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The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. 47

MAY, 1971

No. 2



WOOD DUCK

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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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OUR COVER

The cover picture is a reproduction of Edwin Sheppard's interesting painting of the Wood Duck which appeared in Thomas Gentry's book, *Nest and Eggs of Birds of the United States*, published in Philadelphia in 1882. Sheppard, acknowledged as the best ornithological artist in America of his era, was affiliated with the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

NOTES FROM CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN

JOSEPH E. CROFT

The notes below are intended to supplement previous observations on the birds of Cumberland Mountain, Bell and Harlan Counties, as presented in my earlier paper (*Ky. Warbler*, 45:67-81, 1969) on the summer birds of the southeastern Kentucky mountains. General information on the area may be found in the paper cited, and in another paper (*Ky. Warbler*, 45:9-11, 1969) on winter birds of Cumberland Mountain. The present report is based on observations made while camping along the crest of the mountain, between White Rocks and the Pinnacle, in Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, May 18 through 22, 1970. Some of the birds recorded on these dates were doubtless late migrants rather than summer residents; this fact is taken into account in the notes that follow.

Vultures-Grouse. Single Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) were recorded at various points along the mountain on May 18, 19, 21, and 22. Two Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*) were noted on May 18, and singles on May 21 and 22. The only hawk recorded was a single Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) on May 22. Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), as previously, were widely distributed, though at this comparatively early point in the season only two broods were recorded, giving peep notes about hens; the single chick seen, on May 20, was very small, probably only a day or two old.

Doves-Woodpeckers. A few Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) were seen on most days, usually at the few open spots available, at elevations to 3450 feet. One was flushed on May 20 from a puddle in the trail at 3200 feet, surrounded by extensive forest. Pileated Woodpeckers (*Dryocopus pileatus*) were recorded, always by their calls, each day but the first; on an average, one bird was heard for about every two miles walked.

Flycatchers-Titmice. A few Acadian Flycatchers (*Empidonax virescens*) were recorded on most days, at elevations up to about 3100 feet. On May 19 I watched for some time an Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Nuttallornis borealis*), obviously a migrant, feeding from the tops of dead trees at elevations of 3100 to 3200 feet on the Bell County portion of the mountain; the previous year I had recorded one just across the Virginia line (*Ky. Warbler*, 45:71, 1969). On May 22, two Rough-winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) sailed about White Rocks, 3500 feet. Occasional Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) were recorded over the mountain, at elevations to 3500 feet. Tufted Titmice (*Parus bicolor*) were recorded in small numbers at all elevations, to at least 3200 feet.

Wrens-Thrushes. On May 18 I heard a Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) singing from a farmyard in the valley at Ewing, Virginia. I have not recorded this species in the mountains of southeastern Kentucky, where it must have declined considerably in recent years, as elsewhere in

the state (cf. Mengel, *Birds of Kentucky*, 1965, pp. 347-348). Single Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) were recorded on or near the mountain crest on May 19, 20, and 22. A total of five Swainson's Thrushes (*Hylocichla ustulata*), obviously migrants, were recorded in song on May 19-21, at elevations of approximately 2400 to 3200 feet. Four Veeries (*H. fuscescens*) were recorded in mixed deciduous woods along the trail on May 19, and two in hemlock-rhododendron growth along Shillelagh Creek on May 21. Although there is no way of knowing definitely, I suspect the former of being migrants, the latter summer residents (cf. *Ky. Warbler*, 45:72, 1969).

Vireos. Single White-eyed Vireos (*Vireo griseus*) were heard singing at 3400 feet near Bailes Meadow on May 19 and 22. Solitary Vireos (*V. solitarius*) were recorded on all days but the first. On May 19 a bird of this species flushed from a nest, apparently just short of completion, placed 11 feet over the trail in a birch tree, at an elevation of 3100 feet. On May 22 the bird was sitting on the nest, and would not fly until I touched, or almost touched, its bill with a small stick; such attachment to the nest is widely reported in the literature as characteristic of this species. There seem to be only two nests of the Solitary Vireo previously reported from the state, both by Mengel (*op. cit.*, pp. 380-381) on Black Mountain. The contents of the present nest could not be determined.

Warblers. Black-and-white Warblers (*Mniotilta varia*), while recorded along most of the length of the mountain crest, were decidedly more numerous to the south of Chadwell's Gap, where in general the forest is drier, with a large oak-hickory element; other factors may of course play a role in accounting for this distribution. Worm-eating Warblers (*Helminthos vermivorus*) were in general increasingly numerous toward the south end of the mountain, perhaps in part on account of the lower altitudes there; the highest birds of this species were recorded at about 2800 feet.

Three Golden-winged Warblers (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), previously discovered summering on the mountain (*Ky. Warbler*, 45:74, 1969), were recorded on May 19, and one on May 22, at elevations of 3100 to 3400 feet. The Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*), likewise a summer resident, was recorded in the same areas as previously, as well as along the ridge to a point some two miles further south than previous observations. An additional bird was recorded on May 20 at a low, moist spot only about four miles northeast of the Pinnacle; if this bird was on territory, it seemed an isolated individual, and at an exceptionally low elevation (estimated at roughly 2500 feet).

Two Black-throated Green Warblers (*D. virens*), not previously recorded at higher elevations on the mountain, were recorded at 3000 and 3200 feet on May 22. On May 20 I located by song and watched a Black-burnian Warbler (*D. fusca*) in oak-hickory woods at 3300 feet near Chadwell's Gap; whether this species breeds on the mountain has yet to be determined. Territorial Chestnut-sided Warblers (*D. castanea*) were recorded in numbers, though perhaps not quite so commonly as in 1969.

Of the woodland-inhabiting warblers, the Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) was much the commonest, considering the area as a whole. On May 19 a nest of this species, located on the ground 10 feet from the trail

at 3100 feet elevation in Bell County, held four eggs. Like the Ovenbird, the Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) was rather evenly distributed along the length of the trail, though in smaller numbers than that species. The Hooded seemed absent from some, though not all, of the driest areas. Canada Warblers (*W. canadensis*) were recorded on May 19, 21, and 22 along Martin's Fork and Shillelagh Creek, with a total of at least eight birds. It is possible that some of these were transients. Curiously, I recorded only a single Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), one singing on May 20 in young deciduous woods.

Tanagers. As would be expected, the Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) was much the commoner tanager along the ridgecrest, where only three Summer Tanagers (*P. rubra*) were recorded. On the evening of May 20 at the Pinnacle I heard the characteristic "pit-a-tuck" note of a Summer Tanager, followed moments later by three notes sounding virtually identical with the clear opening whistles of a typical Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*) song, though not so loud and not quite so clear. This latter call came from a Summer Tanager in female plumage, who gave it on several occasions while seeming to pursue another Summer Tanager, a male in variegated first nuptial plumage (most of front third of body red, middle dull olive-green, under tail-coverts bright orange-yellow).

Finches. On May 21, about four miles northeast of the Pinnacle, in oak-hickory woods at an elevation of about 2800 feet, I heard several birds flying overhead giving hard notes in groups of three. These birds landed in trees on the northwest slope of the mountain, where the flight notes were mingled with others in considerable variety, the whole performance sounding distinctly "finch-like." Shortly afterwards the flock flew back across the trail and landed nearby in the sunlit tops of several trees. As suspected, the birds proved to be Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*). There were about seven birds, two of them in adult male plumage, with dull red bodies and dark wings. The short, notched tails and crossed bills of the birds were evident as I watched them with binoculars at distances of 30 to 40 yards. After feeding for ten minutes or more, often while hanging upside down in characteristic crossbill fashion, the birds flew off down the ridge, still calling. These birds were observed on both the Kentucky and Virginia portions of the mountain.

This seems to be only the second record of the Red Crossbill in eastern Kentucky, the other having been made by Smith (*Ky. Warbler*, 46:75, 1970), who recorded some 60 birds in Menifee County the previous October. The late-spring date of the present observation may at first seem surprising, but in recent years it has become increasingly clear that crossbills wander widely in the southern Appalachians throughout the seasons, in at least some years. Interestingly, though, Stupka's tabulation (*Notes on the birds of Great Smoky Mountains National Park*, 1963, p. 191) of 696 records made over a 30-year period in the Smokies shows May with much the smallest number (14) of any month. Both before and since the observation here reported I have seen and heard small groups of Red Crossbills summering in the higher elevations of the Smokies.

A WOOD DUCK SURVEY AT LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES

JERRY W. ALLEN

This report is a summary of a Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) survey conducted from April 18, 1970, to June 12, 1970, in the Land Between the Lakes Area, near and including Energy and Hematite Lakes. Eighteen nest-boxes were used for observation during the survey. The majority of the boxes had been erected by LBL personnel, but some were old, dating from the time of the Kentucky Woodlands Refuge. Wood Duck acceptance of the boxes and productivity and losses due to predators were determined.

The boxes were numbered consecutively from 1 to 18. The location of each of the boxes was marked on a map of the area; nine boxes were inspected the first week, and nine the following week. Information in the form of a handbook was taken.

In general, the boxes were placed five feet above water or ground, and had a 36-inch predator guard conforming to standard specifications and two inches of sawdust in the bottom.

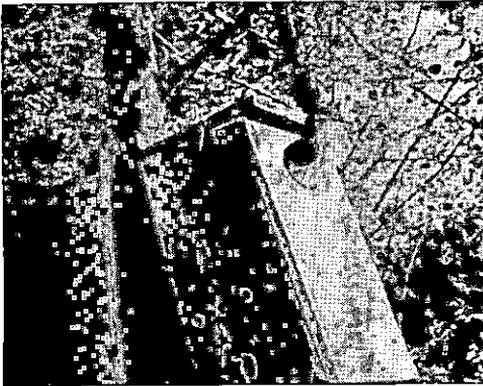


Photo by Jerry W. Allen

Only two boxes were occupied by Wood Ducks. And only one nest was successful. Nest #12, located on Hematite Lake, contained 11 eggs which hatched on April 24, and nine ducklings survived after the first week. A nest in box #16 held eight eggs on April 24, but on May 7 six were broken. This box was 50 feet out on Hematite Lake, four feet above the water, and did not have a predator guard.

For several of the boxes (7 out of 18) there was no apparent reason for vacancy. Five of the 18 boxes showed

signs of human harassment. In fact, one was completely destroyed and several had been used for disposal of trash. Vacancy of four of the boxes could be attributed to their poor condition.

In addition to the above survey, other parts of LBL north of US 68 to the canal were checked for nests and broods. A nest in an old decayed oak tree, near Duncan Bay, was not accessible, but on June 12 a brood of ten ducklings was spotted in the area. Also, a nest on Pinegor Road was found by watching the hen fly to the tree cavity, near a small pond. However, no brood was spotted at any time in the pond.

Several sightings of adult Wood Ducks were made at Rhodes Creek but no broods were seen. Another brood with ten ducklings on June 7 at Barkley Lake in Fulton Creek was noted.

A spot-check by boat on June 5 resulted in the following sightings at Barkley Lake: a hen with four ducklings in Shaw Branch; a hen and a pair in Nancy Ford Creek; and a hen with ten ducklings in Fulton Bay. At Kentucky Lake on June 12 a spot-check by boat revealed the following:

a hen and eight ducklings in Vickers Bay; 18 adults in Rhodes Bay; four adults, and a hen and ten ducklings, in Duncan Bay.

The results of a carefully formed opinion would suggest that the boxes, in general, be placed higher and away from possible human interference. The boxes should, whenever possible, be placed out in the water on pipes away from trees.

I plan to continue this study in the spring of 1971. Also, I shall try to have other boxes erected in selected sites to determine whether the above suggestions will have an effect on the choice of nesting sites and nest box success.

—804 19th Street, Murray 42071.

SOME NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF LILLEY'S WOODS

JARVIS HUDSON

From May 25 until July 12, 1970, I spent at least two days every week at Lilley's Woods in southwestern Letcher County. The visits were in connection with work on my doctoral project concerning the breeding bird census. I spent most of the time on the lower mesic slopes, but went twice to the top of a long, high, xeric ridge. Following are some observations I feel are worthy to record.

Hawks. I encountered only two species of hawks. One or both members of a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*) were frequently noticed on both sides of the valley of Line Fork, the main stream that flows through the area. They were often noticed over the wooded hills rather than the unwooded valley. One pair of Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*) was seen over a ridge flying close to the treetops.

Owls. The only owls I discovered were Barred Owls (*Strix varia*), which I heard several times on the forested slopes.

Woodpeckers. Red-bellied Woodpeckers (*Centurus carolinus*) were apparently uncommon. On the average, one was recorded about once every two days. Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) were not seen at all.

Flycatchers. The Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) was noticed only once.

Jays and Crows. The Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), to my surprise, was recorded only once, and I doubt that I would have overlooked such a noisy and conspicuous bird.

Warblers. I frequently heard the Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) at three different locations, although I saw individual birds on only four occasions. According to Mengel (*The Birds of Kentucky*, 1965:391), the habitat of the Swainson's Warbler in the Appalachian region is thickets of rhododendron. One of the locations where this species was found was on a forested hillside having predominately deciduous trees with several hemlocks and many rhododendron bushes. The second location

was in a predominately deciduous, moist forest. Although part of the forest nearby contained several scattered clumps of rhododendron, the bird was usually located in an area where there was no rhododendron. The third location was in an old field in a rather dense growth of young hemlocks and deciduous trees downslope from a forested area. The old field contained no rhododendron, and in the forested area directly above only a single rhododendron bush was discovered. I did not get the impression that the Swainson's Warbler is dependent on rhododendron, but merely that it often associated with it.

Only a few Yellow-throated Warblers (*Dendroica dominica*) were discovered. As Croft (*Ky. Warbler*, 45:75-76) also noted, they were found along the creek, where sycamores grew, and in the xeric forest along the high ridges. Although Mengel (*The Birds of Kentucky*, 1965:412) states that this species is associated with pines, there were only a few widely scattered pines in the predominately oak forest where I found it.

The Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) was encountered only four times. This species is often associated with hemlocks in Kentucky, but at Lilley's Woods I never found it in places where hemlocks were very common, and one bird was located on a high slope where there were no hemlocks for a considerable distance.

I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Dock Cornett and their family, who live at Lilley's Woods, for their many forms of assistance and for their hospitality during the days I spent at the woods.

—1749 Liberty Road, Apt. 70, Lexington 40505.

SPRING MEETING, APRIL 30-MAY 2, 1971

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its Spring Meeting at Mammoth Cave National Park. This was a joint meeting with the Tennessee Ornithological Society. Eighty-two KOS members registered and one hundred and forty from the TOS.

There was a reception held in the Hotel Annex on Friday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mrs. Russell Starr, Mrs. James Gillenwater, and Mrs. George Ellis as the hospitality committee had spent much time and effort with floral decorations and refreshments to make the event a success.

Early morning field trips on Saturday started at 5:30 a.m. and observers returned to the hotel for breakfast with the group at 7:00 a.m. After breakfast a large group assembled in the hotel parking lot and divided into smaller groups for field trips. Group leaders were Willard Gray, Mrs. James Gillenwater, Howard P. Jones, George Ray, A. L. Powell, and Herbert Shadowen. The beautiful weather added to the enjoyment of the field trips.

The Board of Directors met in the Green Room of the Hotel Annex at 2:30 p.m. in the afternoon. Following this meeting there was a general meeting of all KOS members in the same room. The meeting was opened by Dr. Raymond Nall.

Mr. Leonard C. Brecher gave an interesting report on the status of the Falls of the Ohio Bi-State Park Project.

Mrs. F. W. Stamm, state coordinator of the North American Nest Record Card Program, gave a review of the program and instructions for filling out the cards properly. Members were urged to participate.

Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., gave a report on current business of Kentuckians for Environmental Planning, and discussed the two major problems confronting the committee at present: strip mining, and interstate water quality standards for streams. He also reported on the 1970 Breeding Survey and requested members to assist in unassigned routes. There were several volunteers.

Dr. Nall announced the date and place for the Fall KOS Meeting at Kentucky Dam Village State Park on October 8-10, 1971. He also announced the date and place of the 1972 Spring Meeting, as set by the Board of Directors to be held in Bowling Green, April 14-16. The meeting was adjourned.

The dinner meeting was held in the hotel dining room at 6:30 p.m. The tables were beautifully decorated with fresh flowers and candles by the KOS hospitality committee mentioned earlier. Approximately two hundred were present. Dr. Albert F. Ganier, charter member of the TOS, and nationally known ornithologist, was the guest speaker. He spoke on "The Fifty Most Remarkable Birds in the World," and illustrated his talk with beautiful colored slides.

Dr. Herbert Shadowen compiled the bird count, and 128 species were reported.

Dr. Nall then introduced Mrs. Stamm who paid a tribute to the late Dr. Gordon Wilson who had done so much ornithological work in the Mammoth Cave area.

Miss Mary Davant (TOS member) was then asked to give the report of the joint Committee on Resolutions (copy attached).

Sunday morning field trips were hampered by rain in the day, but later in the morning many members were able to enjoy some activity in observing birds before having to depart for home.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily H. Wilson
Recording Secretary

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky

April 30 - May 2, 1971

The Kentucky Ornithological Society and the Tennessee Ornithological Society Committee on Resolutions upon the occasion of their first joint meeting in thirty-five years resolves that thanks be extended to the following:

For arrangements: Mr. John Ellis of the T.O.S. and his committee, and to Dr. Raymond Nall, Dr. Herbert Shadowen and their committee from the K.O.S.

For hospitality: Mrs. Russell Starr and the ladies of K.O.S. who served with her.

For their efficient handling of registration and other details thanks are also due to Mrs. Mary Louise Daubard of K.O.S. and Mr. Michael L. Bierly of T.O.S.

To Mr. Albert F. Ganier we give special thanks as our speaker for the banquet and for his many contributions to both Societies.

We also express appreciation to the management and staff of the Mammoth Cave Hotel for their cooperation in making arrangements for the convenience and comfort of the entire group.

Respectfully submitted,
 (Miss) Mary Davant
 (Miss) Louise Jackson
 Dr. Burt Monroe, Jr.
 (Miss) Evelyn Schneider
 Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Bowling Green: Mrs. Harry Bowman, Mrs. Breaden, Mrs. Dulcie Clark, Mrs. Roy Milliken, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert E. Shadowen, Mrs. Eugene Wilson.

Carlisle: Dr. and Mrs. Wendell R. Kingsolver, Barbara and Ann Kingsolver.

Frankfort: Howard P. Jones.

Glasgow: Mrs. George Ellis, Jr., Mrs. James Gillenwater, Dr. and Mrs. Russell Starr.

Horse Cave: Rex A. Burd.

Lexington: Mrs. Anna N. Heaton, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred M. Reece.

Louisville: Amelia Alford, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brecher, Mary Louise Daubard, Amy Deane, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Jackson, Ida Knopf, Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth McConnell, Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Dr. and Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., James Pasikowski, Evelyn Schneider, Mrs. George W. Seitz, Mabel Slack, Lawrence Smith, W. Virginia Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Sundquist, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Wetherell, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Wood.

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

Madisonville: Mr. and Mrs. James W. Hancock.

Murray: Joe T. Erwin, Dr. and Mrs. Hunter M. Hancock, Robert Head, Dr. Raymond Nall, Dr. Clell Peterson.

Nicholasville: Mrs. Lida Feck.

Owensboro: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Abrams, Jr., David Abrams, Felicia Abrams, Pam Abrams, Sister Casimir Czurlis, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Iles, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson, Wynema Sims, Mr. and Mrs. John Whitmer.

Richmond: Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Whitt.

Boonville, Indiana: Don Andrews, Robert McCormick, Willard Gray, Kim Neese

Waycross, Georgia: Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Cypert.

Nashville, Tennessee: Mr. Albert F. Ganier.

FIELD NOTES

CATTLE EGRETS IN HENDERSON COUNTY

On April 29, 1970, my husband and I saw six Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) in Henderson County. The birds were on the Shirley B. Prichett farm

on US 60, about four miles south of Henderson, and were in a field with cattle. We studied them carefully and then hurried to the house—a distance of two miles—to pick up a camera. The egrets were still there when we returned; we took two pictures.—MRS. ILA DAVIS GATLIN, JR., Route #2, Henderson 42420.

(Ed. Note: Although we have a few scattered records of the Cattle Egret from western Kentucky (Fulton County) to the eastern section of the state, this is the first one from Henderson County. Mrs. Gatlin sent a color slide to verify her find.)

SANDHILL CRANES IN GRAYSON COUNTY

On the morning of March 6, 1971, at 9:30 a.m., while driving west on the Western Kentucky Parkway, in Grayson County, about 30 miles from Elizabethtown, I noticed in the distance an odd flock of 22 birds milling above the road in front of me. The birds remained there long enough to allow me to drive close to them and observe their long extended necks and legs, and identify them as Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*). The grunting call was easily heard for about one minute before they flew northward.—EDWIN LARSON, 105 South 14th Street, Murray 42071.

LAPLAND LONGSPURS IN FULTON COUNTY

At about 5:15 p.m. on February 13, 1971, Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus*) were seen in a field in extreme southwestern Kentucky. The area is that part of Fulton County cut off from the rest of the state by the Mississippi River (Kentucky Bend). A large flock of Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*) was observed in a field by the main gravel road (KY 313) serving the area, perhaps two or three miles north of the Tennessee line. The field was partly in standing grain, and partly furrowed ground. An estimated 500 Horned Larks were present in both parts of the field. The Lapland Longspurs were first noticed by the sooty smudges on the upper breast and sides of the neck. The thick, sparrow-like bill was then seen, and then a rufous area on the back of the neck. These characteristics were noted in good light (sunny day, low backlighting, about 25 feet away, 10-power binoculars). At least six separate birds were seen, but the flock contained more, undoubtedly; the characteristic "br-r-r-t" rattle could be heard often in any part of the flock when flushed. I would estimate that 10% of the birds were longspurs, or 50 individuals. When they flew, the white sides of the tail could be seen. The weather was cold, and about three to four inches of new wind-blown snow was on the ground. I have been familiar with the species for 10 years, and know the bird well.—DENNIS COSKREN, University of Kentucky, Miller Hall, Lexington 40506.

COMMON SCOTER IN CRAVENS BAY

On January 9, 1971 while hunting with a friend just north of the mouth of Cravens Bay on the west side of Barkley Lake, we saw an obviously crippled duck, drifting with the wind, some 200 yards from shore. The bird, subsequently collected and later closely studied by Dr. Clell

Peterson and me, proved to be a female Common Scoter (*Oidemia nigra*). As far as I know, this is the first Kentucky record for this species outside the Ohio River area around Louisville. The dark cap contrasting with the light cheeks, the uniformly brown wings, and the black legs and feet were the primary identifying features of the bird; also noticeable was a yellow area around the nostrils, a feature commented on in Kortright's *The Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America*. Its weight of 1 lb., 12 oz. was not substantially outside Kortright's weight range (of only two birds) for females of the species, but the bird seemed rather emaciated, perhaps not surprising in light of its crippled condition when collected.—MICHAEL MILLER, 1311 Story Avenue, Murray 42071.

BOOK REVIEW

SINCE SILENT SPRING, by Frank Graham, Jr., Houghton Mifflin Co. Boston, Mass. \$6.95. Also in paperback from Fawcett-Crest, 67 W. 44th St., N.Y. City 10036. 95¢.

What have we done in the years since Rachel Carson first awakened us to the danger of pesticides in our foods, the soil, the rivers, the wildlife, and birds? *Since Silent Spring* fills in those years. Here is a book with a cause, a cause that concerns us all. It is a story of the long struggle, a battle yet to be won, to free our food from pesticides. The author takes us back to the 1940's and the first quiet warnings from the scientists against the free use of poison sprays. He reviews their prophecies of damage to come to wildlife, birds, and eventually to man. Mr. Graham tells us in some detail of Rachel Carson's controversy with industry and the unbelievable behavior of the Department of Agriculture regarding her book, *Silent Spring*. He takes us through several years of problems regarding the collection of data for her book and points out the damning evidence she accumulated against those who thought only of profits, and in some instances, their power. He gives us accounts of brave men who risk their prestige, and sometimes their jobs, to do battle against powerful forces despoiling the environment. He gives alternate selections to the use of pesticides in agricultural procedures, and pleads for a new kind of agriculture that considers sociological consequences rather than profits alone.

At the conclusion of the book the reader is first horrified, then ready to do battle.—HELEN FISHER, 2525 Saratoga Drive, Louisville 40205.

NEWS AND VIEWS

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Roy P. Milliken, Bowling Green. Mr. Milliken, a retired farmer and Warren County school teacher, had been a KOS member of long standing. Although his recent illness prevented him from engaging actively in some projects, he seldom missed a Spring or Fall Meeting. We shall miss him.