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The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. XXXIX

February, 1963

No. 1



MUTE SWAN (Cygnus Olor) on Grider's Limestone Lake
Photograph, courtesy Ronnie Stuart and the **PARK CITY DAILY NEWS**

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS AND VIEWS	2
1962-1963 MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT	3
Woodlands, Marion, Madisonville, Pennyrite, Daviess County, Bowling Green, Mammoth Cave, Glasgow, Burkesville, Otter Creek, Louisville, Frankfort, Kleber, Willard, Eastern Kentucky	
FIELD NOTES:	
High Nest of the Mourning Dove, Anne L. Stamm	12
Deer and Wood Ducks Attracted by Apples, Cleo Hogan, Jr.	13
A Starling Roost, Anne L. Stamm and Joseph Croft	13
The Woodburn Lakes—1957-1962, Gordon Wilson	14

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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Editors { Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut St., Bowling Green
Anne L. (Mrs. F. W.) Stamm, 9101 Spokane Way
Louisville 7
Assistant Editors { Leonard C. Brecher, Field Notes
Harvey B. Lovell, Notes on Ornithologists

NEWS AND VIEWS

ONE-DAY BALD EAGLE COUNT, February 17, 1963

For the past two years the Kentucky Ornithological Society has participated in the Cooperative Bald Eagle Project, and the editors appreciate the cooperation they have received. This year on February 17, 1963, all eagles are to be counted. This count will be compared with the one that the Fish and Wildlife Service makes on its annual Waterfowl Inventory, as eagles are also included on this count. All groups along the Ohio River have been alerted to be on the lookout. The editors would like to know whether the birds are adult or immature, how many, where found, weather, wind, temperature, hours in the field, observers, etc. Please send in your reports promptly. If you do not find any eagles, we would appreciate having this information, too.—(ALS).

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1962-1963

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 2 miles east of old Center Furnace, including the Cumberland Trail, the Silo Trail, Empire and Honker Lakes, Hematite Lake and Range, Duncan Clark Range, Pisgah Bay, and portions of the Back Country Mail Route).—Dec. 23; 6:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Overcast; temp. 38 to 42; wind NW, 5-10 m.p.h. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 18 (14 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 56 (14 on foot, 42 by car). Total, 56 species, about 18,135 individuals.—EVELYN COLE, WILLARD GRAY, CLELL PETERSON (Compiler), PAUL STURM (Murray Bird Club).

NOTES ON WOODLANDS COUNT

The 1962 Christmas Bird Count was almost certainly the last one to include the area referred to as the Cumberland Trail, one of the most interesting and fruitful areas covered in this count. Already contractors are cutting out timber, and by next winter the newly-created Barkley Lake will be flooding this area and drowning also Empire and Honker Lakes. The effects of this change upon the varieties and numbers of birds will be painfully interesting to observe.

The Golden Eagle was unmistakable; Miss Cole and I saw it three times as we made three portions of the Cumberland Trail. We saw it perching and flying and made out all the field marks with great clarity. In fact, although I have seen a number of immature Golden Eagles, this one was the best view I had ever had until Miss Cole, Willard Gray, and I saw another immature one at Reelfoot Lake and had an even better chance to observe it.

The Greater Scaup was in a flock of Ring-necked Ducks and was unmistakable because of its size and head color.

The Bluebirds are distinctly on the way back, but this cannot be said for the Carolina Wrens, which are still infrequently found.

Blackbirds are building up in the Woodlands area and other areas with which I am acquainted.

Mr. Paul Sturm, refuge manager, saw a female Evening Grosbeak near Hematite Lake two weeks or so before the count, but none have been sighted since then.

* * *

MARION (Areas used in counts for many years by my late father, Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, and me).—Dec. 25; 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cloudy; rain; wind N, 5 m.p.h.; temp. 37 to 40. One observer. Total, 50 species, 2,373 individuals.—C. L. FRAZER.

NOTE ON MARION COUNT

Our numbers are down a great deal this year because the ducks are fewer in my favorite places. I hope to see a large increase when we get a big rise of the Ohio River and the lowlands are flooded.

* * *

MADISONVILLE (W. W. Hancock Farm, Elk Creek, Brown Road, and five lakes at Madisonville and Earlington; deciduous woodlands and thickets 50%, lake shore 30%, open fields 20%.)—Dec. 30; 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Clear; wind NE, 1-5 m.p.h.; temp. 15 to 33. Total hours, 10; total miles, 63 (6 on foot, 57 by car). Total, 41 species, 1,023 individuals. Other species recorded near the time of the count: Marsh Hawk, Bewick's Wren, and Eastern Bluebird.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

NOTES ON MADISONVILLE COUNT

Red-headed woodpeckers are fewer in number this winter, although usually more than on this count are recorded at Elk Creek.

The largest flock of Eastern Meadowlarks, 134, were seen in a cornfield in the Elk Creek area.

Since Lake Pewee, our best waterfowl lake and formerly a wildlife refuge, has been opened to hunting, I find many fewer waterfowl there during the hunting season.

* * *

PENNYRILE FOREST STATE PARK (Deciduous and pine woods within the park area, Pennyrile Lake, and adjoining farmlands; wooded area 40%, open fields in the park 20%, farmlands 20%, lake shore 20%).—Dec. 31; 6:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mostly cloudy; lake mostly frozen; wind SE, 8-12 m.p.h.; temp. 21 to 31. Total hours, 9¼; total miles, 24 (10 on foot, 14 by car). Total, 33 species, 290 individuals.—MAURICE GORDON HANCOCK and JAMES W. HANCOCK (Compiler).

NOTES ON PENNYRILE COUNT

This is one of the poorest mid-winter counts ever taken at the park. Bird activity was at a minimum most of the day. The main event of the day was the song of a Winter Wren, which, while we listened, repeated its performance—our first winter record of the song of this species.

* * *

DAVIESS COUNTY (Ohio River bottoms at numerous points from Owensboro to the Hancock County line; Carpenter's Lake; Daviess County Game and Fish Association farm and lake; fields, woods, and numerous county roads, as well as some city driving; also the Daviess County Airport, Maceo, and vicinity).—Dec. 22. Overcast; strong wind, temp. 35 to 28. Three observers in one party; hours afield, 8. Total, 42 species, 832 individuals.—WILTON POWELL, MRS. A. L. POWELL, and A. L. POWELL (Compiler).

NOTES ON DAVIESS COUNTY COUNT

We were very much disappointed at not finding any ducks.

The Canada Geese were seen flying over a highway two or three miles from the river.

The Daviess County Airport, which has previously yielded several Short-eared Owls, had nothing to offer except one Marsh Hawk.

We were pleased to find 10 Bluebirds, especially since they were within a few hundred yards of our house.

Unusual "patches" of sparrows were feeding in bushy valleys, hiding from the wind.

* * *

BOWLING GREEN—Dec. 20 (The same general area as in the preceding forty-four counts); 6:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Raw; temp. 43-54; wind NW, 2-7 m.p.h.; overcast, then drizzle, followed from 1:30 by rain. Visibility practically ceased by 4:00 p.m. Six observers in three parties. Total party-hours, 30 (24 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 72 (60 by car, 12 on foot). Total species, 54, about 2,858 individuals. Seen in count period but not on count: Horned Grebe, Wood Duck, Rough-legged Hawk, Bewick's Wren.—MILLARD GIPSON, L. Y. LANCASTER, JOE RANDOLPH, HERBERT SHADOWEN, GORDON WILSON (Compiler), and JIM WISE.

NOTES ON BOWLING GREEN COUNT

The Mute Swan (*Cygnus Olor*) appeared at Grider's Limestone Lake on the afternoon of December 18; early the next morning Mr. Grider called me excitedly to announce a "bird as big as two geese." I went at once but failed to see the bird, which had become frightened and had flown away. Immediately after I left, it came again, and I soon was looking at it with my binoculars. Every mark of the Mute Swan appeared. To be sure that it was not an escaped bird, I called wherever there was any likelihood of there being a swan in captivity; nobody that I have called has ever known of one lately in this whole area. By degrees, since Mr. Grider feeds the bird, it has become slightly less wild. Many local bird enthusiasts have driven out to see it.

The one female Mallard, the 3 Ring-necked Ducks, and the three Coots were also at Grider's and have remained through the count period. Also present for the one day was the Herring Gull.

Common Crows were unusually scarce, though widely scattered.

In general, the numbers for most species were below those for normal winters.

* * *

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (Almost all the area inside the 52,000-acre park).—Dec. 30; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear, cold; temp. 18 to 30; no wind. Fourteen observers in six parties. Total party-hours, 55 (50 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles, 130 (100 by car, 30 on foot). Total, 46 species, 1,502 individuals. Seen in count period but not on count day: Screech Owl.—JACK FAGEN, MARQUITA GILLENWATER, TIM GILLENWATER, CHARLES S. GUTHRIE, CLEO HOGAN, JR., CLEO HOGAN, SR., JOHN KRISKO, JR., L. Y. LANCASTER, STEVIE PACE, ROBERT N. PACE, GEORGE MCKINLEY, RUSSELL STARR, GORDON WILSON (Compiler), and JAY YOUNG.

NOTES ON THE MAMMOTH CAVE COUNT

The Marsh Hawk, Osprey, and Chipping Sparrow are new for our counts at Christmas in the park. Dr. McKinley and Mr. Young found the two hawks on their trip into Doyle Valley; Dr. Starr found the Chipping Sparrow in the Indian Hill area at the west end of the park, in company with Field Sparrows. At first it was hardly noticeable, but when its distinctive note was given, Dr. Starr turned his binoculars on the bird and saw all its distinctive markings. In this same area he and Mr. Hogan also found the only Bewick's Wren and White-crowned Sparrow for the day, around the old James house-site.

In general, numbers of species and also of individuals were below any count since 1957. Woodpeckers were noticeably scarce, as were also Myrtle Warblers and Purple Finches.

The twelve Eastern Bluebirds compared favorably with the fifteen of 1961.

Only the Mourning Dove, with 24 individuals, was found in larger numbers than on any previous count—1938, 1946-1961. Normally the Dove is a rather rare bird in the park since the old fields began to grow up.

The Blue Jay, the Robin, and the Slate-colored Junco were the only other species that even approached some of their previous good records.

* * *

GLASGOW (Joe Starr Farm, Winger Farm, Park City area, Gillenwater Farm, Finney area, Brigadoon).—Jan. 1; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 20. Six observers in four parties. Total, 41 species, 1549 individuals.—TIM GILLENWATER, MRS. JAMES GILLENWATER, CLEO HOGAN, SR., GEORGE MCKINLEY, MRS. RUSSELL STARR, RUSSELL STARR (Compiler).

NOTES ON GLASGOW COUNT

It was a very raw day, and the birds were somewhat below par.

A Brown Thrasher appeared a number of times around the Community Hospital in December but not on our count day.

* * *

BURKESVILLE (Within a 15-mile diameter, with the new Cumberland River bridge as the center point; edges and slashings 75%, woodland 15%, lake shore and river banks 10%).—Dec. 26; 6:40 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Temp. 35 all day, with alternate rain, sleet, and snow in morning. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours, 13 (11 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 67 (7 on foot, 60 by car). Seen in count period but not on count day: Pintail, Eastern Bluebird.—CHARLES S. GUTHRIE and GARY HUDDLESTON (Compiler).

NOTES ON BURKESVILLE COUNT

Our individual count is up considerably above last year's, but Myrtle

Warblers seemed to be much more scarce, and we didn't find any Bluebirds or Bewick's Wrens.

The waterfowl were seen near Cumberland County Boat Dock on Dale Hollow Lake.

* * *

OTTER CREEK (Meade County; the same territory as last year, including more brushy areas outside the park and more coverage along the Ohio River than in any year previous to 1960, Doe Lake included).—Jan. 1; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cloudy all day; temp. 19 to 27; wind N, 5 m.p.h.; ponds frozen over, streams open. Seven observers in three parties. Total party-hours, 26 (18 on foot, 8 by car); total party-miles, 85 (19 on foot, 66 by car). Total, 55 species, about 3,125 individuals. Seen in area in count period but not on count day: Horned Lark, Eastern Bluebird.—JOSEPH CROFT, JOSEPH FRANCE, OLIVIA JOHNSON, C. G. JOHNSON, WILLIAM ROWE, ANNE L. STAMM (Compiler), FREDERICK W. STAMM.

NOTES ON OTTER CREEK COUNT

The Great Blue Heron, found by William Rowe and Joe France, makes only the second time for this species to appear on the count.

One mature Bald Eagle was observed at close range flying below Lover's Leap, by the Stamms.

The Brown Thrasher was an interesting find by Croft; it was in a tangle of honeysuckle vines.

Although only 61 Robins were found on the count, there had been 200 in the cedars two days before.

The Savannah Sparrow was found by Rowe and France; earlier in the week a few others had been spotted in the area by Croft and Rowe, but only one could be located on count day.

The Count was the best for the area—a total of 55 species. The following species were the highest for the 21 years of the counts: Mourning Dove, Eastern Meadowlark, Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Slate-colored Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. The large numbers of White-crowns and White-throats may be attributed to the finding of suitable habitats adjacent to the park proper by Croft and Rowe.

This is the first year since 1941 when the Eastern Bluebird has not appeared on the count, although 3 birds were seen in the area in the count period.

* * *

LOUISVILLE (The same area normally covered on our counts).—Dec. 30; 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mostly clear; temp. 12 to 28; wind NW, 0-5 m.p.h.; ponds and small streams frozen. 33 observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours, 57 (42 on foot, 15 by car); total party-miles, 247 (26 on foot, 221 by car). Total species 83, about 6,097 individuals. Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Redhead, Bufflehead, Bonaparte's Gull.—MR. AND MRS. YANCEY ALTSHELTER, LEONARD C. BRECHER, FLOYD S. CARPENTER, JOSEPH CROFT, MRS. M. L.

Mid-Winter Bird Count 1962-1963	WOODLANDS	MARION	MADISONVILLE	PENNYRILE	DAVISS COUNTY	BOWLING GREEN	MAMMOTH CAVE	GLASGOW	BURKESVILLE	OTTER CREEK	LOUISVILLE	FRANKFORT	KLEBER	WILLARD	EASTERN KENTUCKY
HORNED GREBE						*				3	1				
PIED-B. GREBE										3	2				
GREAT B. HERON	2	2						1		1					
B-C. N. HERON											27				
MUTE SWAN						1									
CANADA GOOSE	10000	26			23							19			
BLUE GOOSE	2														
MALLARD	4000	300				1			9	20	75	100			
BLACK DUCK	2000	150							2	19	328	60			
GADWALL											2	3			
PINTAIL									*		11	1			
AMER. WIDGEON	2								6		8	26			
WOOD DUCK		4				*					4	3			
RING-N DUCK	52		56	3		3					8				
CANVASBACK											56				
G. SCAUP	1										70				
L. SCAUP		16								8	127	2			
C. GOLDENEYE											5				
BUFFLEHEAD	1														
RUDDY DUCK											4				
H. MERGANSER	9	1													
C. MERGANSER											5				
R-B. MERGANSER											1				
TURKEY VULTURE		4				2	1	6							
BLACK VULTURE								7			10	21			
SHARP-S. HAWK		2								1	1				
COOPER'S HAWK											1	1			1
RED-T. HAWK	5								3	3	24	3	6		7
RED-S. HAWK		7	3		4	1	3			5	9			2	
ROUGH-L. HAWK						*									
GOLDEN EAGLE	1 (im)														
BALD EAGLE	7 (3a, 4 im)														
MARSH HAWK	1	5	*		2	1	1	2		1a	1				
OSPREY							1				2				
PEREGRINE FALCON											1				
SPARROW HAWK	2	4	4	1	9	5	13	8	3	3	33	3	2		7
RUFFED GROUSE														1	1
BOBWHITE	6	36	5				10		3	20	10	11	10		15
AMER. COOT						3					2	3			
KILLDEER	3		4			1		1	2	3	21	9	3		
COMMON SNIFE						1			1		8				
HERRING GULL		28			1	1					59				
RING-B. GULL	12				19					1	699				
MOURNING DOVE	150	120	80		36	124	24	71	43	165	171	170	71	17	7
SCREECH OWL	1	1					*				2	1			
G. HORNED OWL												1			
BARRED OWL		2			3	1					2				
LONG-EARED OWL												1			
B. KINGFISHER	2	2				5		2		4	6	1			1
Y-SH. FLICKER	27	5	13	4	5	22	16	6	6	15	17	14	3	1	3
PIL. W'PECKER	8	2		1	1	9	26	2	5	8	4			3	
RED-B. W'PECKER	30	9	9	3	8	19	15	10	12	14	26	18	7	4	2
RED-H. W'PECKER	2		2			7	3	1			2	1			7
Y-B. SAPSUCKER	2	3	1	1	4	3	4	4		1	2	2			

Mid-Winter Bird Count 1962-1963	WOODLANDS	MARION	MADISONVILLE	PENNYRILE	DAVISS COUNTY	BOWLING GREEN	MAMMOTH CAVE	GLASGOW	BURKESVILLE	OTTER CREEK	LOUISVILLE	FRANKFORT	ICLEBER	WILLARD	EASTERN KENTUCKY
HAIRY W'PECKER ..	4	5	1		1	5	2			7	11	2	3		3
DOWNY W'PECKER ..	16	11	5	4	8	14	30	18	14	25	42	40	12	4	14
E. PHOEBE							1	1							
HORNED LARK		8	12		50	102	3	5		*	105	46			13
BLUE JAY	77	9	12	12	16	45	101	43	23	35	68	22	33	5	39
COM. CROW	95	86	11	6	13	191	57	77	13	163	166	95	67	2	280
B-C. CHICKADEE ..															3
CAR. CHICKADEE ..	52	22	14	6	23	19	65	42	16	56	137	52	41	18	49
TUFF. TITMOUSE ..	71	34	10	9	15	33	58	46	16	35	141	29	34	31	50
W-B. NUTHATCH ...	13	2	2				8		1	9	12			1	1
R-B. NUTHATCH ...							2				1				
B. CREEPER					1	4	3	2		1	10	6	1	5	1
WINTER WREN				2	1	3	6	3	1	6	3	1	3		9
BEWICK'S WREN ...	1	2	*			*	1						1		
CAR. WREN	3	4	7	3	10	15	7	7	12	45	25	32	21	3	47
MOCKINGBIRD	2	9	7	1	9	17	5	21	8	12	67	5	6	2	12
BR. THRASHER	1		1					*		1	4				1
ROBIN	25	64	38	73	130	55	328	58	20	61	94	86	27		27
HERMIT THRUSH ...	2		1	1	2	2	5			1		1			
E. BLUEBIRD	11	9	*	3	10		12	4	*	*	16	7	10		9
G-C. KINGLET			1	8	2	4	10			5	2	7	3	10	2
R-C. KINGLET					1						1				
WATER PIPIT						5						5			
CED. WAXWING		38	16			18	83	6		8	3	*			
LOG. SHRIKE		1				1		1			4	1			
STARLING	1	500	82	44	60	839	67	574	349	198	1244	740	114		812
M. WARBLER	6		17	3	2	4	8	3	6	44	1	8	17		1
HOUSE SPARROW ...	20	250	49	3	25	565	12	92	9	134	320	35	44	5	148
E. MEADOWLARK ...	120	16	194	2	16	13		74	67	146	100	58	21		5
REDW. BLACKBIRD ..	650	18	125						3		19				
RUSTY B'BIRD			67			75				1	15				1
COM. GRACKLE	2					12					55				
B-H. COWBIRD		150				20			9		1				1
CARDINAL	72	60	44	22	60	90	57	109	115	262	535	141	201	43	209
PURPLE FINCH	13			3		35	15	2		20	4	1	15		
PINE SISKIN										2	47				
AM. GOLDFINCH ...	30	14	3		55	24	15	28	75	98	42	41	51	4	18
R-S. TOWHEE	41	14	10	5	28	46	23	18	8	70	27	7	20	2	40
SAV. SPARROW	7									1	1				
VESPER SPARROW ...					2										
S-C. JUNCO	312	200	16	40	65	41	333	72	66	474	566	246	239	13	178
OREGON JUNCO											1				
TREE SPARROW		28	3	6	12					23	41	6	31		14
CHIP SPARROW							1								
FIELD SPARROW	26		50	1	42	39	5	11	19	13	247	45	13		43
WH-C. SPARROW ...		40	4	1	25	60	1	9	20	142	75	62	17		4
WH-T. SPARROW ...	110	6	5	9	14	117	41	78	55	314	84	68	21	20	36
FOX SPARROW	3			1						6			7		4
SWAMP SPARROW ...			8	5		7	8			91	21		17		
SONG SPARROW ...	36	44	31	4	19	27	12	24	19	318	181	75	96	5	68
DATE OF COUNT ...	Dec.23	Dec.25	Dec.30	Dec.31	Dec.22	Dec.20	Dec.30	Jan.1	Dec.26	Jan.1	Dec.30	Dec.31	Dec.26	Dec.26	Dec.29
SPECIES	56	50	41	33	42	54	46	41	36	55	83	55	37	23	44
INDIVIDUALS	18135	2373	1023	290	832	2858	1502	1549	1039	3125	6097	2444	1288	201	2216
OBSERVERS	4	1	1	2	3	6	14	5	2	7	33	3	4	1	7

DAUBARD, JOSEPH FRANCE, PAXTON GIBBS, MRS. CHARLES HORNER, AILEEN L. HUMMEL, GORDON KEAL, MR. AND MRS. HARVEY B. LOVELL, BURT L. MONROE, JR., BURT L. MONROE, SR. (compiler), ROSE S. MONROE, MRS. H. V. NOLAND, LOUIS PIEPER, MARIE PIEPER, WILLIAM ROWE, EVELYN SCHNEIDER, BERNICE SHANNON, MRS. EUGENE SHORT, MABEL SLACK, ANNE L. STAMM, FREDERICK W. STAMM, MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM B. TABLER, MRS. CHARLES THACHER, MR. AND MRS. EDWIN V. THOMPSON, JR., HAVEN WILEY, AUDREY WRIGHT (Beckham Bird Club).

NOTES ON LOUISVILLE COUNT

One large raft of Greater Scaup is present this year, the greatest number ever, although a few appear each year. Numbers and variety of pond ducks encouraging, with all-time high counts of Gadwall, Pintail, and American Widgeon.

Oregon Juncos now regular every winter; three were seen several days before the count.

Total number of species is representative, but number of individuals way down, due primarily to dispersal of huge starling-blackbird roost normally in the Louisville region.

* * *

FRANKFORT (Eastern Franklin County and the State Game and Fish Lakes).—Dec. 31; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cold, clear; temp. 16 to 28; wind E, 0-6 m.p.h.; streams full, ponds frozen over; ground bare and frozen. Area and coverage slightly exceeded those of previous years. Three observers in one party. Total party-miles, 72 (22 on foot, 50 by car). Total, 55 species, about 2,444 individuals. Seen in count period but not on count day: Cedar Waxwing.—JOEY JONES, JEFF JONES, and HOWARD JONES (Compiler).

NOTES ON FRANKFORT COUNT

The Long-eared Owl was found again in a dense mature stand of cedars.

In spite of the complete clearing and ditching of the only swamp in Franklin County, a careful search of other areas turned up the largest number of species recorded thus far in Christmas Counts from Frankfort.

No species appears to be unusually abundant or scarce this winter, although a steady decrease over the past few years in the number of Common Crows for this area is noticeable.

* * *

KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (and adjacent territories, all points within a fifteen-mile circle, center about five miles from Highway 127 on 368; deciduous woods 5%, brushy fields 75%, open

fields 15%, creek banks 5%).—Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Clear, cold, temp. 24 to 32; ponds frozen, running water open; ground snow-covered. Four observers in two parties for part of the time. Total, 37 species, about 1,288 individuals.—JOSEPH CROFT, ANNE L. STAMM (Compiler), F. W. STAMM, HAVEN WILEY.

NOTES ON KLEBER COUNT

Driving to the Kleber area was hazardous, as the roads were unusually slick after a freezing rain the preceding night, then covered with a scant snow. Birds were scarce. There was nothing unusual in our finds other than the Bewick's Wren and the increase in the numbers of Song Sparrows. We missed some of our regulars, particularly the hawks, the Belted Kingfisher, the Cedar Waxwing, and the blackbirds. Last year we had six species of hawks; this year, only two.

* * *

WILLARD, CARTER COUNTY.—Dec. 26; 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 34 to 36. About eight miles on foot through fields, woodlands, and creek bottoms. Total, 23 species, 201 individuals.—ERCEL KOZEE.

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EASTERN KENTUCKY (Ed's Note: This is a composite list and is not to be judged by the side of the other fourteen, as it covered more than a day, actually extending from December 29 through January 5. It is greatly appreciated, however, for we need many more counts from the mountain area. Plan, you counters, to set a single day for some area 15 miles in diameter and cover it or several such areas in ONE DAY.) Grand total, 44 species, 2216 individuals. Counters and areas covered: December 29, Majestic and Phelps areas, MRS. J. W. REES; December 29-30, Paintsville area, MRS. WILLIAM E. GARLAND; December 30, Martin County, R. L. CHAPMAN and RUFUS M. REED; January 1, Ashland, on foot, O. S. GREEN and WALTER W. FORSON; January 5, Ashland, four hours of driving, LOIS and WALTER FORSON.

The counts were largely in deciduous and coniferous forests, in open and cultivated fields, in swamps, and along roadsides. Nearly all the birds were found feeding close to dwellings or groups of dwellings.

One thing of particular interest, not in the count days, was our seeing 35 to 40 Herring and Bonaparte's Gulls riding ice cakes coming out of the Big Sandy River, just below Catlettsburg.

We regret to announce a still further decrease in birds in this whole general area as compared with a few years ago.—WALTER W. FORSON, General Compiler.

* * *

SOME COMMENTS ON THE 1962-1963 COUNT

Nearly every compiler reported birds as below normal in number of

individuals; only Otter Creek and Frankfort seem to have been up to par or even above. All told, only some 1,300 Common Crows were reported from the entire state, a mere fraction of typical reports in some years from any one of a dozen places. The Eastern Bluebird, however, is slowly gaining again, with 91 individuals this year as compared with 80 in 1961-1962 counts. But remember that in 1959-1960 we reported 401 individuals, before the unexplained and sudden drop in numbers of this species.

We have 104 species on this count, as compared with an average of 110 for the preceding four counts. In spite of sickness, there were 84 counters this time. Mr. W. P. Rhoads and Mr. King Benson, our Henderson stalwarts, were sick in the count period; hence there is no Henderson count in our table. Thanks to everybody who participated in the count; be ready for the 1963-1964 count period.—G. W.

* * *

WHITE PIGEON, MICHIGAN (The usual area covered in the last several years).—Dec. 25; 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., EST. Overcast in forenoon, light snowfall in afternoon; temp. 18 to 30; wind S, light. Ground covered with an average of six inches of snow. Observer alone, on foot. Covered orchards, open fields, marsh lands, Klinger Lake, and Fawn River. Lake and river became frozen over on night of December 11, and the temperature the next day was —6. This will explain the absence of waterfowl. Bobwhite, 20; Mourning Dove, 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Blue Jay, 11; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; Tufted Titmouse, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; House Sparrow, 15; Cardinal, 5; Purple Finch, 3; American Goldfinch, 61; Slate-colored Junco, 29; Tree Sparrow, 188; and Song Sparrow, 1. Total, 17 species, 351 individuals. Other species seen in count period but not on count day: Belted Kingfisher, Horned Lark, Cedar Waxwing, Snow Bunting, Starling, Red-tailed Hawk, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Robin, and Sparrow Hawk.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS.

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FIELD NOTES

HIGH NEST OF THE MOURNING DOVE

On June 30, 1962, a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) flushed from a maple tree while I was standing beneath it; the same thing happened on July 1, but it was not until July 2 that I actually saw the spot from where the bird flushed. Here, at least fifty feet above the ground in the fork of a horizontal limb, overhanging the road at Spokane and Ten Broeck, was a nest of the Mourning Dove. This is the highest nest I have ever found of this species. On June 18, 1958, a nest was discovered 38 to 40 feet up in a water maple tree in our yard at Lakeside, and at that time it constituted my highest nest record for the species. The average height of twelve other nests in my file was only 9.8 feet above the ground.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

* * *

DEER AND WOOD DUCKS ATTRACTED BY APPLES

On Green River, in the Mammoth Cave National Park, are perhaps twelve to fifteen of the most fortunate Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*). Through the summer months these ducks are fed apples throughout the day and occasionally at night.

For several years the skippers of the sight-seeing boat on Green River, *Miss Green River*—Captains M. E. Nash and Bob McDaniel—have been feeding apples to the deer along the river. The deer have become accustomed to this feeding and meet the boat, waiting for apples. In the summer of 1962 the skippers noticed Wood Ducks flying around and sometimes actually stealing apples from the deer. The ducks were so persistent that the skippers decided to toss a few apples to them. It didn't take long for the ducks to learn where the apples were coming from, and they would meet the boat regularly.

By the close of the season they were meeting the boat on all eight trips, even the moonlight cruise, when most other birds were on the roost. The Wood Ducks would fly ahead and alight or else circle the boat, begging for apples. The kind of apple does not seem to make any difference, and the ducks would come as if life itself depended on their getting their hand-outs. After bobbing for the apples, they would take them to the bank or a drift and eat them.

At the start of the season each year there are forty to sixty Wood Ducks on the river. Either the area is unfavorable or there is a high mortality rate, for by mid-summer there are only twelve or fifteen.

In 1963 the skippers plan to start tossing out apples early in the season and try to have several of these beautiful birds along the river in the park.—CLEO HOGAN, JR., Park City.

(Ed.'s Note: I made this boat trip in August and counted eight Wood Ducks and nine Virginia Deer that came for their rations. The ducks and deer stole the show; the impressive landscapes were hardly noticed by the boatload of tourists after the first animals appeared.)

* * *

A STARLING ROOST

On January 1, 1963, as we were returning from censusing the Otter Creek area, Meade County, we were interested in watching the large numbers of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) that were gathering in the sycamore trees along the river bank less than a mile from Kosmosdale, Jefferson County. We stopped the car and began to watch some of the groups to see if we could find blackbirds, as we had not seen any during the day. Only Starlings could be found in the ever-increasing flocks that assembled in the trees or went beyond. We then decided to search for a possible roost. As we neared the Kosmos Portland Cement Plant at Kosmosdale, eighteen and one-half miles from Louisville, we were surprised to see the birds darkening the roof-tops and the inside rafters of three buildings. An adjacent field was black with Starlings, and they, too, shortly afterwards began to fly to the buildings. We estimated 25,000 birds using this plant as a roosting site. It was

strange that few Starlings were seen during the day—in fact, only 198. As near as we could tell, all birds came from the southwest, although some may have come from across the river in Indiana. We did not see any birds entering from any other direction. It was strange too, that only Starlings were observed.

The roost site is situated on the floodplain between the Ohio River and the forested knobs. The number of birds roosting here is, of course, very small in comparison with the enormous Fern Creek blackbird roost of several years ago (*Ky. War.*, 33:47-49; 34:6-7, 46-47). Although this is the first roost we have seen in the southwestern part of Jefferson County, there is a record of a considerably larger roost further to the southwest, at Fort Knox. The latter roost, containing Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) and a few Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) as well as Starlings, was discovered in January, 1946, by Lovell and Kirkpatrick (*Ky. War.*, 22:17-19).

The wintering starling-blackbird population in the Louisville region has shown radical changes through the past decade. Ten years ago the roosting Starlings were concentrated almost exclusively in the downtown business district. The only blackbirds to be met with were a few small groups scattered about the countryside, either alone or associated with a band of foraging Starlings. With the winter of 1956-57 there was a sudden and notable increase in blackbirds; flocks numbering up to 1,000 or more birds could frequently be met with. These flocks included hundreds of Rusty Blackbirds (*Euphagus carolinus*), normally the scarcest winter blackbird in this region, as well as an occasional Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), previously known only as a rare spring and casual fall migrant. With the discovery of the Fern Creek roost in the latter part of that winter, February, 1957, it became evident that the starling-blackbird population was well over a half million, and by the second year of its use the population had grown to several millions. After three years of a concentration of this order the roost broke up and the population returned roughly to its 1956-57 level, or perhaps a little lower. This winter (1962-63) blackbirds may still be found without much difficulty, but the flocks are small and scattered. The Starling concentration here described is the only roost we know of this winter, although it is likely that there is a small blackbird roost somewhere in the county, probably in the southern section. It will be interesting to see what changes occur in the next few years; whether the population has stabilized itself at the present moderate level or whether it is to go through more upheavals similar to those of the past several years.—ANNE L. STAMM and JOSEPH CROFT, Louisville.

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THE WOODBURN LAKES, 1957-1962

Here is a brief summary of six very disappointing years of observation at the Woodburn Lakes, 1957-1962. Besides my own personal observations, I have had the help of 135 different bird students in these years, for the Kentucky Ornithological Society has met at Bowling Green each spring and used the lakes as the chief locale for field trips. In these

years there were 160 field trips to one or both lakes, far more than in the preceding six-year period, 1951-1956 (See KENTUCKY WARBLER, XXXII, 59-61, 1956).

TABLE I—EARLIEST AND LATEST DATE FOR LAKES

1957—February 2-June 3
1958—January 4-June 22
1959—January 24-June 8
1960—January 19-May 12
1961—March 1-August 14
1962—January 21-June 22

TABLE II—NUMBER OF WATER SPECIES RECORDED

1957	47
1958	49
1959	32
1960	32
1961	51
1962	44
Net Total	66

TABLE III—GROUPS OF SPECIES RECORDED

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Loons-Grebes	2	3	1	1	2	3
Hérons	4	7	3	6	8	7
Geese-Ducks	21	20	14	15	22	20
Rails-Coots	3	3	2	2	2	2
Shore-birds	17	17	12	11	16	13

The White Ibis appeared on only the 1961 list and does not belong in any of the groups mentioned above.

SOME COMMENTS

1957. Neither lake came to its normal high level, but each approached that level. Since the water rose fairly early, there were a good many species of ducks—20; a few records of 2,000 ducks were made in one day, with Mallards, Pintails, Blue-winged Teal, and Ring-necked Ducks being most numerous. The Pied-billed and Horned Grebes were quite obvious; on our K. O. S. field trip many of our members got to see a Horned Grebe in very favorable light and at fairly close range. The herons and shore-birds were far below par; only the Pectoral Sandpiper appeared in numbers up to 50.

1958. In spite of the early rising of the lakes, geese and ducks were not numerous: 300 to 400 Pintails constituted the highest number for any species. Shore-birds for the whole season were listed in a note in the KENTUCKY WARBLER as "pitifully scarce." Thanks to Roderic Sommers, the European Widgeon was added as a new species for the lakes and was seen, with telescopes, by all our party of K. O. S. members. In late July a sudden flood brought, for a few days, a mere handful of migrants—chiefly herons—, but the water table dropped again in a few days.

1959. This season and the next were very poor in species and in individuals; many of the commoner species of ducks did not appear, even

though the lakes came up quite early. The Lesser Scaup was the only duck represented by as many as 100 individuals; Coots were scarce; the Pectoral Sandpiper was the only shore-bird found in numbers up to 100.

1960. A very severe winter, extending far into March, kept the lakes covered with ice much of the time. When the snow melted rapidly, the lakes rose fast but dropped equally fast. The Pintail, of the 15 species of ducks listed, went once to 2,000 individuals in one day, but no other species approached this one in numbers. Coots were up to 100 only once; the Pectoral Sandpiper rose to 250 on April 19; and there were approximately 100 Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs on May 3. Anne Stamm and Haven Wiley created the sensation of the spring field trip by the K. O. S. by finding, on the Albert Cox Farm, between the two lakes, the Forster's Tern. As a season, 1960 ranks with the poorest since 1927.

1961. The lakes came up late—March 1—and remained late—July 26 at McElroy's, August 14 at Chaney's; only in 1935—September 10—and in 1950—November 12—have the lakes stayed beyond summer and long enough to attract many fall migrants. This year, with its 51 species, is the only one in this six-year period that compares favorably with the 1951-1956 period. The lateness of the lakes in spring cut down on the number of ducks, though the number of species was fairly good. The shore-birds in the late-summer migration were far ahead of any similar period in many years. At one time there were some 2,000 Pectoral Sandpipers at McElroy's. Roderic Sommers added the Sandhill Crane at our spring meeting as a new species for the lakes and the area. In August, just before the water disappeared at Chaney's, I found the White Ibis on several successive trips.

1962. The lakes rose to their second highest levels in the whole history of the area, but water birds were again far below normal. Pintails up to 500 appeared on February 25; Ring-necked Ducks rose to 200 only twice; Blue-winged Teal and Lesser Scaups went to 150 on one count of each. Coots were never above 500. The shore-birds were the lowest in recent spring migrations, with 300 Pectoral Sandpipers on one occasion as the only really outstanding count. Several broods of Blue-winged Teal and Wood Ducks were seen in the last days of the lake.

It is not easy to account for the poor numbers; however, some local conditions may have contributions to this. There were no large fields of small grain near either lake in these years; because of the late disappearing dates in 1961 and 1962, the central depression at Chaney's was not cultivated; but in 1961 and 1962 there was a very profuse crop of *Potamogeton* (Sp.) at Chaney's, and, because the lake had overflowed the farm pond that is stocked with Bluegills, millions of these fish were left when the water went down in 1961 and again in 1962. Even some 100 Turkey and Black Vultures and some 150 herons of several species could not consume the small fish as fast as they were left in the drying fields.

A careful study of the lakes since 1927 shows that there are cycles of good and bad years; maybe another good cycle is around the corner.
—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.