

5-1965

Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 41, no. 2)

Kentucky Library Research Collections
Western Kentucky University, spcol@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler



Part of the [Ornithology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kentucky Library Research Collections, "Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 41, no. 2)" (1965). *Kentucky Warbler*. Paper 140.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler/140

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kentucky Warbler by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. XLI

May, 1965

No. 2



White Pelicans at Sportsman's Lake
Photograph by C. Friend, *The Louisville Times*

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS AND VIEWS	22
SOME COMMENTS ON BANDED STARLINGS, Anne L. Stamm	23
TAPING THE MOCKINGBIRD'S SONG IN TODD COUNTY, John Cecil Wright	26
SPRING MEETING, April 9-11, 1965, Mrs. James Gillenwater	27
FIELD NOTES:	
A Third Record of Glossy Ibis, Gordon Wilson	29
Albino Hawks at Lake Cumberland, Floyd S. Carpenter	30
Albino Red-tailed Hawk in McLean County, Willard Gray	30
Another Mid-winter Bird Count, John A. Cheek	32
BOOK REVIEW: Anne L. Stamm	32

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson)

President Howard P. Jones, Frankfort
 Vice-President Cletis Weller, Deatsville
 Corr. Sec.-Treasurer Mrs. James Gillenwater, Glasgow
 Recording Secretary Evelyn J. Schneider, Louisville

Councillors:

A. H. Mayfield, Winchester1963-1965
 Virginia Smith, Henderson1963-1965
 Herbert E. Shadowen, Bowling Green1964-1966
 Charles S. Guthrie, Burkesville1964-1966

Retiring President Clell T. Peterson, Murray
 Librarian Evelyn Schneider, Louisville
 Curator Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Ridge Road, Anchorage
 Staff Artist Ray Harm, Cox's Creek

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the **Kentucky Ornithological Society**. Published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. The **KENTUCKY WARBLER** is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular, \$3.00; Contributing, \$5.00; Student, \$2.00; Corresponding, \$2.50; Life, \$50.00. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships, and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

Editor Anne L. (Mrs. F. W.) Stamm, 9101 Spokane Way,
 Louisville 40222

Editorial Advisory Board

Roger W. Barbour	Harvey B. Lovell
Leonard C. Brecher	Herbert E. Shadowen
Joseph E. Croft	Gordon Wilson

NEWS AND VIEWS

THE COVER

It is always news when White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) appear in Kentucky; so it was with special interest when two were sighted on Sportsman's Lake, in Larue County. The birds fed around the lake for about ten days, but were not seen after October 4, 1964. The cover picture was taken by Clarence Friend of the **Louisville Times** staff.

(Continued on page 32)

SOME COMMENTS ON BANDED STARLINGS

ANNE L. STAMM

Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) have been banded at my backyard station for some time, but only in small numbers incidental to other banding. I was not particularly interested in capturing these birds until a Starling wearing one of my bands was found in Toronto, Canada, in 1957. This caused me to take new interest in banding this species as, heretofore, all recoveries had been from within the Louisville area. From June, 1949, through December, 1964, a total of 1,116 Starlings were banded; 926 of this number were banded at my former station at Lakeside Drive, the rest at Spokane Way, where we moved in the spring of 1962. All banded birds were adults and immatures; no nestlings were banded during the entire period. Most birds were taken in single and four-cell Potter-type automatic door traps, others were taken in a large ground trap with openings at the bottom and top, three were taken in mist nets. Birds were captured in every month of the year, but few were trapped from June through October, as they apparently found adequate natural foods such as fruit and insects at that season of the year. Most birds were banded from November through February (see Table 1, below).

Table I — Birds Banded June, 1949-1964

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Grand Total
241	180	121	33	58	20	19	10	20	28	119	267	1,116

The traps were baited with biscuits, bits of suet, sliced apples, and bread spread lightly with peanut butter, although some Starlings were attracted by mixed grain which had been used to capture seed-eating birds.

From the 1,116 banded Starlings, 15 individuals have returned to the station at least once, others have repeated more than once. (Returns are recaptured birds at a given banding station after a period of three months or more from the time of banding.) It was interesting that some were re-trapped about the same time of year when first captured, some birds banded in the winter returned in the summer and a few summer birds returned in the winter months (see Table 2).

Another 19 have been recovered away from the banding station, at distances of one-half mile to eight miles. Another bird was found dead in the yard, after an interval of four months. One recovery, #532-83739, was banded as an adult on September 30, 1956, at Lakeside Drive, and recovered six and one-half years later on Wetstein Avenue—a distance of only a few blocks away. It is likely that this bird remained in the Louisville area during the seven and one-half years or more of its life—incidentally, this Starling holds the longevity record to date for all those I have banded.

The seven Starlings recovered away from the station, at distances of 480 to 880 air miles, show a northeast movement. All seven were recovered in New York and Canada (see Table 3). Six of these birds were banded during the winter months, and five of the six were recovered

Table 2 — Returns

Band Number	Age	Sex	Date Banded	Date of Return
48-238232	I	—	09-12-49	06-30-50
512-11953	I	—	08-31-53	03-05-54
512-11954	I	—	09-01-53	05-10-54
522-05054	A	—	12-24-54	04-28-56
512-18387	A	F	05-17-56	12-25-56
532-82779	A	F	01-11-57	05-19-57
798	A	M	01-29-57	12-12-57
800	A	F	01-29-57	12-12-57
542-87728	A	M	02-27-57	06-06-57
795	I	—	07-13-57	12-20-57
552-14828*	I	—	09-07-57	12-13-57
829	I	—	09-09-57	01-07-58
552-14748	A	—	01-02-58	05-23-58
552-65805	A	—	01-18-58	01-16-59
552-65985	I	—	07-23-58	04-16-59

*Released at Second Street and River Road, seven miles away, returned to banding station three months later.

during the summer months. The recovery of #552-65958, an adult female, is of special interest since it was banded on March 20, 1958, and found dead seventeen days later, fourteen miles north of Cornwall, and about four miles southwest of Apple Hill, Ontario, Canada—a distance of 745 air miles. A male banded in December, 1957, was found dead in August of 1959 at Shawinigan Falls, Quebec, Canada, and had traveled farther to the northeast than any of the others—880 air miles. The sex was known on six of the seven birds recovered in the northeast: three were females and three males. Four birds were adults, and on three the age was not known.

While the number of recoveries and returns (43) is small (and undoubtedly, I would have had additional returns, if I had not moved), there is some slight basis to suggest that some Starlings at both stations are resident birds of the suburban area, while some few from my former station are migratory, particularly from the wintering flocks. None of the recoveries showed any southward migration, with one exception, and that is one at Mount Washington, 20.9 miles southeast of Louisville.

Davis (1960) confirms previous work by Kessel (1953) that Starlings are migratory but that many are sedentary. The banded birds at my station appear to conform to this pattern. Davis states that “. . . since the exact source of the introduced birds is not known, it is impossible to know whether they belonged to a migratory or to a sedentary race.” Therefore, he advocates the banding of Starlings to “help unravel a profound mystery, the origin of migration.”

Table 3 — Recoveries

Band Number	Age	Sex	Date Banded	Date Recovered	Place Recovered
512-11918	A	—	11-04-52	03-29-53	Lakeside Drive (yard)
919	A	—	11-04-52	04-03-53	Suburb of Louisville
977	I	—	11-02-53	04-29-59	Strathmoor Blvd.
48-238255	A	—	02-04-50	01-15-54	Gladstone Ave.
522-05004	A	—	03-21-54	05-30-54	Cavelle Ave.
019	A	—	05-09-54	04-18-56	Ravinia Ave.
064	A	—	03-06-55	03-17-55	duPont Manual High School
532-82739	A	—	09-30-56	04-01-63	Wetstein Ave.
794	A	—	01-27-57	06-03-57	Winston Ave.
799	A	F	01-29-57	04-22-57	Toronto, Canada
542-87713	A	—	02-23-57	Early Mar.-58	Wrocklage Ave.
552-14722	A	—	12-25-57	Jan.-58	West Main Street
720	A	—	12-26-57	02-09-58	Lowell Ave.
552-14864	A	—	11-30-57	12-13-58	Douglass Blvd.
899	—	M	12-20-57	08-25-59	Shawinigan Falls, Quebec, Canada
552-65839	A	M	02-02-58	04-02-60	Sherman, N. Y.
552-65913	A	M	02-22-58	09-24-58	Angola, N. Y.
958	A	F	03-20-58	04-06-58	14 miles north of Cornwall, Canada
955	—	—	03-18-58	01-05-59	Napoleon Blvd.
552-87328	—	—	11-30-58	05-19-60	Mount Washington, Kentucky
552-87410	—	—	02-25-59	08-24-59	Tonawanda, N. Y.
404	—	—	02-25-59	04-21-60	Cherokee Rd.
440	I	—	05-29-59	07-05-60	Bruce Ave.
572-20937	—	F	12-13-60	08-07-61	St. John's, Quebec, Canada
572-21024	A	M	01-20-63	04-05-63	Wingate Rd.
049	—	—	01-27-63	02- ?-63	Worthington, Kentucky
078	A	M	10-04-63	01-19-64	Brookwood Path
632-31601	A	M	11-29-63	11-27-64	Girard Dr.

Literature Cited

- Davis, David E.
1960. Comments on the Migration of Starlings in Eastern United States. *Bird Banding*, 31: 216-219.
- Kessel, Brina
1953. Distribution and Migration of the European Starling in North America. *Condor*, 55 (2): 49-68.

TAPING THE MOCKINGBIRD'S SONG IN TODD COUNTY

JOHN CECIL WRIGHT

Annually, as I do my summer trek into the South, I never fail to be amazed at the ability and remarkable energy of the Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*). It seems impossible that an energy source so tiny could perform through so many daylight hours, spring and early summer, to make no mention of the countless musical renditions he proffers to a sleeping world at odd moments all through the night.

Frequently, I have toyed with the idea of making a recording of the Mockingbird's song to take back with me to the North, there to awaken from time to time sweet nostalgia—there, where the tintinnabulations of his song are not known. So, last summer on my vacation, I carried just an inexpensive tape-recorder and 200 feet of power cord.

The framework of this story of the recording of the Mockingbird's song could possibly be cast in such a manner as to stir pleasant memories should the lead line begin with some such verbiage as: "Perched high on the gable of an old barn, the Mockingbird was broadcasting his sweet melodies onto the summer's air!" I did my best to satisfy the specifications of those who thirst after the song of the Mockingbird cast in this legendary setting. I placed the microphone in line with the topmost point of a gable of a barn from which he had been performing wildly, and waited. For two days I waited in vain. Finally I concluded that temperament in artists dwells not in its entirety in the human kind; the bird carefully avoided the gable. On the third day my efforts met with similar failure when I attempted to use the topmost bough of an ancient and gnarled apple tree, a point from which His Artistic Highness had been performing furiously during the two days I had the gable under surveillance. Upon sight of the recording apparatus the bird not only deserted the apple tree for the period of my fruitless attempt, but he cancelled appearances at that point for the duration of the summer.

After the second failure in my attempt to make a tape-recording of the Mockingbird's song, I realized I must resort to stratagem if I were to meet with success. It occurred to me that I might be able to use a low perch which the bird was frequenting more and more, now that two of his posts had been rendered untenable by my intrusive action. This third possible location, however, presented a problem in that it was 400 feet from the nearest electrical outlet. Over a distance so great I feared the resistance factor would so reduce the electric current as to render the recording mechanism inoperable. A hasty check over the length of line necessary proved, however, a recording loud and clear could be made. Accordingly, the microphone was concealed among the leaves of this low perch some six feet from the Mockingbird's "stage," facing squarely up to that position. The recorder was hidden from the bird's view at the base of the perch. Then I retired to a point near the source of the electrical supply, from which location I commanded an excellent view of the perch and, being near the electrical switch, was in position to turn the recorder on and off at will. No sooner had I established myself at my listening post than the Mockingbird, drifting in leaf-like, settled, singing all the while, onto this broadcasting post. The microphone was activated, and the making of a 600-foot tape-recording

of the Mockingbird's song began, made in as natural a setting as one could hope for. However, it is a sad story, indeed, to those who thirst after the song of the Mockingbird cast in its legendary setting, to inform them that this successful recording of his song was made as he sang from nothing more ostentatious or evoking of nostalgia than a scrub post oak bush scarcely ten feet high!

A close-up "take" of the Mockingbird's song brings out details of tones, thrills, and "weak" notes with great fidelity. Most of these details are lost when heard under normal conditions at normal distances. At a distance of six feet the microphone brought into audible range facets of the Mockingbird's song rarely heard directly by the human ear, for this bird, while seemingly appreciative of a human audience, does not perform for it at a distance of six feet.

The master tape required some editing, with occasional explanations, to make it more meaningful to the general public. The original possessed random gaps and footage of undesirable background noise which intruded on the central theme. These were eliminated in the editing process.

Editing requires the use of a second recorder. Recorder Number 1, carrying the original tape, is attached through proper connections with recorder Number 2, which carries a tape onto which the edited version of the Mockingbird's song is to be impressed. The operator listening to the "playing" of the original through the monitoring device of the recorder Number 1, records onto the tape on recorder Number 2 the desired portions of the original by as simple an act as starting and stopping recorder Number 2 at the desired moments. Then the original tape may be "wiped" clean—demagnetized—and used for other recordings. However, I have kept and cherish the original I made of the Mockingbird's song, and play it back occasionally, if for no other reason than to review the harassing problems, long periods of fruitless waiting, and minor frustrations I experienced in maneuvering America's most redoubtable songbird into such a position that I can now at will command his performance at a mere flip of the switch.

* * * *

SPRING MEETING

April 9-11, 1965

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 1965 Spring Meeting at Bowling Green, Kentucky, April 9-11, with headquarters at Lost River Motel. Seventy-two persons attended some or all of the events.

President Howard P. Jones presided at the opening meeting on Friday evening at the Science Building of Western Kentucky State College. Dr. Gordon Wilson announced plans for the Saturday field trips. Dr. L. Y. Lancaster extended a warm invitation to the group from himself and Mrs. Lancaster to re-visit the Mouth of Gasper area, although Mrs. Lancaster's illness would prevent her presence. After the showing of slides taken by members and of Karl Maslowski's color film, "Kentucky Heritage," the group joined Dr. Herbert Shadowen to see the college's collection of bird skins.

Dr. Gordon Wilson led the Saturday morning trip to Chaney Lake.

After picnic lunch at the roadside park north of Lost River, the group went to the familiar area along Drake's Creek near Burton Memorial Chapel.

The Executive Board met at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday in the president's suite at the Motel to discuss necessary business.

The dinner meeting was held at the Holiday Inn in Bowling Green at 6:30 p.m. After dinner, Mr. Jones introduced the officers and guests and opened a short business session. He reviewed the proposal of the Corps of Engineers to build a dam above the falls at Cumberland Falls State Park, a proposal to which the Society had voiced opposition in 1963 and 1964. The proposal is now before Governor Breathitt for his recommendation. As the Governor will be under considerable pressure from groups in the Cumberland Falls area to approve the project, the president urged individual Society members to write the Governor within the week following the meeting so that he might be advised of opposition across the state. Dr. William Clay mentioned that members might make the point in their letters that the facility belongs as much to all the people of the state as to those who live near-by and cited the example of Tallulah Falls in Georgia. Dr. Wilson reminded the group that Mr. du Pont gave the park acreage to the state to save it from such a fate as is now proposed.

Mr. Jones explained briefly the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology cooperative nesting study. He stated that the study would provide a comprehensive and authoritative record for the state, and that the records of participants would still be theirs to write up and publish as they desired. The state study will be channeled through four area coordinators: James W. Hancock, Madisonville, for Western Kentucky; Dr. Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green, for South Central Kentucky; Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Louisville, for that area; and Howard P. Jones, Frankfort, for Eastern Kentucky. Record cards may be obtained through these coordinators. Members were urged to participate in the study, but to make sure that any records submitted be made by qualified observers.

The Fall Meeting will be held the first week-end in November, November 5-7, at Kentucky Dam Village at Gilbertsville, with headquarters at the Village Inn. It is expected that both the Golden and Bald Eagles and a variety of waterfowl will be seen at this meeting. Members should arrange their accommodations directly with the Village Inn as soon as possible after receiving the meeting notice.

Mr. Jones urged members to be alert for potential members of the Society and advised that informational material is available if requested.

Dr. Wilson reported the day's finds and repeated Dr. and Mrs. Lancaster's invitation and gave directions to their cabin.

Mr. Jones introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr. Bill Parker, Game Management Agent for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Henderson, Kentucky. Mr. Parker made some introductory remarks before showing an excellent film, "This is the Mallard," made by the Missouri Department of Conservation, and later answered questions arising from material presented in the film. Both the film and Mr. Parker's commentary emphasized the need for a much more widespread understanding of wildlife needs and the compensations which must be made for man-made damage.

On Sunday morning the group drove to the Lancaster cabin and divided into parties led by Dr. Lancaster, Dr. Wilson and Dr. Shadowen.

The final bird count for the three-day period set a new record of 128 species.

Respectfully submitted,
(Mrs. James Gillenwater)
Acting Recording Secretary

Members and Guests Attending the Meetings

BOWLING GREEN: Mildred Allen, Mrs. Harry Bowman, Gail Bowman, William W. Frech, Mr. Glasscock, Nancy Glasscock, Dr. L. Y. Lancaster, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Long, Dr. and Mrs. Robert N. Pace and children, Frances Richards, Mary Ellen Richards, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert E. Shadowen and children, Mrs. F. Eugene Wilson, Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilson.

BURKESVILLE: Charles S. Guthrie, Donnie Smith.

FRANKFORT: Howard P. Jones.

GLASGOW: Mrs. George J. Ellis, Jr., Mrs. James Gillenwater, Dr. and Mrs. George McKinley, Mary Clyde Nuckols, Dr. and Mrs. Russell Starr.

HENDERSON: Mr. and Mrs. Bill Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Riley.

LOUISVILLE: Gudrun Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Mrs. Wm. David Brown and daughter Kelly, Floyd Carpenter, Dr. and Mrs. William M. Clay, Joseph Croft, Mary Louise Daubard, Amy Deane, Mrs. Harry H. Hummel, Patricia Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Jackson, Andy Lewis, Jill Longley, Mabel Slack, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Haven Wiley.

MURRAY: Dr. and Mrs. Hunter M. Hancock.

PARK CITY: Cleo Hogan, Jr.

RICHMOND: Mr. and Mrs. John A. Cheek II.

SACRAMENTO: Willard Gray, Larry Sharp.

HORNBEAK, TENNESSEE: Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Cypert.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: Albert F. Ganier.

* * * *

FIELD NOTES

A THIRD RECORD OF GLOSSY IBIS

On March 20, 1965, Dr. Herbert Shadowen and I were checking on the water birds at the McElroy Lake, using the telescope that belongs to the biology department of Western. A very cold wind was blowing, and there were remnants of a snow that fell the previous night. Just as we had decided that we would have to return to the car and get warm again, I suddenly heard what sounded at first like the grunt of some wild animal. When this grunt was repeated many times over, I knew that I was hearing something in the air. A flock of large birds, with extended necks and sickle-shaped bills soon appeared over the thicket that is nearest the source pool of the lake. In the bright sunlight it was easy to identify the birds as Glossy Ibises (*Plegadis falcinellus*). They circled over our heads, not much above the tops of the small trees, and kept up

their raucous notes. We got many good looks at the flock and at individual birds. Probably seeing us, the birds slowly circled again and flew back toward the source pool. What made the record so startling was that there are only two previous records, of one bird each, for this whole area: April 21, 1945 (*Ky. Warbler*, 21:48, 1945) and May 12, 1956 (*Ky. Warbler*, 32:59-61, 1956). Both of the earlier records were made on the McElroy Farm, only a few yards from where we first saw the 27 ibises in flight.—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

* * * *

ALBINO HAWKS AT LAKE CUMBERLAND

On Monday, October 12, 1964, Oscar Bryens and the writer were in a boat on Pumpkin Creek, about one-half mile above the state boat dock. This is in Russell County, and near where the creek enters Lake Cumberland.

We saw a large almost white bird perched on a tree about 100 feet above the water. The bird was plainly a hawk about the size of a Red-tailed (*Buteo jamaicensis*). The head, upper back, and breast were a pure white, marked with heavy almost-black streaks; the rump and feathers on the legs were also white. The upper parts of the folded wing seemed to be light gray, becoming darker lower down. The outer tail feathers were white, but the middle was darker. When the bird flew, it disappeared behind the trees so quickly, we could not tell much about it.

We went up the creek about a quarter of a mile further and saw another white hawk. It was not the same one because its entire underparts were pure white, the bill yellow instead of medium blue-gray of the first one; otherwise, the plumage was the same. We examined this bird about three minutes before it flew out of sight.

Later in the afternoon, Carpenter saw near the same location, what was evidently the first hawk. In flight it was light underneath except for the streaks on the abdomen and black wing tips. The central tail feathers were the color of a Red-tailed Hawk, except much lighter.

I searched many texts and pictures but found nothing like it. I am inclined to think that the two birds were probably albino Red-tailed Hawks.—FLOYD S. CARPENTER, Louisville.

* * * *

ALBINO RED-TAILED HAWK IN McLEAN COUNTY

On Sunday afternoon, March 21, I was returning to Sacramento, Kentucky, from Louisville. About a mile and one-half north of Island, on U.S. 431, I spied a large white bird circling low over the Green River Bottoms on the right side of the road. I stopped immediately, thinking that I had seen a Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*). The bird crossed the road behind me as I got it in my glasses. It flew to the nearby hillside and lit about two hundred yards away. It flew along the side of the ridge and lit on three occasions while under observation, coming closer each time. After about five minutes it flew up over the ridge and out of sight. I drove around the point of the hill and stopped to scan the sky. I observed

the bird gaining altitude and watched until it finally disappeared in the distance. It was solid white with the tail showing a slight bit of shadow. I had quickly realized after getting it in my glasses that it was a buteo. The broad wings and rounded tail, along with the overall size, leave no doubt in my mind that I had been observing an albino Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*).—WILLARD GRAY, Sacramento.

* * * *

ANOTHER MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

This mid-winter bird count from Madison County, came too late to be included in the compilation published in the last issue. The count is a good one with some interesting water species and is, therefore, listed below.—Ed.

RICHMOND (All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Duncannon. The route followed was from Richmond to Berea, Brushy Fork to Berea Woods, Big Hill, Kingston, Blue Grass Army Depot, Tates Creek Road, Million, Silver Creek, and Barnes Mill Road to Richmond.)

—Dec. 31; 7:45 a.m. to 4:10 p.m.; temp. 33° to 64°; wind NE to E, 5-14 m.p.h.; partly cloudy to clear. Total, 35 species, about 2,428 individuals. Canada Goose, 50; Mallard, 204; Black Duck, 50; American Widgeon, 12; Redhead, 6; Bufflehead, 2; Black Vulture, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 9; American Coot, 20; Mourning Dove, 42; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Blue Jay, 3; Common Crow, 400; Carolina Chickadee, 20; Tufted Titmouse, 24; Carolina Wren, 4; Mockingbird, 1; Brown Thrasher, 2; Robin, 2; Eastern Bluebird, 16; Starling, 190; House Sparrow, 50; Eastern Meadowlark, 16; Redwinged Blackbird, 1; Common Grackle, 1,000; Brown-headed Cowbird, 200; Cardinal, 10; American Goldfinch, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 56; Song Sparrow, 8. Several species that we normally would expect to find at this time of year were not recorded. There was a report of 40 Robins seen on January 2, 1965.—Richard M. Barnes, Mrs. John A. Cheek, John A. Cheek (compiler), Frank B. Gailey, Mrs. Mary McGlasson, A. L. Whitt, Jr.

* * * *

BOOK REVIEW

THOREAU ON BIRDS, selections from his writings, compiled and with commentary by Helen Cruickshank. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1964. 331 pp. Illus. \$7.95.

In this nicely bound volume Helen Cruickshank has assembled some of the most interesting passages about birds from Thoreau's writings. Many of the passages have been extracted from *Walden*, but the bulk of the selections are from the less familiar *Journal*, a huge work of 14 volumes. The greater portion of the book consists of passages on specific birds, arranged in both chronological and check list order. Mrs. Cruickshank has added her own commentary throughout the book, which helps to explain the material presented, provides current terminology, and

tells why certain species are now more numerous, or less numerous, than they were in Thoreau's day. Since she is a bird watcher and knows the New England birds well, her comments are of special interest and always set apart from those of Thoreau's notes; so there is no confusion between the two authors.

Mrs. Cruickshank describes the ornithological reference books used by Thoreau and includes 16 pages of illustrations from them; these reproductions are by Nuttall, Wilson, and Audubon. The science of ornithology was in its infancy when Thoreau watched birds at Walden Pond, and it is readily understood how difficult it must have been for him to identify all the birds in the Concord area without the help of present-day field guides.

There are some general bird notes arranged chronologically, but not by subject; these deal with birds in a broad way. She also includes some excerpts from his travels and an alphabetical list of the birds he knew.

Although Thoreau made no great contribution to the science of ornithology, he was the first of many observers to write about the birds he saw in the vicinity of Concord, Massachusetts. These accounts, written with such sympathetic observation and beauty of style, seem all the more enjoyable because of the compiler's present-day comments.

Those interested in the great out-of-doors, and a love of birds will enjoy the descriptive notes of the Concord area. The book provides the bird watcher with a ready reference to the notes of this great naturalist-philosopher and his thoughts about birds more than a century ago.—A. L. S.

* * * *

NEWS AND VIEWS

(Continued from page 22)

HELP SAVE CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE PARK

Cumberland Falls State Park with all of its natural scenic beauty is about to be ruined if the Corps of Army Engineers plans materialize. The plans? The building of a dam on the Cumberland River, just above the falls! This is the park for which the late, nationally known conservationist and honorary K. O. S. member, Tom Wallace, fought so eagerly more than 30 years ago to preserve for posterity. He was a great advocate of being militant in efforts to preserve our natural resources. Could we do less? K. O. S. members will, therefore, want to voice their objections and urge the prevention of a hydroelectric development involving the falls before it is too late. **WRITE TO GOVERNOR EDWARD T. BREATHITT NOW!**