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The Kentucky Warbler

Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society

Vol. 45 MAY, 1969 No. 2



Autumn Starling at Wild Grape

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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Editor		Anne L.	(Mrs.	F.	W.)	Stamm,	9101	Spokane	Way,
							I	ouisville	40222
Assista	nt Editor		Jose	eph	E. 0	Croft, 236	6 Gla	dstone A	venue,
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OUR COVER

This month's cover is another example of Karl Maslowski's artistry with the camera, transforming the commonplace Starling into a study in feather patterns. The photograph was made in October.

THE DIET OF THE STARLING

HERBERT E. SHADOWEN

During 1967 and 1968 a study was made in an effort to learn more about insects and the diet of the Starling (Sturnus vulgaris) in the Warren County area of Kentucky.

Methods

Between the dates of February 23, 1967, and October 12, 1968, 226 Starlings were collected within a six-mile radius of Bowling Green by means of shotgun and pelletgun. The stomach was excised from each bird, and its contents were washed into a petri dish. With the aid of a stereo-microscope animals and animal fragments were separated from other material in the stomach. An attempt was made to classify all animal matter, but some of it was digested beyond the point of classification. The animals were preserved in 80% alcohol for later study.

Results

The seasonal nature of the diet was obvious. Eighty-one of 101 Starlings collected during spring and summer (March 21-September 22) contained at least 70% animal matter, and 67 of these contained 90% or more animal matter. Only 14 of 125 birds examined during fall and winter contained as much as 70% animal matter, and 86 birds contained 10% or less animal remains. There were not sufficient numbers of immature birds collected to make a comparative study of the diet of immature and adult Starlings.

Twenty-four of the stomachs did not contain food identifiable as animal. Of these, five were completely empty, one contained unidentified matter, and 18 contained only vegetation. The necessity for grit in Starlings remains questionable. Nine stomachs contained small stones. Snail shells and the mouthparts, legs, and exoskeleton fragments of insects were common. One stomach contained 37 snails; another contained the heads of 57 ants; another contained 26 beetle mandibles. Hackberries, wild cherries, corn, and other hard plant parts were sometimes present. Earthworms comprised a small part of the diet, being found in only 13 stomachs. The number of Gastropods was unexpected. Snails were found in 77 stomachs, with the number per bird varying from one to 37. Dr. Donald Forrester of Clemson University identified 25 specimens as belonging to the family Pupillidae and consisting of three species, Pupoides albilabris, Gastrocopta armifera, and procera.

Arthropods were more often a part of the diet than were other phyla. A partial classification is presented in the table. Members of the order Coleoptera were present in 199 of the 226 stomachs examined. Fifteen families of beetles were identified with weevils being the most common. Fortysix Starlings contained larval Coleoptera with an average number of 4.4 larvae per bird. Sixty birds contained a total of 276 Lepidoptera, all but one of which were larvae. The large number of ants—321 in 32 birds—is also worth noting.

Summary

The detrimental effect of Starlings in their roosting and feeding habits and in disease transmission has been stressed by many writers. This study has further confirmed a beneficial aspect of Starlings in the

ARTHROPODS IN THE STOMACHS OF STARLINGS

Class	Order	Family .	Freq. of occurrence (in 226 birds)	No. per bird	Total
Arachnida	Araneida		36	1-14	68
Chilopoda			ĺ	1	ĩ
Diplopoda			44	1-9	85
Insecta			202	1-78	
	Collembola	1	1	1	1
	Orthoptera	Gryllidae	1	1	1
	Hemiptera		24	1-3	36
		Cydnidae	2	1-3	4
		Pentatomidae	8	1-3	11
		Reduviidae	1	1	1
		Miridae	1	1	` <u>1</u>
	Homoptera		13	1-4	17
		Cercopidae	2	1	2
		Membracidae	3	1	3
		Cicadellidae	5	1-3	7
	0.1	Aphididae	1	1	1
	Coleoptera	(including larvae)	199	1-26	1,037
•		Carabidae Gyrinidae	22	1-5	33
		Staphlinidae	1 5	1 1-2	1 7
		Pselaphidae	9 2	1-2 1-5	6
		Histeridae	1	1-5 4	4
		Cantharidae	2	1-4	5
		Elateridae	30	1-4 1-7	54
		Phalacridae	1	1	1
		Coccinellidae	1	i	1
		Tenebrionidae	$\overset{\mathtt{1}}{2}$	1-2	3
		Bostrichidae	ī	î	1
		Scarabaeidae	18	1-4	35
		Chrysomelidae	15	1-5	24.
		Curculionidae	58	1-7	110
		Scolytidae	1	1	1
	Neuroptera	•	1	1	$\bar{1}$
	Lepidoptera		60	1-28	276
	Diptera		16	1-2	17
	Hymenoptera		38	1-57	334
		Formicidae	32	1-57	321

reduction of insect numbers.

I wish to thank Dr. Larry Elliott and Mr. Russell Witty for their assistance.

-Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University 42101.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE DICKCISSEL IN MADISON COUNTY

A. L. WHITT, JR.

The Breeding Bird Survey of 1967 showed a highly significant range increase in the Dickcissel (Spiza americana) east of the Mississippi River. Although Mengel in the Birds of Kentucky (1965) did not report the Dickcissel in Madison County, a line drawn north and south across Kentucky's eastern-most range of this bird would include most of the county.

In two years (1967 and 1968) of the June Breeding Bird Census no Dickcissels have been seen or heard in Estill, Lee, Jackson, Breathitt, Wolfe, or Owsley Counties, which all lie east of Madison County. From the above observation it seems the Dickcissel does not occur in any abundance east of Madison County in this particular part of the state.

According to Mengel (1965) the northwestern part of the county lies in the Limestone Plateau Avifaunal Region. The southeastern part lies in the Cumberland Upland Avifaunal Region, and the extreme eastern portion of the Western Upland Region reaches the far southwestern tip of the county. This is to say that three of the five avifaunal regions of the state come together in Madison County.

The Dickcissel is essentially a prairie species that has undoubtedly increased in Kentucky since the widespread clearing of the original forest. It is a bird that is very much restricted to rather extensively cleared land and that avoids wooded areas. This species has in all probability entered Kentucky from the west and/or the south. It is a summer resident chiefly west of the Cumberland Plateau and has uncommon and very local distribution in Central Kentucky.

Madison County, Kentucky, lies between latitudes 37°30′ and 37°55′ and longitude 84°05′ and 84°35′. It is bordered on the north and northeast by the Kentucky River. Most of the county is made up of rolling farm land from 900 to 1,000 feet altitude. It has a few isolated patches of forest along the rivers and creeks, with the Daniel Boone National Forest reaching only the most extreme southeastern tip of the county.

In an attempt to sample the entire county in the survey, all of the roads were traveled one time only on the dates of July 8 through July 18, 1968. One reason for the July study of the Dickcissel is that I have not heard singing males until after the middle of June in this area, although they may have arrived and remained in the nesting area for some time before making themselves so conspicuous. One of the drawbacks for this late study is that some of the farmers are cutting their fields by this time and I am sure that some of the nesting birds have been disturbed and chased out of the territory. The hours of the study were from two to six p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Although this may not be the most desirable time for observation of birds, I found the Dickcissel singing and feeding young all afternoon, even when the temperatures were in the mid-90's.

All routes were traveled at 15 to 20 miles per hour for the total of 419 miles. Once the birds were heard, the singing perches were located and they were assigned a number and an exact location on the trip map.

The city limits of Richmond, Kentucky was used as a starting point for all trips and as the birds were located they were given a location as a distance from the city limits along a numbered and/or named road.

A total of thirteen singing males were located within the county. The fields in which the birds were found were overgrown meadows of bluegrass, timothy, orchard grass, fescue, and ironweed. One exception was two males singing from utility wires over a clover field. All of the other birds were singing from perches of ironweeds, fences, bushes, and utility wires.

It seems that the Dickcissel occurs in Madison County in disjunct pockets, which is quite common on the fringe of the range of an animal. Two distinct pockets of the birds were located: one in the southwestern section and another in the northeastern part of the county; and no birds were located between, in, or around these areas.

-Department of Biology, Eastern Kentucky University 40475.

K.O.S. NEST-RECORD REPORT, 1968

ANNE L. STAMM

This is the fourth year the Kentucky Ornithological Society has cooperated with the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, in the North American Nest-Record Card Program. The number of nest-record cards submitted to Cornell for the 1968 nesting season has been our largest contribution to date and has been made possible by 33 contributors working in 32 counties ranging from Ballard and Hickman in the western Purchase to Bell in the southeastern mountains to Carter in the northeast. These observers reported a total of 1,175 active nests of 60 species, plus three broods of three species of waterbirds, making a grand total of 63 species. This is an increase of 594 nests, or 102% over figures for 1967. Eight instances of cowbird parasitism were noted and species victimized included the Phoebe, Wood Thrush, Cardinal, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Field Sparrow.

Surprising as it may seem, the Cliff Swallow ranked number one in the greatest number of nests reported. Dr. Clell Peterson submitted data on three colonies of this species from Livingston, Marshall, and Trigg Counties, totaling 453 nests. Unfortunately, because of the inaccessibility of the nests precise data were not obtainable. The Common Grackle ranked second, with 135 nests, many of them with detailed information. The Mourning Dove placed third, with 133 nests. Two nests contained a clutch of three: one in Hancock County, with three young; one, with three eggs in Franklin County.

Other species with a relatively large number of nests reported for the 1968 nesting season included the Robin, 55; Barn Swallow, 45; Cardinal, 36; Brown Thrasher, 32; Red-winged Blackbird, 27; Mockingbird and

Eastern Bluebird, each with 17; Phoebe and Carolina Wren, each with 15; Catbird, 12; Starling, 11; Acadian Flycatcher, 10. For all other species, eight or fewer nests were recorded.

Perhaps the most unusual finds included the following species: Least Bittern, Osprey, American Coot, Cliff Swallow, and the Vesper Sparrow. The Least Bittern nest, with five eggs, was found by George Ray, in Daviess County, July 13. The Osprey nest, apparently completed but later deserted, found in Trigg County at Honker Lake and reported by Dr. Clell Peterson, is worthy of note. This is only the second nest reported in Kentucky since Audubon. The American Coot was observed with five young in Fayette County, April 28, by Charles L. Churchill. The Vesper Sparrow nest found by Suzanne Moore, in Franklin County, is possibly the most noteworthy since it is the first record for the state.

Among the many other interesting nests reported were those of the Chuck-will's-widow and the Baltimore Oriole. The Chuck-will's-widow nest, with one egg, found by Ed Dyer, in Muhlenberg County, gives us an early date for egg laying—April 30, while the nest of the Baltimore Oriole, with four eggs, June 2, found by James W. Hancock, gives us precise information on clutch size.

Thanks are due the following persons who participated in the 1968 season: Daniel Barrett, N. O. Belt, Horace Brown, William Brown, Betty Combs, Charles L. Churchill, Skip Coll, Mary Louise Daubard, Ed Dyer, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Hancock, Mr. and Mrs. R. Iles, Charles Ives, Howard P. Jones, William Kemp, Edwin Larson, Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth McConnell, Marley Martin, Suzanne Moore, Lee K. Nelson, Dr. Clell Peterson, Albert Powell, George Ray, Betty Reden, Terry Resner, Mabel Slack, Anne L. Stamm, Frederick W. Stamm, Bea Whalen, A. L. Whitt, Jr., and Dr. Gordon Wilson.

During the four-year period of this program, 63 participants have furnished breeding information for 98 species of birds from 53 counties. Also, first nest records for Kentucky have been recorded for the following species: Spotted Sandpiper, Parula Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, and Vesper Sparrow.

New cards are available from your regional chairman (see Ky. Warbler, 43:40, 1967), or contact the editor.

May I encourage seasoned birders in the K.O.S. to participate in this valuable project. Since we are retaining in the state the duplicate copies of nest records, we are collecting a vast amount of information on the breeding biology of some species of Kentucky birds, where heretofore little was known.

-9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

ADDITIONS TO "BIRDS OF SOUTH-CENTRAL KENTUCKY"

GORDON WILSON

Since the publication of Birds of South-Central Kentucky (Ky. Warbler, 38:3-24, February, 1962) a great many changes in migration dates have been made, several records of rare species have been added, and two new species for this region have been definitely established. The earlier study was based on the observations of Gordon Wilson, L. Y. Lancaster, and Russell Starr in Warren, Edmonson, and Barren Counties from 1915 through 1961. This article uses the observations of the three authors of the earlier one, plus records by Mrs. James Gillenwater and Dr. George McKinley of Glasgow; Floyd S. Carpenter, Evelyn Schneider, and Mrs. F. W. Stamm of Louisville; Dr. Robert Barr, Mrs. W. G. Thomas, and Mr. William Frech of Bowling Green; and Professors Ernest Beal, Millard Gipson, Marvin Russell, and Herbert Shadowen of Western Kentucky University.

There are a number of reasons why so many valuable observations have been made in the seven seasons since the original article was published. The senior editor, as a retiree, has had more time to study birds than was possible in his years of teaching. The cooperative Christmas Bird Counts at Mammoth Cave National Park have brought many pairs of trained eyes into the field; some of the same observers have also participated in the Big Spring Lists. The annual meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society each April and several successive fall meetings of the society at Mammoth Cave greatly widened the possibility of finding birds in migration. Naturalist Willard Dilley of the park and Mr. William Frech, manager of the Weatherall Company of Brownsville, were two especially avid bird students whom duty called elsewhere, Mr. Dilley to Grand. Teton National Park and Mr. Frech to a plant of his company in New York State. Dr. Starr's nature paradise, Brigadoon, on an embayment of Barren River Reservoir, has given unusual observation territory for the Starrs, their Glasgow friends, and many members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. It is impossible to list all the names of people who have participated in outings at the Woodburn Lakes and at Mammoth Cave National Park. Thanks to all who have helped, whether you are named or not. We solicit your further help.

In the following notes the letter a/ indicates arrival date; d/ indicates departure date; the new date is given first, with the previous early or late date in parentheses. There are also additional notes on rare species. To save space, references to published notes or articles appear as the year plus a letter to indicate the order of publication. See the Bibliography for details.

COMMON LOON. Gavia immer. d/ May 14, 1962 (May 13, 1950).

HORNED GREBE. Podiceps auritus. a/ January 1, 1963 (March 2, 1958).

LITTLE BLUE HERON. Florida caerulea. a/ April 17, 1963 (April 19, 1934).

CATTLE EGRET. Bubulcus ibis. New records: one on June 6, 1967, near Motley, Warren County; two on McElroy Farm, April 27, 1968. (1967a), (1968b). Another reported record on the Chaney Farm sounded authentic; also in spring, 1968. (1968b).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. Nycticorax nycticorax. a/March 6, 1966 (March 21, 1957).

GLOSSY IBIS. *Plegadis falcinellus*. New record: March 20, 1965, 27 in a flock at McElroy Lake by Shadowen and Wilson. (1965a).

MUTE SWAN. Cygnus olor. New species: One stayed at Grider's Limestone Lake, at the edge of Bowling Green, from December 18, 1962, to January 24, 1963. (1963a).

SNOW GOOSE. Chen hyperborea. New record: One at McElroy Lake on April 18, 1964. It had previously been recorded in only four years: 1950, 1955, 1956, 1959.

AMERICAN WIDGEON. Mareca americana. a/ February 12, 1962 (February 15, 1961).

BUFFLEHEAD. Bucephala albeola. a/ February 9, 1965 (February 15, 1952).

OLDSQUAW. Clangula hyemalis. New record: One at McElroy Lake on April 11, 1964 (Starr). (1964f).

RUDDY DUCK. Oxyura jamaicensis. d/ June 12, 1962 (May 20, 1940).

HOODED MERGANSER. Lophodytes cucullatus. d/ July 23, 1968 (June 1, 1951).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK. Buteo platypterus. Flight record: Flight of 45 or more over Woodburn Lakes, April 17, 1968. (Shadowen). (1968a).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK. Buteo lagopus. d/ May 7, 1967 (April 21, 1956).

GOLDEN EAGLE. Aquila chrysaetos. New record: An immature bird seen by Lancaster and Wilson near the mouth of Drake's Creek, Warren County, January 29, 1966.

BALD EAGLE. Haliaeetus leucocephalus. New records: One at Peninsula Ramp, Barren River Reservoir, December 29, 1966 (Gillenwater). One reported at Barren River Dam regularly from November, 1966, until later in the year. (1967b).

OSPREY. Pandion haliaetus. New records: On CBC at Mammoth Cave, December 30, 1962 (Starr and McKinley). (1963c). One recorded at Brigadoon, September 22, 1966. (Starrs). (1967c).

PEREGRINE FALCON. Falco peregrinus. New records: Three seen over Upton Farm, near US 281 bridge across Drake's Creek, Warren County on December 21, 1966. (Gipson and Russell). (1967a). One at Barren River Reservoir on April 9, 1964. (Starr).

PIGEON HAWK. Falco columbarius. New records: One at Woodburn Lakes by K.O.S. members on April 10, 1965; one at Shanty Hollow Lake, Warren County, by K.O.S. members on April 21, 1968; one at Chaney Lake by K.O.S. members on April 12, 1969.

SANDHILL CRANE. Grus canadensis. New record: One at Chaney Lake, April 1, 1967.

VIRGINIA RAIL. Rallus limicola. New records: One at Mammoth Cave on November 5, 1961, flushed by Evelyn Schneider, Elsie Stewart, and Oscar McKinley Bryens. (1962i). One seen near Cave City, October 6, 1962. One brought to Dr. Starr, October 21, 1966. (1967c).

SORA. Porzana carolina. d/ (Warren County) May 16, 1964 (May 12, 1945). A Sora remained on the Gillenwater Farm, four miles southwest of Glasgow, from June 25 to July 22, 1963. (1964e).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER. Charadrius semipalmatus. a/ March 24, 1967 (April 11, 1946); d/ June 11, 1968 (May 31, 1958); a/ July 26, 1961 (July 29, 1950).

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER. Pluvialis dominica. a/ March 13, 1963 (March 26, 1952). First record for fall: One at Barren River Reservoir, September 25, 1966 (Starr and McKinley). (1967c).

RUDDY TURNSTONE. Arenaria interpres. New record: One at Mc-Elroy Lake, May 25, 1968. It has been recorded, always one at a time, in 1935, 1948, 1950, 1953, and 1968, only at the Woodburn Lakes. See Ky. Warbler, 24:48, 1950.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK. Philohela minor. a/ February 15, 1962, at Brigadoon. (March 2, 1961). None have been seen there since the spring of 1966, probably because the thickets have grown into forests.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER. Tringa solitaria. d/ October 14, 1962 (September 18, 1943).

WILLET. Catoptrophorus semipalmatus. New record: Three to five at Chaney Farm on July 23, 1968 (Shadowen and Wilson).

KNOT. Calidris canutus. New record: One at Chaney Farm by K.O.S. members on April 20, 1963. (1964c).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER. Erolia melanotos. d/ May 20, 1965 (May 19, 1961).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER. Erolia fuscicollis. New records: March 27, 1965; May 20, 1967; May 25 and June 3 and 11, 1968—all at Woodburn Lakes. (1968b).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER. Erolia bairdii. New records: May 25 and June 3 and 11, 1968, at McElroy Lake. (1968b).

LEAST SANDPIPER. Erolia minutilla. a/ March 20, 1963 (March 23, 1946); late fall record: November 25, 1961.

DUNLIN. Erolia alpina. New record: One at McElroy Farm, May 20, 1967. (1968b).

STILT SANDPIPER. Micropalama himantopus. New records: May 8, 1967, Lancaster and Wilson at Chaney Farm; July 29, 1968, Shadowen and Wilson at Chaney's. (1968b).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER. Ereunetes pusillus. a/ March 27, 1965 (March 31, 1951); d/ June 11, 1968 (June 2, 1953).

WESTERN SANDPIPER. Ercunetes mauri. d/ June 3, 1968 (May 29, 1953).

SANDERLING. Crocethia alba. New record: April 19, 1963, at Chaney Farm (Stamm). (1964c).

RING-BILLED GULL. Larus delawarensis. a/ February 20, 1966, on Barren River Reservoir (Starr).

BONAPARTE'S GULL. Larus philadelphia. New records: April 8, 1963; April 4, 1965 (Frech and Barr); April 4, 1966; April 10, 1968, 40 at McElroy Lake! (1968b).

COMMON TERN. Sterna hirundo. d/ October 14, 1962 (August 29, 1950).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. Coccyzus americanus. a/ April 10, 1968 (April 22, 1920); d/ October 26, 1963 (Gillenwater).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. Coccyzus erythropthalmus. a/ April 16, 1967 (April 28, 1954).

BARN OWL. Tyto alba. New records: May 16, 1967, 5 immature young found in a church tower at Smith's Grove, Warren County, and brought to Wilson; a mature bird, still limp and warm, found at side of road, eight miles north of Bowling Green, February 13, 1968 (Lancaster and Wilson). Shadowen added it to his collection of skins.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW. Caprimulgus carolinensis. d/ August 17, 1963, at Brigadoon (August 4, 1939).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK. Chordeiles minor. a/ April 11, 1965 (April 16, 1941).

EASTERN KINGBIRD. Tyrannus tyrannus. d/ September 29, 1962 (September 23, 1939).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER. Empidonax flaviventris. a/March 27, 1967 (May 12, 1966); a/ August 7, 1964 (September 27, 1956).

TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER. Empidonax traillii. New records: April 23, 1963, at Houchins Ferry, Mammoth Cave National Park (Lancaster and Wilson). One in Wilson's yard, May 19 and 27, 1963.

LEAST FLYCATCHER. Empidonax minimus. d/ May 23, 1963 (May 15, 1943).

HORNED LARK. Eremophila alpestris. Nest in a tobacco field, with 4 half-grown young, June 25, 1962 (Lancaster). (1962h).

TREE SWALLOW. Iridoprocne bicolor. a/ March 20, 1965 (March 27, 1938).

PURPLE MARTIN. Progne subis. a/ March 8, 1964, Barren County (March 13, 1922).

HOUSE WREN. Troglodytes aedon. d/ October 20, 1962 (October 7, 1956).

BROWN THRASHER. Toxostoma rufum. a/ March 12, 1964, Brigadoon. One in Mrs. W. G. Thomas' yard, in Bowling Green, from mid-November to December 22, 1963. (1964g). One on 1961 CBC at Glasgow (1962c); one on CBC at Bowling Green, December 21, 1966. (1967a). One in Gillenwater yard from January 10, 1968, for several days.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH. *Hylocichla ustulata*. d/ July 1, 1963 (May 21, 1961) (1964d); d/ October 27, 1966, Brigadoon (October 11, 1959).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH. Hylocichla minima. a/ April 11, 1962 (April 14, 1956).

VEERY, Hulocichla fusescens, a/ April 12, 1962 (April 18, 1961).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD. Sialia sialis. The all-time low in number of Bluebirds reported in 1961 CBC's rose to normal numbers by the CBC's of 1964. (1965b).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. Polioptila caerulea. a/ March 20, 1966 (March 22, 1945).

WATER PIPIT. Anthus spinoletta. New records: On CBC's at Bowling Green in 1962, 1963, 1965, and 1966. At Brigadoon on January 4, 1962; forty-nine at Barren River Reservoir on November 6, 1966. (1967c).

BELL'S VIREO. Vireo bellii. New record: One at Mammoth Cave National Park, May 3, 1966 (Starr).

SOLITARY VIREO. Vireo solitarius. d/ May 16, 1966 (May 14, 1954).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER. Mniotilta varia. d/ October 13, 1963 (October 9, 1943).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER. Limnothlypis swainsonii. New records: June 20, 1962, near Great Onyx Cave; (1962f and g). April 25, 1964, at Union City, Mammoth Cave National Park; May 6, 1965, also at M.C.N.P.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER. Vermivora chrysoptera. a/ April 11, 1965 (April 22, 1939).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER. Vermivora pinus. a/ April 9, 1963 (April 11, 1948).

TENNESSEE WARBLER. Vermivora peregrina a/ April 10, 1965 (April 18, 1956); d/ October 24, 1962 (October 20, 1943).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER. Vermivora celata. d/ November 4, 1961 (October 18, 1959).

NASHVILLE WARBLER. Vermivora ruficapilla a/ April 16, 1964 (April 23, 1960).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER. Dendroica magnolia. d/ May 23, 1963 (May 21, 1961).

CAPE MAY WARBLER. Dendroica tigrina. a/ April 19, 1964 (April 23, 1942); d/ May 18, 1967 (May 16, 1937); d/ October 13, 1963 (October 10, 1959).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER. Dendroica caerulescens. a/April 1, 1963 (April 23, 1944).

MYRTLE WARBLER. Dendroica coronata. d/ May 18, 1967 (May 16, 1956).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. Dendroica virens. a/ April 1, 1963 (April 6, 1941).

-GERULEAN WARBLER. Dendroica cerulea. a/ April 7, 1964 (April 11, 1948).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER. Dendroica dominica. d/ October 12, 1963 (September 28, 1918).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. Dendroica pensylvanica. First fall record: October 12, 1963 (Frech).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER. Dendroica castanea. d/ May 16, 1963 (May 15, 1931).

PINE WARBLER. Dendroica pinus. a/ March 19, 1966 (April 4, 1959).

OVENBIRD. Sciurus aurocapillus. d/ October 27, 1966 (October 12, 1961).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH. Sciurus noveboracensis. d/ May 22, 1963 (May 19, 1960).

KENTUCKY WARBLER. Oporornis formosus. d/ November 18, 1965 (October 12, 1961).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER. Oporornis agilis. a/ April 19, 1964 (April 27, 1958).

MOURNING WARBLER. Operornis philadelphia. d/ June 3, 1959 (May 19, 1945). Omitted in earlier study.

HOODED WARBLER. Wilsonia citrina. d/ October 17, 1964 (October 3, 1948).

WILSON'S WARBLER. Wilsonia pusilla. a/ April 20, 1965 (April 22, 1939); d/ May 26, 1963 (May 23, 1954).

CANADA WARBLER. Wilsonia canadensis. a/ April 24, 1963 (April 27, 1958); d/ May 26, 1966 (May 20, 1951); d/ October 12, 1963 (October 3, 1942).

WESTERN MEADOWLARK. Sturnella neglecta. New records: May 4, 1963, at Bowling Green-Warren County Airport; February 21, 1964; November 4, 1964.

ORCHARD ORIOLE. Icterus spurius. a/ April 10, 1965 (April 15, 1922).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD. Euphagus cyanocephalus. New records: January 31, 1966; February 18, 1967; February 22, 1968; March 26, 1963; March 31, 1962; April 7, 1965; April 18, 1964; May 3, 1967 (one found limp but not bodily injured).

SCARLET TANAGER. Piranga olivacea. a/ April 11, 1965 (April 15, 1956).

BLUE GROSBEAK. Guiraca caerulea. New records: April 13 and May 23, 1964; June 23, 1964; June 25, 1964 (pair and two immatures) (1964h); June 25, 1966; June 1, 3, and 6, 1967; April 30, May 1, June 8 and 9, 1968; June 27, 1968, female, apparently nesting, near Pig, at the edge of Mammoth Cave National Park (Gillenwater). (1967d), (1967e).

INDIGO BUNTING. Passerina cyanea. a/ April 11, 1964 (April 14, 1941).

DICKCISSEL. Spiza americana. a/ April 16, 1965 (April 17, 1941).

EVENING GROSBEAK. Hesperiphona vespertina. Additional records: January 1, 1962; February 28, 1962; April 16-28, 1962; May 8, 1962; May

7, 8, 9, 1963 (Glasgow); May 7, 1964 (Barren County); April (early) and 26, 1966 (Mammoth Cave National Park). (1962e), (1962a), (1962b), (1966a).

COMMON REDPOLL. Acanthis flammea. New species. December 22, 1963, at MCNP (McKinley); January 29, 1964, at mouth of Drake's Creek (Lancaster and Wilson). (1964a).

PINE SISKIN. Spinus pinus. New records: April 3-6, 1964; October 9, 1965; March 20, 1966; October 27, 1967.

SAVANNAH SPARROW. Passerculus sandwichensis. d/ May 20, 1965 (May 14, 1939).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW. Passerherbulus caudacutus. New record: October 6, 1963.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW. Passerherbulus henslowii. Four on Glasgow CBC, December 26, 1963 (1964b); three seen at Brigadoon, January 2, 1964.

VESPER SPARROW. Pooceetes gramineus. Bowling Green CBC, December 31, 1965 (Shadowen).

LARK SPARROW. Chondestes grammacus. a/ April 2, 1964 (April 3, 1948).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. Zonotrichia leucophrys. /a October 2, 1962 (October 8, 1938).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. Zonotrichia albicollis. a/ September 10, 1964 (Barren County) (October 1, 1955).

SONG SPARROW. Melospiza melodia. d/ (Bowling Green) May 5, 1968 (May 4, 1935); Glasgow: June 23, 1963; June 26, 1966.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR. New records: December 21, 1967; February 23, 1967—both at Barren River Reservoir.

Bibliography

All references are to articles or notes published in the *Kentucky War bler*. Notes by Wilson appear without his name; others are indicated in parentheses after the item.

1962—Volume XXXVIII.

- a. The Editors. 'The Evening Grosbeak Invasion in Kentucky, 1961-1962,' p. 28.
- b. Notes on the Christmas Bird Count at Mammoth Cave National Park, December 21, 1961, p. 35.
- c. Notes on the CBC at Glasgow, January 1, 1962, p. 35 (Starr).
- d. 'The Tragedy of the Bluebirds,' pp. 49-50.
- e. 'Late Evening Grosbeak Records at Glasgow,' p. 51 (Starr).
- f. 'Another Swainson's Warbler at Mammoth Cave," p. 51 (Carpenter).
- g. 'Swainson's Warbler at Mammoth Cave in June,' pp. 51-52.
- h. 'Horned Lark's Nest in a Tobacco Field,' p. 52 (Lancaster).
 - i. 'Virginia Rail at Mammoth Cave,' p. 54 (Schneider).

1963—Volume XXXIX.

- a. Notes on CBC at Bowling Green, December 20, 1962, p. 5.
- b. Notes on CBC at Mammoth Cave, December 30, 1962, p. 6 (Wilson, fide Starr and McKinley).
- c. Notes on CBC at Glasgow, January 1, 1963, p. 6 (Starr).
- d. 'Some June Observations at Mammoth Cave,' pp. 46-48 (Stamm). 1964—Volume XL.
 - a. Notes on CBC at Mammoth Cave, December 22, 1963, p. 13 (Wilson, fide McKinley).
 - b. Notes on CBC at Glasgow, December 26, 1963, p. 13 (Starr).
 - c. 'The Woodburn Lakes, Season of 1963,' p. 19.
 - d. 'A Late Swainson's Thrush,' pp. 19-20.
 - e. 'Sora Rail in Mid-Summer,' pp. 32-33 (Gillenwater).
 - f. Note on Oldsquaw, fide Starr, pp. 33, 54.
 - g. 'Second Winter Record of the Brown Thrasher at Bowling
 - Green,' pp. 52-53 (Thomas). h. 'Blue Grosbeak Breeding at Bowling Green,' pp. 54-55 (Lancaster and Wilson).

1965—Volume XLI.

- a. 'A Third Record of the Glossy Ibis,' pp. 29-30 (Wilson and Shadowen).
- 2. Notes on CBC at Mammoth Cave, December 27, 1964, p. 7.

1966—Volume XLII.

a. 'Some Notes on Winter Finches in the 1965-66 Season,' pp. 44-45 (Stamm and Wilson).

1967-Volume XLIII.

- a. Notes on CBC at Bowling Green, December 21, 1966, fide Gipson and Russell, p. 16.
- b. Notes on CBC at Glasgow, December 29, 1967 (Starr fide Gillen-
- c. 'Some Notes from Barren River Reservoir,' pp. 37-38 (Starr).
- d. 'The Blue Grosbeak in South-Central Kentucky,' pp. 59-60.
- e. 'Blue Grosbeak and Cattle Egret,' p. 67 (Beal, Russell, Shadowen, and Wilson).

1968—Volume XLIV.

- a. 'Broad-winged Hawk Migration,' p. 34 (Shadowen). b. 'The Woodburn Lakes, 1963-68,' pp. 39-43.

-1434 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green, 42101.

SPRING MEETING—APRIL 11-13, 1969

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 1969 Spring Meeting at Bowling Green, April 11-13, with headquarters at the Lost River Motel.

The first session on Friday evening was held at Western Kentucky University's Science Building. The meeting was opened by President Willard N. Gray. He welcomed members and guests.

Field trips for Saturday were announced for Chaney Lake in the morning at eight o'clock. Dr. Wilson volunteered to take those who wished to go to Houchins Ferry in the afternoon after a picnic lunch at noon at the roadside park in Bowling Green. It was also announced that on Sunday morning the field trip would be at Shanty Hollow Lake.

Dr. Wilson read a letter of regret from Mr. Albert Ganier, Nashville, Tennessee, an honorary member, saying that he was ill and could not attend. Dr. Wilson's reply was circulated for members to sign.

President Willard Gray introduced the first speaker, Lee Nelson, Owensboro, biologist for the Kentucky State Fish and Wildlife Resources, who gave a detailed report of a one-year study of Mourning Doves. In this survey 79 nests were covered and a mortality rate of 50% was established for young of the year.

Mrs. F. W. Stamm, state coordinator for the North American Nest-Record Card Program, sponsored by the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, reported that in 1968 nest-cards had been submitted for 63 different species, and that during the four-year period Kentucky had submitted cards for 98 species. Mrs. Stamm added that Cornell has issued new cards which are to be used in connection with the Laboratory's IBM computer, and explained the new instructions. She praised the K.O.S. participants in this study.

Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Kentucky coordinator for the Cooperative Breeding Bird Survey for North America, initiated by the Federal Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, gave a report on the 1966-1967 census. In Kentucky the Indigo Bunting was reported on more counts than any other species, while the Common Grackle proved to be the most common species in the state.

Although the water level was unusually low at Chaney Lake, several species of ducks and shorebirds were observed. Of interest was the nest of the Great Horned Owl containing two young, possibly six weeks old.

The dinner on Saturday evening was held at the Holiday Inn, with 63 attending. After dinner the President asked William Ruhe, Conservation Chairman, to explain the new organization, Kentuckians for Environmental Planning, initiated by the Sierra Club. It is made up of representatives of organizations in the state interested in conservation, preserving natural areas, and the safekeeping of quality environments. It recognizes the need for long-range planning and expects to work with governmental agencies. Dues of \$35.00 have been sent by the K.O.S. in order to become a charter member.

Howard Jones reported that the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, in Frankfort, had invited the Kentucky Ornithological Society to furnish an article for each issue of its bi-monthly publication, $Happy\ Hunting\ Ground$. Mr. Jones stated that the first article had been submitted and would appear in the May 1969 issue.

The President then introduced Dr. Wendell Kingsolver and his family, of Carlisle, Kentucky. Dr. Kingsolver's color slides of the bird and plant life of Florida and the Bahamas, with his comments interspersed with wit, delighted the audience.

On Sunday morning a field trip was held at Shanty Hollow Lake, but the group was dispersed by noon because of rain.

The total bird count was 101 species.

Respectfully submitted, Aileen Hummel Recording Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1969

ANCHORAGE: Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr.

BLANDVILLE: Newton O. Belt.

BOWLING GREEN: Mildred Allen, Margaret Hobson, Mr. and Mrs. Roy P. Millikin, Mrs. W. G. Thomas, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert E. Shadowen, Mrs. Eugene Wilson, Dr. Gordon Wilson.

CARLISLE: Willard Gray, Dr. and Mrs. Wendell R. Kingsolver; Robbie, Barbara, and Ann Kingsolver.

FRANKFORT: Dr. J. Hill Hamon, Howard P. Jones, Joey Jones, Mrs. Charles C. Moore, Karen Moore.

GLASGOW: Mrs. George Ellis, Mrs. James E. Gillepwater, Miss Bess Keil, Dr. and Mrs. Russell Starr.

GOLDEN POND: Dr. Raymond W. Nall.

LOUISVILLE: Amelia Alford, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Aldrich, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Floyd S. Carpenter, Joseph Croft, Mrs. Mary Louise Daubard, Amy Deane, Mrs. Harry H. Hummel, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Jackson, Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth McConnell, Mr. and Mrs. J. William Ruhe, Evelyn Schneider, Mabel Slack, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. Zollner.

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

MURRAY: Mr. and Mrs. Hunter M. Hancock, Edwin Larson, Dr. Clell Peterson.

OWENSBORO: Sister Casimir Czurles, Minnie Holland, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon R. Iles, Wynema Sims.

RICHMOND: A. L. Whitt. Jr.

DYERSBURG, TENNESSEE: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Leggett.

FIELD NOTES

A GREEN HERON IN DECEMBER

On December 18, 1968, Mr. James Anderson of Cincinnati and I were duck hunting on the Kentucky side of the Ohio River, about five miles above Maysville in Mason County. As we paddled our canoe into a small creek an immature Green Heron (Butorides virescens) flew across our path and alighted on a log at the water's edge, farther up the stream. We approached to within 30 feet of the bird before it flew back across the creek. We watched it there for some five minutes before it finally flew out of sight upstream. I believe this is a very late date for this species, for I do not find a winter record listed in Robert M. Mengel's Birds of Kentucky (1965).—KARL MASLOWSKI, Maycliffe Place, Cincinnati, Ohio.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK PREYS ON CARDINAL

My study overlooks the border which separates the backside of our yard from the woods. When the area was cleared the discarded trees were

just pushed into the edge of the woods and left. The border recedes from a point just behind the house, where I have my bird feeders, and angles off down the hill. It consists of a heavy tangle of decaying trees, grape vines, sumac, Osage orange, black locust, and other vegetation. This provides excellent protection and roost area for the birds that visit my feeders.

On January 23, 1969, I chanced to glance out of the window. There was a tremendous flurry and action in the underbrush as a big bird seemed to be pursuing the smaller passerines. The large bird suddenly came to a halt, and it was noted that it was an immature Sharp-shinned Hawk (Accipiter striatus). Suddenly a male Cardinal (Richmondena cardinalis) perched nearby and at the same time the hawk leaped from its perch. Then followed a zigzag flight through the underbrush. The hawk outmaneuvered the Cardinal, caught it on the wing, and flew to another perch with its prize, and then slipped off into the woods.—WILLARD GRAY, Rt. #4, Carlisle.

ANOTHER WINTER RECORD OF THE PRAIRIE WARBLER

On December 9, 1967, I observed a Prairie Warbler (Dendroica discolor) on Mulberry Flat Road, eight miles north, four miles east of Golden Pond, Trigg County, in the Land Between the Lakes. The bird was feeding actively in low trees and bushes as it moved through the woods, with a flock of Carolina Chickadees (Parus carolinensis), Tufted Titmice (P. bicolor), and two Ruby-crowned Kinglets (Regulus calendula). The bird appeared to be an adult male on the basis of the high color and distinctive markings it possessed. The clear yellow breast, streaked sides, black malar streak, and rusty back streaks, were all noted. Also, the tail-wagging habit characteristic of the species was observed.

This is the second December record of this species in Kentucky. James W. Hancock reported one on December 30, 1965, near Lake Pewee, Madisonville (Ky. Warbler, 42:10, 1966). However, I feel the December 9 record is worthy of note since the normal winter range of the Prairie Warbler is south of the United States, or in southern Florida.—KENNETH P. ABLE, Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

WINTER RECORD FOR COMMON EGRET

On January 1, 1969, John Luttrell and I were surprised to see a Common Egret (Casmerodius albus) along I-64 in Franklin County, about three-fourths of a mile west of the intersection with US-60. The bird was standing on the median between the lanes. Its head and neck were withdrawn and I thought the egret was injured. However, when I approached to within a short distance of the bird, it flew possibly 100 yards and again alighted on the median. After I had taken the bird's picture, it flushed again and flew in the direction of the Kentucky River, approximately one mile away, the nearest body of unfrozen water.—HORACE BROWN, Rt. #3, Shelbyville.

NEWS AND VIEWS

FALL MEETING

Our Forty-sixth Annual Meeting next fall will be held October 10-12, 1969, in Owensboro, at the invitation of the Owensboro Chapter of the K.O.S. Mr. A. L. Powell, Chairman of the Local Committee on Arrangements, is enthusiastic about the plans being formulated. The Friday evening paper session and the Saturday business meeting will be held in the Natural Science Museum, with the dinner program at Gabe's Motor Inn. Field trips are being planned for Carpenter's Lake, Wilson's Farm, and other points of interest. Details on the meeting will be mailed to the K.O.S. membership in September.

K.O.S. IN THE SPORTSMEN'S NEWS

The Kentucky Ornithological Society has been invited to submit a column for each issue of the Happy Hunting Ground, bi-monthly publication of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Frankfort. This magazine circulates among some 40,000 Kentucky sportsmen. The K.O.S. welcomes this opportunity to acquaint Happy Hunting Ground readers with the Society's activities. The president of the Society, Willard Gray, appointed Howard P. Jones, Jr., chairman of the committee to be responsible for writing or procuring the articles. Joseph E. Croft and Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm were asked to serve on the committee, with Mr. Jones.

IN MEMORIAM

Miss Margaret Fowler

Mrs. John Prentice

Mrs. Condict Moore

Mrs. William S. Speed

TWO NEW LIFE MEMBERS

As the oldest living member of the Kentucky Ornithological Society I welcome two new Life Members of the society. It is always a mark of faith in the purpose and in the future of our society when someone becomes a Life Member; all of us feel highly honored when additions are made to this portion of our society's membership roll.

JAMES W. HANCOCK

Mr. Hancock says, "I began the study of birds in late summer, 1931, at the age of 14. At first I had only Arm and Hammer soda cards and the World Book Encyclopedia for reference, which were inspiring but inadequate." When he graduated from Madisonville High School, in 1934, his mother gave him, at his request, a copy of Frank M. Chapman's Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America. These early reference materials

have grown into what is probably the largest ornithological library owned by one person ever accumulated in the state. You can hardly think of a prominent book on birds that has appeared within the last century that is not represented.

Though a very busy man because of his connection with the Madison-ville postoffice, Mr. Hancock has persistently studied the birds of the Madisonville and Pennyrile Forest and Park areas, including the Christmas Bird Counts at both places, nesting studies, and a continuing study of bird song. ("I am probably the only postman in the state who takes a walk before breakfast.") He has written dozens of short articles and several extensive ones; the ones requiring the most observation and record-keeping were "Breeding Birds of Hopkins County," Kentucky Warbler, XXX (1954), 3-5, 19-25, 41-47; and "Song and Mimicry in the Brown Thrasher," Kentucky Warbler, XL (1964), 23-27. Though not fond of speaking, he has attracted great interest by discussion of the part the amateur plays in scientific study of birds.

He has membership in many ornithological and conservation societies. In our own society he has been vice-president, 1948, and president, 1960.

A very large part of his interest, quite naturally, is in his family: his wife, Kathryn; his daughter, Brenda; and his three sons: Maurice Gordon, William Gregory, and Darrell Wayne. All of them share his interest in the out-of-doors.

CHARLES S. GUTHRIE

Mr. Guthrie grew up in Scott's Bottom, in Cumberland County, on a 400-acre farm, surrounded by some of the best bird territory in the state. Like Mr. Hancock, he got his first inspiration from the Arm and Hammer Brand Soda bird cards. (Someone ought to write a master's thesis on the influence of these cards, remembered so fondly by bird students everywhere.)

He attended the Goose Creek Elementary School and then graduated from the Burkesville High School. He did his first college work at Lindsey Wilson Junior College, at Columbia, and then entered Western. He considers his greatest streak of good luck was his having vertebrate zoology and ornithology under Dr. L. Y. Lancaster. As a result of these courses, he became a member of the Kentucky Ornithological Society in 1957 and has participated in all its activities since then. Besides his Cumberland County area he has studied extensively at Mammoth Cave National Park and Lake Cumberland.

After his graduation from Western in 1958, he engaged in farming for some years. Then for eleven years he combined his farming and teaching in the high school at Burkesville, meanwhile securing his A.M. degree from Western in 1965, and doing extensive graduate work at the University of Kentucky. He is now assistant professor of English at Western but retains his hold on his farm in Cumberland County.

Besides his interest in birds he has become fascinated by botany and has identified 270 plants in his home county. He also has photographed in color many wild flowers and is continuing his work in both botany and ornithology. He served as Councillor of the K.O.S., in 1964-1966, and as Vice-president in 1967.

-GORDON WILSON, 1434 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green, 42101.