warbler—MC  
 Worm-eating Warbler—MC, L  
 Golden-w. Warbler—BG, MCx, L  
 Bl-wing. Warbler—W, M, BG, MC, L  
 Tenn. Warbler—M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Orange-cr. Warbler—H  
 Nash. Warbler—M, H, BG, MC, L, LC  
 Parula Warbler—H, MC, L  
 Yel. Warbler—M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Mag. Warbler—M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Cape May Warbler—Mx, H, BG, MC, L, F  
 B-th. Blue Warbler—L  
 Myrtle Warbler—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 B-th. Green War.—Mx, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Cerulean Warbler—M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Blackburnian War.—Mx, H, BG, MC, L, F  
 Y-th. Warbler—W, M, H, MC, L, F, LC  
 Chest-s. Warbler—Mx, H, BG, L, F  
 Bay-br. Warbler—H, MC, L, F, LC  
 Blackpoll War.—Mx, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Pine Warbler—MC, L  
 Prairie Warbler—M, MC, F, LC, Lx  
 Palm Warbler—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Ovenbird—M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 N. Waterthrush—M, H, MC, L  
 La. Waterthrush—M, H, MC, L, F, LC  
 Ky. Warbler—M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Connecticut Warbler—MC, L, LC  
 Mourning Warbler—Lx  
 Yellowthroat—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Y-b. Chat—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Hooded Warbler—W, MC, L  
 Wilson's Warbler—Mx, BG, MC, Lx  
 Canada Warbler—Mx, LC, Lx  
 Redstart—W, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 House Sparrow—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Bobolink—H, BG, L, Fx  
 E. Meadowlark—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Redwinged Blackbird—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Orchard Oriole—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Baltimore Oriole—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Rusty Blackbird—W  
 Common Grackle—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 B-h. Cowbird—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Scarlet Tanager—W, Mx, H, MC, L, F, LC  
 Summer Tanager—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Cardinal—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Rose-br. Grosbeak—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Blue Grosbeak—BG, MC, LC  
 Ind. Bunting—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Dickcissel—M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Purple Finch—H, MC, L  
 Amer. Goldfinch—M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 R-s. Towhee—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Savan. Sparrow—W, M, BG, MCx, L, LC  
 Grasshopper Sp.—BG, MCx, L  
 Henslow's Sparrow—L  
 Vesper Sparrow—H  
 Bachman's Sparrow—MC, Fx  
 S-c. Junco—H  
 Tree Sparrow—H  
 Chipping Sparrow—M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 Field Sparrow—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, LC  
 White-cr. Sparrow—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F  
 White-th. Sparrow—W, M, H, BG, MC, L, F, Lc  
 Fox Sparrow—H  
 Lincoln's Sparrow—L  
 Swamp Sparrow—Mx, H, L, F  
 Song Sparrow—W, M, H, L, F

## FIELD NOTES

### AN UNUSUAL BIRD MORTALITY AT LEXINGTON

Bird kills about various man-made structures are fairly common, perhaps more so than most of us realize. An addition to this body of knowledge is the following occurrence.

On the stormy night of May 7, 1961, a number of birds were killed by collision with the tower and supporting guy wires of a television station in Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky. The tower is 670 feet high and is supported by five sets of three guy wires each, which run out to anchors several hundred feet from the base of the tower. Nearly every bird examined showed evidences of a collision.

Search of the ground within a radius of about 150 feet from the tower revealed the bodies of 82 birds, representing 21 species. There is no doubt that some bodies were overlooked. That this is not the first occurrence of the sort was borne out by the presence of decayed carcasses in the area. Personnel at the station informed me that they frequently saw dead birds about the base of the tower.

The following species were found: Least Flycatcher, 1; Swainson's Thrush, 6; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1; Solitary Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 22; Philadelphia Vireo, 5; Worm-eating Warbler, 1; Tennessee Warbler, 3; Nashville Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 1; Yellow Warbler, 1; Magnolia Warbler, 5; Black-throated Green Warbler, 2; Cerulean Warbler, 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 3; Ovenbird, 15; Kentucky Warbler, 1; Yellow-breasted Chat, 6; Canada Warbler, 1; Baltimore Oriole, 2; Indigo Bunting, 3. —ROGER W. BARBOUR, University of Kentucky, Biology Department.

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### MOURNING DOVE INCUBATES DURING DAY-LONG SNOWSTORM

On March 6, 1961, I discovered a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) nesting in a Pin Oak in my yard at 417 Club Lane, Louisville 7, Jefferson County, Kentucky. The nest had been used by Mourning Doves the previous year and was placed at a slight fork on a horizontal branch approximately ten (10) feet from the trunk and twenty-five (25) feet from the ground and was completely exposed. The weather at the time was at the freezing mark and on some mornings below freezing. Two days later, it seemed to me that the incubating bird was sitting rather high on the nest, but I attributed this to the cold winds which might have caused uncertainty in the bird's mind as to the advisability of continuing to incubate rather than that she might be brooding young.

The same situation prevailed the following morning at 8:00 A.M. when I left for work. About 11:00 A.M. my wife called and reported that the bird had been off the nest for a considerable length of time. Upon my return that evening I found the nest abandoned and a young dead bird on the ground beneath it. Two days later the remaining bird, which had apparently died at the same time, was seen hanging lifeless over the side of the nest.

I gave the one young, which I had picked up, to Burt Monroe, Sr., and his report is as follows:

"The bird was approximately two (2) days old and had apparently

died on its third day. The eyes had barely begun to open. The measurements are as follows:

overall length -  $2\frac{1}{2}$ "  
 length of wing - 1"  
 length of bill -  $\frac{7}{16}$ "  
 length of tarsus -  $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Pin feathers were growing out of the wing approximately  $\frac{1}{8}$ " in length, and the bird was partially covered with yellow, stringy down. Some of this string-like down grew from the end of each pin feather.

Crop of young bird contained pigeon milk, one small round seed (possibly fox-tail grass seed), and one large seed (flat on one side, rounded on the other, and as yet unidentified). The incubation period is usually fourteen (14) days."

On the assumption of Mr. Monroe's report, the bird hatched on the morning of March 7, which means that the eggs were laid on February 21 and that repairs to the old nest must have been started by February 19.

This is indeed remarkable when it is realized that the bird was incubating during the day-long snowstorm which occurred on February 25, with a record snowfall of approximately eight (8) inches. —JAMES B. YOUNG, Louisville.

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#### SNOWY OWL IN MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

Since the various notes about the appearance of the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) have been called to my attention, I want to add my observation for what it is worth, by the special request of Dr. Gordon Wilson. Frank Ewing and I were on a trip to Mammoth Cave National Park on March 12, 1950. In the group of tall cedars next to the post-office we heard an unusual rustle of wings and looked up in time to see a big white owl leaving one of the cedars near us. It circled the postoffice and flew in the direction of the picnic grounds. We contacted the park naturalist and drove at once to the picnic grounds to save time, but were never able to flush the bird again. Both Frank and I were sure of our identification because of our fairly long and close look at the bird. Thinking it important, I set down the date and the details in my notebook, which my mother recently unearthed from some of my books. —MYRON HAYES, Medical Student, University of Cincinnati.

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#### SNOWY OWL AT BEECH BEND PARK

In mid-December, 1960, I observed for fifteen minutes or so a Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) in the early afternoon at Beech Bend Park, near Bowling Green. This was the first sight of the species since 1931, when I saw three or more in one afternoon near the same site. —JESSE T. FUNK, Bowling Green.

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#### SANDHILL CRANES IN BARREN COUNTY

On the afternoon of March 24, 1961—a gloomy, misty day—while driving back from a call in the Nobob community, I saw eight large birds flying in a northeasterly direction. When I stopped the car, the birds flew quite near and were obviously Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*). They continued flying for some time parallel to the Tomp-

kinsville road but finally veered off in a direct line toward the Mammoth Cave National Park area. Since Naturalist Willard Dilley has recorded species twice in the park, and the K. O. S got good views of one on April 8 and 9, 1961, at Woodburn, I wonder whether their route is through this area annually.—RUSSELL STARR, Glasgow.

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#### PILEATED WOODPECKER FEEDS IN CITY YARD

On February 6, 1960, a very cold winter day, I was startled to hear the loud call of a Pileated Woodpecker (*Hylatomus pileatus*) coming nearer and nearer to my home, which is a block from the edge of Cherokee Park, but in a populated section and in the city. The bird approached first a large oak tree in the front yard, then flew to a tree in the back yard, both large pin oaks, and after much excited calling, landed clumsily on a feeding house with large hunks of beef suet. He pecked away at the frozen suet, stopping at intervals to see if he were safe, and after eating a good amount, flew to a nearby maple tree, where he again looked about nervously, then wiped his beak on each side several times before flying away toward the park. On six occasions the bird visited the station, each time announcing its arrival with loud nervous calls, always warily watching for its safety, and after each feeding time, stopping first to wipe its beak carefully in the maple tree before flying in the direction of the park. These visits were at various hours of the day, from 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The station where it fed was about 30 feet from my window; so I had good chances to study it. It never came in snowy weather, only on cold, clear days.

Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm said she has had several reports during the past year that the species visited yards on Edgehill Road and Alta Avenue; these yards as well as mine are fairly close to the park, but in a section where houses are close together and somewhat heavily populated. Miss Evelyn Schneider observed an adult bird during June, 1960, on a telephone pole near her garage on Alta. Pileated Woodpeckers have been seen and heard in Cherokee Park, in Indian Hills, Iroquois Park, and Bernheim Forest, but this is the first time the species was observed in our yard. About twelve years ago, the late John M. McChord called my attention to a Pileated Woodpecker in Cherokee Park; this was the beginning of my real interest in studying birds in the field.—HELEN MOORE COLE, Louisville.

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#### OBSERVATIONS OF A RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

We have been watching Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) on our farm since the last of April, when my husband and I counted ten in our small wooded area, of which, an acre or more, is made up of dead trees killed by salt-water seepage from old oil wells. At times an occasional bird would be seen on the ground or in the feed troughs, picking up corn left by the cattle. We first noticed one pair five years ago, and since then they have become more numerous, but we have never counted ten at one time until this spring.

This particular morning, May 19, 1961, I had been checking the new Angus calves and stopped at the edge of the woods to look at a huge cottonwood stump with eighteen holes in it. There were Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) heads peeping out of every hole in the cottonwood. Then I turned my binoculars to an old elm stump about twenty feet

high that had several holes in it. Up near the top I saw a Red-headed Woodpecker repeatedly sticking its head into a hole. This went on for some time, and I wondered if it was enlarging the cavity; however, there did not seem to be enough force behind the pecks to chip wood. Suddenly, two Starlings pounced on it, and the three flew away together. Immediately, another Red-head, possibly the female, came to the site and began the same procedure, leaning into the hole so far that only the rump and tail feathers were visible. After working about five minutes, it unexpectedly came out of the hole with a fully-feathered bird in its beak. The flashing of feathers and the weight of the bird, which seemed as large as the Red-head, pulled it to the ground, where its grip was lost. The brownish bird, which I presumed was a Starling, flew away, and the woodpecker alighted on a low limb of a nearby tree, shook itself, and gave a long drawn out "queeeeer." I left, but as I turned back for one last look, a Starling was sitting on the very top of the elm stump, and the Red-headed Woodpecker was at the entrance of the hole about three feet below.—MILDRED PARSONS, Henderson.

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#### AN ALBINO CARDINAL

On December 20, 1960, I recorded a "pinto" Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*) near Shiloh Church, Butler County. The bird was chiefly white, with red washings on the tail and wings. It seemed perfectly normal and called in its usual fashion.—JESSE T. FUNK, Bowling Green.

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#### CARDINAL FEEDING COWBIRD FLEDGLINGS

On June 2, 1961, we were in Seneca Park watching birds along Beargrass Creek when suddenly we were attracted to the loud calls of young birds and the sharp chip notes of the Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*). We looked about and found two well-feathered fledgling Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) sitting on a horizontal branch of a shrub about five feet above the ground at the edge of the creek. A male Cardinal came into view carrying food in its bill, flew to the fledglings; they chirped loudly and fluttered their wings as he fed them. The female Cardinal was near-by, but we did not see her feed the young birds, although the male made several trips to feed the young Cowbirds during the time we watched.

During our many years of observing the breeding habits of the Cardinal we have found many nests with Cowbirds' eggs, but neither of us can remember ever seeing a nestling or fledgling Cowbird being fed by the Cardinal. This leads us to wonder whether the majority of the parasitized nests are deserted, and if few Cowbirds are actually reared by them.—ANNE L. STAMM, 2118 Lakeside Drive, Louisville, and HARVEY B. LOVELL, Department of Biology, University of Louisville.

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#### HOUSE SPARROW VICTIM OF THE COWBIRD

Last summer I accompanied my husband on a business trip to eastern Kentucky; we were at the Pine Mountain Settlement School, located in the valley at the base of the north side of rugged Pine Mountain, in Harlan County, on July 6, 1960. The altitude here is 1756 feet. During his conference with the Director, I walked across the

beautiful campus; listened to the calls of the Yellow-shafted Flicker and Wood Thrush; watched the Ruby-throated Hummingbird and was attracted to a large flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) feeding near a herd of Angus cattle grazing on the school property. As I moved closer to get a picture of the latter, I noticed some House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) feeding in the driveway and saw one, a female, fly to a young Cowbird and feed it. At first I was rather surprised at this strange sight, but as I watched, the House Sparrow fed the young fledgling Cowbird again and again.

Friedman (1929, *The Cowbirds*) says of the European, House, or English Sparrow: "This highly successful alien seems to be practically free from the Cowbird's molestation. Only three records have come to my notice." He lists the following: (1) from Highlands Falls, New York, by Mearns (*Bull. Essex Institute*, Vol. XII, 1878, p. 23); (2) from Barr, Colorado, by R. B. Rockwell (*Condor*, 1909, p. 92); (3) from Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, by Burleigh (*Wilson Bull.* 1923). Friedman goes on to say that the House Sparrow nests are usually in "covered places and the nests are not open but are domed, more or less spherical in structure, and the majority in cities and such places where there are no Cowbirds." In subsequent writings by Friedman, I can not find additional data other than a record of the English Sparrow "as a victim of the shiny cowbird in Chile on one occasion by Goodall, Johnson and Philippi (*loc. cit.*)" (*Auk*, Vol. 66, p. 156). This reference refers to *Molothrus bonariensis*.

I have found a number of House Sparrow nests in Bluebird boxes with five to six eggs to a clutch and have also observed nests under eaves of the house here in the city, as well as nests in trees in our neighbor's yard; yet I have never found Cowbird eggs in them, or observed the House Sparrow feeding young Cowbirds until that day in the mountains. ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

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#### WESTERN MEADOWLARK IS IN LATE SPRING

While the Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) has attracted considerable attention in recent years because of the rapid extension of its winter range in the Southeast, there have been relatively few reports of its occurrence in the late spring. The following observations made in mid-May of 1957 may therefore be of interest.

About noon on May 11, 1957, I heard an unfamiliar song in the lower end of Seneca Park, near Old Cannons Lane, in Louisville. The song, containing about eight notes, was a series of mellow whistles reminding me somewhat of the song of the Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). I soon found the singer perched in a small tree at the edge of a large grassy field. Shortly afterwards it flew over into the field, where I studied it and its song for about 15 minutes. There were several Eastern Meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*) occupying this field, so that it was easy to note the comparatively paler color of the back of the Western bird, and of course the songs of the two species were very distinct.

The following morning I returned to the area and watched the Western Meadowlark for over an hour as it fed and sang in the field and from the top of a 25-foot tree. I also observed the bird for brief periods on May 13, 16, 17, and 18. The next time I visited the area, on May 24, the bird had apparently disappeared.

In the meantime, on the afternoon of May 19 I was at St. Catharine,

Washington County, near Springfield. There were many meadowlarks in the wide meadows here, and among them was one bird singing the distinctive Western Meadowlark song, which I had heard so often the previous week. Having had no occasion to return to the area, I have no idea how long this bird remained. This appears to be the fifth Kentucky locality where the Western Meadowlark has been reported, previous published observations coming from Madisonville (Hancock, *Ky. Warbler*, 30:47-48, 1954), the Louisville area (Monroe, Jr., *Ibid.*, 35:43-49, 1959), Bowling Green (Wilson, *Ibid.*, 33:58, 1957), and Henderson (Rhoads, *Ibid.*, 34:40, 1958, and 35:52, 1959). —JOSEPH CROFT, Louisville.

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#### AN AUGUST NEST OF THE EASTERN MEADOWLARK

On July 31, 1960, while visiting the Pound Farm to photograph a nest of the American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) which we found earlier, my husband and I accidentally flushed an Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*); we searched the spot and found a nest containing three well-incubated eggs. A return visit on August 7 revealed three young naked birds possibly two days old; they were wobbly and could scarcely hold up their heads. We photographed both the eggs and the young. In the same field, on the day we discovered the nest with eggs, we also found and banded a young meadowlark out of the nest, but unable to fly except for short hops. Apparently the species has a long breeding season, as my earliest record is for a nest with one fresh egg on May 4, 1946, in Seneca Park. Dr. Roger Barbour (1951, *Ky. War.* XXVII, No. 2, p. 27) lists a nest with five eggs on April 27, as the earliest nesting record for Rowan County. Dr. Harvey Lovell (1951, *Ky. War.* XXVII, No. 4, p. 61) reports a nest with two eggs on April 22, found in Berea, by Gailey. I feel certain that many nests are often destroyed when fields are cut in mid-May, thereby causing delayed nesting. However, this may not have been the case with the nest on the Pound Farm, as the field had not been cut during the entire season, and the grass was unusually high. —ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

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#### BOOK REVIEWS

Collins, Henry Hill, Jr. *THE BIRD WATCHER'S GUIDE*. New York: Golden Press, 1961. Pp. 125. Illustrated. \$3.95.

Here in compact and well-illustrated sequence is a guide for the amateur bird watcher and even for the most experienced ornithologists. Equipment needed, merits of the various types of binoculars, mounted telescopes, note books, bird guides, and the needed library are all carefully considered. Identification is stressed and aided by colored pictures and line drawings. Efforts are made to know the bird as a personality, with its song, its seasonal abundance, its habitat, and its place in the whole scheme of wild nature. Outdoor trips, ranging from the most casual to the seasonal counts, the "Big Days," are planned. A particularly valuable portion of the book is devoted to methods of attracting birds, with specific directions about construction of bird houses, bird baths, and feeders. The bibliography is quite large, and there are added the best-known local and regional bird-study groups, a sort of "Who's Who" in amateur ornithology. —GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.