

8-1972

## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 48, no. 3)

Kentucky Library Research Collections  
Western Kentucky University, [spcol@wku.edu](mailto:spcol@wku.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky\\_warbler](http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler)



Part of the [Ornithology Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Kentucky Library Research Collections, "Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 48, no. 3)" (1972). *Kentucky Warbler*. Paper 243.  
[http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky\\_warbler/243](http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler/243)

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kentucky Warbler by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact [topscholar@wku.edu](mailto:topscholar@wku.edu).

# The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. 48

AUGUST, 1972

No. 3



*LAUGHING GULLS*

## IN THIS ISSUE

NOTES ON SOME NORTHERN KENTUCKY FIELD BIRDS, Joseph E. Croft .....	39
1972 BIG SPRING LISTS .....	43
A SEASON AT THE TRANSIENT LAKES NEAR BOWLING GREEN, Herbert E. Shadowen .....	48
THE 1972 ONE-DAY BALD EAGLE COUNT, Anne L. Stamm .....	50
FIELD NOTES:	
Yellow Warbler Feeds Young Cowbird, Ann H. Bowne .....	52
Song Sparrow With A Foot Defect, Anne L. Stamm .....	52
NEWS AND VIEWS .....	52

## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

President .....	Ray Nall, Murray
Vice-President .....	Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Louisville
Corr. Sec.-Treasurer .....	Mary Louise Daubard 616 Rudy Lane, Louisville 40207
Recording Secretary .....	Mrs. Eugene Wilson, Bowling Green
Councillors:	
Leonard C. Brecher, Louisville .....	1970-1972
Wendell Kingsolver, Carlisle .....	1970-1972
Albert Powell, Maceo.....	1971-1973
Herbert E. Shadowen, Bowling Green .....	1971-1973
Retiring President .....	Willard Gray, Newburgh, Indiana
Librarian .....	Evelyn Schneider, Louisville
Staff Artist .....	Ray Harm, Chenoa

## THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the *Kentucky Ornithological Society*. Published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. The *KENTUCKY WARBLER* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular, \$3.00; Contributing, \$5.00; Student, \$2.00; Life, \$50.00; Family, \$1.00 in addition to Regular, Contributing, or Life Membership dues. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships, and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

Editor .....	Anne L. (Mrs. F. W.) Stamm, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222
Assistant Editor .....	Joseph E. Croft, 2366 Gladstone Avenue, Louisville 40205

### Editorial Advisory Board

Roger W. Barbour	Leonard C. Brecher
Herbert E. Shadowen	

## OUR COVER

The cover picture is a reproduction of Audubon's painting of the Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*), which he made in 1836. Four of these rare birds to Kentucky were recorded on the Spring Counts: three at Kentucky Lake and one at Louisville (see elsewhere in this issue). The picture shows an adult bird in spring plumage and an immature in autumn dress.

## NOTES ON SOME NORTHERN KENTUCKY FIELD BIRDS

JOSEPH E. CROFT

The notes following deal with observations of five species of field-inhabiting birds recorded in north-central Kentucky, within a fifty-mile radius of Louisville, during the breeding season, with the addition of a few notes on migration. All five species are basically more northern birds, the majority reaching the southern edge of their respective breeding ranges in Kentucky. The previously known status of each species in Kentucky is only briefly indicated here; fuller details and references may be found in the appropriate species accounts in Mengel (1965). Useful accounts of population changes of three of these species over a fifty-year period in a neighboring state may be found in Graber and Graber (1963:468-469, 489, 496).

Frequent reference is made below to the Hickman farm. This, the property of Mr. and Mrs. Baylor Hickman, is located on the Ohio River and adjacent uplands north of Goshen, Oldham County. Through the courtesy of the owners I have led a Beckham Bird Club field trip here each June from 1969 through 1972; in the course of these trips numerous Louisville birders have had an opportunity to study most of the birds discussed below.

**MARSH HAWK.** *Circus cyaneus*. On our first trip to the Hickman farm, on June 21, 1969, several of us saw a brown-plumaged Marsh Hawk sailing along the river valley in a downriver direction, several times giving a high-pitched whistle. The bird continued out of sight, giving no indication of attachment to the locality.

My earliest fall record of this bird is August 22, 1959, when Haven Wiley and I saw one sail low over the Falls of the Ohio, scattering flocks of shorebirds though showing no interest in pursuing them. Within the past decade, this species has sharply declined as a winter resident in the Louisville area, as reference to Christmas Counts will show; while at many places within its regular breeding range the bird has similarly declined or disappeared. Occasional nesting in Kentucky would seem still a possibility, however.

**UPLAND PLOVER.** *Bartramia longicauda*. On June 20, 1970, a few of us saw a single Upland Plover in a short-grass pasture on the Hickman farm. No evidence of nesting was found. Though there is at least one definite Kentucky breeding record, and though the species breeds regularly albeit very locally in southwestern Ohio (Kemsies and Randle, 1953:19), the bird seems to be so early a fall migrant that Mengel regards summer records as difficult of interpretation.

The first of my few observations of this engaging bird was made twenty years ago, in early November 1952. I had crawled to within a dozen feet of a Common Snipe (*Capella gallinago*) feeding at the edge of Beargrass Creek in Seneca Park, Louisville, when suddenly a second bird, much shorter billed and very plainly marked, flew in and alighted on a stone even closer to me. This new arrival obligingly remained long enough for me to get a good look at it, but it had spotted me and soon flew off; I watched it fly up the hill with a distinctive stiff-winged, short-stroke flight, land on a fence

post of the adjacent farm then occupying that land, and momentarily lift its wings—all actions characteristic of this open-country sandpiper. I recount the circumstances of this observation in some detail since it was early in my birding days and the bird was unusually late in the season. Unfortunately, though I wrote down descriptions of new birds in those days, I did not yet record dates of observation, so I do not know the exact date of this observation. I am unaware of specific November records of this species in Kentucky or the surrounding states—the latest given in Monroe's summary (1969:50) is October 22—though Mengel (1965:243) has the interesting remark "Late dates are few but the reports of reliable hunters indicate that a few birds occasionally remain as late as early November." During most recent years this bird seems to have gone entirely unreported in the Louisville region.

**SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN.** *Cistothorus platensis*. In Kentucky this secretive and locally distributed bird is typically an inhabitant of orchard grass fields when it occurs in summer. Accounts of local habitats may be found in Mengel (1965:352-353) and, in considerable detail for a Meade County population, in Rowe (1964). Though loosely colonial, these wrens are so local and erratic even in areas of favorable habitat that it is difficult to keep track of the species from year to year.

The greatest concentration I have seen totalled at least 55 birds, many of them evidently comprising family groups, which I observed at length on August 25, 1963, in fields around Johnson's Lake, south of Boston, Nelson County. During the three hours (4:30-7:30 p.m.) I was in the area, these wrens were singing incessantly. The fields were thickly grown with orchard grass, red clover, and fescue at that time. On most of my occasional subsequent visits to the area, these fields have been either plowed or planted in corn, and I have seen no wrens since then. Beckham (1885:12-13) had one record for Nelson County, a bird collected May 1, 1882. Blincoe (1925), who made observations in the county from 1911 to 1921, did not record the species.

My only fall record is of a single bird seen in weeds and brush along a tiny stream in Seneca Park, Louisville, October 12, 1957. From 1968 through 1971 I saw none at any season, then found the species again on August 25, 1972, when I found three singing in a river-bottom field in Oldham County, in the same area where Monroe first found the species locally in August 1946 (Mengel, 1965:352).

**BOBOLINK.** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. On our first visit to the Hickman farm, on June 21, 1969, I was pleasantly surprised to spot a male Bobolink in flight over a grainfield, and more surprised to see several other Bobolinks, both male and female, in quick succession. Further observation revealed a total of about 10 birds. In the three subsequent years Bobolinks were again found in these fields during visits in mid-June and late June, the population perhaps peaking in 1971, when about 10 pairs were recorded.

This colony of Bobolinks is present in grainfields totalling roughly 30 acres on a rolling plateau just south of the Ohio River bluff, at an elevation of 680 to 700 feet. The cocks sing almost continuously and chase the hens with gusto; three or four are sometimes seen in pursuit of a single hen. No nests have yet been found, but there seems little reason to doubt that the

birds are nesting. On June 21, 1972, Mrs. F. W. Stamm and I watched a pair carrying food to a spot from which we shortly afterward flushed a juvenile Bobolink, and on June 24 Lawrence Smith and I flushed a juvenile from near the same spot.

Other birds present and evidently nesting in the same fields are Eastern Meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*), Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Dickcissels (*Spiza americana*), Savannah Sparrows (see below), Grasshopper Sparrows (*Ammodramus savannarum*), and (in 1969 only) a few Henslow's Sparrows (*Passerherbulus henslowii*).

Though Bobolinks seem in recent years to have declined in many parts of the Northeast (cf., e.g., Bent, 1958:28-29), the region with which they have been especially associated in much ornithological and popular literature, there are indications that the species is gradually spreading southward in the eastern United States (the extension westward across the northern Plains and into the Far West has long since been documented: cf. Bent, 1958:29-30; Lincoln, 1952:56, 70-71). The first Tennessee nest was found as long ago as 1962 in the distinctive Shady Valley area in the extreme northeastern corner of that state, where the species was also noted in June of 1961 and 1963 (Dubke, 1963), though no published reports since that time have come to my notice. In Virginia, three were seen on the Northern Neck in June 1969 (Scott, 1969:78). The species was found breeding just north of Kentucky, in Hamilton County, Ohio, as early as 1949 (Kemsies and Randle, 1953:49), and has since been regular there.

Though generally regarded as rare or even very rare in Kentucky in fall (only two records at Louisville before 1956: Mengel, 1965:437), a few Bobolinks can often be found by dragging a rope through suitable fields at that season. In the fall of 1956, Mrs. F. W. Stamm (1957:41) and I saw 40 birds in a field near Worthington, Jefferson County, on September 2; on October 3 I recorded three giving the distinctive flight note overhead, near Seneca Park, Louisville, and a single bird on October 10. In subsequent years I have found a few on dates ranging from September 2 (1963) to October 16 (1965), mostly by dragging a rope through fields.

**SAVANNAH SPARROW.** *Passerculus sandwichensis*. Our trip to the Hickman farm on June 21, 1969, revealed some half-dozen Savannah Sparrows singing on territory. A pair was observed mating in one of these territories. On June 28, two members of our party, Stamm and McConnell (1971:45), returned to the area (mistakenly described as "southwestern" Oldham County in the note cited) and observed a young bird being fed out of the nest. The only previous summer record for Kentucky seems to be of a singing male found nearby in Jefferson County in the summer of 1960 by Monroe and Monroe (1961:41). The birds have been observed at the Oldham County location each summer since 1969; on June 14, 1971, I counted 12 singing males in the fields there.

*Corrigendum*—On the subject of field birds, it may be well, even at this date, to record correctly the title of an earlier note of mine. As published (*Ky. Warbler*, 37:59-60, 1961) this read, both on the title page (p. 45) and in the heading, "Western Meadowlark is in Late Spring," due to a printer's error. This should read, "Western Meadowlarks in Late Spring."

## Literature Cited

- Beckham, Charles W.  
1885 *List of the birds of Nelson County*. Frankfort, Ky. Geol. Surv.
- Bent, Arthur Cleveland  
1958 Life histories of North American blackbirds, orioles, tanagers, and allies. *U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 211.
- Blincoe, Benedict J.  
1925 Birds of Bardstown, Nelson County, Kentucky. *Auk*, 42:404-420.
- Dubke, Kenneth H.  
1963 First nesting record of Bobolink in Tennessee. *Migrant*, 34:17-20.
- Grabber, Richard R., and Jean W. Grabber  
1963 A comparative study of bird populations in Illinois, 1906-1909 and 1956-1958. *Ill. Nat. Hist. Surv. Bull.*, vol. 28, art 3.
- Kemsies, Emerson, and Worth Randle  
1953 *Birds of southwestern Ohio*. Ann Arbor, Mich., Edwards Bros.
- Lincoln, Frederick C.  
1952 *Migration of birds*. Garden City, Doubleday & Co.
- Mengel, Robert M.  
1965 The birds of Kentucky. *A.O.U. Orn. Mon. No.* 3.
- Monroe, Burt L., Jr.  
1969 Summary of occurrence of birds of Kentucky. *Ky. Warbler*, 45:47-56.
- Monroe, Burt L., Sr., and Burt L. Monroe, Jr.  
1961 Birds of the Louisville region. *Ky. Warbler*, 37:23-42.
- Rowe, William  
1964 Short-billed Marsh Wrens in Meade County. *Ky. Warbler*, 40:29-31.
- Scott, F. R.  
1969 Bird observations from the Northern Neck. *Raven*, 40:67-80.
- Stamm, Anne L.  
1957 1956 fall migration data from the Louisville area. *Ky. Warbler*, 33:40-41.
- Stamm, Anne L., and Dorothea McConnell  
1971 Savannah Sparrows breeding in Oldham County. *Ky. Warbler*, 47:45.

## 1972 BIG SPRING LISTS

Only five Spring Lists came this year. We should have as many spring counts as for the Christmas census; so plan now to have your group represented next spring. For the first time we are listing the number of individual birds as well as species (see table). We believe that over a period of years this information will be more meaningful in noting population changes, trends, etc. The counts listed below were all taken within a three-day period, May 6-9. They show that warbler migration was well under way in most areas, while some species such as the Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, and Solitary Vireo were noticeably absent, or in small numbers. However, many migrants were still moving through in late May and early June. Here are the lists.

**LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES** (Area essentially the same as for Christmas Counts—most of the LBL north of US 68, including Kentucky Dam). May 9; 5:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Heavy cloud cover until 4:00 p.m. at which time the sky cleared. Wind was from the north and averaged 10 m.p.h. The temperature ranged from 49° to 67°. Total, 101 species, 896 individuals.

The lakes were extremely high, thus greatly reducing the possibility of shorebirds. Also, the Ferguson Springs area was flooded. The *Purple Gallinule* was flushed from the lake shore and flew into a nearby cedar; it turned and stared revealing the red bill and the white frontal shield. It proceeded to work its way into the lake via the fence row in which it took cover. I did flush the bird, but its flight carried it out of sight.

The great event of the day was the finding of three *Laughing Gulls*. The gulls were below Kentucky Dam and were observed in excellent light at close and long range, with 8x40 binoculars, for 30 minutes. The dark mantle on the birds blended into the wing tips and the white border on the hind or trailing edge of the wings was observed equally well. The gulls were in breeding plumage, with black heads and white eye ring; also their small size left no doubt as to the species identity. The Forster's Terns were distinguished by the paler bill and the call note. Both the Common Tern and the Forster's Tern were heard giving the call note at the same time.—Willard Gray (compiler), Clell Peterson.

**HENDERSON** (City and suburban area of Henderson, including Audubon State Park).—May 7; intermittent drizzle; wind SSE, 6-12 m.p.h.; temp. 59° to 69°. Total, 97 species, 1443 individuals. The Ohio River was not covered; it had just receded from eight feet above flood stage, and was still 24 feet above the low water mark.

The highlight of the day for the compiler was finding two Long-billed Marsh Wrens. The birds were examining the drift on a fence behind a screen of tall swamp grass.—King Benson, Robert Bolds, W. P. Rhoads (compiler), Virginia Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Ike Utley, and Mr. and Mrs. Willis Wiley.

**MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK** (Various areas of the Park covered, within a 15-mile radius of Turnhole Bend, the usual Christmas



Count area).—May 7; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear until noon, then light to heavy rain throughout the afternoon. Total, 69 species, 590 individuals.

After the long list compiled by observers in the Tennessee and Kentucky Ornithological Societies last spring, this year's count seems very poor, indeed. Many of the park areas customarily covered were not visited this year, since the afternoon rain prevented observers from covering the old ferry area and trails.—Dulcie Clark, Sally Clark, Susan Clark, Mrs. George Ellis, Mrs. James Gillenwater (compiler), Celeste Ross, H. E. Shadowen, Jacky Shadowen.

LOUISVILLE (Louisville and its environs, including the Ohio River, Iroquois Park, Caperton's Swamp, woodlands, meadows, and parts of Goshen).—May 7; dawn to dusk; cloudy, warm and humid; temp. 61° to 74°. Total, 147 species, 8568 individuals.

The Louisville spring count revealed the usual decrease in numbers and species of waterfowl expected in early May but was surprisingly good for northern species, with such birds as Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak still present in small numbers. Although a relatively good variety of warblers was reported, numbers were low and several species were not recorded, indicating that the major warbler push had not arrived; migrant thrushes also showed low numbers. Shorebirds were also quite good.

Among the rarities reported were the *Laughing Gull*, an adult bird in breeding plumage, our third local May record, and the Blue Grosbeak, a species quite definitely on the increase, both in range extension and numbers. The Laughing Gull was observed by Monroe and the Blue Grosbeak by Robertson.—A. C. Anderson, Al Byrd, Leonard C. Brecher, Combs Shouse, Sue Hall, Dennis Holding, Wilbur Jackson, Lois Massie, Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (compiler), Mrs. H. V. Noland, Louis Pieper, Mrs. Charles Robertson, William Ruhe, John Ruhe, Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Shannon, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm, Mrs. Arthur Steilberg, Mrs. A. G. Susie, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Wood.

DANVILLE (Selective coverage of Danville and its environs).—May 6; 9:55 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. Fair and clear; light breeze; temp. 55° to 75°. Total, 84 species, 606 individuals.

It was distinctly a better than average day for species of warblers, with two Prothonotary Warblers being less expected than the one Black-throated Blue. As always, so early in May as the 6th, many spring birds were still in small numbers or absent.—Frederick W. Loetscher (compiler), Mrs. F. W. Loetscher, Wilbur Robinson.

Species	Land Between the Lakes	Henderson	Mammoth Cave	Louisville	Danville
Common Loon	1				
Horned Grebe				2	
Great Blue Heron	2				
Green Heron	7			16	2
Little Blue Heron	1	1			
Black-cr. Night Heron				20	
Yellow-cr. Night Heron				1	
Canada Goose	12	2		20	
Mallard	4			48	
Black Duck	1			2	
Blue-winged Teal				21	
Shoveler				8	
Wood Duck	3	7		53	
Lesser Scaup	11			1	
Turkey Vulture	7		8	27	2
Black Vulture				2	4
Cooper's Hawk		1		1	
Red-tailed Hawk	5	1		1	2
Red-sh. Hawk	3			1	
Broad-winged Hawk	2				
Rough-l. Hawk			1		
Sparrow Hawk	1			17	1
Bobwhite	3	14		56	2
Virginia Rail				1	
Purple Gallinule	1				
American Coot				29	
Semipalmated Plover				15	
Killdeer		7		28	1
American Woodcock		1			
Common Snipe				5	
Spotted Sandpiper	1			12	
Solitary Sandpiper				8	2
Greater Yellowlegs				2	
Lesser Yellowlegs	1			29	
Least Sandpiper				7	
Short-b. Dowitcher				4	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				1	
Herring Gull				1	
Ring-billed Gull	47			3	
Laughing Gull	3			1	
Bonaparte's Gull	1				
Forster's Tern	3				
Common Tern	9			1	
Black Tern	2				
Mourning Dove	7	46	17	222	17
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	5		2	8	
Black-b. Cuckoo	1	1			
Screech Owl		5		1	
Barred Owl	4	1		2	
Chuck-will's-widow				5	

Species	Land Between the Lakes	Henderson	Mammoth Cave	Louisville	Danville
Whip-poor-will	21			3	
Common Nighthawk				3	2
Chimney Swift	17	14	13	147	18
Ruby-th. Hummingbird		8		3	
Belted Kingfisher	2	1	1	3	
Yellow-sh. Flicker	2	10	5	38	6
Pileated Woodpecker	1	2	2	8	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	14	6	15	34	4
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	4		12	
Hairy Woodpecker		8		6	1
Downy Woodpecker	3	10	3	22	2
Eastern Kingbird	21		3	20	2
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	9	6	9	44	4
Eastern Phoebe	7	2	3	10	2
Acadian Flycatcher	9		1	5	1
Least Flycatcher			1	1	
Eastern Wood Pewee	3	1	7	9	2
Olive-s. Flycatcher				1	
Horned Lark	1	15		12	
Tree Swallow	3				
Bank Swallow	1			8	
Rough-winged Swallow	4			16	3
Barn Swallow	35	25	6	46	9
Cliff Swallow	14				
Purple Martin	9	18		17	6
Blue Jay	18	18	22	294	23
Common Crow	14	5	7	77	7
Car. Chickadee	6	12	13	54	4
Tufted Titmouse	6	17	14	105	8
White-br. Nuthatch	5	3	2	7	
Brown Creeper		2			
House Wren		8		35	
Carolina Wren	7	8	4	73	9
Long-b. Marsh Wren		2			
Mockingbird	5	25	2	61	3
Catbird	7	12	41	66	4
Brown Thrasher	7	10	7	32	2
Robin	5	24	27	645	32
Wood Thrush	18	12	20	73	13
Swainson's Thrush	1	2	2	14	4
Gray-ch. Thrush				4	
Veery	1			4	
Eastern Bluebird	36	15	17	28	3
Blue-gr. Gnatcatcher	12	3	8	12	5
Ruby-cr. Kinglet				3	3
Cedar Waxwing				65	4
Loggerhead Shrike	1	2		1	
Starling	22	110	11	1167	35
White-eyed Vireo	12	6	4	16	7
Yellow-throated Vireo	4	1	4	5	1

Species	Land Between the Lakes	Henderson	Mammoth Cave	Louisville	Danville
Solitary Vireo				1	
Red-eyed Vireo	9	7	10	51	10
Philadelphia Vireo				3	
Warbling Vireo	1	3		25	2
Black-and-white Warbler	2	2	3	8	3
Prothonotary Warbler	5	5	1	1	2
Swainson's Warbler		2			
Worm-eating Warbler	1	1	1	3	
Golden-w. Warbler			1	1	
Blue-w. Warbler			6	1	1
Tennessee Warbler	40	2		33	1
Nashville Warbler		1	1	14	1
Parula Warbler	4			1	
Yellow Warbler		2	2	20	10
Magnolia Warbler		2		11	
Cape May Warbler				11	2
Black-throated Blue Warbler		2		1	1
Myrtle Warbler		9	4	42	4
Black-throated Green Warbler				9	1
Cerulean Warbler	11	16	8	2	1
Blackburnian Warbler		1	9	2	
Yellow-thr. Warbler	1	1	2	10	2
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	1		8	1
Bay-br. Warbler				10	
Blackpoll Warbler	3	2	2	13	1
Prairie Warbler	3	1	9	10	
Palm Warbler				10	1
Ovenbird		1	1	10	3
Northern Waterthrush	2			4	
Louisiana Waterthrush		12	6	6	1
Kentucky Warbler	12	3	5	6	6
Connecticut Warbler		1			
Mourning Warbler				1	
Yellowthroat	22	17	3	63	10
Yellow-br. Chat	16	3	2	26	3
Hooded Warbler	1				
Wilson's Warbler					1
American Redstart	9	4	20	4	1
House Sparrow	3	125		433	25
Bobolink		4		4	
Eastern Meadowlark	18	22		356	37
Red-winged Blackbird	24	43	12	736	20
Orchard Oriole	13	6	2	28	5
Baltimore Oriole		2		33	3
Common Grackle	45	455	12	1185	62
Brown-h. Cowbird	50	34	49	216	9
Scarlet Tanager	3	5	5	16	3
Summer Tanager	9	4	7	22	6
Cardinal	11	52	21	305	28
Rose-br. Grosbeak		2	3	10	5

Species	Land Between the Lakes	Henderson	Mammoth Cave	Louisville	Danville
Blue Grosbeak				1	
Indigo Bunting	27	11	27	216	30
Dickcissel		2		4	
Evening Grosbeak				3	
Purple Finch		1			
Pine Siskin				5	
American Goldfinch	14	15	16	168	14
Rufous-sided Towhee	13	14	14	47	11
Savannah Sparrow	1			3	
Grasshopper Sparrow				9	
Vesper Sparrow		1			
Bachman's Sparrow				1	
Chipping Sparrow	4	1	11	17	6
Field Sparrow	3	4	7	50	4
White-cr. Sparrow		6		8	
White-thr. Sparrow		2	6	35	3
Fox Sparrow		5			
Swamp Sparrow	1			2	
Song Sparrow		12		243	3
DATE OF COUNT	May 9	May 7	May 7	May 7	May 6
SPECIES	101	97	69	147	84
INDIVIDUALS	896	1443	590	8568	606
OBSERVERS	2	8	9	22	3

## A SEASON AT THE TRANSIENT LAKES NEAR BOWLING GREEN

HERBERT E. SHADOWEN

The transient lakes ten miles south of Bowling Green near Woodburn have been recognized as unique birding areas for many years. Almost every year two large fields are inundated for a period of a few weeks to several months. They are called the Chaney and McElroy Lakes after the names of former owners. The water source is primarily subsurface drainage and may contain large numbers of aquatic organisms.

Water began to accumulate in the depressions during the second week of January, 1972. Weekly field trips were made to observe the species and the change in species-composition, and these trips continued until June 9. On January 28 the first aquatic species, two Hooded Mergansers, was seen at McElroy Lake, but it was not until March 10 that aquatic species were reported at Chaney Lake. Each lake covered approximately 160 acres, but McElroy Lake was shallow, emptied faster, and the tall, lush vegetation at the north side of the lake provided more adequate cover and food. The vegetation and the expanse of water made accurate bird counts difficult, so that conservative estimates were made when many birds were present.

The greatest waterfowl concentration of the season occurred March 3, at McElroy Lake, with the lake at its maximum size; on that date the following

species were recorded: Whistling Swan (4), Mallard (100), Black Duck (10), Pintail (52), American Widgeon (24), Redhead (40), Ring-necked Duck (200), Lesser Scaup (150), Common Goldeneye (2), Bufflehead (2), and Hooded Merganser (4). Shortly after this date the water began to recede, and several acres of mud flat were exposed by April 4. A marked change had taken place in the bird population; it now consisted of eight Pied-billed Grebes, no Mallards, one pair of Pintails, 12 American Widgeons, four Shovelers, 50 Ring-necked Ducks, 30 Lesser Scaup, 600 American Coots, four American Woodcock, 23 Common Snipe, 30 Pectoral Sandpipers, and 40 Least Sandpipers. On May 11 McElroy Lake was dry except for a narrow drainage ditch and a small pool 50 feet in diameter, but it was teeming with birdlife consisting of one injured Mallard, two Blue-winged Teal, one Sora, one Semipalmated Plover, four Killdeer, two Spotted Sandpipers, two Solitary Sandpipers, 12 Lesser Yellowlegs, 12 Pectoral Sandpipers, 18 Least Sandpipers, and 15 Semipalmated Sandpipers. When approached, the birds merely moved from one side of the small pool to the other side and were observed and counted from close range. Their apparent tameness may have resulted from arid conditions and the absence of nearby bodies of water. Chaney Lake continued to recede, and on June 9 three small pools covering less than an acre of the field were occupied by six Green Herons and nine Killdeer. Many tadpoles and other small organisms were stranded when the water receded into sinkholes.

The following list of aquatic and semi-aquatic species recorded at one or both of the transient lakes during the 1972 season includes the earliest and latest dates on which each species was seen.

Horned Grebe	Mar. 31-Apr. 13	Hooded Merganser	Jan. 28-Apr. 13
Pied-billed Grebe	Mar. 10-May 11	Red-br. Merganser	Mar. 17-Apr. 13
Great Blue Heron	Apr. 13-May 20	Osprey	Apr. 13
Green Heron	Apr. 13-June 9	Sora	May 11
Cattle Egret	Apr. 13-22	Common Gallinule	May 24
Whistling Swan	Feb. 17-Mar. 10	American Coot	Mar. 10-June 2
Mallard	Feb. 5-May 24	Semipalmated Plover	May 5-11
Black Duck	Mar. 3-Apr. 13	Killdeer	Mar. 17-June 9
Gadwall	Mar. 17-Apr. 13	Golden Plover	Mar. 31-Apr. 13
Pintail	Feb. 11-Mar. 24	American Woodcock	Apr. 4
Green-winged Teal	Apr. 10-13	Common Snipe	Apr. 4-May 5
Blue-winged Teal	Mar. 10-May 11	Spotted Sandpiper	Apr. 22-May 11
American Widgeon	Mar. 3-Apr. 27	Solitary Sandpiper	Apr. 13-May 11
Shoveler	Feb. 5-Apr. 13	Willet	Apr. 27-May 11
Wood Duck	Feb. 5	Greater Yellowlegs	Apr. 10-May 5
Redhead	Feb. 24-May 5	Lesser Yellowlegs	Apr. 13-May 11
Ring-necked Duck	Mar. 3-Apr. 13	Pectoral Sandpiper	Apr. 10-May 11
Canvasback	Apr. 13	Least Sandpiper	Mar. 31-May 5
Lesser Scaup	Feb. 11-Apr. 22	Dowitcher	Mar. 31
Common Goldeneye	Feb. 11-Mar. 3	Stilt Sandpiper	Apr. 13
Bufflehead	Mar. 3-Apr. 13	Semipalmated Sandpiper	May 11
Oldsquaw	Mar. 17	Wilson's Phalarope	Apr. 13
Ruddy Duck	Mar. 17-24	Belted Kingfisher	Apr. 13-May 24

None of the dates of occurrence above are unusual, but the writer considers the following birds as rare species in south-central Kentucky: Cattle Egret, Whistling Swan, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, Ruddy Duck, Osprey, Common Gallinule, Willet, Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper, and Wilson's Phalarope. The assistance of other K.O.S. members and the ornithology class at Western Kentucky University in identification and counting of the birds is appreciated.

—Biology Department, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green 42021.

## THE 1972 ONE-DAY BALD EAGLE COUNT

COMPILED BY ANNE L. STAMM

The One-Day Bald Eagle Count in Kentucky on February 19, 1972, sponsored by the Kentucky Ornithological Society in cooperation with the Mississippi Valley Bald Eagle Survey, was down from the previous year. However, the weather may have been a factor. In the Louisville area the temperature ranged from 22° to 31° during the count; the wind, from the northwest, was 17 m.p.h. in the morning and gusting to 27 m.p.h. most of the day. Snow flurries added to the discomfort of the eagle watchers. Icy roads in eastern Kentucky prevented the observers from censusing the Wolf Creek Dam area on the 19th; it was covered on the 20th, instead. All state observers commented on the "blustery day," and the eagles may have decided to sit quietly on a limb and fish on another and better day.

The areas covered were virtually the same as in the past, with the exception of the "Kentucky Bend" of the Mississippi River, where we had no observers. The count revealed the sighting of 56 Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*): 18 adults, 28 immatures, and 10 not aged. See table below for breakdown by territories.

Location	Adult	Immature	Not Aged	Total
Land Between the Lakes	14	24	2	40
Ballard Waterfowl Management Area (Ballard County)	2	1	0	3
Marion—Dam #50	0	0	8	8
Diamond Island and Slim Island (Henderson County)	1	1	0	2
Lake Pewee and Pleasant View Lake (Madisonville)	0	0	0	0
Ohio River—Rockport Ferry to mouth of Blackford Creek (Davies County)	0	0	0	0
Indiana side of Ohio River from Leavenworth to Rome	0	0	0	0
Ohio River—Otter Creek	1	0	0	1
West Point—Salt River	0	1	0	1
Westport (Oldham County)	0	0	0	0
Barren River Reservoir	0	0	0	0
Cumberland River—Wolf Creek Dam	0	1	0	1
	18	28	10	56

The 1972 Mississippi Valley One-Day Bald Eagle Count showed a total of 1240 birds, an increase of 50% over last year. The figures revealed a total of 817 adults, 377 immatures, and 46 not aged. According to Elton Fawks, chairman of the survey, approximately 500 people were involved in the count. The survey also showed a total of 12 Golden Eagles.

The following members and guests participated in the Kentucky Ornithological Society's 12th count: Charles Andre, Robert Bolds, Al Byrd, Mrs. A. H. Calvert, John Charron, Denny Cornett, Dennis Coskren, Frances Ellis, Joe Tom Erwin, J. M. Frazer, Marquita Gillenwater, James W. Hancock, Mike Hancock, Ronald Howard, Wilbur Jackson, Larry Lamely, Mr. and Mrs. William Mathes, Mrs. Ted Metzger, Michael Miller, James Myatt, Mildred Neff, Jim Pasikowski, Clell Peterson, A. L. Powell, Jr., Mrs. Charles Robertson, Alan Shadburne, Lawrence D. Smith, Robert Smith, Anne L. Stamm, Frederick W. Stamm, Russell Starr, Chad Stewart, Lee Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Stokes, Paul Sturm, Sherman Swanson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilcox.

Special thanks are due to the biologists from the Fish and Wildlife Service who assisted with the project. Also, thanks is extended to all participants. Each year we gain new knowledge about the Bald Eagles in Kentucky.

—9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.



*The picture of the mature Bald Eagle is a reproduction of Ray Harn's artistic painting. It was received through the courtesy of the K. O. S. staff artist.*



## FIELD NOTES

### YELLOW WARBLER FEEDS YOUNG COWBIRD

On June 15, 1972, at our Cloverport, Breckinridge County, farm I took my usual stand—a tree stump seat which is located where a meadow and wooded hill come together with a creek near by. My attention was attracted by a Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) flitting about a cedar tree. It did not take long to notice the huge immature Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), at least twice as big or more in comparison to her size, sitting on a weed stalk near the cedar tree. The warbler would make numerous trips to feed the fledgling cowbird. The fledgling followed the Yellow Warbler as she worked diligently and long to keep the young bird satisfied. I finally lost the birds when they flew into a maple tree about 20 feet from where I was sitting. I understand little is in the Kentucky literature regarding parasitized nests of the Yellow Warbler and I feel this note worthy to record—ANN H. BOWNE, 1321 Woodmere Lane, Owensboro 40301.

### SONG SPARROW WITH A FOOT DEFECT



On March 4, 1972, I captured a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) with a foot deformity. The bird had the left foot missing and only a stub remained (see photograph). The Song Sparrow managed to use the stub as a prop when walking although it had some difficulty. The bird seemed to be in good health and had apparently adapted to its defect. How the bird perched is unknown but it would seem to be difficult with toes only on one foot.—ANNE L. STAMM, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### FALL MEETING

The Annual Fall Meeting of the Society will be held at Lake Cumberland State Resort Park, near Jamestown, October 13-15, 1972. A good program is being planned and members are urged to mark their calendars. Details of the meeting will be mailed well in advance of the meeting.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you have moved and have a new address, please notify the secretary-treasurer (see inside cover page for address). It is expensive for the Society to pay the postal service for returned issues. We urge your cooperation.