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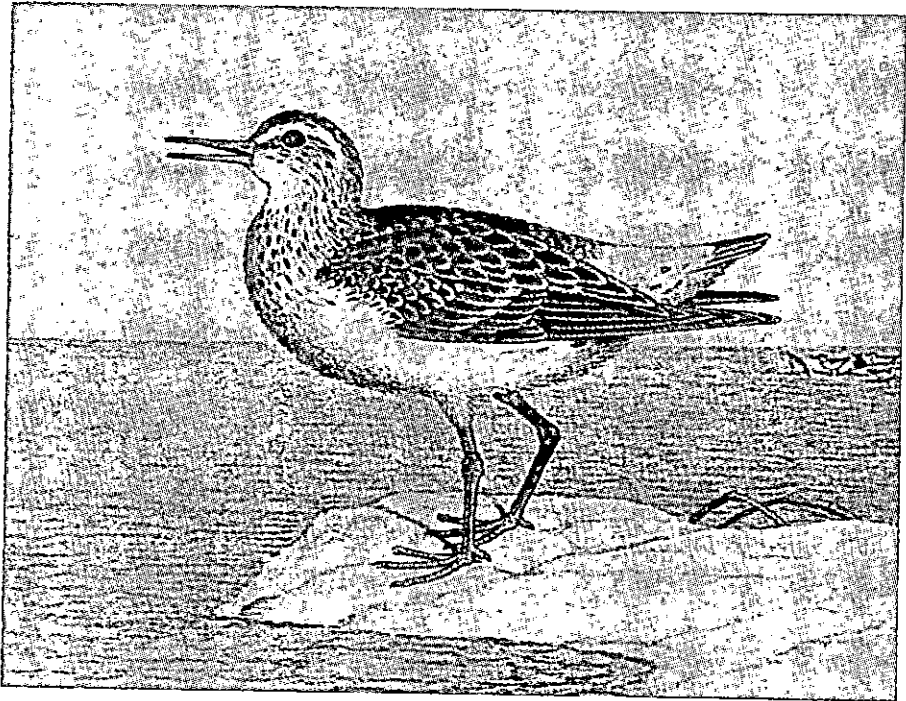
The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

VOL. XLIV

AUGUST, 1968

NO. 3



White-rumped Sandpiper

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS AND VIEWS	38
THE WOODBURN LAKES, 1963-68, Gordon Wilson	39
OBSERVATION OF A RUFF IN BOYLE COUNTY, Frederick W. Loetscher, Jr.	43
ONE-DAY BALD EAGLE COUNT, 1968, Anne L. Stamm	44
BIG SPRING LISTS, 1968	45
FIELD NOTES:	
A Nest of the Least Tern, Frederick W. Stamm	49
Kirtland's Warbler at Danville, Frederick W. Loetscher, Jr.	51
Another Nest of the Blue Grosbeak, Willard Gray	51

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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NEWS AND VIEWS

OUR COVER

Edwin Sheppard's illustration of a White-rumped Sandpiper, reproduced on the cover of this issue, originally appeared in Daniel R. Elliot's book, *North American Shore Birds* (1895). A highly regarded bird painter of his era, Sheppard was affiliated with the Academy of Natural Sciences, of Philadelphia.

The White-rumped Sandpiper, a rare transient in Kentucky, has been occurring more frequently in recent years, but always in small numbers. Therefore it is of interest to read Dr. Gordon Wilson's report in this issue of as many as 20 of these birds near Bowling Green.

(Continued on Page 52)

THE WOODBURN LAKES, 1963-68

BY GORDON WILSON

Periodically, since 1927, the first year I studied the wet-weather lakes near Woodburn, I have reported in the KENTUCKY WARBLER and elsewhere the various seasons. Most of these reports have been confined to a single season, but four longer ones summarized groups of seasons: 1927-1939, 1940-50, 1951-56, and 1957-61.

As compared with the big years of my study—largely such years as 1937, 1939, 1950, nearly all of the 1950's except 1954, and 1961—the last six years have been almost anti-climactic, so far as large numbers of individuals are concerned.

TABLE I. THE LAKES

Year	Earliest date of lakes	Latest date of lakes	Length of season	Observation trips	Comments
1963	March 13	April 26	45 days	14	Below normal levels
1964	March 6	May 9	65 days	16	Near normal levels
1965	January 12	June 9	149 days	24	Slightly below normal
1966	February 14	June 4	111 days	13	50-75 acres at each
1967	March 8	June 17	102 days	26	Slightly below normal
1968	March 26	August 5	133 days	26	Somewhat above normal

TABLE II. SPECIES RECORDED

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Loons-Grebes	2	2	2	1	2	2
Hérons	5	3	5	3	4	8
Geese-Ducks	14	21	19	10	20	14
Rails-Coots	1	1	1	1	2	1
Shorebirds	14	12	14	9	19	22
	36	39	41	24	47	47

TABLE III. RECORDS OF K.O.S. FIELD TRIPS

1963	April 19-21	21 water species	97 land species	118 total
1964	April 11-12	29	83	112
1965	April 10-11	30	97	127
1966	March 19-20	10	59	69
1967	April 15-16	20	91	111
1968	April 20-21	27	99	126

NOTES

1963

Though the water came up late and lasted a bare 45 days, the 14 ducks and geese and 14 shorebirds added some interesting records. The largest flight of ducks was of 100 Blue-winged Teal; the American Coots were never more than 20; but Pectoral Sandpipers ranged up to 200, and the two Yellowlegs, in mixed groups, were once up to 200. The Knot was recorded first on the K. O. S. field trip on April 19 and again on April 23 and 26. On two occasions small flocks of American Golden Plover were found; the Black-bellied Plover appeared on two days; and three Baird's Sandpipers and a single Sanderling completed the list of rare species.

	1963		1964		1965		1966		1967		1968	
	T	H	T	H	T	H	T	H	T	H	T	H
Herring Gull	1	1	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	—	1	2
Ring-billed Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Bonaparte's Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	40
Black Tern	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	20

1964

A single Snow Goose was at the McElroy Lake on April 28, more than two weeks later than it has usually been found. Greater Scaup, with eight at one time, were found on four trips. The Lesser Scaup, with 150 birds on one occasion, and the Blue-winged Teal and American Widgeon, each with 100 as a high record for the season, were the only ducks that approached large numbers. An Oldsquaw was listed on our field trip with K. O. S. members. Ten American Golden Plover appeared on April 11; one Dowitcher was found on May 9; most shorebirds were in small numbers except the Pectoral Sandpiper, with 375 on April 21.

1965

Though the season was the longest one in the six years—149 days—only 41 species of water birds were recorded. In spite of the early rising of the lakes, the ducks and geese were not up to expectations, with only 19 species; 1200 Mallards on one trip was the only large flight; such species as the Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, and Ring-necked Duck, ordinarily numerous, never got above the 100 mark. But the Canvasback, somewhat erratic over the years, and the Goldeneye, rarely even fairly common, reached the 100 mark. As many as three Greater Scaup appeared on the four records of the species. Of the rare or erratic shorebirds there were eight American Golden Plover on March 20 and 35 on March 27; three records of the Black-bellied Plover, with five on May 20; and 10 White-rumped Sandpipers on March 27, a very early date for the species. Only Pectoral Sandpipers and Leasts were present in numbers up to 100.

1966

The season of 1966, though lasting 111 days, was very poor in species and individuals because the water was very fluctuating, and a serious illness kept me from getting to the lakes at some of the few times when the largest numbers might have been expected. The annual K. O. S. meeting was set for March 19 and 20, in the hope that it might coincide with the biggest flights of ducks; only 10 species of water birds were found, for at that time the water was practically gone, though it rose again and lasted until June 4.

1967

The 1967 season somewhat compensated for the near-miss of 1966, and 47 species were recorded in the 102 days that the water lasted. Twenty ducks and geese represented more nearly an average for good years, and 19 shorebirds approached the numbers of good years. The highest numbers of ducks were: 500 Ring-necked Ducks and 75 Lesser Scaup; other species were low in number. As usual with the lakes when the season is long, several oddities appeared: 1 American Bittern on April 15;

four records of the Greater Scaup, with 10 birds on March 24; one White-rumped Sandpiper on May 20; four Dunlins and two Dowitchers on May 20, in the overflowed fields of young corn, and five Dowitchers previously on April 4; and a single Stilt Sandpiper on May 8.

1968

Because the lakes lasted into summer—the McElroy Lake until June 19 and the Chaney Lake until August 5—, 1968 brought a season of 133 days and 47 species of water birds. Though 14 species of ducks were found, there were no large flights; 35 Ring-necked Ducks constituted the largest find; the lakes came up much too late to attract the main stream of migrating ducks. The shorebirds made up for my disappointment at not finding more ducks. The 22 species ranked the season second only to 1950, the wonder year, when the lakes had risen in late 1949 and lasted until mid-November, 1950. From July 4 to August 5, 1968, there were a few Little Blue Herons at Chaney's, generally immatures, but two mature birds were present on one day and one on another.

On April 27 and 28 Mr. Paul Sharp, the manager of the McElroy Farm, was planting corn on the uplands around the lake. Two "white cranes" came up from the lake on one of these days and followed his corn drill for hours, finding plenty of insects and maybe some stray grains of corn. He had never heard of a Cattle Egret, but his description of the two birds was so accurate that Dr. Marvin Russell and I are sure that the cranes were Cattle Egrets. He said that each bird had "some dirty-looking feathers on their heads and breasts but were otherwise white," that they were not so large as the Great Blue Heron, and that they held their necks in a funny fashion and trotted along after the corn drill. On the farm adjoining the Chaney Lake a similar bird followed a corn drill on a day late in April; Mr. Guy Glasscock, whose son manages the farm, described the bird in almost identical words.

Apparently the Wood Duck nested at Chaney's, for I saw, after the water had gone down a foot or more, a female and five young that were too small to fly; and later, when the water was very low, as many as 23 Wood Ducks were found there, circling the woods and fields.

On April 10, at McElroy's, a long white line of birds stretched across a neck of the lake, too far out to be identified with even my 7x50 glasses. Fortunately, as I watched them in bright light, two or three and then several more disengaged themselves from the flock and came near me to feed, only a few yards from the edge of the lake. They were Bonaparte's Gulls, between 35 and 45 of them, more than I have seen in all the rest of my life put together.

Other oddities for 1968 were these: a single Ruddy Turnstone at close range on May 17, one of the very few records for the lakes; five Willets on July 29, the first record since 1961; three records of the White-rumped Sandpiper, with 20 on one day; three records of the Baird's Sandpiper, with three birds on one of them; and two records of the Western Sandpiper, with six on June 3; these were the first Westerns since 1956.

As compared with the years when as many as 5000 ducks could be seen on a single day at McElroy's alone, any one of these six years seems poor. In the earlier days of the study there were few rivals to the two Woodburn Lakes; now, with so many T.V.A. and Army Engineer lakes in all directions from the two wet-weather lakes, it is not so necessary for

the migrating ducks to find the McElroy and Chaney Lakes to have good feeding places. Only when the water lasts into mid-summer or later do the shorebirds appear in even fair numbers as compared with the earlier years. Robert M. Mengel, in *Birds of Kentucky*, lists several species of shorebirds as being recorded only at these lakes in spring; the Falls of the Ohio is the great place to study shorebirds in late summer and in fall. If several successive seasons, like 1968, brought lakes that remained into August, these two lakes might even rival the Falls area for shorebirds.

PREVIOUS SUMMARIES

1940. "The McElroy Farm—A Study of a Transient Lake," *Ky. Warbler*, 16:13-21. A summary of the study from 1927 through 1939, a project for which the Kentucky Academy of Science awarded publication expenses.
1951. "The Woodburn Lakes Since 1939," *Ky. Warbler*, 27:1-6.
1956. "The Woodburn Lakes, 1951-56," *Ky. Warbler*, 32:59-61.
1963. "The Woodburn Lakes, 1957-62," *Ky. Warbler*, 38:14-16.

OBSERVATION OF A RUFF IN BOYLE COUNTY

BY FREDERICK W. LOETSCHER, JR.

A small farm pond belonging to Mr. Julian Gentry on the Blue Grass Road in Boyle County has attracted numerous shorebirds in recent years. Therefore when W. Scott Glore, Jr. and I stopped near it on May 4, 1968, we were not surprised to see seven Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes*) and a Dowitcher (*Limnodromus* sp.) alighting.

Another bird with them at once caught our eye. Even from a distance of about 200 feet it was obviously much browner, both above and below, than the Yellowlegs. My first thought was of a Pectoral Sandpiper (*Erolia melanotos*) but as we slowly walked up to the pond the bird's true identity was gradually revealed. Its size and shape were comparable to the Lesser Yellowlegs' with which it was feeding, though its body was less slender and its legs relatively shorter. It was far more like the Yellowlegs, however, than the Dowitcher in bodily proportions.

The bill, which appeared to be dark and perfectly straight, was similar to those of the Lesser Yellowlegs but a bit thicker at the base and perhaps a little shorter.

The back was a "scaly" brown, quite suggestive of fall Baird's Sandpipers' (*Erolia bairdii*). There were no stripes on the back such as on the much shorter-legged and smaller Pectoral Sandpiper, and no white spotting on back or wings as in the two species of Yellowlegs. The breast was washed strongly with buffy brown, fading gradually into nearly white lower underparts.

Flushing the flock at close range in ideal light revealed that our bird had a rather faint wing-stripe and that its legs extended less than

did those of the Yellowlegs. With mounting excitement we very clearly noted the rarity's most diagnostic feature: an oval whitish patch on either side of the otherwise dark tail. The tail-pattern was rechecked each time the bird flew, once as close as twenty-five feet.

I now felt sure we were observing a Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), though this individual's legs were much darker than expected for a Ruff, appearing greenish gray rather than yellow, as shown in most illustrations. An hour's study of pertinent literature that evening, however, made clear that a Ruff's legs may be nearly any color and also that its bill may be all dark, as in our bird.

I had never before knowingly seen a Ruff alive, but have studied many skins and have had extensive field experience with nearly all species of North American shorebirds for well over 35 years. I am confident of this identification, definitely more so, in fact, than that of the almost ignored Dowitcher which kept a short distance apart from the Yellowlegs and Ruff but was presumed to be *L. griseus* because of its notes. By contrast, the Ruff never uttered a sound during the half hour or more it was under observation.

Based on its size, as compared with the Yellowlegs (unquestionably all Lessers) and the Dowitcher, the Ruff was evidently a female, or "Reeve," still nearly in winter plumage.

This observation is the first report of this Old World species in Kentucky, although in recent years it has been noted regularly, both spring and fall, in North America, chiefly along the Atlantic seaboard (see Leck, *Auk*, 83:473-474, 1966). David Peakall (*Wilson Bull.*, 77:294-296, 1965) has suggested that the species may now breed in North America, an inference that in my opinion is probably true.

ONE-DAY BALD EAGLE COUNT, 1968

COMPILED BY ANNE L. STAMM

Members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society again cooperated in the One-Day Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) Count, which is sponsored by the Mississippi Valley Bald Eagle Survey, under the chairmanship of Elton Fawks. Numerous state groups have assisted in this project since 1961. The results of this count are compared to the one taken by air in January by personnel of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The two winter dates give researchers an opportunity to study population shifts during the winter. Valuable data and information are available when such counts are carried on over a period of years.

It is of interest that Kentucky reported 42 Bald Eagles: 12 adults, 29 immatures, and one not classified as to age. In addition, four Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) were sighted: one adult and three immatures. These latter birds were seen at Land Between the Lakes Area. Below are the results of the 1968 count. All counts were taken on February 17, with the exception of Marion and Glasgow; they were taken on February 18.

Location	Adults	Immatures	Not Aged	Totals
Land Between the Lakes	8	24		32
Ballard Waterfowl Management Area	2	1		3
Marion-Dam #50	1	2		3
Tennessee line to Hickman	0	0		0
Hickman to Cairo, Illinois	0	1		1
Otter Creek-Rock Haven to West Point ..	1	0		1
Dam #43-Leavenworth, Indiana	0	1	1	2
Barren River Reservoir	0	0		0
New Harmony Landing	0	0		0
Kentucky, 1968 Totals	12	29	1	42

The following members and guests contributed to this study:

Land Between the Lakes—Don Burchfield, John Charron, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hawes, Howard P. Jones, William Kemp, Edwin Larson, Jr., Raymond Nall, Clell Peterson, Lawrence Philpot.

Ballard Waterfowl Management Area—Jim Myatt.

Marion-Dam #50—Chastain and Jim Frazer.

Tennessee line to Hickman—Helen Lindamood, Betty Sumara.

Hickman to Cairo—Eugene and Mary Louise Cypert, Kenneth Leggett.

Otter Creek—Joseph E. Croft, Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth McConnell, Anne L. Stamm, Frederick W. Stamm.

Dam #43—Floyd Carpenter, Louis Pieper.

Barren River Reservoir—Mrs. James Gillenwater.

New Harmony Landing—Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Arthur Ricketts.

* * * *

BIG SPRING LISTS, 1968

Our 1968 Big Spring Lists number only five; they are excellent ones, but not from enough places in the state. However, the combined lists total 187 species of birds. Many of our K. O. S. members who normally send lists were busy with nesting studies. Most participants felt that numbers of individuals were down from previous years but species of birds were good. Next year let's all try and see what we really have here in Kentucky in early May!

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES—May 5, 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Bright; no breeze; temp. 42° to 65°. Total, 77 species.—Clell Peterson.

Notes on the Land Between the Lakes

This "Big Count" began as a casual morning outing, an unpremeditated walk around Hematite Lake; but several of the observations prompted me to send in the list. Besides the entire shoreline of Hematite Lake, I covered the lower end of Barnes Hollow and the western shore of New Honker Lake.

The Ruby-crowned Kinglet represented a late date for me and the area, as far as I know.

The Peregrine Falcon was a sub-adult in brown plumage. It was flying more or less leisurely along the south shore of Hematite, and I observed it quite closely and very well for about five seconds.

The Osprey was building a nest on the cross members of a power pylon in the middle of New Honker Lake. Dr. Ray Nall has told me that Ospreys attempted to nest there last spring. I observed an Osprey bring in a stick and place it. The nest seemed to be of fairly good size, but whether it will stay put and allow the birds to raise a brood remains to be seen.

* * * *

HENDERSON—May 5, daylight to dark. Clear; wind, 12-17 m.p.h.; temp. 43° to 68°. Total, 127 species.—King Benson, Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Charles Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. David Gatlin, Lucile Gentry, Mr. and Mrs. Houston Ginger, Mrs. Garvin McMurtry, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Owens, W. H. Rhoads, W. P. Rhoads (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Cary Summers, Dwite Williams, Jesse Williams, Mrs. John Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Ike Utley.

Notes on the Henderson Count

The north winds for two days prior to the count apparently kept certain migrants in our area. The Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night Herons were observed three days prior to the count, but could not be found on May 5.

* * * *

BOWLING GREEN (Bowling Green area, Woodburn Lakes, Shanty Hollow Lake).—April 20-21. Partly cloudy, mild, windy, lakes high, stationary. About 60 K.O.S. members and guests were on one or more of the outings. Total, 126 species.—Gordon Wilson, compiler.

Notes on the Bowling Green Count

Water birds were rather poor, in number of individuals, but we got 27 species, which contrasts with 37 on our 1956 count, the first with the K. O. S. as a whole.

The big find was the Pigeon Hawk, at Shanty Hollow, since so many got to see it for the first time.

* * * *

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (nearly all of the southern side of the park; the ferryboat was stranded in mid-stream; the river was very high).—May 5; 5:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Cool, clear, windy. Nine observers, usually in two parties. Total species, 82.—Ernest Beal, Tom Beal, Mrs. James Gillenwater, Mr. and Mrs. Gillie Hyde, Herbert Shadowen, Mike Shadowen, William Ward, and Gordon Wilson (compiler).

Notes on the Mammoth Cave Count

The total number of species recorded seems small, but, for the park at the time the count was taken, the number is quite satisfactory. We found no water species and only two hawks, but our 25 warblers somewhat made up for this lack.

There seems to have been no great migration wave this whole season, and even the warblers were likely to appear in small numbers. In other years we normally might find more individual Myrtles and Palms than we found of the whole warbler group this year.

The whole spring has been erratic, with cold weather and huge rains; the month of May brought more than ten inches of rainfall to the area, and much of this rainfall had already occurred by May 5, the day of the count.

* * * *

LOUISVILLE (Louisville and its environs, including the Ohio River, woodlands, parks, meadows, and Caperton's Swamp).—May 12; dawn until dusk. Clear; temp. 62° to 70°. Total, 157 species.—Amelia Alford, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Bagain, Leonard C. Brecher, Floyd Carpenter, Joseph E. Croft, Mary Louise Daubard, Mrs. Austin Gresham, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Jackson, Dr. and Mrs. Harvey B. Lovell, Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (compiler), Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Mrs. H. V. Noland, Mrs. Pepperell, Louis Pieper, Marie Pieper, William Ruhe, Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Shannon, Mabel Slack, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Dave Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Wood.

Notes on the Louisville Count

Selecting a late date—May 12—seemed to be a good choice as we had an interesting variety of species. The Eared Grebe, an adult in breeding plumage, observed in Caperton's Swamp, is our first spring record for the Louisville area. William Ruhe and his party spotted this rarity.

* * * *

BIG SPRING LISTS, 1968

LBL—Land Between the Lakes, H—Henderson, BG—Bowling Green, MC—Mammoth Cave National Park, L—Louisville.

Eared Grebe—L	Redhead—BG, L
Horned Grebe—BG	Ring-necked Duck—BG
Pied-billed Grebe—LBL, BG	Lesser Scaup—BG, L
Double-crested Cormorant—H	Bufflehead—BG
Great Blue Heron—H, L	Ruddy Duck—BG
Green Heron—LBL, H, BG, L	Hooded Merganser—BG
Little Blue Heron—H	Red-breasted Merganser—BG
Common Egret—H, L	Turkey Vulture—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
Black-crowned Night Heron—BG, L	Black Vulture—BG, L
Yellow-crowned Night Heron—L	Cooper's Hawk—LBL, H
American Bittern—LBL, H	Red-tailed Hawk—LBL, BG, L
Canada Goose—LBL	Red-shouldered Hawk—LBL, BG, L
Mallard—LBL, H, BG, L	Broad-winged Hawk—LBL, BG, MC,
Black Duck—BG, L	L
Pintail—BG	Rough-legged Hawk—BG
Blue-winged Teal—H, BG, L	Bald Eagle—H
American Widgeon—BG	Marsh Hawk—H, BG
Shoveler—BG, L	Osprey—LBL
Wood Duck—LBL, H, BG, L	Peregrine Falcon—LBL

- Pigeon Hawk—BG
 Sparrow Hawk—H, BG, L
 Bobwhite—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Sora—L
 Common Gallinule—L
 American Coot—BG, L
 Semipal. Plover—H, L
 Killdeer—LBL, H, BG, L
 Am. Woodcock—BG
 Common Snipe—BG, L
 Upland Plover—L
 Spotted Sandpiper—BG, L
 Solitary Sandpiper—LBL, BG, L
 Greater Yellowlegs—H, BG, L
 Lesser Yellowlegs—H, BG, L
 Pectoral Sandpiper—BG, L
 White-rumped Sandpiper—H, L
 Least Sandpiper—H, L
 Dunlin—L
 Semipalmated Sandpiper—L
 Herring Gull—L
 Ring-billed Gull—L
 Bonaparte's Gull—L
 Mourning Dove—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Yellow-bil. Cuckoo—H, BG, MC, L
 Black-bil. Cuckoo—H, L
 Barn Owl—H
 Screech Owl—H, L
 Great Horned Owl—H, BG, L
 Barred Owl—H, BG, L
 Chuck-will's-widow—H, L
 Whip-poor-will—H, BG, L
 Common Nighthawk—H, BG, L
 Chimney Swift—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Ruby-th. Hummingbird—LBL, H, BG, L
 Belted Kingfisher—H, BG, MC, L
 Yellow-shafted Flicker—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Pileated Woodpecker—H, BG, MC, L
 Red-bellied Woodpecker — LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Red-headed Woodpecker — LBL, H, BG, L
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—H, BG, L
 Hairy Woodpecker—H, BG, L
 Downy Woodpecker — LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Eastern Kingbird—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Gr. Crested Flycatcher—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Eastern Phoebe—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher—H
 Acadian Flycatcher—LBL, H, MC, L
 Traill's Flycatcher—H, L
 Least Flycatcher—H, L
 Eastern Wood Pewee—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Horned Lark—H, BG, L
 Tree Swallow—L
 Bank Swallow—L
 Rough-winged Swallow—H, BG, MC, L
 Barn Swallow—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Cliff Swallow—LBL, L
 Purple Martin—LBL, BG, L
 Blue Jay—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Common Crow—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Car. Chickadee—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Tufted Titmouse—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 White-br. Nuthatch — LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Brown Creeper—H
 House Wren—H, BG, L
 Bewick's Wren—BG, L
 Carolina Wren—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Mockingbird—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Catbird—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Brown Thrasher—H, BG, MC, L
 Robin—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Wood Thrush—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Hermit Thrush—H, L
 Swainson's Thrush—LBL, H, MC, L
 Gray-cheeked Thrush—LBL, H, MC, L
 Veery—LBL, H, MC, L
 Eastern Bluebird—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 B-g Gnatcatcher—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Golden-c Kinglet—H, BG, MC, L
 Ruby-c Kinglet—LBL, H, BG, L
 Cedar Waxwing—H, BG, MC, L
 Loggerhead Shrike—LBL, H, BG, L
 Starling—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 White-eyed Vireo—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Yellow-thr. Vireo—H, BG, MC, L
 Solitary Vireo—BG, MC
 Red-eyed Vireo—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Philadelphia Vireo—H, L
 Warbling Vireo—H, BG, L
 Black-and-white Warbler—H, BG, MC
 Prothon. Warbler—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
 Worm-e. Warbler—H, BG, MC, L
 Golden-w. Warbler—MC

Blue-w. Warbler—MC	Red-winged Blackbird—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
Tennessee Warbler—H, L	Orchard Oriole—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
Nashville Warbler—H, MC, L	Baltimore Oriole—H, BG, L
Parula Warbler—H, BG, MC	Rusty Blackbird—H, BG
Yellow Warbler—H, BG, MC, L	Common Grackle—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
Magnolia Warbler—LBL, H, MC, L	Br.-headed Cowbird—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
Cape May Warbler—H, MC, L	Scarlet Tanager—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
Blk.-th. Blue Warbler—H, L	Summer Tanager—H, BG, MC, L
Myrtle Warbler—LBL, H, BG, MC, L	Cardinal—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
Blk.-th. Green Warbler—H, BG, L	Rose-br. Grosbeak—LBL, H, MC, L
Cerulean Warbler—H, BG, MC, L	Indigo Bunting—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
Blackburn. Warbler—H, L	Dickcissel—L
Yel-throated Warbler—LBL, H, BG, MC, L	American Goldfinch—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
Chestnut-s. Warbler—MC, L	Rufous-sided Towhee—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
Bay-br. Warbler—H, L	Savannah Sparrow—BG, L
Blackpoll Warbler—L	Grasshopper Sparrow—BG, L
Prairie Warbler—LBL, BG, MC, L	Henslow's Sparrow—L
Palm Warbler—H, BG, MC, L	Vesper Sparrow—BG
Ovenbird—H, MC, L	Bachman's Sparrow—BG, L
Northern Waterthrush — LBL, BG, MC, L	Chipping Sparrow—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
Louisiana Waterthrush—LBL, H, BG, MC, L	Field Sparrow—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
Kentucky Warbler—LBL, H, BG, MC, L	White-cr. Sparrow—H, BG, L
Conn. Warbler—H, MC	White-th. Sparrow—LBL, H, BG, MC, L
Yellowthroat—LBL, H, BG, MC, L	Fox Sparrow—L
Yellow-br. Chat—LBL, H, BG, MC, L	Lincoln's Sparrow—L
Hooded Warbler—H, MC, L	Swamp Sparrow—H, BG, L
Canada Warbler—L	Song Sparrow—H, BG, MC, L
American Redstart—LBL, H, MC, L	
House Sparrow—LBL, H, BG, MC, L	
Bobolink—L	
Eastern Meadowlark — LBL, H, BG, MC, L	
	Total Species on Counts187

FIELD NOTES

A NEST OF THE LEAST TERN

On the morning of July 8, 1967, I found a nest with eggs of a pair of Least Terns (*Sterna albifrons*) on the flat rock bench of the Falls of the Ohio, in Jefferson County.

The Least Tern is normally a rare transient in the Louisville area. Robert M. Mengel, in his *Birds of Kentucky*, states that it is found breeding in the extreme southwestern part of the state and definitely recorded as breeding at only two localities: Fulton County, and on Bell Island (Ohio River "technically in Union County, best reached from Shawneetown, Illinois").

My companions on July 8 were my wife, Anne, and Joseph E. Croft. They were quite surprised when we saw two Least Terns flying over the

rockbed just as we crossed the channel, but thought them to be very early fall transients. As they checked the lower end of the Falls for migrating shorebirds, I watched the two terns flying low over one of the sloughs. One of the birds flew to a slight depression on the rock shelf, while the other hovered over me, making unusually sharp call notes and seemingly protesting my presence. This behavior prompted me to investigate that area where the bird settled down. When I approached the sitting bird, it left immediately, circled overhead and again alighted at the same spot. Thus I ultimately discovered the nest with three eggs.

The nest was on a small patch of sand that had been washed into a slight depression in the rock bench. A weed, six inches in height, was the only plant on the patch of sand; otherwise no vegetative cover was nearby. However, small cottonwood and willow saplings, two to four feet in height, were at a distance of 25 to 30 feet.



Habitat and Nest of Least Tern, Falls of Ohio, July 1967.

The eggs were a creamy-buff, with small to large dark brown blotches, and lusterless. They blended perfectly with the damp sand on which they were placed and were not easily seen.

My wife and I returned the following day and found an adult bird incubating the eggs. Both sexes took turns at the nest; one bird, presumably the male, remained for only short periods of time. On one occasion we saw one of the birds bring a three- to four-inch fish to the mate on the nest. While on the nest, the terns held their wings rather loosely, as if to cool their bodies. During the days of our observation the temperature ranged from 85 to 91 degrees.

On the afternoon of July 11, we went to check the nest and found only one bird in the area; it was incubating the eggs. We watched intermittently for four hours and saw only one tern. We realized then that something had happened to the heretofore attentive mate. Upon returning home, we learned that Kenneth P. Able had collected the mate that same morning. He had seen the flying tern and believing it to be an early arrival date for this species, collected it for the University of Lou-

isville's Biology Department. Later that morning he discovered the nest. He, too, was surprised to find this species nesting at the Falls. We hoped the bird would continue to incubate and raise the young, although we had our doubts. On July 13 we could not find the tern. The eggs had not been attended for a number of hours. At this time I collected the eggs and brought them to Burt L. Monroe, Sr. for his collection.—FREDERICK W. STAMM, Louisville.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER AT DANVILLE

A very unexpected transient, a male Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) was seen on May 15, 1968, during a brief noon visit to the wooded grounds of the Christian Children's Home on the edge of Danville, Kentucky.

The bird kept mostly below eye level and at times was so close I could almost touch it. All characteristic markings were evident: grayish black-striped back, lemon-yellow underparts with black streakings along the sides, "mask" on side of head, white marks on eyelids, etc. The tail-jerking was also noted.

Though the Danville bird was silent during the entire observation and was not seen by anyone else, I am sure of its identity. My wife and I have found Kirtland's Warbler nests in Michigan in two different Junes; we have taped their songs, photographed them at the nest, and noted their behavior patterns.—FREDERICK W. LOETSCHER, JR., Department of Biology, Centre College, Danville.

ANOTHER NEST OF THE BLUE GROSBEAK

Mark Veits and I saw two male Blue Grosbeaks (*Guiraca caerulea*) approximately three miles north of Lovelaceville, in Ballard County, June 1, 1967. Two days later I returned to the same area with Dr. Clell Peterson and Edwin Larson; we observed one singing male. On June 16, I again returned to the site. I saw the singing male and watched a female Blue Grosbeak as she made two trips to a pokeberry (*Phytolacca americana*) patch. There I found the nest with two young and one egg.

The nest was 27 inches above the ground and attached to pokeberry bushes. A long narrow strip of plastic was woven into the nest. The habitat included overgrown fields with sassafras, horseweeds, pokeberry, and persimmon saplings.

Dr. Peterson and I photographed the nest on June 17 and 18. Then on June 21 a heavy rain and windstorm swept the area, destroying the nest and young. As far as I know, there is only one other published record of an actual nest of this species (Dubke, *Ky. Warbler*, 42:55).

Another pair of Blue Grosbeaks were observed on June 23, approximately one mile north of the original nest-site. Also, while visiting relatives in Marshall County, I saw a male of this species singing from the top of a tall oak tree. Later a female, possibly the mate, visited the feeding station near the house of my uncle. Robert M. Mengel, in *Birds of Kentucky*, lists two other sight records for Marshall County.—WILLARD GRAY, Carlisle.

NEWS AND VIEWS

(Continued from Page 38)

KENTUCKY FOLKLORE SOCIETY TO HONOR DR. WILSON

The Kentucky Folklore Society is preparing for publication a 120-page book of selected essays from learned magazines, which have been written by Dr. Gordon Wilson. Many of these articles will deal with the folklore of the Mammoth Cave region. The book will also contain a bibliography of folklore and ornithological studies there. This project is to honor Dr. Wilson's 80th birthday, October 14, 1968. Dr. Wilson is the only living founder of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, and we are pleased that his work is receiving such noteworthy recognition.

DR. LOETSCHER TO STUDY IN AUSTRALIA

Dr. Frederick W. Loetscher of the Biology Department, Centre College, has received a grant from the National Science Foundation for the coming year to study the songs of birds in Australia and New Zealand. He will record the songs on tape, and the recordings will be sent to Cornell University. Centre College has given Dr. Loetscher a sabbatical leave for this period of study. KOS is proud to have one its members so honored.

MEMBERS PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Because of stringent United States postal regulations it is essential that members notify immediately the Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer (see inside cover page for address) of any change of address. This prompt action on the part of our members will save KOS money, too.

NEST-RECORD CARDS

KOS members will be glad to know that we now have some very fine copies of the Cornell nest-record cards. We are deeply indebted to Albert Powell, Owensboro Chapter, for this printing. Regional Chairmen have these sheets, which have space for three cards; participants may secure copies from them (see *Ky. Warbler*, 43:40, 1967, for name and address of the one nearest you). We ask that each observer make out duplicate cards on these sheets, insuring that the information recorded on the two sets is identical in all respects; both the original and the copy should be sent to your regional chairman, or bring the material to the Fall Meeting at Lake Cumberland State Park.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

A reminder to each of you to make your reservation at Lake Cumberland State Park at Jamestown for the weekend of October 4, 5, and 6. We have an outstanding ornithologist, Dr. James T. Tanner, Knoxville, for our Saturday evening program. May I remind you again, to write me in the near future if you plan to participate on the Friday evening program, with a report or slides.—HERBERT E. SHADOWEN, Biology Department, Western Kentucky University.