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The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

VOL. XLII

NOVEMBER, 1966

NO. 4



Blue Grosbeaks—Plate CXXII of John James Audubon's BIRDS OF AMERICA.

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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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Joseph E. Croft	Gordon Wilson

NEWS AND VIEWS

THE COVER

Audubon's painting of Blue Grosbeaks at the nest, reproduced on the cover of this issue, was done not in Kentucky but in New Jersey. However, it shows a typical nest. Audubon found the nest in 1829 in New Jersey, only a few miles from Philadelphia. Since a nest of this species was found in Kentucky this past summer (see Kenneth H. Dubke's article elsewhere in this issue), Audubon's comments (**Ornithological**

(Continued on page 67)

BLUE GROSBEAK NESTING IN TAYLOR COUNTY

KENNETH H. DUBKE

It has been brought to my attention that several sightings of the Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) were made in Kentucky during 1966, but it appears I was the only person successful in locating an active nest. This note then is to give some details on my observation.

As a cooperater with the Fish and Wildlife Service for its Breeding Bird Survey, I was assigned a route to be covered in Taylor County. Having never been in the county before and desiring to acquire some familiarity with the area, I made a preliminary survey on June 9, 1966. No sooner had the automobile stopped at the final proposed listening point than to my astonishment, only about 30 feet distant, a female Blue Grosbeak was perched with a large larva in her beak. Immediately realizing this would probably be the first nesting recorded in Kentucky, I began searching for a nest. After some interval the male arrived, and shortly thereafter I noted the female drop to a particular spot, which proved to be the site of the nest. A search this time revealed a typical nest, containing two young approximately a week old and one unhatched egg.

I had hopes of securing photographs of the young in the nest when I returned for the count on June 15. However, the nest was empty at that time. About one-half to three-quarters of a mile before arriving at the nest site I had heard a Blue Grosbeak singing, so upon noting the condition of the nest I immediately walked in that direction. The male was located where first heard and appeared to be giving the alarm call on seeing me. I at first suspected that the original pair may have been re-nesting in the area, till I spotted nearby a drab bird that could have been one of the young.

Additional facts pertaining to this nest are as follows: The habitat would be considered typical for this species, consisting of blackberry bushes, honeysuckle, and sassafras growing in a fence row along a gravel road. The nest was 29 inches from the ground; its main support was the crotch of an elm sapling, along with two nearby raspberry stems. The nest was collected and turned over to the University of Louisville study collection.

For those who might be interested in checking the locality for future nestings, the following information is provided from my notes. Travel west about one and a half miles from the junction of State Highways 1252 and 527; when the blacktop ends, go straight ahead about 100 yards to the nesting area.

Pictures of the nest and habitat were taken and are now in my possession. Also of interest was the sighting of a male Blue Grosbeak on May 17, a few miles west of Hodgenville, Larue County. This area was later rechecked, but all results were negative.

NEST OF A PARULA WARBLER NEAR FRANKFORT

HOWARD P. JONES

On May 28, 1966, while on a field trip about 7:00 a.m., 10 members of the Frankfort Bird Club found a nest of the Parula Warbler (*Parula americana*). Don Howard first recognized a singing female which, as we all watched, made several stops before entering a nest which had remained unnoticed to this point. Though the nest was quite inaccessible to us, we observed it as carefully as possible in view of the rarity of this find.

Mengel, in *The Birds of Kentucky*, indicates that no nest has yet been found in Kentucky although adults are constantly present in considerable abundance at lower elevations in summer throughout the Cumberland Plateau and in alluvial lowlands and swamp forests in western Kentucky localities. In central Kentucky the species is regarded as extremely rare or absent.

The nest was found within 200 feet of the intersection of Peaks Mill and Rocky Branch Roads, in northeastern Franklin County. The general area is rural and characterized by rather steep wooded hills and a narrow valley with a rocky stream bed of rather steep gradient. The tree containing the nest stands with one or two others in an opening formed by the overburden from a deep road cut resulting from relocation and improvement of Rocky Branch Road about five years ago. About one-quarter mile north, Rocky Branch empties into Elkhorn Creek, a large permanent stream.

The nest itself was in a mature Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) about 50 feet above the ground and about 10 feet below the top of the crown. It appeared to be woven about one or two small live twigs two feet from a division of the main stem. In general appearance it was somewhat like an Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) nest in size, depth, and construction, although perhaps not so open. It was surrounded by four or five old sycamore balls, young green leaves, and dark young leaves that had been killed by a late freeze. The nesting material appeared fuzzy and tan-colored. It looked to be material from sycamore balls. In addition, several frayed sycamore pedicels, with only the inner cores still attached, were pendant from the nest. Had the bird not entered the nest, we would never have seen it, so naturally did it blend into the general background.

I returned to the site at 6:00 a.m. on May 30 and observed for about an hour. When I arrived five Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) were about six feet directly above the nest. Adult Parulas were not heard or seen. In about 10 minutes a male began to sing repeatedly from a nearby slope. He worked his way slowly to the nest, finally entering it from the side opposite my view, it seemed. He stayed about 15 seconds, then flew away in a direction opposite to that from which he had come. He carried nothing to the nest. About 10 minutes later the female appeared from the slope to which the male had flown. She gradually approached the nest, but flew to a hillside beyond rather than entering the nest. She carried nothing, nor did she sing. Shortly after, the male re-appeared, singing, in an adjacent tree. He did not return to the nest. It was impossible for me to climb to the nest or see into it from any angle.

On June 8 I returned in the late afternoon. There was no activity about the nest and I did not see or hear the adults. On this same date, however, I did hear an adult singing in large sycamores on Elkhorn Creek about one-half mile away. On June 18 at 7:00 a.m. I returned to the nest location, remaining for some time. Again there was no activity near the nest, nor were adults seen or heard there. On June 29 and July 10 I heard an adult singing in large trees along Elkhorn Creek about one-half mile from the nest. It appeared that the nest had been abandoned.

The woodland opening in which the sycamore stands is a location favored for nesting by many species. In this same tree, lower down on a medium lateral branch, we found the nest of an Eastern Wood Pewee (*Contopus virens*). At the edge of the clearing were found nests of the Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*), Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*), Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virens*), and Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*). The Wood Thrush, Acadian Flycatcher, and Phoebe nests contained Brown-headed Cowbird eggs. Young Louisiana Waterthrushes (*Seiurus motacilla*) were seen nearby, and I am certain that the Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) nested on an adjacent hillside, but I could not find the nest.

From the general information gathered from this Parula nesting, I believe that sycamores may be favored for nesting, at least in Central Kentucky, because of the selection of fruiting materials for nest construction. This may be a material of choice when strands of usnea are not available. Certainly the nest will be difficult to locate if it is as inconspicuous as this nest was, and if this is a typical height above the ground for nest location.

A PINE WARBLER NEST AT PENNYRILE

JAMES W. HANCOCK

On April 7, 1966, I followed a singing male Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) into a plantation of mature white pine just across Highway 109 from the large sign at the southeast entrance to Pennyryle Forest State Park. (The plantation is also park property).

I did not at first locate the singer but a faint chirping attracted my attention, and I looked for the source. It appeared to come from near the ground but I was unable to locate the source there and finally realized the bird was calling from overhead.

Looking up, I spied a nest and noted a small bird, a female Pine Warbler, creeping about among the pine branches. As I watched, she went to the nest, which I judged to be approximately 40 feet up and about 10 feet out from the main trunk of the nest tree. She appeared apprehensive and didn't stay long on the nest, but, as I continued to watch, she went back to it twice.

The nest looked, from below, large enough and compact enough to be complete. Apparently the female bird was incubating, but I could not be absolutely positive of this. This date may seem early for egg-laying, but Arthur T. Wayne (*Birds of South Carolina*, Charleston Museum, 1910, pp. 169-170) states, of his studies in that state: "The breeding season is from March to June. I have taken eggs containing small embryos as

early as March 28, but the majority of the birds do not have full complements of eggs before April 4-10." He recorded nests from 15 to 135 feet above the ground, always on the horizontal branch of a pine.

I marked a tree near the nest tree with leaning poles before leaving to go to a neighborhood grocery. Soon I returned, finding the nest tree again with no difficulty, and this time I saw the female as she slipped off the nest.

At the time of study, a male sang about 150 feet from the nest tree, and on one occasion it came closer briefly and I saw the yellow breast.

I returned on April 10, and on other occasions, but no further evidence of nesting activity was noted at this nest. One, or sometimes two, males were heard to sing in this same plantation from time to time, and two were in song on June 23, but no other nests were located.

I first definitely located the Pine Warbler at Pennyryle in July, 1965, at another part of the park. Also, during this past summer (1966), I found at least two, possibly three, singing males in other portions of the park than the above-mentioned plantation. The species may prove to be at least an uncommon breeding bird within the park area.

Mengel (*Birds of Kentucky*, pp. 416-18) regards the Pine Warbler as a common species in the Cumberland Mountains and Plateau, and lists a number of counties in which he has recorded it, as well as other counties in which records were made during the breeding season by Roger Barbour, John A. Patten, and Jesse Dade Figgins. Lovell found a nest 70 feet up in a pine in Pine Mountain State Park, Bell County, containing small young on June 13, 1948 (*Ky. Warbler*, 24:33-39, 1948).

However, although the species has been recorded near Mammoth Cave in summer by Wilson (*Ky. Warbler*, 23:12, 1947) and by Hibbard there (Mengel, *loc. cit.*) in the breeding seasons of 1933 and 1934, my observations of April 7 appear to be, incomplete though they are, the first actual evidence of this species breeding in the western portion of the state.

FIELD NOTES

SIGHT RECORD OF A CATTLE EGRET

On April 25, 1966, William Zimmerman, Cincinnati, Ohio, saw an egret sitting on a fence post on the right of the road as he was driving to Louisville. He did not have time to stop and observe the bird. The next day, when he returned to our studio, he told me about the incident. After subsequent conversations about the egret, we decided to go back to Kentucky to see if we could spot it again.

Zimmerman thought he saw the egret near Carrollton, and he remembered that a herd of Black Angus cattle were in the field behind the post where the bird was perched. Some distance before we reached Carrollton we spotted the cattle. We drove into the farm to ask the owner if anyone had seen a strange white bird mingling with their cattle. The first man we saw was a farm hand. His answer to our question was classic—"I sure did—he's down there in the field. First time ever I saw a white shipoke!" Another farm worker had an apt description also.

He said, "that darn bird had a brown streak down his neck same color as that collie dog lying there." These odd yet sufficient descriptions indicate plainly that the bird in question was a Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*). The owner of the farm, Perry C. Froman, Ghent, Kentucky, said that the bird had been on the farm for "about a week" and that just about everyone on the farm had seen it.

We then drove all over the farm in search for the egret but did not find it, although we spent one-half day there. We left our telephone number so that he could reach us in the event the bird returned. He called us once, two days after we had been there, and said they had seen the bird only once more, but only for an hour or so. We felt that Kentuckians would like to know about this incident and sight record of the Cattle Egret.—JOHN RUTHVEN, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ed. note: At the time Mr. Zimmerman saw this bird, only two previous records of the Cattle Egret in Kentucky were known (Wilson, *Ky. Warbler*, 36:72, 1960; Marvel, *Ky. Warbler*, 41:65, 1965).

NOTES FROM DAVIESS COUNTY

The Ohio River bottoms are usually flooded in February or March and the few remaining flooded fields are dry by the middle of April or the first of May. The spring of 1966 proved a little different as the low places and flat fields in our area were under water long after the river had receded, due to the heavy rains which lasted until the middle of May. The farmers were put at a great inconvenience but the extra time proved a great boon to the shore birds.

On May 15, 1966, in a flooded field near Maceo, we had the good fortune to locate a vast horde of shore birds that were in concentrations greater than I had ever seen in this area. In company with Mildred (Mrs. A. L.) Powell, Maudie (Mrs. Marvin) Ray, George Ray, and Wilton Powell, we recorded the following species.

The first of this interesting list is the Dunlin (*Erolia alpina*), which numbered from 40 to 50 birds in one flock. Intermingled with the Dunlins were also 50 Semipalmated Plovers (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) and a sizeable number of Least Sandpipers (*Erolia minutilla*) and Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Ereunetes pusillus*). Swinging the glass from one section to another of the many little fringes of mud also disclosed 35 White-rumped Sandpipers (*Erolia fuscicollis*). A small wet patch across the road from the large field had four dowitchers (*Limnodromus* sp.) feeding in the muddy water. These birds flew across the road to join the other shore birds at the big mud flats; and while we were studying them at leisure, a flock of large birds crossed in front of our eyes and dropped down a short distance away. Instantly we recognized the startling black and white pattern of the Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*). We observed at our leisure and at close range 10 of these magnificent birds.

The above notes have significance because it is the first time I have recorded the White-rumped Sandpiper, dowitcher, Dunlin (Red-backed Sandpiper), and the Black-bellied Plover in Daviess County, or, for that matter, in the entire area. Another point of interest is the large numbers of Dunlin, Semipalmated Plovers, and the Black-bellied Plover.

By way of interest, I feel also that the finding of an immature Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) in the Ohio River bottoms, near Maceo, on October 3, 1965, worthy of note.—ALBERT L. POWELL, Natural Science Museum, Owensboro.

TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER IN THE HODGENVILLE AREA

Having recently moved from Upper East Tennessee where the Traill's Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) has established itself as a nesting species, I decided to check suitable habitat in the Hodgenville area in an attempt to help ascertain the bird's range expansion in Kentucky.

The first Traill's Flycatcher of the season was a single bird on May 18 that sang twice in suitable nesting habitat along Salt Lick Creek in the Highview Community of Marion County. This same area was again visited on June 1 and a total of four individuals were noted singing; on June 15, however, only one bird was located. Upon arriving in this area at 5:10 a.m., June 30, a thorough search was conducted for the next four hours. The results were negative and there were no clues to indicate that the birds were still present.

On June 20 suitable habitat at the upper end of Sportsman's Lake in LaRue County was searched for two hours, with three birds present. An effort was made to locate nests but none were found. Nests may have been present and not found or, on the other hand, it may have been too early for the birds to nest. No follow-up was made at this site.

One bird was heard June 15 along the Rolling Fork River where State Highway 52 crosses over near New Haven. It wasn't practical to check for nesting at this site.

The only nests found were three at Johnson's Lake in western Nelson County. This is the same location where Croft (*Ky. Warbler*, 40:28, 1964) found a nest in 1963. On June 15 a bird was busily carrying material to a three-fourths completed nest on the outer branch of an alder bush five feet above the water. On a return trip June 29, the nest was found either destroyed or abandoned, as only fragments remained. However, on this same date a similarly finished nest was located about 30 or 40 feet away, containing two eggs. Also, in this same area a nest containing four young, a few days old, was found with the adults nearby. No follow-up visit was made to the site after this date.—KENNETH H. DUBKE, Hodgenville.

Ed. note: Croft's files also contain two previously unpublished records of Traill's Flycatcher nests at Johnson's Lake: June 22, 1964, nest with three eggs. June 25, 1966, nest, apparently completed, nine feet up in willow sapling.

FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL FALL MEETING

October 14-16, 1966

The Kentucky Ornithological Society opened its Forty-third Annual Fall Meeting at DuPont Lodge, Cumberland Falls State Park, on October 14, 1966.

President Howard P. Jones presided at the Friday evening opening session, which began with an explanation by Mr. Cletis Weller of possible field trips in and near the Park. The president announced that the Frankfort Bird Club had been re-activated and was represented in force at the meeting. He also reported that records for the cooperative nesting study are still being accepted by the area coordinators and mentioned some of the rarer nesting records sent in by participants, giving details on the Parula Warbler's nest sighted by the Frankfort Bird Club and re-visited by Mr. Jones until he adjudged it abandoned. Mrs. F. W. Stamm, showing her own color slides, gave a pictorial and verbal account of birding in the Sleeping Bear Sand Dune area in Michigan.

On Saturday morning, the group divided into several parties for field trips over Park trails.

Mr. Jones opened the general business meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. A motion to dispense with the reading of the 1965 minutes, previously published in *The Kentucky Warbler*, was seconded and carried. The treasurer, Miss Evelyn Schneider, summarized the treasurer's report (a complete copy of which is attached). Miss Schneider attributed the Society's improved financial condition to an increase in the number of contributing members, to lower printing costs, and to lower mailing costs made possible through use of the University of Louisville mailing facilities. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made, seconded, and carried.

The president then called for committee reports. In the absence of Miss Virginia Smith, chairman of the Membership Committee, Miss Schneider listed the number of members in each of the several classes as follows: 28 contributing members, 11 student members, 26 corresponding members, 28 full-paid life members, one partially-paid life member, two honorary members and 186 regular members, for a total of 282 members. The president encouraged each member present to try to bring other interested persons into the Society.

As chairman of the Investments Committee, Mr. Leonard Brecher said that he had only to report that the Society's funds were invested with the optimum of safety and interest return and should remain as invested until more money in the various funds would permit investment in treasury bonds.

As chairman of the K.O.S. Committee for Preservation of the Falls of the Ohio, Mr. Brecher reported that he could give a glowing account of continued interest and successful activity, with matters being pushed as rapidly as possible toward the eventual establishment of a national park, or more probably a bi-state park. He cautioned that it would be several years before even a bi-state park could be established because of necessary court title tests and Kentucky and Indiana legislation. In the

meantime, he reported, Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall had viewed the area, which has since been designated as a National Landmark.

As chairman of the Youth Activities Committee composed of Messrs. A. L. Powell and Willard Gray and Dr. Roger Barbour, Mr. Powell commented on the concern over lack of "young blood" in the organization. He said that some of the best organizations to interest boys and girls in bird study are the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, and school science groups. He outlined a proposed K.O.S. awards program which would involve an approximate outlay of \$20.00 annually, noted that a member had volunteered to underwrite any expenditure above \$15.00 for the first year, and said that the Committee would assume responsibility for the mechanics of publicizing and making the awards. Whereupon, he moved that the K.O.S. award a sleeve patch and student membership and send a letter from the K.O.S. president to any young person in the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, or other similar groups who qualifies under the standards of the several organizations for excellence in bird study, and that the K.O.S. expense not exceed the sum of \$20.00 for the initial year of the awards. Dr. A. L. Whitt seconded the motion. In discussion, Mr. Powell explained the standards of the Scout and 4-H groups, and said that his committee could set like standards for young people not associated with those groups. The motion was voted upon, and carried. The president noted that this committee would continue to function.

The president reported that he had appointed a committee composed of himself, Dr. A. L. Whitt, and Dr. H. E. Shadowen to work with the Kentucky Junior Academy of Science in setting up standards for the K.O.S. awards for papers on bird study and to encourage submission of such papers.

Under new business, the president read the proposed amendment to Article III of the By-Laws as submitted in writing to all members. The amendment would change Article III to read as follows:

"ARTICLE III — GOVERNMENT

Section A. The governing body of this corporation shall be a Board of Directors composed of the following: four officers—a President, a Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, and a Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer; four Councilors; the Editor of *The Kentucky Warbler*; and the immediate past President.

Section C. Officers shall be elected for one year, and they may be re-elected to the same office for not more than four consecutive terms. Two councilors shall be elected each year for two-years terms, and may be re-elected."

A motion to amend the By-Laws to read as above was made, seconded, and carried.

Mr. Willard Gray read the report of the Nominating Committee, composed of himself, Dr. Clell Peterson, and Dr. Hunter Hancock. The committee proposed as nominees the following persons for the various posts:

- President Dr. Herbert E. Shadowen
- Vice-President Charles S. Guthrie
- Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer Miss Barbara Burns
- Recording Secretary Mrs. James Gillenwater
- Councilors A. L. Powell and Alfred M. Reece

There being no nominations from the floor, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the nominating committee and elect the proposed slate by acclamation. The president noted that councilors continuing in office were Willard Gray and Burt L. Monroe, Jr.

Dr. Gordon Wilson moved a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring officers for their work, and such was expressed.

The president announced the Board of Directors' choice of meeting dates and places for the 1967 spring and fall meetings. The spring meeting will be held at Bowling Green on April 14, 15, and 16. The fall meeting will be at Rough River State Park at Falls of Rough on October 13, 14, and 15 if accommodations are available on that date, or the next preceding weekend if not.

Dr. Hunter M. Hancock was recognized to report on efforts to preserve Murphey's Pond. He announced the formation of a Kentucky Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, with K.O.S. members responding in astonishing numbers to the invitation to become charter members. The Nature Conservancy has advanced \$63,000 to the Kentucky Chapter and a total of 235 acres, including the Pond and protecting acreage, has been purchased. An additional tract of about 30 acres is under option. The Kentucky Chapter is obligated to repay the above sum to the parent organization over a long period. An organizational meeting for the Kentucky Chapter will be held at Kentucky Dam Village November 4, 5, and 6, with field trips to Murphey's Pond and the Land Between the Lakes.

President Jones made some graceful and modest comments on his tenure of office, reminding the members that the accomplishments of the Society depend on the efforts of individual members.

Mr. Brecher proposed for the consideration of the membership and the guidance of the incoming officers that the Friday evening sessions be patterned more after the meetings of the national societies in offering members the opportunity to present papers on their current work. The president recommended to the new officers that they encourage such presentations.

There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was seconded and carried.

At the annual dinner at 6:30 on Saturday evening, the president welcomed the group, composed of most of the 83 persons attending the meeting and some guests. Past and future officers and others making special contributions to the society were recognized. The much-regretted absence of Mr. Albert Ganier was explained when the president read a letter noting that special duties had required his presence at home. The president also noted that Mr. and Mrs. John A. Cheek II were now teaching in Michigan and unable to attend.

Dr. Gordon Wilson led the compilation of the day's sightings, for a total of 49 species. Mrs. F. W. Stamm identified the several nests which had been placed on display during the meeting.

The speaker for the evening, Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., was introduced and presented an outstanding program of color slides and comments on birding in Fiji, New Zealand, and Australia.

The meeting ended after Sunday morning field trips which added several species to the birds seen during the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Marquita P. Gillenwater
Recording Secretary

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

October 14, 1966

GENERAL FUND

Bank balance as shown by last report, dated November 4, 1965 \$379.88

Receipts

Annual Membership Dues	\$785.00	
186 Regular members @ \$3.00	\$558.00	
28 Contributing members @ 5.00	140.00	
11 Student members @ 2.00	22.00	
26 Corresponding members @ 2.50	65.00	
Life Membership Payments		72.50
Interest Income, Jefferson Federal Savings and Loan Association (Endowment Fund)		30.63
Contributions to the Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology		20.00
Sale of Publications		14.80
Sale of Sleeve Patches		8.75
Sale of Checklists		20.56
Receipts, Fall Meeting, November, 1965		279.05
Receipts, Spring Meeting, April, 1966		163.40
Total Receipts		<u>1394.69</u>
TOTAL		<u>\$1774.57</u>

Disbursements

Printing costs, The Kentucky Warbler	593.29	
Postage, including mailing The Kentucky Warbler .	70.11	
Bank charge for printed checks	2.98	
Stationery	38.81	
Rubber stamp	2.68	
State of Kentucky, Corporation Filing Fee	2.00	
Transfer to the Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology	20.00	
Transfer to the Endowment Fund	72.50	
Dues, The Nature Conservancy	5.00	
Expenses, Fall Meeting, November, 1965	213.29	
Expenses, Spring Meeting, April, 1966	129.27	
Total Disbursements		1149.93
Balance on hand, Citizens Fidelity Bank and Trust Co., Louisville		624.64
TOTAL		<u>\$1774.57</u>

ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance in Savings Account, Jefferson Federal Savings and Loan Association, Louisville, Ky., Nov. 4, 1965	\$ 968.20
Seven (7) full-paid shares in the above	700.00
TOTAL Balance in Fund, November 4, 1965	\$1668.20

Receipts

Interest on full-paid shares	\$30.63	
Interest on Savings Account	42.83	
Life Membership Payments	72.50	
Total Receipts		145.96
TOTAL		\$1814.16

Disbursements

Transfer of interest on full-paid shares to General Fund	30.63	
Total Disbursements		30.63
TOTAL Balance in Fund, October 14, 1966		1783.53
TOTAL		\$1814.16
Seven full-paid shares	700.00	
Savings Account Balance, Nov. 4, 1965	968.20	
Life Memberships received during 1966	72.50	
Interest on Savings Account	42.83	
TOTAL ASSETS, Oct. 14, 1966	1783.53	

GORDON WILSON FUND FOR ORNITHOLOGY

Balance in Savings Account, Greater Louisville First Federal Savings & Loan Association, Louisville, Ky., November 4, 1965	\$817.88
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Receipts

Contributions, 1966	20.00	
Interest on Savings Account	36.44	
Total Receipts		56.44
TOTAL		\$874.32

Disbursements

NONE		
TOTAL Balance in Fund, October 14, 1966 ..		\$874.32
Principal Fund	\$678.00	
Accumulated Interest	196.32	
TOTAL	\$874.32	

BALANCE SHEET October 14, 1966**ASSETS:**

Cash in General Fund in the Citizens Fidelity Bank and Trust Co., Louisville, Ky.	\$ 624.64
Endowment Fund, Jefferson Federal Savings and Loan Association, Louisville, Ky.	1733.53
Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology, Greater Louisville First Federal Savings and Loan Association, Louisville, Ky.	874.32
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3282.49

Evelyn J. Schneider
Treasurer

ATTENDANCE AT THE FALL MEETING, 1966

ANCHORAGE: Mr. and Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Sr.

BOWLING GREEN: Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilson, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert E. Shadowen.

BURKSVILLE: Charles S. Guthrie.

DEATSVILLE: Cletis Weller.

FRANKFORT: Marvin Bing and Mr. and Mrs. Bing, Miss Louise Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. Howard P. Jones, Mrs. Howard Jones, Joel Jones, Mrs. Suzanne Moore, Miss Pinkie May Richardson, Mrs. Mary Dell Smith.

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

LA CENTER: Mr. and Mrs. Willard Gray.

LEXINGTON: Miss Barbara Burns, Mrs. G. L. Burns, Miss Cecil Bull, Mrs. Anna Heaton, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred M. Reece, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Simpson, Steve Tracey, Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Uterhart, Conley Webster.

LOUISVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Yancey Altsheler, Miss Gudrun Andersen, Miss Janet Borders, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brecher, Floyd S. Carpenter, Carlyle D. Chamberlain, Mrs. Mary Louise Daubard, Miss Amy Deane, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Duncan, Mrs. Harry H. Hummel, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Jackson, Miss Harriet Korfhage, Miss Pamela Lewis, Mrs. Spencer Martin, Dr. and Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Miss Evelyn Schneider, Mrs. Eugene Short, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Wetherell.

MACEO: Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Powell, Wilton Powell, George Ray.

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

RICHMOND: Mrs. Alvin McGlasson, A. L. Whitt, Jr.

SHELBYVILLE: Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas.

VALLEY STATION: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Summerfield, Donald Summerfield, Jr.

WHITE PIGEON, MICHIGAN: Oscar McKinley Bryens.

CINCINNATI, OHIO: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cole.

BIRDS RECORDED AT CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE PARK

The following species of birds were seen on the various field trips taken by K.O.S. members at the fall meeting at Cumberland Falls State Park on October 15 and 16; although birds were scarce, some were not expected so late in the year: Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Screech Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren, Robin, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Pine Warbler, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Common Grackle, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, American Goldfinch, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

NEWS AND VIEWS

(Continued from Page 54)

Biography, 1834, p. 141) are of more than ordinary interest: "I never observed this species on the Mississippi farther up than the neighborhood of Natchez; nor is it ever seen in Kentucky, or in any other part of the western country. Along the Atlantic coast it is rarely found beyond the state of New Jersey."

A.O.U. HONORS K.O.S. MEMBERS

Two K.O.S. members were honored at the recent annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union held at Duluth, Minnesota, September 5-9, 1966. Amelia R. Laskey, Nashville, Tennessee, a Life Member of K.O.S., was elected a Fellow, and Burt L. Monroe, Jr., an Elective Member.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The forty-second volume of *The Kentucky Warbler* is now completed and I would like to express my gratitude to all the members who have assisted in preparing it. The members of the Editorial Advisory Board have continued their helpful work and I am particularly grateful to Dr. Gordon Wilson, Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, and Mr. Joseph Croft for assistance in various ways.

BALD EAGLE PRINT AVAILABLE

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, has produced a document "Symbol of Our Nation" as a part of its continuing effort to alert Americans to the alarming decrease in

numbers of the Bald Eagle. This large folder contains an attractive color print of our national bird, reproduced from a painting by Bob Hines and suitable for framing or display in schoolrooms, offices, and libraries. This is the same print that is being used as the frontispiece for the new book "Birds In Our Lives," sponsored by the Bureau and scheduled for release in late October. Copies of the folder, at 50 cents each, are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

For some time I have been meaning to write to you to congratulate you on the interesting nature and high quality of recent issues of **The Kentucky Warbler**. The appearance of your May, 1966, issue is of special interest to me, quite aside from the presence therein of Dr. Loetscher's gracious review of "The Birds of Kentucky."

You may appreciate what a pleasure it is for me to note the accumulation of new information—some of it in the form of events which I was lucky enough to predict—on Kentucky birds without having to feel personally responsible for it!

I would particularly comment on "Notes from Fulton County" by Joseph Croft and William Rowe, which occupies pp. 23-26 of your May number. This contains a good deal of valuable material, and I gather that more records of this kind will be forthcoming, some of them certainly from Fulton County.

Two points of caution are in order, however. First, L. O. Pindar's 1887 and 1889 papers should receive the emphasis in any effort to compare present with past conditions in Fulton County. These were written when the events were fresh in his mind. Not only was Pindar's 1925 paper written long after his departure from the scene in question, but also most of his notes had earlier been lost in a fire, as I noted in the historical section of "The Birds of Kentucky."

More importantly, I fear that grave doubt must attach to Pindar's reliability as an accurate reporter of conditions prevailing in the Fulton County of the 80's and 90's. There seems little doubt that, **by present standards**—even given accurate literature and good binoculars available today—he could scarcely be regarded as a highly competent, or even fairly competent, observer. Judging from the **general literature** on the Mississippi Valley in his times, it is quite obvious that he regarded many birds as rare merely because he didn't know how to identify them or where to look for them—in short, he rarely perceived them. Possibly, also, some of his common species were not what he thought they were, or were "composite."

Therefore, while it is quite possibly that many of his appraisals were accurate, we can only guess which ones and **extreme caution should be used in arriving at conclusions that this or that has changed**. There is no doubt whatever that, had C. W. Beckham lived in Fulton County, we should be very much better off in this matter.

Sincerely yours,
ROBERT M. MENGEL
Museum of Natural History
The University of Kansas
Lawrence 66044