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The Kentucky Warbler

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Young Great Horned Owl at Nest. Photograph by Terry Snell

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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NEWS AND VIEWS

OUR COVER

The photograph reproduced on the cover of this issue features a nestling of a species for which Kentucky has few actual breeding records—the Great Horned Owl.

In his paper in this issue Donald Boarman reports on the observation of this bird and the food contents found within the nest. The photograph is by Terry Snell.

(Continued on Page 20)

CONNECTICUT WARBLERS IN THE LOUISVILLE AREA IN AUTUMN

KENNETH P. ABLE

The Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) has been found to be a rare but regular transient in the Louisville area in spring. This is to be expected, since the major portion of its northward migration route lies in the Mississippi Valley. However, the autumn migration route of the species is primarily along the Atlantic coast, with presumably very few individuals retracing the spring route. Prior to fall, 1967, there were only several doubtful sight records to attest to the species' occurrence in Kentucky in autumn, plus Beckham's record of a fall specimen, present location unknown, which he identified as this species (Mengel, *Birds of Kentucky*, 1965, p. 426).

On September 22, 1967, I flushed a Connecticut Warbler from the ground in an area of dense, shrubby undergrowth in Caperton's Swamp, Jefferson County. The bird landed in a low bush no further than 15 feet from me and sat motionless for almost a minute. It then flew into the lower branches of a small tree, where it was collected. Upon examination the specimen (University of Louisville 3686) proved to be an adult female in slightly fat condition. The bird exhibited a wide, complete eye-ring, and a brown hood; its wing measured 71 mm.

On the nights of October 5-6 and 6-7, 1967, moderate numbers of migrating birds were killed at the WHAS-TV tower, Floyd County, Indiana. John G. Morris, a graduate student in the Biology Department of the University of Louisville, collected 78 birds at this tower on the morning of October 7, including a Connecticut Warbler. The specimen is now in the University of Louisville collection (U.L. 3689). This bird was also a female and was very fat. It had a wide, complete, whitish eye-ring, and its wing measured 69 mm. The wing measurements of both of these individuals are greater than maximum measurements given by Lanyon and Bull (*Bird-Banding*, 38:185-194, 1967) for either Mourning Warblers (*Oporornis philadelphia*) or MacGillivray's Warblers (*O. tolmiei*).

These records suggest that perhaps the Connecticut Warbler is not as rare in Kentucky in fall as might have been supposed. The species is secretive and easily overlooked unless one makes a thorough search for it. Some of the sight records from previous years may well be valid, but they remain unacceptable due to the lack of verifying details and the extreme difficulty in identifying individuals of this species group in the fall. Future sight records should be made with extreme caution and submitted with full details.

Since the species should be watched for during fall migration, some remarks on field identification of the species may be in order. It is well known that Mourning Warblers, particularly females and immatures, frequently show a white eye-ring in the fall. This eye-ring is

usually incomplete, being broken both anterior and posterior to the eye. However, it is sometimes complete, as it is in one male individual in the University of Louisville collection that was originally misidentified as a Connecticut Warbler. Thus the presence or absence of an eye-ring is in no way a conclusive factor in identifying these birds. This problem is further confounded by the fact that the MacGillivray's Warbler, which is of casual occurrence in the East, normally shows at least a broken eye-ring in both sexes. The eye-rings of Connecticut Warblers are consistently wider than those of either Mourning or MacGillivray's Warblers and are thus more obvious under field conditions. Due to their greater width they lend a slightly different overall aspect to the appearance of the bird which may be of some use in the field.

In breeding aspect, the males of both Connecticut and Mourning Warblers have gray hoods. The hood of the female Connecticut Warbler tends to be browner than that of the female Mourning Warbler. In fall, Mourning Warblers tend to retain their grayer hoods, while those of Connecticut Warblers are usually quite brownish. In addition, female Mourning Warblers often largely lose their gray throats in fall or show a wide area of gradual merging of breast and belly color. Female and immature Connecticut Warblers often have a lighter throat but nearly always retain a sharp line of demarcation between the posterior edge of the hood and the yellow of the belly. This often gives the appearance of a brownish stain across the breast.

The standard field guides often mention the relative lengths of the under tail-coverts in relation to the rectrices in the two species. The Connecticut Warbler has a shorter tail than does the Mourning Warbler and the under tail-coverts often reach almost to the tip of the tail. In the Mourning Warbler they often extend no more than half way to the tail tip and usually no more than two-thirds of that distance. However, there is marked variation in this character and it is obviously of limited usefulness in the field.

The Connecticut Warbler is a slightly larger bird than the Mourning Warbler, and in my experience, is more inclined to forage on the ground. When flushed from the ground or low in the shrubbery it characteristically flies to a low perch and sits there quietly for a considerable period of time. Usually, when they leave this perch, they fly a considerable distance and are thus difficult to re-locate. I have noticed on several occasions that when perched, after being flushed, the species has a habit of cocking its tail nervously in the manner of a wren. How characteristic of the species this habit is, I do not know.

It has now been definitely established that the Connecticut Warbler migrates through Kentucky in autumn. The extent of this migration remains unknown, largely due to difficulties in identifying the species and its secretive nature. Field observers should be aware of its occurrence and watch carefully for it. The collection of specimens is desirable in order to certainly determine its exact fall status, but carefully made sight records should be submitted with full details.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE GREAT HORNED OWL

DONALD BOARMAN

On March 18, 1967, while driving a much-frequented country road, near Habit, Daviess County, I happened to notice a rather bulky object in the branches of an American elm. After pulling off the road and examining the object through binoculars, I found it to be the nest of a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) containing an adult bird.

When I returned the following weekend with Terry Snell, a photographer friend, we were disappointed not to see the adult birds, but we could plainly see a young owl standing in the center of the nest. We immediately approached the nest, hoping to be met by the protesting parents.

The nest-tree was a medium-sized American elm, located in a drainage stream connecting several cultivated fields. The entire stream was lined mostly with willows and blackberry bushes. The nest site was in plain view of the road and less than one-fourth mile from three houses, also in view. Less than 300 yards from the nest a group of boys were playing. It seemed a rather unusual place for this secretive bird to build its nest.

We climbed to the nest, which was only 25 feet from the ground. There we took a series of photographs of the nest with the young bird. The owlet was judged to be about six weeks old, as the primaries were well developed, and the contour feathers covered nearly all evidence of down.

After snapping its beak a few times the owlet backed out of the nest onto one of the supporting branches. This gave us an opportunity to examine the nest.

The nest was constructed of various sized sticks and rather loosely assembled. The outer diameter measured 20 inches and the height nine inches. There was no inner cavity to speak of, as it had been filled with mud, large quantities of brown-colored down, possibly from the mother owl's breast, and particles of food remains. The mud had apparently been brought by accident, being picked up by the adult birds as they dropped to the ground for prey. Also, an unhatched egg was in the nest.

An attempt was made to identify some of the articles of food lodged in the nest, and we came up with the following list: Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*), Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), Eastern Cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), skulls of six unidentified mice, two Meadow Voles (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*), and one very lively roach.

Approximately three days following this investigation I found the nest empty, but no evidence of violence was discovered. Perhaps the young owl found a new place of concealment. This species nests early, and assuming my estimate of its age to be fairly close, it would indicate the eggs were laid about mid-January.

Apparently not much study has been conducted on the Great Horned Owl in Kentucky, that is, as far as nesting habits and food preferences are concerned. This prime reason here, I think, is due to the nocturnal habits of the bird.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1967-1968

Again we present the summary of the 17 Mid-Winter Bird Counts taken with the help of 102 members. A very good survey it is, considering the sleet, snowstorms, and unusually cold weather hampering those who waited until the last weekend of the year before taking their counts. Fewer species appear on the tabulation than in recent years, but the number of individual birds is much higher than last year's count by more than two and one-half million. The large blackbird roost at Bowling Green is responsible for this increase. One hundred and four species, 3,221,761 individuals, with six additional species during the count period, appear on the chart.

On looking over the summary, one can readily see the complete absence of Pine Siskins, the small number of Purple Finches, the decrease in Myrtle Warblers, and the virtual absence of the Red-breasted Nuthatch. However, the Golden-crowned Kinglet shows a decided increase, with widespread distribution, and large numbers at Mammoth Cave National Park and Louisville.

This count is special in a number of ways, particularly to three of our members, and really to all of us. We note with pride that Dr. Gordon Wilson has been the compiler for 50 consecutive mid-winter bird counts (see Bowling Green notes), with the first of these appearing in *Bird Lore* (Vol. 21, No. 1, 1919). Ercel Kozee writes that with the December 1967 count, he will have completed 30 consecutive surveys, in the Willard area, all of which appear in the *Kentucky Warbler*. Also, we note that Burt L. Monroe, Sr., had his first Christmas Census (1918) in *Bird Lore* (Vol. 21, No. 1, 1919). We salute you, gentlemen!

* * * *

THE LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center junction of Highway 453 and Mulberry Flat Road; lake and river shores 30%, fields 30%, deciduous woods 40%).—Dec. 22; 6:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 28° to 26°; wind NW, 8-12 m.p.h. Thirteen observers in four parties. Total party-hours, 36 (19 on foot, 17 by car); total party-miles, 188 (17 on foot, 171 by car). Total, 70 species, 5,579 individuals.—Bob Baer, Evelyn Cole, Eugene Cypert, Mary Louise Cypert, Willard Gray, Larry Hood, Chesley Kemp, Edwin Larson, Kenneth Leggett, Ray Nall, Lawrence Philpot, Clell Peterson (compiler), Paul Sturm.

Notes on the Land Between The Lakes

The Sharp-shinned Hawk (Gray, Nall, Peterson) is a first for the LBL Christmas Count.

The Osprey was reported from Kentucky Dam by Mary Louise Cypert. Although she did not have it under observation for more than a few moments, she was certain of the identification. Kenneth Leggett and I observed an Osprey over Barkley Lake, in the Clay Creek area, on November 24, 1967.

Our observers at the dam were unable to pick out any of the species Kenneth Able found there December 9-10. Several days before the beginning of the count period, Larry Hood observed there the Glaucous

Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake, two of the species recorded by Able. These two birds were also seen on December 27, by Mabel and Willard Gray.

All observers were greatly struck by the drastic decline in numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers from last year's abundance.—C. P.

* * * *

MURPHEY'S POND (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Fulgham; including points along the western edge of Murphey's Pond, Baltimore Bottoms, and parts of the Larry Binford Farm; wooded area 30%, farmland 40%, swamp 20%, overgrown fields 10%).—Dec. 23; 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; temp. 18° to 32°; wind 5-10 m.p.h. Three observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 15½ (14 on foot, 1½ by car); total party-miles, 32 (7 on foot, 25 by car). Total, 45 species, 1,192 individuals.—Chesley Kemp, Edwin Larson (compiler), Kenneth Leggett.

Notes on the Murphey's Pond Count

The number of individuals was considerably higher than last year despite the colder temperature. Nine new species were also added to last year's count. The ratio of Hairy Woodpeckers—15, to Downy Woodpeckers—5, was unique even for the area.—E. L.

* * * *

MARION (same areas as in past years).—Dec. 31; 5:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; temp. 38° to 12°; wind calm until mid-morning. A blizzard started at 10:30 a.m. and lasted the rest of the day; thus it was impossible to cover my regular route. One observer. Total party-hours, 9; total party-miles, 12 (5 on foot, 7 by car). Total, 35 species, about 1,250 individuals.—C. L. Frazer (compiler).

Notes on the Marion Count

Two or more Bald Eagles have been seen fairly regularly near Dam #50, but the snow storm prevented me from getting there and I failed to record any for the count.—C. F.

* * * *

MADISONVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center W. W. Hancock Farm; Elk Creek, Brown Road, Highway 892 and Lake Pewee; deciduous woodlands and thickets 50%, lake shore 30%, open fields 20%).—Dec. 31; 6:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Heavy overcast; temp. 31° to 14°; wind NW, 1-12 m.p.h. Ground snow-covered; lake partially frozen, about 4 hours of steady snowfall. Four observers in one party. Total party-hours, 9½; total party-miles, 41 (6 on foot, 35 by car). Total, 47 species, about 1,466 individuals.—Thomas Brizendine, Edwin M. Dyer, Gregory Hancock, James W. Hancock (compiler).

Notes on the Madisonville Count

The cold wind and driving snow apparently interfered with our count on many species. Starlings and Common Grackles are much more common than the count would indicate; large flocks were seen both before and after our count day. Golden-crowned Kinglets, too, have shown an increase.

MID-WINTER,
BIRD COUNT
1967-1968

	L-B-LAKES	MURPHEY'S POND	MARION	MADISONVILLE	PENNYRILE	HENDERSON	SORGHO	YELVINGTON	BOWLING GREEN	MAM. CAVE N. P.	GLASGOW	OTTER CREEK	LOUISVILLE	DANVILLE	FRANKFORT	WILLARD	ASHLAND
COMMON LOON													2				
HORNED GREBE	1												*				
PIED-BILLED GREBE	3			10				1	2		1	1	4	1			
GREAT BLUE HERON		1															
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON													2				
MUTE SWAN						15		97					1	1			
CANADA GOOSE	1597	88						26	6	165	*		193	16	19		
MALLARD	231			*				5	2	35			392	5	22		
BLACK DUCK	637	1					2										
GADWALL	62												8				
PINTAIL	71											5	3				
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	32												70				
AMERICAN WIDGEON	3												7				
SHOVELER	2												2				
WOOD DUCK													2				
REDHEAD								2					2				
RING-NECKED DUCK	13		1	112	180								47				
CANVASBACK				69									1				
GREATER SCAUP													1				
LESSER SCAUP			11										115				3
COMMON GOLDENEYE	14							3					*				
BUFFLEHEAD	1			3													
RUDDY DUCK	1			1													
HOODED MERGANSER	11						2										
COMMON MERGANSER	99																
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER																	
TURKEY VULTURE		11							2								
BLACK VULTURE									4	6							

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	1	2							1	*					1	1	1	1			
COOPER'S HAWK	1			1											2	3					
RED-TAILED HAWK	11	6		1	3	4			11	1	1				5	24		4			
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	1	2	2	1	2			1	3	2	2				6	9		1	1		
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK									1							1					
GOLDEN EAGLE	16			1																	
BALD EAGLE	4	4	1															1			
MARSH HAWK				2																	
PEREGRINE FALCON																*					
SPARROW HAWK	1	2	1		11				25	1	1				5	88		6			
OSPREY	1																				
RUFFED GROUSE																					
BOBWHITE	27	1	27	*	77				5	12	4				9	46		1			
RING-NECKED PHEASANT																					
AMERICAN COOT	172			700												20	5				
KILLDEER	3			6					1	1					1	82	10	13			
COMMON SNIFE	9								5	1					2						
GLAUCOUS GULL	*																				
HERRING GULL	74															7					
RING-BILLED GULL	294															167					
BONAPARTE'S GULL																5					
BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE	*																				
MOURNING DOVE	36	7	150	5	303	35	27		129	1	32	61			137	403	68				7
SCREECH OWL																1	1				
GREAT HORNED OWL					1							1				4					
BARRED OWL	1		3		1	1	4		1	1					3						
LONG-EARED OWL																					
SHORT-EARED OWL																					
BELTED KINGFISHER	4	1		2	1				1	2					5	11	8	2			2
YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER	29	18	2	15	7	14	19		11	70	20	26			39	6	19	3			2
PILEATED WOODPECKER	8	1	1	1	3	3	5		5	36	15	9			7		3	10			
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	27	15	17	14	11	17	56		19	36	24	37			65	13	39	3			1
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER	4	3		5	5	20	1		1	13	1	6			1						
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER	3	2	2	*	7	3	1		2	9	4	5			1						1
HAIRY WOODPECKER	2	15	1	2	4	6	11	4	3	9	2	9			7	2	7	2			2
DOWNY WOODPECKER	18	5	9	7	4	13	12	41	18	34	20	18			63	31	14	3			1
EASTERN PHOEBE																					
HORNED LARK		50	14	20	120	32	7		110			15			218						

MID-WINTER
BIRD COUNT
1967-1968

	L-B LAKES	MURPHEY'S POND	MARION	MADISONVILLE	PENNSYLVIA	HENDERSON	SORGHO	YELVINGTON	BOWLING GREEN	MAM. CAVE N. P.	GLASGOW	OTTER CREEK	LOUISVILLE	DANVILLE	FRANKFORT	WILLARD	ASHLAND
BLUE JAY	87	24	68	20	44	24	46	65	33	172	45	41	182	53	30	12	12
COMMON CROW	61	101	5	14	245	91	25	21	129	120	53	132	155	9200	298	6	160
CAROLINA CHICKADEE	16	11	14	8	43	25	21	61	40	44	22	47	187	99	111	20	21
TUFTED TITMOUSE	31	4	9	10	21	26	24	38	22	76	44	73	179	37	71	9	26
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	9	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	25	14	14	27				
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH																	
BROWN CREEPER	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	6	2	3	17	2	12	1	1
WINTER WREN																	
CAROLINA WREN	11	5	2	7	5	6	3	29	3	28	10	22	61	12	53	5	10
MOCKINGBIRD	4	6	18	12	1	20	25	13	25	5	22	28	133	20	21		2
CATBIRD																	
BROWN THRASHER	4			*		1	1	1	5	949	12	1811	143	10	667		226
ROBIN	44	5	75	1	137	45	2	42	5	2	12	4	49	15	57		3
HERMIT THRUSH				1	1	1	3	3	12	49	6	15	49	15	57		4
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	29	1	5	10	1	1	6	82	12	84	5	33	66	8	22	7	4
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	19	4		1	30	2	2	7	2	7	1	1	5	5	1		
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	1					1		1	2	2	*	156	11	15			
CEDAR WAXWING	112			15	25	1	145	1	3	26		1	2	4	1		
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	5	6	2	1	1	3	1	6	1650000	1654	311	3535	111400	2400	432		1500
STARLING	146	13	500	187	6200	141	260	40	1650000	1654	311	3535	111400	2400	432		
MYRTLE WARBLER	1			*	1	2		3	1	30	*	13	*				
PALM WARBLER																	
YELLOWTHROAT																	
HOUSE SPARROW	22	72		20	20	1128	398	106	243		231	203	713	337	195		30
EASTERN MEADOWLARK	42	155	14	10	5	143	125	88	189		31	1	182	126	22		
REDWINGED BLACKBIRD	2	150	13				1	1	450000		8		18	4			
RUSTY BLACKBIRD									450000		*		4	27	1		
COMMON GRACKLE	1	67	2	1		3		1	450000	25	24	1	45750	202			2500

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	200	*	41	75	£0	6	10	148	1	6	116
CARDINAL	31	62	34	14	141	31	164	508	154	224	6
PURPLE FINCH	15		2	89	3	36	9	1			15
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	129	30	10	37	34	32	63	217	43	66	16
RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE	51	18	25	4	15	9	32	61	3	11	2
SAVANNAH SPARROW				46	80						14
SLATE-COLORED JUNCO	956	28	120	50	90	47	237	489	95	92	28
OREGON JUNCO				37	307		187	248			118
TREE SPARROW		26	2	2	14	1	42	146		1	1
FIELD SPARROW	56	3	8	29	8	24	10	81	60	11	18
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	4	1	34	2	22	61	6	77	82	51	7
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	16	29	3	1	5	7	42	9	10	82	73
FOX SPARROW	3	1		4	2	2	4	11	5	2	7
SWAMP SPARROW	19	5	2	1	10	18	37	19	3	1	
SONG SPARROW	64	13	16	11	36	81	33	201	233	41	96
LAPLAND LONGSPUR											2
											14

DATE OF COUNT	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Jan.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.
	22	23	31	31	26	30	29	1	21	17	31	26
	70	45	35	47	39	47	38	56	58	41	46	56
SPECIES									88	50	45	19
									23	22	30	26
									23	22	30	26
									23	22	30	26
INDIVIDUALS	5579	1192	1250	1466	6918	2627	1543	1966	3001488	4092	1605	7417
									163225	13667	2772	129
									4825			
OBSERVERS	13	3	1	4	3	7	5	8	6	22	8	4
									26	14	11	1
									2			

An asterisk (*) indicates that the species was recorded during the count period, but not on the day of the count.

However, the Myrtle Warbler and several species of sparrows, including the White-throated, are relatively scarce this season. Strangely enough, no Eastern Bluebirds were seen during the period of study.

The Hermit Thrush, observed at Elk Creek during a light snowfall, sang a beautiful "whisper song."—J. W. H.

* * * *

PENNYRILE FOREST STATE PARK (Pennyrile Lake, deciduous and pine woods, fields within the park area, and adjoining farmlands; wooded area 60%, open fields 15%, farmland 10%, lake shore 15%).—Dec. 26; 6:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; temp. 19° to 35°; wind NW, 1-7 m.p.h. Weather variable, overcast early and snow flurries; later clearing, but partly cloudy in afternoon; finally clearing by late afternoon. Three observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 18½; total party-miles, 34 (13 on foot, 21 by car). Total, 39 species, about 6,918 individuals.—Willard Gray, James W. Hancock (compiler), and Chesley Kemp.

Notes on the Pennyrile Count

The Golden Eagle, an adult, was found by James W. Hancock at the golf course as it stood near the carcass of a house cat. The bird was surprisingly unwary, seemed reluctant to fly and was studied, while still on the ground, at about 50 feet! The golden-brown neck feathers, dark plumage, absence of white in the wings and at the base of the tail, the strong, powerful bill, and the feathered legs all were noted. This is the first record of this species at Pennyrile.—J. W. H.

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HENDERSON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center New Courthouse).—Dec. 30; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; temp. 20° to 32°; wind S, 0-3 m.p.h. Light haze to partly cloudy, ground and ponds frozen since Dec 24. Seven observers in four parties. Total party-hours, 22 (17 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles, 51½ (7½ by foot, 44 by car). Total, 47 species, about 2,627 individuals.—King Benson, Bob Bolds, Mrs. Lora Clark, Mrs. Ross Parsons, William H. Rhoads, William P. Rhoads (compiler), Virginia Smith.

Notes on the Henderson Count

Our species count is below that of other years, chiefly because our member who usually works the river could not go this year. The one Eastern Bluebird was observed by the Rhoads' party.—W. P. R.

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SORGHO (swamps, open fields, and woods, including the Ed Wilson Farm, near Sorgho, but began count at Owensboro).—Dec. 29; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Five observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 12 (11 on foot, 1 by car); total party-miles, 24 (8 on foot, 16 by car). Total, 38 species, about 1,543 individuals.—Joe Ford (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Ray R. Iles, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wilson.

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YELVINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Carpenter's and Kingfisher Lakes; Elliot Farm, Stinnett Road, Pup Creek and Ohio River bottoms, Boy Scout Camp, Daviess County Game and Fish Farm; fields, pastures and roadside ditches 40%, deciduous

woods 25%, lakes and river 20%, yard and orchard (feeding shelf area 15%).—Jan. 1; 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; temp. -3° to 12°; wind 3-5 m.p.h. Cold and cloudy in morning, becoming clear in afternoon. Eight observers in six parties. Total party-hours, 26 (20 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 48 (14 on foot, 34 by car). Total, 55 species, about 1,966 individuals.—Lawanda Elliott, Mike Elliott, Mildred Powell, A. L. Powell (compiler), Wilton Powell, Maudie Ray, George Ray, Bea Whalen.

Notes on the Yelvington Count

The extremely low temperature was a handicap in observation, and the mist rising on the Ohio River made it most difficult to see more than one hundred feet or so on the water.

Part of our census area includes the yards and feeders of our neighborhood; and it is interesting to record that we found 19 species of birds in the A. L. Powell yard, 19 in the Wallace Whalen yard, and 15 in the yard of Marvin Ray. Mrs. Whalen found the only White-breasted Nuthatch, which was seen from her window.

I feel that the sighting of one male and two female Ring-necked Pheasants in the Ohio River bottoms, near Maceo, on December 31 (the day before our count), by Marvin Ray is of significance. Lee Nelson, our area biologist, told me that he had released a fairly large number of these birds (the Korean Ring-necked Pheasant) in the Lewisport, Kentucky, area as late as the fall of 1967. Since these birds were found several miles from the release area, it shows that they travel some distance.

We were pleased with the number of Eastern Bluebirds (82) and were surprised that only one Common Grackle was found.—A. L. P.

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BOWLING GREEN (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, 6 miles south of Bowling Green; largely area covered since 1918: farmlands 25%, stream banks 30%, suburban 15%, swamps and woods 30%).—Dec. 21; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; temp. 60° to 68°; wind SW, 10-15 m.p.h. Unseasonably mild. Severe rains the day before and just after the count ended, then a drop of 38 degrees in temperature. Six observers in four parties. Total party-hours, 34 (10 on foot, 24 by car). Total party-miles, 140 (30 on foot, 110 by car); total, 58 species, about 3,001,488 individuals.—Hugh Ages, Floyd Carter, Robert N. Pace, Marvin Russell, Herbert Shadowen, Gordon Wilson (compiler). (Three boys went along for the trip: Scott Greeley, Dwight Russell, and Jeff Shadowen.)

Notes on the Bowling Green Count

The constant wind prevented our finding normal numbers of such species as kinglets and sparrows.

Our number of species—58—ties with our highest previous number, but some of our species this year were barely represented.

The Common Snipe is wintering here along a small spring branch, where it has often been found before.

Species not found but normally on our Christmas Count were the Killdeer, the White-breasted Nuthatch, and the Bewick's Wren.

The greatest thrill of the day came when one of our parties parked in the line of flight from the largest blackbird roost that any of us has

ever seen. We have been watching the roost for two weeks and trying all sorts of methods of counting or estimating. We all think that our estimate of 3,000,000 is actually conservative. A little more than half the birds observed closely were starlings; the others were about equally divided among Redwinged Blackbirds, Rusty Blackbirds, and Common Grackles. Rather oddly, only a few Brown-headed Cowbirds were counted among some flocks feeding in pastures and cornfields.

This count completed the fiftieth year for the area surveyed. In that time 98 species of birds have been recorded, but seventeen of them appear on only one count, seven more on only two counts. Sixteen species appear on every count, and 53 are on more than half of the lists. Some species have been erratic, especially members of the blackbird group, with few or none in one winter and thousands in another one. Such species as the Golden-crowned Kinglet and the Carolina Wren have had ups and downs because of severe winters. And the Eastern Bluebird has gone down to none for one year and is now back to its normal numbers in most counts, though few were found on our windy day this year.

Since I have acted as compiler for the Bowling Green counts for fifty years, I feel that this is a good time to retire into the ranks and work under another compiler. Therefore I have asked Dr. Herbert Shadowen, professor of biology at Western and president of our society, to take over this duty hereafter. Fortunately, Dr. L. Y. Lancaster was able to join us for part of the day, helping round out the half century of the counts, as he was on the very first one taken here, on December 23, 1918, and has participated in 38 of the 50 counts. I am sure that our counters will cooperate with Dr. Shadowen to make our future counts even better than any of the last half century. And I take this opportunity to thank the 40-odd people who have shared in the counts since they were started.—Gordon Wilson.

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MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (all points within a 15-mile circle, center Turnhole Bend, and including every section of the park. Most of the area is covered with second-growth deciduous forest; open areas around the Mammoth Cave Hotel, the Residential Area, and Great Onyx and Crystal Caves were also visited; one party took Green River from Houchins Ferry to Turnhole Bend but were rained out).—Dec. 17; 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; temp. 32° to 50°; wind SW, 7-15 m.p.h. Cloudy, then a slow rain, with a heavy thundershower just as the various parties were finishing the day's count. Twenty-two observers in six parties. Total party-hours, 39 (14 on foot, 21 by car, 4 by boat); total party-miles, 90 (19 on foot, 50 by car, 21 by boat). Total, 41 species, 4,092 individuals.—Mrs. Lawanda Elliott, Mrs. Frances Ellis, Mrs. James Gillenwater, Millard Gipson, Lynn Greeley, Scott Greeley, Cleo Hogan, Sr., Gilley Hyde, George McKinley, Alan Mebane, Chris Mebane, Robert N. Pace, A. L. Powell, George Ray, Lewis Ray, Marvin Ray, Dwight Russell, Marvin Russell, Herbert Shadowen, Michael Shadowen, Mrs. Bea Whalen, and Gordon Wilson (compiler).

Notes on the Mammoth Cave Count

This, the twelfth cooperative count in the park, drew one of the most uncomfortable days of our experience. Early it was very chilly,

so much so that one boy got his bare hands frostbitten. Then it rained a slow rain intermittently most of the rest of the day, much harder in some parts of the park than in others. The weather brought the river party in by noon, and the West End party gave up at 1:00 p.m. Elsewhere the parties dodged in and out of their cars or under shelter and remained until 4:30, then came a heavy shower.

In spite of the weather, our individuals count ranked fourth for the twelve years, but our species count dropped to the lowest level and tied with 1963.

The woodpecker group were out in rather full force, except for the very erratic Red-headed, which is often missing on our counts. Blue Jays and Common Crows seem not to have been influenced by the weather. Robins ranked among the best three records of our counts. Golden-crowned Kinglets were found in larger numbers than ever before, more than twice as many as in our best previous counts. The Cedar Waxwings, always erratic, were scarce. The sparrows, here as elsewhere in our general area, were far below their normal numbers.

At the meeting to tabulate our finds, Dr. Wilson retired as compiler and appointed Dr. Russell Starr and Mrs. James Gillenwater to share the leadership hereafter.

This would be an appropriate place to thank all the 85 people who have participated in these annual cooperative counts for their constant help and to ask them to be as faithful in the coming years as they have been since the cooperative counts were started in 1956. Let's keep this count distinctive, representative of observers from all over western Kentucky.—G. W.

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GLASGOW (Wininger-Darter and Green Farms, along Beaver Creek, west of Glasgow; Stovall Crossing area; Gillenwater and Simpson Farms, Industrial Drive, Highland Park and South Glasgow residential areas; Brigadoon).—Dec. 31; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; temp. 29° to 22°; wind W, brisk in p.m. Raging snowstorm all day, with depths of 7 to 12 inches (drifts); visibility poor. Eight observers in six parties. Total, 46 species, about 1,605 individuals.—Frances Ellis, Marquita Gillenwater, Cleo Hogan, Gillig and Grace Hyde, George McKinley, Billie M. Moore, Russell Starr (compiler).

Notes on the Glasgow Count

The heavy snowstorm which lasted all day, the difficulty of keeping binoculars clear, and the poor driving conditions apparently kept us from seeing some species and limited the number of individuals.

Our blackbird count was disappointing, as we have a large roost south of Glasgow, but the birds did not show up for us.—R. S.

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OTTER CREEK PARK AREA (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center two miles southwest of park entrance; largely area used the past two years, including some open fields outside the park; deciduous woods 18%, brushy fields 35%, open fields 27%, hedgerows 4%, creeks and river banks 16%).—Dec. 26; 6:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Clear and cold; temp. 21° to 28°; ponds frozen over. Four observers in three parties during the morning hours, two parties in afternoon. Total party-hours,

26¼ (16 on foot, 10¼ by car); total party-miles, 145 (19 on foot, 126 by car). Total, 56 species, about 7,417 individuals.—Joseph Croft, Anne L. Stamm (compiler), Frederick W. Stamm, William Rowe.

Notes on the Otter Creek Park Area Count

The Ohio River traffic, which was heavy all day, apparently kept us from seeing such species as the Mallard and Black Duck. The five Green-winged Teal, a new species for the count, found on a farm pond outside the park, were reported by William Rowe.

The 1,811 Robins, which set a new record for individuals, were everywhere in the park, as well as in adjacent areas. Dogwood berries were plentiful and Robins were noted feeding on them. Golden-crowned Kinglets were more numerous than in any of the previous counts.

We were surprised at the scarcity of the Purple Finches—only three were found. The Oregon Junco, apparently an adult male, very strongly and distinctively marked with black head and deep red-brown back and sides, was studied in bright light at 50 feet by Joseph Croft.—A. L. S.

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LOUISVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of Highway U.S. 42 and Kentucky 22; deciduous woods 25%, brushy fields 15%, fields and pastures 25%, swamps and marshes 5%, Falls of Ohio, Ohio River 30%).—Dec. 23; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cloudy in a.m., clear in p.m.; temp. 19° to 29°; wind NE, 2-10 m.p.h.; no snow; most water open. Twenty-six observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 77 (50 on foot, 27 by car); total party-miles, 370 (39 on foot, 331 by car). Total, 88 species, about 163,225 individuals.—Kenneth P. Able, Leonard C. Brecher, Floyd Carpenter, Joseph E. Croft, Mary Louise Daubard, Mrs. Austin Gresham, Eric Grosse, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Jackson, Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Burt L. Monroe, Sr. (compiler), Mrs. H. V. Noland, Louis Pieper, Arthur S. Ricketts, Martina M. Ricketts, Sharon E. Rintamaki, William C. Rowe, J. William Ruhe, Evelyn Schneider, Mabel Slack, Anne L. Stamm, Frederick W. Stamm, Chester Sundquist, Mrs. William B. Tabler, Guy B. Wood, Helen K. Wood (Beckham Bird Club).

Notes on the Louisville Count

The Catbird and Yellowthroat (latter an adult male) were found at the Falls of the Ohio by Kenneth Able; the Yellowthroat constitutes a first count record.

The Mute Swan, a feral and flying bird, has been on the Ohio River since late November; it was found on the count by the William Ruhe party.

Waterfowl numbers were down, and it was an extremely poor year for all northern finches (one Purple Finch and no Pine Siskins recorded).—B. L. M.

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DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Court House).—Dec. 22; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; temp. 22° to 36°; wind W, 3-15 m.p.h. Thirteen observers in six parties. Total party-hours, 41½ (9 on foot, 32½ by car); total party-miles, 514 (15 on foot, 499 by car). Total, 50 species, about 13,667 individuals.—Robert Bear, Mr. and Mrs. Sam R. Cheek, Jr., E. Wilbur Cook, Scott Glore, III, Edna Heck,

Frank H. Heck, Mrs. West Hill, Jr., J. W. Kemper (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Loetscher, Jr., Joanne Neuman, Mrs. Virgil Reid, Craig Zimmerman.

Notes on the Danville Count

The Danville count was down this year in both species and individuals. Unfavorable weather accounted for the absence of several species of birds known to be in the area just prior to count day but undetected during the census. More predictably absent, however, were several species of waterfowl in low numbers or totally absent from the area all fall.

A somewhat unusual find this fall has been a field where from one to seven Short-eared Owls have been repeatedly observed late in the afternoon from October 18 through December 30.

The 1966 blackbird roost, just south of Danville, which accounted for more than 300,000 individuals on last year's count, was recently abandoned, perhaps due to construction activities in the immediate vicinity.—J. W. K.

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FRANKFORT (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center intersection of U.S. Highway 60, 421, and 460 east of Frankfort; deciduous and cedar woods 20%, brushy fields 25%, pastures and cultivated fields 25%, Elkhorn and Benson Creek areas 15%, town 10%, State Game Farm and Lakes 5%).—Dec. 30; 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Ponds frozen, streams open, 2 inches of snow on ground. Eleven observers in five parties. Total party-hours, 56 (47 on foot, 9 by car); total party-miles, 195 (50 on foot, 145 by car). Total, 45 species, about 2,772 individuals.—Marvin Bing, James Durell, Charles Grayson, Howard P. Jones (compiler), Kathleen W. LaFontaine, Margaret LaFontaine, Chester Moore, Suzanne C. Moore, Pinkie Mae Richardson, Mrs. W. P. Ringo, Forest Smith.

Notes on the Frankfort Count

The total species count was down due to the absence of waterfowl, owls, and such species as Horned Larks, Myrtle Warblers, Redwinged Blackbird, and Purple Finches.

However, the following species broke all previous records for numbers: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Robin, and Eastern Bluebird. Our total woodpecker count was second only to the 1964-65 season, but the Downy Woodpecker was down materially from previous counts. Robins were everywhere.—H. P. J.

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WILLARD (same areas as in former years; walked about 10 miles through creek bottoms, brushy fields, and woodland areas).—Dec. 26; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; temp. 26° to 30°. One observer. Total, 19 species, about 129 individuals.—Ercel Kozee.

Notes on the Willard Count

This count of 1967 was my thirtieth consecutive bird count. It was a very enjoyable one, but the number of birds seen, both from the standpoint of species and individuals, was small. However, one species, the Pileated Woodpecker, is on the increase. I was disappointed that I did not see a single bluebird.—E. K.

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ASHLAND (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Ashland Post Office; not including any points beyond the Ohio and Big Sandy Rivers, but including the south banks of these rivers, East Fork of Little Sandy River, Little Sandy River, Williams Creek, and Hoods Creek; towns of Ashland, Catlettsburg, Russell, Cannonsburg, Princess, Argillite; deciduous woods 45%, fields and pastures 35%, swamps and marshes 5%, farmyards, orchards and gardens 10%, towns 5%).—Dec. 23; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear in a.m., partially cloudy in p.m., with light snow; pond water frozen, but streams running. Two observers (1 in a.m., 2 in p.m.) in one party. Total party-hours, 10 (5 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles, 91 (7 on foot, 84 by car). Total, 29 species, 4,825 individuals.—Lois M. Forson, Walter W. Forson (compiler).

FIELD NOTES

FIRST RECORD OF THE ROCK WREN IN KENTUCKY

On October 16, 1965, Leroy Ullrich and the writers were birding along the Salt River Road, about four miles west of Danville, Boyle County. We were greatly surprised to find a Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) working along a fieldstone fence.

We lost the vagrant for a short time but found it again 40 to 50 feet away; it was working along some rock, half way down a stream bank. At times we were within 20 or 30 feet of the bird. The fine streaks on the breast were apparent, and the buffy patches in the corners of the tail were easily seen and carefully noted. We were able to observe this western vagrant for at least 30 minutes. Loetscher identified the bird when he first found it on the stone fence.

Since Kemper had some photographic equipment in his car, he hurriedly attached the camera to his Balscope and proceeded to take pictures. Unfortunately, the photographs did not turn out well enough to reproduce, but the species is recognizable.

As far as we have been able to find out, the Rock Wren has not previously been recorded from Kentucky. Strangely enough, two recent observations east of its range were reported: one bird, at Rockport, Massachusetts, from December 16, 1965, through January 25, 1966 (*Audubon Field Notes*, 20:402, 1966); one, observed by many, at Cleveland, Ohio, December 7-14, 1963 (*Audubon Field Notes*, 18:360, 1964). A record closer to Kentucky was of a Rock Wren taken at Memphis, Tennessee, December, 1956 (*Migrant*, 27:76, 1956).—J. W. KEMPER, Danville, and FREDERICK W. LOETSCHER, Biology Department, Centre College.

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SOME NOTES FROM BOYLE COUNTY

During the fall of 1967, Dr. Frederick W. Loetscher and I made, in the Danville area, Boyle County, a number of interesting observations of migrants.

An early Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) was observed on Octo-

ber 13, by Loetscher. It was seen at close range both soaring and hovering. The hawk was an adult and in normal phase plumage. We noted a single Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) on October 28; it was observed at close range for over 20 minutes, at rest and in flight. According to records kept by Scott Glore, Jr., and Loetscher, this appears to be the first regional record of the Peregrine.

Ten Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) were noted in flight on November 5 by the writer and W. C. Alcock; they were clearly observed at approximately 150 yards. According to the aforementioned records this is also a first record for the area.

The mild fall season apparently kept some species of warblers here later than usual. Loetscher saw a Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) on October 22. Also, Loetscher and I recorded a lingering Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*), which we saw repeatedly between October 1 and October 25. Other late warblers included an Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) on October 25, and a Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) on October 28. Also, a Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) on November 2 was a late record.—J. W. KEMPER, Danville.

BOOK REVIEW

BIRDS IN OUR LIVES, edited by Alfred Stefferud. U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington, D.C., 1966. Clothbound: 561 pp., 1 col. pl. and 80 wash drawings by Bob Hines, 372 photos. \$9.00. Obtainable from Supt. of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402.

This large and attractive book, with the text in a 2-column format, is the second in a projected series of books on the wildlife of North America being planned, produced, and sponsored by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The first effort, a smaller book, "Waterfowl Tomorrow," was written to give "a better understanding of the needs of waterfowl and of the things in our way of life that are affecting them adversely."

The book begins with a foreword by Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall, followed by an editor's preface. The main portion of the book consists of 54 chapters grouped under nine topical headings: In Perspective, Literature and Arts, Sports and Recreation, In Nature's Scheme, Science and Husbandry, The Hand of Man, For Better or Worse, Answers to Conflicts, Working for Their Survival. The 61 authors contributing to this work are all well known in conservation, modern ornithology, and wildlife management.

BIRDS IN OUR LIVES is written to give the general public a keener insight into the impact of birds on our civilization. Therefore, practically every subject touching on birds is included. The reader will find such fascinating articles as the use of birds in literature and art, as well as on coins and stamps; birds as housekeepers, the joy of participating in the Christmas Counts; hawks and owls; Biblical references to birds, as well as basic subjects on ecology, bird biology, and wildlife management.

Some of the noteworthy chapters which deserve mention include

"What Are Birds For?" by Roger Tory Peterson; "Masters of the Air" by Olin S. Pettingill, Jr.; "Birds and Science" by Ernst Mayr; "Mark What You Leave" by Roland Clement; and "Before It Is Too Late" by John Aldrich. The latter article deals with some of the North American species of birds nearing extinction, and the poor chance of survival for the Everglade Kite, as well as the work currently being done for these species by the Bureau.

The book is generously illustrated with many black and white photographs, and with the wash drawings by artist Bob Hines. There is a great deal of information in this book for the general reader wishing to know something about birds. And although there is some discussion on the nation's conservation needs, it seems that more emphasis should have been given to the preservation of our wildlife habitats. Nevertheless you will find it a storehouse of interesting facts and the source of many hours' reading pleasure.—ANNE L. STAMM.

NEWS AND VIEWS

(Continued from Page 2)

THE 1968 SPRING MEETING

Please remember to reserve April 19, 20, and 21 for the spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. The meeting will be held at Bowling Green, and a field trip to Shanty Hollow Lake will be added to the schedule (if you have a motor for a small boat, you might want to bring it with you). The Friday evening program will include a discussion of the Wilderness Act and Mammoth Cave National Park by park superintendent, John A. Aubuchon. The Saturday evening program will be presented by one of our own members, Newton Belt, who recently returned from an extensive trip in Africa. If you have slides or reports of special interest, please write to me immediately, so that we may complete plans for the program on Friday evening. A more detailed program and schedule of events will be mailed to K.O.S. members before the spring meeting.—HERBERT E. SHADOWEN.

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AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTEREST TO ORNITHOLOGISTS

The Kentucky Department of Parks is sponsoring "An Ornithological Weekend" at Carter Caves State Park, April 26, 27, 28, 1968. Most of the time will be devoted to a series of bird walks into the surrounding area, with emphasis on bird identification in the field. The principal speaker will be Karl Maslowski, nationally known naturalist and wildlife photographer. Among the field trip leaders are four K.O.S. members: Howard P. Jones, J. W. Kemper, Herbert E. Shadowen, and A. L. Whitt, Jr. A registration fee of \$3.00 will be required of each participant. All field trips begin at the entrance to Caveland Lodge.