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The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. XXXX

February, 1964

No. 1



Snow Bunting—Plate 155 of John James Audubon's Birds of America

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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NEWS AND VIEWS

OUR SPRING MEETING

The annual spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held at McElroy and Chaney Lakes, Bowling Green, Kentucky, on April 10-12, 1964, to continue the long-time study of the lakes. Announcements regarding plans, etc., will be mailed to the membership later. Keep the date in mind.

(Continued on page 20)

REPORT ON SOME KENTUCKY HERONRIES

R. HAVEN WILEY, JR.

During the last two summers I have visited several Kentucky heronries in an attempt to find a nesting colony where an appreciable number of young herons could be banded before they left the nest. The results of these investigations follow.

The first colony visited was the Henderson County Audubon Heronry described in O. S. Pettingill's *A Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi* (New York, 1951: 182) by Burt L. Monroe. A "100 or more" nests of the Common Egret (*Casmerodius albus*), Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) and Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) were reported in the tops of pecan, maple and gum trees. The rookery was visited by Soaper, Lovell and Rhoads (Lovell, *Ky. War.* 27: 58, 1951) on June 5, 1951, when many Great Blue Herons and Common Egrets with young and several Double-crested Cormorants with young or eggs were seen. On June 23 and 24, 1962, however, I was not able to find the heronry. The sharecropper, on whose land the rookery had been, was able to give me the precise location of the colony near Cypress Bend northwest of Henderson. He believed that the heronry had disappeared within the last four years or so and assured me that no birds were there now. In 1962 he had seen herons ("cranes" in the local vernacular) only once—a small group in a slough on his land near the former colony.

The heronry, as he described it, had been in bottomland within one mile below Big Pond (see Geographical Survey Topographical Map, 7½' Series, "West Franklin, Kentucky-Indiana"). This is in a remnant swamp forest of tall trees and tangled low underbrush, which is labelled Deep Slough on the map cited above and is about one-half mile from the river bank across the flood plain planted with corn. My brother and I hiked up the slough where the heronry had been, and, although we must have walked through the middle of the former nesting area, we saw no herons and no nests. No herons were seen by me the evening before either, when I had driven along a tractor road within a quarter-mile of the area. Perhaps a few pairs could still have been nesting in some corner of the slough and escaped the sharecroppers' notice and my search, but it seems impossible that a rookery of any appreciable size could have remained.

There was no readily apparent reason for the colony's disappearance. The natives went into the slough seldom; the whole section of the country was sparsely populated and wild. However, in the bottomland of Deep Slough there seemed to have been some clearing done; there were several large areas where the tall trees had been cut down. At the time of my visit these places were growing up again with bushes and small trees in which several pairs of Redstarts (*Setophaga ruticilla*) were seen. Possibly the clearing operations had destroyed some of the trees used by the herons. At any rate, the colony, which had been established by 1882, appeared in 1962 to be gone.

The second colony visited in the summer of 1962 gave the same

result. This colony was below McAlpine Dam on the Falls of the Ohio at Louisville in a large area of willows along the dam near the power plant. This former heronry had contained only Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). It is mentioned in the literature (1) by Smith (*Ky. War.* 26: 6-8, 1950) who describes the colony in 1949 when there were 250 nests, (2) by Monroe in Pettingill (*op. cit.*: 184) where 200 nests are reported, (3) by Lovell (*Ky. War.* 27: 58, 1951) who found evidence of only 2 or 3 nests in May 1951, (4) by Stamm (*Ky. War.* 36: 33, 1960) who reports six nests found with young on September 26, 1959, (5) by Stamm, Brecher and Lovell (*Ky. War.* 36: 4, 1960) where a reduction in the size of the colony from former years owing to dam construction work is reported for 1959, and (6) by Monroe (*Ky. War.* 37: 25, 1961) with no details. Joe Croft and I carefully searched the entire area on July 22, 1962, and found no nests at all. Apparently the rookery had been greatly reduced by 1959 and extirpated by 1962. New construction on the nearby dam and power house was probably responsible for this.

On July 28, 1962, however, Croft and I found a colony of Black-crowned Night herons, which is apparently unreported in the literature, on Sand Island (see Geol. Surv. Topo. Map, 7½' Series, "New Albany, Indiana-Kentucky") in the Ohio River one-half mile down-river from the power house or about three-quarters of a mile from the location of the former colony on the Falls of the Ohio. During recent construction on the locks opposite Sand Island at Louisville, a channel was cut due north through the middle of the island (this channel is not shown on the 1955 edition of the map cited above), which divided the island into two parts. The nests found July 28 were on the eastern half. A week later Croft visited the western half but found no nests there.

The eastern half has tall hardwood trees in the center under which grows a low tangle of vines and bushes, so that a considerable space is left between the canopy of branches and the ground cover. Nearer the edge of the island willows and small maples are found, and ringing the edge itself is an almost impenetrable tangle of high bushes, weeds and vines, which conceals the colony from view from the outside and also discourages people from entering the nesting area.

On July 28, 1962, we estimated 150 nests on the eastern part. Most of the young were out of the nests and able to fly by this time. The remainder seen were active in their nests, and those in lower nests crawled out along the limbs of the trees as we approached. The nests were 15 to 40 feet from the ground in the trees. Since the nests were invariably so inaccessible that there was no way of seeing into them, it was impossible to tell if any nests held eggs or very young birds. Two young birds unable to fly were caught on the ground, banded and released.

On June 30, 1963, the colony was again visited by Croft and me, and 153 nests were counted on the eastern half. Most of these were probably active this year, since they seemed neatly kept and young birds were on many nests, generally one or two young per nest. There were many immature birds in the trees around the nests, many more than adults. The colony was mostly in the large elms and sycamores in

the center of the island but also in the smaller willows and maples nearer the edge. There were no nests in the trees and bushes at the edge of the island. The nests were again 15 to 40 feet from the ground and often 4 to 12 in one tree. Again it was impossible to see if any nests contained eggs or small young. Four young birds were caught on the ground, banded and released. There was no evidence of any other species nesting.

The status of this colony before 1962 is unfortunately not known. It might have been impossible to tell that a colony existed on Sand Island until the island was actually explored; the herons are comparatively little in evidence flying to and from the island. Perhaps the colony of over 200 pairs which nested on the Falls of the Ohio in the early 1950's and which was gradually decreased and finally extirpated before 1962 moved to Sand Island when construction operations began to interfere with the former location.

In summary, it seems that the Falls of the Ohio heronry and the Heronry County Audubon Heronry have now disappeared. A colony of Black-crowned Night Herons has been discovered near the former Falls heronry and may possibly be a new location for this old colony.

* * *

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1963-1964

Our 1963-64 count is unusually good, thanks to the careful organizational work and pre-census planning by some of our members in all parts of the state. We have 119 species on this count, as compared with 104 last year. In addition, three species—the Common Scoter, Le Conte's Sparrow, and Lapland Longspur—appear for the count period. A total of 126 people (not counting duplications because of participation in more than one count) took part this year, and were unmindful of the snow and icy weather.

The long-continued drought and the unusually warm autumn season together with belated frosts may account for some of the "summer strays" on several counts. Then the cold fronts that moved into Kentucky in mid-December brought not only snow and zero temperatures but large numbers of ducks and many species of northern birds, thus producing conditions to make bird watchers believe "they were seeing things." Seeing a Snowy Owl, four Snow Buntings, and a Least Sandpiper on the Falls of Ohio, all in one day, seems incredible. Evening Grosbeaks appear on the Danville and Louisville counts. Other northern finches appearing on lists are the White-winged Crossbills at Louisville, Red Crossbills at Pennyryle Forest State Park, and Common Redpolls at Mammoth Cave.

Some other unusual species that appear on our census, which are commented on elsewhere in this report, are: Oldsquaw, Goshawk, Pigeon Hawk, Brown Thrasher, Brewer's Blackbird, Grasshopper Sparrow, Le-Conte's Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, and Chipping Sparrow. The count as a whole is an interesting one, and perchance such

**MID-WINTER
BIRD COUNT
1963-1964**

	WOODLANDS	MARION	MADISONVILLE	PENNYRILE	HENDERSON	SORGHO	YELVINGTON	BOWLING GREEN	MAM. CAVE N. P.	GLASGOW	BURKESVILLE	OTTER CREEK	LOUISVILLE	DANVILLE	FRANKFORT	LEXINGTON	WILLARD	ASHLAND	LOVELY
COMMON LOON																			
HORNED GREBE													2						
PIED-B. GREBE													3						
GREAT B. HERON		3	2		5							1	1	7					
B-CR. N. HERON					7								8						
CANADA GOOSE	1100	29	121		4500		14					1	1	5	30	16			
MALLARD	6000	1200	34		45000		5	18				35	316	117	96	19			
BLACK DUCK	8000	400			13000		7					10	298	85	35	26			
GADWALL					200							11	13	1					
PINTAIL					200								4						35
G-W. TEAL					12						*		5						
B-W. TEAL					2							1	10	7	21				1
AM. WIDGEON					140														6
SHOVELER		5			2								43	2					
WOOD DUCK					1								16						
REDHEAD		2	2	1	20		28						2						
R-N. DUCK					1								36						
CANVASBACK					1								46						
G. SCAUP		75			150		2	5					11		1				
L. SCAUP					15		26						9						
C. GOLDENEYE					15								9						
BUFILEHEAD					13		3						1						
OLDSQUAW													1						
COMMON SCOTER													*						
RUDDY DUCK					4								2						
H. MERGANSER					3								2						
C. MERGANSER	50				12								2						
RED-B. MERGANSER					5								5						
TURKEY VULTURE															1	1	19		
BLACK VULTURE		4			5			6	1	4		1	25		45	11			
GOSHAWK					1							1	*						
SHARP-S. HAWK		1			1			2				1	*						
COOPER'S HAWK					1							2	*						
RED-T. HAWK		4		1	1		3	4	1	2		7	10	7	4	18	2		2
RED-SH. HAWK		1			1		6	1		3		4	5	1	1	1			1
ROUGH-L. HAWK					7				3			4	5	1	1	1			
GOLDEN EAGLE		1											2						
BALD EAGLE		8			1					2		1	*						
MARSH HAWK		9	5		22	1	8						13			2			
PEREGRINE FALCON													*						

PIGEON HAWK	1	4	3	4	5	22	6	4	3	4	1	1	16	3	19	10		
SPARROW HAWK	39	62	8	17	2	*		12	11	15	2	25	15	15	1	22		
RUFFED GROUSE	9	11	4	12							*	7	3	3	1			
BOBWHITE																		
AMER. COOT		7			9					1	*	13	3	1	10			
KILLDEER												2	2	1	10			
COM. SNIPPE												1						
LEAST SANDPIPER																		
HERRING GULL	120	500		100		10					80							
RING-B. GULL	50	85	30	2	556	11	32	347	116	86	98	80	128	1	12	1		
MOURNING DOVE				2	2						1	4	1		1			
BARN OWL												2						
SCREECH OWL												4						
GREAT HORNED OWL												2						
SNOWY OWL												2						
BARRED OWL												3						
SHORT-EARED OWL												2						
B. KINGFISHER												2						
Y.-SH. FLICKER	9	3	23	9	11	19	15	9	18	14	1	12	17	7	5	1		
PIL. WOODPECKER	5	2		2	*	2	13	23	12	3	5	3	2	2	2	1		
RED-B. WOODPECKER	6	11	8	4	5	28	27	30	6	41	6	24	33	10	9	22		
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER												5						
Y.-B. SAPSUCKER	3	1	2	6	8	42	7	1	2	2	3	2	2	5	4			
HAIRY WOODPECKER	12	12	7	10	5	13	5	2	6	6	1	9	9	5	5	13		
DOWNY WOODPECKER												24	51	34	24	62		
PHOEBE												1						
HORNED LARK	30	36	32	127	38	16	321	46	78	17	160	93	107	43	9			
BLUE JAY	3	8	25	3	18	52	69	40	20	15	94	135	37	8	15	8		
COM. CROW	17	200	60	1056	37	60	114	69	153	20	145	876	80	330	4459	7		
B.-C. CHICKADEE																		
CAR. CHICKADEE	35	44	8	42	31	40	47	54	84	45	13	88	151	192	55	324		
TUFT. TITMOUSE	9	18	12	12	19	32	40	54	24	59	15	40	121	146	22	248		
W.-B. NUTHATCH	4	2	3	4	7	7	1	11	11	6	8	20				1		
R.-B. NUTHATCH																		
B. CREEPER	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	5	3	1	9	10	7	6	1		
WINTER WREN	1																	
BEWICK'S WREN																		
CAR. WREN	4	3	4	2	3	1	10	3	4	12	11	22	29	10	18	36		
MOCKINGBIRD	2	14	10	1	10	13	25	26	2	16	6	18	38	15	5	14		
BROWN THRASHER																		
ROBIN	2	5	1	12	1	4	4	23	4		4	39	1	6	4	1		
HERMIT THRUSH	2			4	2	1	1	22	9		1							
E. BLUEBIRD	4	9	4	6	2	2	43	18	13	3	5	8	2	7	9	3		
G.-C. KINGLET	2			23	3	2	2	3	40		5	4	2	2	4	9		
R.-C. KINGLET	1			1	1	2	2	4	4		1	1	1	2	2	4		
WATER PIPIT																		
CEDAR WAXWING		7												2	44			
LOG. SHRIKE		1	1	1	2	3	5	2	2	1	10	20	2	47				
STARLING	600	250	41	1	103	300	600	1164	201	554	119	713	2255	2195	270	1925		
																15	1000	2

MID-WINTER
BIRD COUNT
1963-1964

	WOODLANDS	MARION	MADISONVILLE	PENNYRILE	HENDERSON	SORGHO	YELVINGTON	BOWLING GREEN	MAM. CAVE N. P.	GLASGOW	BURKESVILLE	OTTER CREEK	LOUISVILLE	DANVILLE	FRANKFORT	LEXINGTON	WILLARD	ASHLAND	LOVELY	
MVRTLE WARBLER																				
HOUSE SPARROW	60	250	4	10	3	30	8	1	5	8	1	14	4	350	41	368	3	100	58	
E. MEADOWLARK		14	66	4	67	35	106	133		66	21	38	1	290	5	75				
W. MEADOWLARK																				
REDW. BLACKBIRD				10	15	9	3	6		8	15	219	1351	2	5	87			10	
RUSTY BLACKBIRD					2	17	6				1	2	255		1	5				
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD					3								2			3				
COM. GRACKLE		8			5000	80	1			35	7	10	401	202		142		150		
B.H. CORNBIRD		26			20	15	2	8		3		15	817	20		1				
CARDINAL	80	26	43	44	49	65	151	186	55	222	66	268	485	303	112	486	30	290	43	
E. GROSBREAK													7		1					
PURPLE FINCH	4			9	2	1	*		4	3		9			1	5			2	
COM. REDPOLL									2				30							
PINE SISKIN													6							
AMER. GOLDFINCH	6	12	4	6	16	56	62	52	86	89	37	166	175	6	185	50	1	10		
WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL																				
RED CROSSBILL				6	7	51	50	54	23	51	11	142	42	16	15	9	2	3	36	
RUFOUS-S TOWHEE	5	6	23	1	10			2	7				1							
SAV. SPARROW	2																			
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW																				
LE CONTE'S SPARROW																				
HENSLOW'S SPARROW									4											
VESPER SPARROW																				
SLATE-G. JUNCO	500	150	27	102	15	32	145	291	300	176	29	415	501	162	208	305	90	200	79	
OREGON JUNCO													2		17	20			1	
TREE SPARROW			16	2	3		1			17		102	24			4				
CHIPPING SPARROW					8							1		2		4		4		
FIELD SPARROW	20		23	1	10	9	51	6	20	74	18	72	143	41	22	93	5	6	56	
WHITE-CR. SPARROW	12	34	3		275	49	28	46	35	35	18	144	66	134	63	161		6	6	
WHITE-TH. SPARROW	30		25	2	34	10	66	171	14	230	35	97	142	54	76	95	38		38	
FOX SPARROW	1		1	2	2		4	4	11	2	3	11	4		4	2			1	
SWAMP SPARROW	10		19	2	10		29	38	4	47		97	77	1		5			1	
SONG SPARROW	30		31	9	2	35	35	25	31	104	18	362	261	73	93	197	6	125	65	
LAP. LONGSPUR																				
SNOW BUNTING													4							

DATE OF COUNT	Jan.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.
SPECIES	1	25	28	29	30	28	27	19	22	26	26	28	22	21	26	28	26	28	28	28
INDIVIDUALS	48	50	41	42	89	41	58	47	41	47	40	60	100	49	52	61	30	36	20	20
OBSERVERS	26804	3578	792	393	67752	1165	2404	3955	1229	2546	702	6893	11053	4876	1977	9524	299	2221	1	2
	7	1	1	4	9	1	9	6	16	7	3	8	28	17	2	20	1	2	3	3

oddities may not appear for some time to come.

It is interesting to note that: (1) large numbers of waterfowl appear at Henderson and Woodlands; (2) woodpeckers are above normal in numbers in most places, with the Red-headed showing a 168% state-wide gain over the 1962 count; (3) Robins are scarce, with a total of 106 from 13 areas; (4) Bluebirds are widely distributed over the state, and show a gain of 71% over last year; (5) Myrtle Warblers are down 45% under last year.

The editor wishes to take this opportunity to thank the participants and to ask their continued assistance in making this a valuable study. In the everyday rush of living some compilers inadvertently fail to send details on unusual birds. May we ask your co-operation, and suggest that on future counts full details be given; **Audubon Field Notes** requires such information, and a state organization has an even greater necessity for them, since it is directly responsible for keeping records of the state in order.

* * *

KENTUCKY WOODLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the junction of highway 453 and Mulberry Flat Road; lake and river shore, 25%; open fields 35%; deciduous woods 40%).—Jan. 1; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Partly cloudy a.m., clearing p.m.; temp 20° to 30°; wind WSW, 2-3 m.p.h.; trace of snow, most water frozen hard. Seven observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 17 (9 on foot, 8 by car); total party-miles, 74 (13 on foot, 61 by car). Total, 48 species, about 26,804 individuals.—J. J. BLACKARD, MICKEY BUZZARD, EVELYN COLE, WILLARD GRAY, EDWIN LARSON, JR., CLELL T. PETERSON (Compiler), FRANK ZONTEK (Murray Bird Club).

Notes on Woodlands Count

Our species count was probably the lowest yet for the area, despite the fact that we had good coverage. In part, perhaps, the reason is loss of habitat. One of the best areas has been cut and bulldozed ready for flooding; as yet there is no water in the "lake." Another reason may have been the extreme cold. Hematite Lake was frozen solid and totally devoid of waterfowl, as well as of Killdeer and Common Snipe, which the compiler had seen there regularly all through the early part of the winter. A third reason may have been the dry fall which kept down the crop of natural foods.

The Golden Eagle was an immature bird. The eight Bald Eagles (1 m, 7 im), compared favorably with the 1962 Christmas Bird Count.

* * *

MARION (Same areas as in former counts).—Dec. 25; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear, mild; snow on ground. One observer. Total, 50 species, 3,578 individuals. A Bald Eagle was observed during the count week, but not on count day. The gulls were on an ice floe.—C. L. FRAZER.

* * *

MADISONVILLE (W. W. Hancock farm, Elk Creek, Brown Road, and three lakes at Madisonville; deciduous woodlands and thickets 50%, lake shore 30%, open field 20%).—Dec. 28; 6:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Cloudy in early morning, but soon clearing and remaining clear thereafter; wind NW, 1-7 m.p.h.; temp. 18 to 27. Total hours, 10½; total miles, 46 (7 on foot, 39 by car). Total, 41 species, 792 individuals. Other species recorded near the time of count: Robin and Cedar Waxwing.—JAMES W. HANCOCK.

Notes on Madisonville Count

The Brown Thrasher was first observed on December 15, at Elk Creek, and was seen again on the count day.

* * *

PENNYRILE FOREST STATE PARK (Deciduous and pine woods, and fields within the park area, Pennyrile Lake, and adjoining farmlands; wooded area 60%, open fields within park 15%, farmlands 10%, lake shore 15%).—Dec. 29; 6:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Clear to partly cloudy by late afternoon. Much of ground snow-covered, especially in shaded spots; lake partly frozen; wind NW, 8-12 m.p.h.; temp. 18 to 34. Total party-hours, 21; total party-miles, 38 (16 on foot, 22 by car). Observers in two parties. Total, 42 species, 393 individuals.—MICKEY BUZZARD, WILLARD GRAY, BRENDA L. HANCOCK, JAMES W. HANCOCK (Compiler).

Notes on Pennyrile Count

The six Red Crossbills (four females and two males) were carefully observed at 40 feet by Mickey Buzzard and Willard Gray. They noted the small size, general coloration, characteristic calls, feeding habits, and crossed mandibles.

Bulldozing of a long weed field for a new golf course has destroyed most of our best sparrow habitat.

* * *

HENDERSON (All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Audubon State Park Museum; farms and fencerows 35%, deciduous woods 40%, river 25%).—Dec. 30; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear and cold; temp. 3 to 22; wind N, 5 m.p.h.; some snow on ground, lakes frozen, sloughs and ponds dry. Nine observers in five parties. Total party-hours, 27 (14 on foot, 4 by car, 9 by boat). Total party-miles, 79 (21 on foot, 28 by car, and 30 by boat). Total, 89 species, about 67,752 individuals.—KING BENSON, MRS. LORA CLARK, WALTER M. DEAR II, W. J. PARKER, MRS. C. ROSS PARSONS, WM. H. RHOADS, W. P. RHOADS (Compiler), VIRGINIA SMITH, MRS. NAT STANLEY, SR.

Notes on Henderson Count

Waterfowl count was exceptionally high; there was some evidence that ducks were moving north to the Ohio River. Conservation officer W. J. Parker reported 100 tern-like birds, but was unable to say what they were. The Grasshopper Sparrows were seen by Virginia Smith on her farm, where they have wintered on previous occasions. The Chipping Sparrows were identified by Wm. H. Rhoads.

* * *

SORGHO (Ford and Rafferty farms; Panther Creek area, and territory north and west of Sorgho).—Dec. 28. Nine hours in the field. Weather clear and cold. Total, 41 species, 1165 individuals.—JOE FORD.

Notes on Sorgho Count

There was an increase in the number of Common Snipe this year.

Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers were exceptionally numerous. The reason may be due to logging operations on a farm adjoining the wooded section in my census area. The tree tops that were left after the logging had been completed soon filled with worms, grubs, and insects in general, and this attracted the birds. The Pileated was not seen on count day, but was observed a few days before the count.

Robins and Cedar Waxwings were absent from the list, and only one Purple Finch was found.

* * *

YELVINGTON (Same general areas as in previous years, including more of Pup Creek bottoms, Carpenter's and Kingfisher Lakes, Ohio River bottoms, Boy Scout Camp, Daviess County Airport, and Game and Fish Association farm).—Dec. 27; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Overcast; moderate to high wind; temp. 25 to 30. Nine observers in five parties. Total party-hours, 27; total party-miles, 69, (16 on foot, 53 by car). Total, 58 species, 2404 individuals. The Bobwhite and Purple Finch were found during count week, but not on count day. WILLARD GRAY, MIKE HOLLIDAY, PRESTON MILES, A. L. POWELL, BONNIE POWELL, MILDRED (MRS. A. L.) POWELL, WILTON POWELL, GEORGE RAY, LEWIS RAY.

Notes on Yelvington Count

This count brought an increase in both species and individuals, and may be attributed to the additional parties in the field covering more territory.

One notable feature of the count was the large number of Bluebirds. This year's count—43—was the highest ever found in this area. The numbers of Mockingbirds (25) and Brown Thrashers (3) were also worthy of note.

* * *

BOWLING GREEN (All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, six miles south of Bowling Green; farmlands 25%, stream banks 30%, suburban areas 15%, swamps and woods 30%).—Dec. 19; 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp.—2° to 25°; wind SW, 1-7 m.p.h.; all ponds and still pools of streams frozen over; ground covered with light snow. Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 29 (19 on foot, 10 by car); total party-miles, 140 (20 on foot, 120 by car). Total, 47 species, 3,955 individuals.—ROBERT M. BARR, MILLARD GIPSON, L. Y. LANCASTER, ROBERT N. PACE, HERBERT SHAD-OWEN, GORDON WILSON (Compiler).

Notes on Bowling Green Count

This count, the 46th for the area, brought the coldest weather for our annual big winter day.

The following species, commonly found, were nowhere to be seen: White-breasted Nuthatch, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, and Purple Finch.

In spite of the severe weather there were several good features of the day: 1. the highest number of Mourning Doves ever listed except in 1959; 2. the Red-bellied Woodpecker and the Swamp Sparrow were also second highest in the forty-six counts; 3. Horned Lark, highest since 1945; 4. Pileated Woodpecker, highest since 1946; 5. Eastern Bluebird, highest since the great break downward came after the 1958 count; 6. the Cardinal, the Rufous-sided Towhee, and the Slate-colored Junco ranked among their highest numbers here.

Besides the species that did not appear, the Myrtle Warbler (1) and the Carolina Wren (3) tied their former all-time lows.

* * *

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (All observations made inside the 51,000-acre park).—Dec. 22; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 10° to 24°; wind, NW, 8-13 m.p.h.; ground covered with snow; river frozen over, the only places free from ice being where the ferry boats were running; heavy overcast after late morning; snow began falling shortly after our counting ceased and deposited eight inches before morning. Sixteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 40 (30 on foot, 10 by car); total party-miles, 160 (30 on foot, 130 by car). Total, 41 species, 1,229 individuals.—DAN AUSTIN, MICKEY BUZZARD, EVELYN COLE, DON GATEWOOD, MRS. JAMES GILLENWATER, TIM GILLENWATER, WILLARD GRAY, HUNTER HANCOCK, CLEO HOGAN, SR., GEORGE MCKINLEY, CLELL T. PETERSON, A. L. POWELL, WILTON POWELL, LEWIS RAY, GORDON WILSON (Compiler), and JAY YOUNG.

Notes on Mammoth Cave Count

Birds were scarce and hard to find. The cold wind and the coming snowstorm seemed to quiet them.

Woodpeckers were down in number except for the Downy and the Pileated.

In spite of the bitter winter weather we found a Phoebe.

Blue Jays were astonishingly scarce and quiet.

We probably got more thrill out of finding 9 Eastern Bluebirds than from any other record except the one by Dr. McKinley. (See below).

As usual, our Hermit Thrush count was remarkable, for this seems to be the area they most like in western Kentucky.

As at Bowling Green, the Carolina Wren and the Myrtle Warbler were far below par.

Dr. McKinley found the two Common Redpolls and studied them at 15 feet. This is a new record for the park and for all of southern Kentucky.

The weather did not scare away the deer, for we recorded 84, one of our highest Christmas Count figures.

* * *

GLASGOW (Darter, Winger, and W. J. Starr farms, along Beaver Creek; Gillenwater and adjacent farms along South Fork Creek; Brigadoon farm on Skegg's Creek, and sections along the new Barren River reservoir).—Dec. 26; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 31 to 50; snow six to eight inches deep, thawing in sunny spots; streams and ponds frozen over. Seven observers. Total, 47 species, about 2,546 individuals.—MARQUITA GILLENWATER, WILLIAM T. GOODMAN, CLEO HOGAN, JR., CLEO HOGAN, SR., ROBERT REECE, FAYE STARR, RUSSELL STARR (Compiler).

Notes on the Glasgow Count

The Henslow's Sparrows were discovered by Mrs. Starr in a creek bottom in a thick growth of Johnson grass, cocklebur, and various Compositae plants. The compiler went down to the field in the late afternoon to check on the birds, and confirmed the identification. An adult bird was studied at less than ten feet atop a clump of Johnson grass; the olive face, the russet wings, the small size, and sharp tail proved the identification. Dr. George McKinley spent the afternoon of December 29, studying the birds, and also agreed that they were Henslow's. This particular area was alive with White-throats, Song Sparrows, and a number of Swamp and Tree Sparrows.

* * *

BURKESVILLE, CUMBERLAND COUNTY (Cumberland River bottoms, woods, edges and slashings in and around Burkesville).—Dec. 26; 6:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; temp. 40 to 50; wind N, 0-5 m.p.h.; Clear and sunny. Three observers in two parties. Total party-miles, 71 (63 by car, 8 on foot). Total, 40 species, 702 individuals. (Seen in count period, but not on count day: Great Blue Heron, Green-winged Teal.)—CHARLES GUTHRIE, GARY HUDDLESTON (Compiler).

Notes on Burkesville Count

Yellow-shafted Flickers and Myrtle Warblers were unusually scarce.

Robins, commonly found, were absent this year. Three Bluebirds were found, but we had ten on the count of 1961.

* * *

OTTER CREEK PARK (Meade County; the same territory as last year, including more open fields in areas outside the park).—Dec. 28; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear all day; temp. 22 to 30; ponds frozen solid, Otter Creek partly frozen, Ohio River open. Eight observers in five parties. Total, 60 species, 6,893 individuals. The Killdeer was observed in the area during count week, but not on count day.—FLOYD CARPENTER, JOSEPH CROFT, WILLIAM ROWE, EVELYN SCHNEIDER, ANNE L. STAMM (Compiler), FREDERICK W. STAMM, ALBERT WESTERMAN, JOHN WESTERMAN.

Notes on Otter Creek Park Count

In spite of the cold weather, we found more species than in any of the preceding counts. Ducks are always scarce on the Ohio River in the census area as hunters "patrol" the river regularly in boats; this year the sloughs and inlets were frozen over.

A mature Bald Eagle was observed flying above Rock Haven by Joseph Croft. The Pigeon Hawk, outside the park, was identified by Anne L. Stamm and Croft. This species is new for our Christmas Bird Counts in the Otter Creek Park area.

Robins and Purple Finches were unusually scarce.

The Chipping Sparrow was identified by Floyd Carpenter, and the Oregon Junco by Joseph Croft.

Included in the total (number of birds) is a flock of blackbirds estimated at 3,000 containing undetermined percentages of Starlings, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Common Grackles observed late in the evening, presumably going to a roost.

* * *

LOUISVILLE (The same area normally covered on our counts).—Dec. 22; 6:15 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 8° to 25°; wind variable, 0-2 m.p.h.; open water, except river, frozen. 28 observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 81 (48 on foot, 33 by car); total party-miles, 229 (24 on foot, 205 by car). Total species, 100, about 11,053 individuals. Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Bufflehead, Common Scoter, Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Lapland Longspur.—KENNETH ABLE, LEONARD C. BRECHER, MRS. JULIA BUSTETTER, FLOYD S. CARPENTER, JOSEPH CROFT, MARY LOUISE DAUBARD, MRS. DEWEY DETWILER, DR. & MRS. HARVEY B. LOVELL, JOHN 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, MRS. EUGENE SHORT, MABEL SLACK, WALLACE SMITH, ANNE L. STAMM, FREDERICK W. STAMM, MR. & MRS. WILLIAM B.

TABLER, MRS. S. CHARLES THACHER, MRS. E. V. THOMPSON,
AUDREY WRIGHT (Beckham Bird Club).

Notes on Louisville Count

Numbers of Gadwall and Wood Duck highest ever recorded. Oldsquaw was a female with three Goldeneyes, recorded by Monroes. The two Rough-legged Hawks were seen at the Falls of the Ohio by Kenneth Able and Leonard C. Brecher. The Pigeon Hawk, also at the Falls, was observed by the Monroes. The Least Sandpiper was seen at the Falls by Joseph Croft, William Rowe, and Anne Stamm; it was also observed the day before the count. Snowy Owls were seen on the Falls (Able and Brecher) and near Worthington (Croft, Rowe, and Stamms); another was seen the preceding week in Indian Hills. The Western Meadowlark was observed closely by the Monroes near the spot where one was collected on the count a few years ago. Brewer's Blackbirds were noted by Croft, Rowe, and the Stamms. Two Evening Grosbeaks were reported by Mrs. H. V. Noland and five by Rose S. Monroe; the latter are part of a flock of eight which has been present in Anchorage for more than a week. The White-winged Crossbills were seen by Mabel Slack in Cave Hill Cemetery, where they have wintered on two previous occasions. The two Oregon Juncos reported by the Monroes were full-plumaged adults; many other immatures, possibly this species, were not listed. The four Snow Buntings have been present on the Falls for a month; they were reported on the count by Croft, Rowe, and Anne Stamm.

* * *

DANVILLE, Boyle County, Dec. 21; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 4 to 30. Seventeen observers in six parties. Total party-hours in the field, 41; total party-miles, 347 (10 on foot, 337 by car). Total, 49 species, about 4,876 individuals.—J. W. KEMPER.

* * *

FRANKFORT (Eastern Franklin County and State Game Farm Lakes; all points within a fifteen-mile diameter circle, center at Forks of Elkhorn on Highway 460).—Dec. 26; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear, moderately cold, temp. 32-53; wind S-SW, 5-15 m.p.h.; ponds and streams frozen except for a small area on Upper Game Farm Lake; ground covered with four inches of snow. Two observers in one party. Total party-miles, 60 (17 on foot, 43 by car). Total species, 52, about 1,977 individuals.—JEFF JONES, HOWARD P. JONES (Compiler).

Notes on the Frankfort Count

We were disappointed that the recent severe cold and snow had not brought some unusual northern visitors to our area. No Long-eared Owls were found, although a careful search was made.

We had three unexpected finds—the Rough-legged Hawk, Common Snipe, and the Rusty Blackbird.

Mourning Doves and Meadowlarks may not be as scarce as the count indicates since they had been seen in some numbers in mid-December.

* * *

LEXINGTON (All points within a 15-mile diameter, center east Hickman on Bates Creek Pike. Includes 23 miles of Kentucky River, Lexington Reservoirs #1-4, Nicholasville, most of University of Kentucky Experiment Station Farm; surface water 2%, deciduous woods 3%, towns and suburbs 4%, pastures, cultivated land, hedgerows, farmlots 91%).—Dec. 28; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; temp. 18 to 28; wind NW, 5-10 m.p.h.; all ponds frozen as well as shaded areas of river and streams. Twenty observers in seven parties. Total party-hours, 53 (30 on foot, 23 by car); total party-miles, 344.75 (28.35 on foot, 316.4 by car). Total, 61 species; 9,524 individuals. Chipping Sparrows reported by Dr. Kingsley Stevens and Don Croutcher. Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Brown Thrasher, Le Conte's Sparrow (MF & AMR.)—ELLEN ALLEN, MRS. W. R. ALLEN, CECIL BULL, MRS. MARY POTTS BURNS, DON CROUTCHER, MRS. LYDA FECK, MR. AND MRS. F. L. FLEWELLING, DICK FLEWELLING, MIKE FLYNN, RORY FLYNN, DR. WM. MAXSON, AL MAYFIELD, BERNICE McCLURE, MRS. HELEN MEYER, MRS. BARBARA BURNS PHILLIPS, DAVID RAVENCRAFT, ALFRED M. REECE (Compiler), VIRGINIA N. REECE, DR. KINGSLEY STEVENS.

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WILLARD, CARTER COUNTY (Approximately eight miles on foot through fields, woodlands, and creek bottoms).—Dec. 26; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunny; temp. 34 to 55. One observer. Total, 30 species; 299 individuals.—ERCEL KOZEE.

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ASHLAND (Boyd-Carter County; deciduous and coniferous forests 50%, open and cultivated fields 30%, brush 15%, swamp 5%).—Dec. 28; 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 19 at start; wind, 8-12 m.p.h.; ponds and lakes frozen, ground with 3-4 inches of snow. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours, 8 (4½ on foot, 3½ by car); total party-miles 118 (8 on foot, 110 by car).—LOIS FORSON, WALTER FORSON.

Notes on Ashland Count

Robins were extremely scarce this year; they have been gone for several months. Our Bluebird count was up slightly.

We found that birds are grouping up; that we would walk for a quarter of a mile at times without observing or hearing a bird, then we would find several in a group. We have been interested in the fact that

we have found this to be true all during the year.

* * *

LOVELY (Chapman and Cline farms, Turkey Creek, and Tug River areas, near South Williamson; old fields, slashes, creek banks 75%, woods 25%).—Dec. 28; temp. 28 to 31; wind N, 5 m.p.h. Most observations on foot. Total, 20 species, 647 individuals.—R. L. CHAPMAN, DONALD R. KINDSCHI, RUFUS M. REED (Compiler).

Notes on Lovely and South Williamson Count

Blue Jays and Carolina Chickadees were unusually common.

Efforts to find some of the species usually found on previous counts—Robin, Bluebird, and American Goldfinch—failed.

The two Loggerhead Shrikes were found near Lovely by Rufus Reed and R. H. Chapman.

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ADDITIONAL CENSUS COUNTS

(Here is a count from Deatsville that could not be included in the regular tabulation because the area censused is small in comparison to the other nineteen; it is, however, a good list of land birds to be found in Nelson County in winter and is presented for our readers' information.—Ed.)

DEATSVILLE—Dec. 21 (Weller farm covering about 100 acres). Total, 23 species, 183 individuals. Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Mourning Dove, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 5; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Common Crow, 11; Carolina Chickadee, 9; Tufted Titmouse, 15; Carolina Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 1; Hermit Thrush, 4; Eastern Bluebird, 6; Cedar Waxwing, 17; Starling, 14; House Sparrow, 8; Eastern Meadowlark, 14; Cardinal, 27; American Goldfinch, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 32; White-throated Sparrow, 2.—CLETIS WELLER.

FROM OUR MICHIGAN MEMBER

WHITE PIGEON, MICHIGAN (The same area covered as in the last several years)—Dec. 26; 8:35 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. Overcast; temp. 31 to 41; wind W, very light; ground covered with six inches of snow; lake and river frozen over. Total, 21 species, 153 individuals. A Brown-headed Cowbird observed during count week. Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Mourning Dove, 12; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Prairie Horned Lark, 1; Blue Jay, 12; Common Crow, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 4; Tufted Titmouse, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Starling, 8; House Sparrow, 27; Common Grackle, 1; Cardinal, 7; Evening Grosbeak, 1; American Goldfinch, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 19; Tree Sparrow, 45; White-crowned Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 1.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS.

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FIELD NOTES

SNOW BUNTINGS ON FALLS OF OHIO

About mid-noon on November 17, 1963, as I was walking on the virtually barren limestone shelf-rock on the Falls of Ohio, two birds flew before me just as I reached one of the sloughs. I suspect the birds were feeding along the stream before I startled them. They flew only a few feet from the edge of the water. At this point they both sat in full view for many seconds while I noted the plumage characteristics enumerated below. The identity of the birds as Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) was, of course, instantaneously obvious, for they revealed the extensive white wing patches as they flushed. The entire upper wing surface was white save the outermost primaries, which were dark. The ventral surface was almost entirely clear white. The exception was a small rusty-brownish smudge median on the upper breast. The head was white with exception of a rusty auricular patch and variable rusty in the crown. The back was evenly streaked with gray and brown. The tail was almost entirely white with some darker feather edging toward the distal end. This was flanked posteriorly by an immaculate white rump visible when the birds flew. The bills, typically conical and finch-like, were pinkish or horn in color. The tarsi were jet black. In size the birds suggested the Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), but were somewhat chunkier and shorter-tailed. The shape is probably not distinguished from the species of longspurs.

The birds ran rather than hopped on the barren rocks. One bird uttered the single whistled "tu" of the species when it flew up from the rock. I have found this to be rather close to the Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) but somewhat more musical. During the past five years while living in northern Indiana and western New York I have observed many thousand individuals of this species under many varying conditions and plumages.

Joseph Croft visited the Falls of Ohio on December 21, and saw three Snow Buntings. On December 22, I could not find the birds, but later in the day four were found flitting about on the snow and ice by Croft, Anne L. Stamm, and William Rowe.—KENNETH ABLE, Louisville.

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LE CONTE'S SPARROW AT LEXINGTON

On December 31, 1963, Algie Reece and the writer observed an unfamiliar sparrow at Dr. Hackensmith's farm in Jessamine County. It was a Le Conte's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus caudacutus*). We had ideal views of the bird as it allowed itself to be approached, within 15 feet, without flying. All field marks tallied with the description and picture in Peterson's *Field Guide to the Birds* to which we referred upon return to the car. The colors seemed quite vivid as we observed the bird in the short grass above the snow-covered ground. The color plate to which we referred does not portray the sharp and distinct colors and marks noted in life. The only field mark that may not have been typical was the

grading of the white median crown stripe into tan on the forehead.—
MIKE FLYNN, Lexington.

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THE WOODBURN LAKES, SEASON OF 1963

Throughout the winter of 1962-63 the rainfall in the Bowling Green area was far below normal. As late as March 2, 1963, I walked through the Chaney Swamp and found it as dry as it usually is in mid-summer. Heavy rains immediately afterwards started the springs to flowing at the Chaney and the McElroy Lakes on March 10. Within ten days the lakes had reached their highest level for the season, about 100 acres at each lake. Because the water came so late, only 14 species of ducks, most of them in small numbers, ever visited the lakes before the last puddle at Chaney's disappeared on April 28. Normal years bring 20 to 22 species of ducks. However, 14 species of shorebirds were recorded, considerably better than for any recent year. All told, 36 species of water birds were recorded, making the season one of the poorest in many years.

In general, the numbers of individuals were also below average. A record of 100 Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) on April 11 was the only large find of ducks; most species ranged from one to 10 in one day. Only a few more than 20 American Coots (*Fulica americana*) were sighted in one day, even when both lakes were visited. Two hundred Pectoral Sandpipers (*Erolia melanotos*) on our K. O. S. field day, April 20, and a flock of 200 Greater Yellowlegs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) and Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes*) on April 17 were the only other large finds. The water went down before good weather for herons. Because the water was so low at both lakes, accessibility was easy, and I feel that just about everything was seen.

The oddities for the season were the following: American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*)—1 on March 13, 4 on March 29, and 2 on April 13; Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*)—1 on April 11 and 1 on April 20; Knot (*Calidris canutus*)—1 on April 20, 1 on April 23, and 1 on April 26 (all at Chaney's, probably the same bird); Baird's Sandpiper (*Erolia bairdii*)—3 at Chaney's on April 20; and Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*)—1 on April 19 at Chaney's. The best single species count was made on April 20 by the K. O. S. members—19 species. The whole season was short and rather disappointing.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

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SOME SUMMER NOTES

A LATE SWAINSON'S THRUSH.—The Swainson's Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata*) arrived on April 19, 1963, just about its average date. Almost at once I could see and hear it daily in the brushy lot behind my yard. Until this season its departure date occurred around May 16, with May 28, 1962, as the latest it was ever found. Every day through late May and all of June I could see and hear the one lone bird that stayed in the

small trees and in the piles of brush. Usually it would call at all times of the day and would sing its distinctive song early in the morning or late in the afternoon. Finally, on July 1 it seemed to sing even more melodiously than ever; after that day it did not appear.

CARDINALS AND TOWHEES FEED COWBIRDS.—On July 1, 1963, while I was listening to what proved to be the last song of the Swainson's Thrush before the bird went to its summer home, I also heard the squeaky notes of a young Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). Almost at once a female Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) came with food for the little bird. Again and again I watched it being fed, that day and on several succeeding days, until the Cowbird was full-grown in size. On July 18, 1963, in the same clump of bushes a pair of Cardinals (*Richmondia cardinalis*) were feeding a very small Cowbird. They, too, continued their care of the little parasite until it was mature.

GRACKLE ANTING.—Again on July 1, 1963, in my back yard, I watched a Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) anting at an anthill that has often been frequented by a Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). In spite of the frequency of anting by many species of birds, this is the first authentic instance in my whole experience of observing birds.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

(Continued from Page 2)

NATION HONORS AUDUBON

K. O. S. extends congratulations to Henderson, and to the Henderson Audubon Society on the occasion of the first day's distribution in the nation of the new Audubon Postage Stamp on December 7, 1963. It is fitting that the event took place at Henderson, since John James Audubon lived there from 1810 to 1819. Miss Virginia Smith, W. P. Rhoads, and Miss Edna Vogel, members of our society, served on the committee, and aided in focusing attention on this early ornithologist's work in Kentucky.

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COLONEL LUCIEN BECKNER DIES

Lucien Beckner, curator of the Louisville Free Public Library Museum, and Honorary K. O. S. member, died August 28, 1963, at the age of 90.

Beckner was a charter member of the Louisville Chapter and will long be remembered for his informative talks on Kentucky history and its birdlife. His passing leaves us with a great sense of loss.