

11-1973

## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 49, no. 4)

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. 49, no. 4)" (1973). *Kentucky Warbler*. Paper 238.  
[http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky\\_warbler/238](http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler/238)

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).

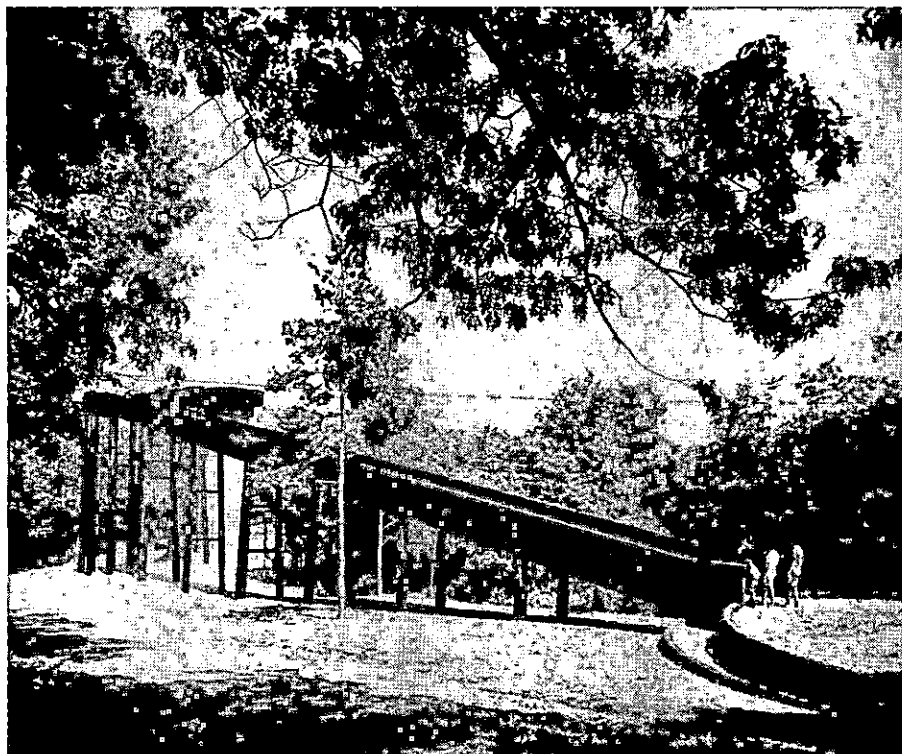
# The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. 49

NOVEMBER, 1973

No. 4



*SILo OBSERVATION POINT — LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES*

## IN THIS ISSUE

CLIFF SWALLOWS IN WESTERN KENTUCKY, Clell Peterson .....	63
FIFTIETH ANNUAL FALL MEETING, Sister Casimir Czurlles .....	66
FIELD NOTES .....	72
NEWS AND VIEWS .....	76

## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

President .....	Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Louisville
Vice-President .....	A. L. Whitt, Jr., Richmond
Corr. Sec.-Treasurer .....	Mary Louise Daubard 616 Rudy Lane, Louisville 40207
Recording Secretary .....	Sister Casimir Czurles, Owensboro
Councillors:	
Albert Powell, Maceo.....	1971-1973
Herbert E. Shadowen, Bowling Green .....	1971-1973
Ramon R. Iles, Owensboro .....	1972-1974
Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver, Carlisle .....	1972-1974
Retiring President .....	Ray Nall, Murray
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 .....H. E. Shadowen, Biology Department, Western Kentucky Univ.,  
Bowling Green 42101

### Editorial Advisory Board

Anne L. (Mrs. F. W.) Stamm

Leonard C. Brecher

---

### OUR COVER

Dr. Ray Nall of the Tennessee Valley Authority provided the photograph of the silo overlook, an excellent vantage point for observing birds in the Land Between the Lakes.

## CLIFF SWALLOWS IN WESTERN KENTUCKY

CLELL PETERSON

On May 31 and again on June 23, 1973, I visited Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonata*) nesting sites in western Kentucky. Heavy rains throughout the East brought Kentucky and Barkley Lakes to record highs, destroying boat docks and washing out roads in many places and directly affecting Cliff Swallow nesting. On May 6-7, the period of the LBL Big Spring Count, the tailgates of the generators at both Kentucky Dam and Barkley Dam were under water. Ordinarily the interior top angles of these poured concrete constructions are densely packed with Cliff Swallow nests, but because of the high water nesting could not begin in the tailgates until later. As a consequence I counted only 256 nests in the tailgates on June 23. I employed my usual technique of observing with a Bushnell zoom Rangemaster scope from approximately river level, about 300 feet downstream from the tailgates. At 3:00 p.m. the sun is far enough to the west to soften the shadows within the tailgates. Even so, counting is difficult; the figures obtained must be regarded as no more than 90% accurate and provide something between an actual count and an index of annual fluctuation.

On the same date I counted only 124 nests in the tailgates at Barkley Dam. There, however, the swallows had occupied other parts of the structure. A poured concrete stair leading from an observation platform to a deck above the tailgates is used almost every year by the swallows and this year held 96 nests on June 23. The various sheltered portions of the traveling crane on top of the generator area, a seldom-used site, held 69 nests: 46 were on the north faces of the structural steel and 23 on the south side.

On May 6, Willard Gray and I observed swallows building nests on the lock wall at Barkley Dam. This nesting occurs almost annually, the preferred site being the sheltered area under the edge of the walkway where the gates fold back into a recess in the lock wall. Approximately 50 pairs of swallows were carrying mud from a nearby mud flat with almost desperate haste. I did not check this group on May 31, but on June 23 there was no sign of Cliff Swallow activity and no sign of mud nests. I had observed in past years that nests on the lock wall disappear; and although I have found no one who has authorized any specific cleaning, lock workers indicate that it is the custom to hose down the lock walls, nests and all. On at least one occasion however (1969), the cleaning did not take place until most of the first brood were out of the nests.

On the same date, while observing gulls and terns on the western side of the Tennessee River, below Kentucky Dam, we noticed on the other side of the river swallows flying to and from the traveling crane and other parts of the generator superstructure, chiefly on the southwest faces. On June 23, however, there was no swallow activity in that area nor could I see any sign of nests. Part of the answer may be that heavy, sharply angled rains from the south between May 6 and June 23 washed away the nests. It is possible that swallows do not always instinctively know which sites will be protected from rain.

The extreme high water may also account for other somewhat unusual Cliff Swallow nesting observations. The steel understructure of the bridge

over the lock at Kentucky Dam, normally used only by House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) and Rock Doves (*Columba livia*), held approximately 150 Cliff Swallow nests this year. The general expansion of the Cliff Swallow range, caused presumably by an overall increase in numbers, had already led in 1972 to the colonization of the bridge where U. S. 68 overpasses U. S. 641, one-fourth mile from Kentucky Dam Village Inn. This year there were approximately 175 nests under this bridge, the swallows accommodating themselves to the fairly steady traffic on U. S. 641. Similarly, but for the first time, Cliff Swallows colonized the bridge where U. S. 62 overpasses The Trace (the road that runs the central ridge of the entire length of the LBL). This bridge was only completed and opened to traffic in the past year. Here also the swallows have to live with a steady flow of traffic. Whether they would have nested there if the high lake levels had not forced them out of other established sites can be only a matter of speculation. On May 31 I counted approximately 27 Cliff Swallows at this site engaged in nest building. On June 23 I counted 68 nests with feeding activity at some but no young visible within the nests.

The swallows nesting in the tailgates at the two dams obviously were late in getting started. As I made my observations I was struck by a curious fact: at Barkley Dam, despite fairly random variation, there was a tendency for the nests to be more numerous in the gates nearer shore; the converse was true and the pattern more regular at Kentucky Dam, as the table below shows. No conclusion is drawn from this fact.

	<i>Tail Gates</i>														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Barkley nests (12 gates)	9	14	18	6	9	10	12	8	8	8	9	13			
Kentucky nests (15 gates)	0	1	2	5	7	6	3	3	4	34	28	39	38	43	43

Another interesting observation was that the mixed colonies of Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) and Cliff Swallows under the bridge over Little River on Ky. 274, about three miles north of U. S. 68, has now given way to a concentration of Cliff Swallows. Barn Swallows that still feed near the bridge no longer nest under it but in nearby barns, sheds, and docks. (I have observed a similar shift from a nesting group of mixed Barn and Cliff Swallows to an all Cliff Swallow population in northern Minnesota.) Further observations of this pattern are desirable for valid conclusions, but a tentative theory follows: the Cliff Swallows, being far more gregarious, increase in numbers to a point at which, even allowing for nesting sites, the less gregarious Barn Swallows are no longer "comfortable." Since both species feed on the wing over wide areas and at about the same elevations, it is unlikely that competition for food is the primary reason for Cliff Swallow dominance in areas that provide appropriate nesting sites for both. On the other hand, the greater adaptability of the Barn Swallow allows it to move away from the areas close to water favored by Cliff Swallows in this part of the country.

In addition to the swallows under the two bridges already mentioned, I discovered several new small colonies. These are all listed below and

given identifying numbers to fit into the scheme of identification established in my earlier paper (*Kentucky Warbler*, 1970, 46:1, 7-9).

- A-7 The overpass, U. S. 62 crossing U. S. 641.
- A-8 Bridge crossing the lock and roadway leading from the lock observation area to the power plant at Kentucky Dam.
- D-3 Bridge on U. S. 68 crossing The Trace.
- D-4 Bridge crossing Prior Creek in LBL, four miles NE of Model, Tenn.
- F-6 Old bridge crossing Hurricane Creek (bypassed by new road, just west of Ky. 274), about ten miles north of U. S. 68.
- F-7 Bridge over north fork of Dryden's Creek on Ky. 274, about 16 miles north of U. S. 68.

In addition to the newly discovered colonies noted above, I checked a number of the other known nesting sites. In the Kentucky Dam vicinity I found a mere 573 nests at five distinct sites (in 1971 there were 1062 nests in the tail gates alone); in the Barkley Dam area, 344 nests; in the Jonathan Creek area on the west shore of Kentucky Lake, 197 nests; at the two ends of the bridge crossing Barkley Lake on U. S. 62, 81 nests; and at two bridges, one in the vicinity of Canton and one near Cadiz, a total of 330 nests. The number of active nests totals 1627, inactive nests (i.e., located after the breeding season) 26, for a total of 1653. And this figure does not include several sites that ordinarily contain very large colonies.

Apparently the Cliff Swallow population in the Land Between the Lakes area is continuing to expand, although individual colonies fluctuate in size annually according to various dependent factors. As the total population increases, additional appropriate sites will no doubt continue to be colonized.

## FIFTIETH ANNUAL FALL MEETING

September 28-30, 1973

The Kentucky Ornithological Society met at Kenlake State Park the weekend of September 28-30, 1973 in conjunction with the Ornithological Weekend sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Parks. A joint meeting was held at 7:30 p.m. in the recreation room of the lodge with President Burt Monroe, Jr. presiding. Field trips were planned for the following morning. The main Friday evening program consisted of an illustrated lecture of the Land Between the Lakes and its birdlife. Dr. Monroe described the Summer Breeding Bird Survey, taken to determine the rise or fall of bird populations. He detailed the specific rules and the exact method of conducting this census and encouraged K.O.S. members to participate. At present there are 36 areas covered in Kentucky with a few important areas in south central and eastern Kentucky not being covered. He mentioned the increase in seed-eating birds with the most frequently recorded bird being the Indigo bunting.

Dr. Clell Peterson gave a report on the Cliff Swallows. This year, due to the damage to boat docks and marinas by the spring floods, only 124 nests instead of the usual 1,000+ were found. Another reason for the small number of nests was that the tail gates at the dam were under water for a longer time than usual. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

The steady drizzle that started about midnight threatened the Saturday field trips and resulted in the cancellation of the early field trip, but ideal birding weather prevailed for most of the weekend. Field trips were made to selected points in the Land Between the Lakes. Some interesting birds were observed, including an immature Bald eagle, an Osprey, and a Peregrine falcon.

A general business meeting was held at 3:40 p.m. at the Cottage Annex with over 50 members present. Dr. Monroe gave a summary of the Board meeting held earlier. He announced that the 1974 Spring Meeting would be held at Bowling Green April 12-14 and the Fall Meeting at Cumberland Falls State Park about the first week of October. Emphasis will be placed on the Red-cockaded woodpecker, one of the endangered species, at the fall meeting.

Dr. Ray Noll, chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following list of candidates for office for 1974:

President .....	Burt Monroe, Jr., Louisville
Vice-president .....	A. L. Whitt, Richmond
Corr. Sec.-Treasurer .....	Mrs. Mary Louise Daubard, Louisville
Recording Secretary .....	Sister Casimir Czurlas, Owensboro
Counselors .....	Mrs. Kenneth McConnell, Louisville
	Dr. Russell Starr, Glasgow

The slate was approved unanimously by the membership.

Dr. Herbert Shadowen, editor of *The Kentucky Warbler*, made an appeal to the members to submit articles and photographs for the publication.

Mr. Leonard Brecher of the Conservation Committee gave a full report on progress made for preservation of the Falls of the Ohio, Shipping Port Island, and the Red River Gorge. He urged members to write Governor Ford and Congressman Perkins, voicing their disapproval of the proposed relocation of the controversial dam. It was moved and seconded that the KOS request Governor Ford to reconsider his recent approval of relocating the proposed dam. Mr. Brecher informed the members of the stand taken by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife on the use of lead shot by duck hunters. Many ducks die from the ingestion of lead shot which they scoop up with mud. It has been proposed that lead shot be banned entirely in the United States by 1975.

Mrs. Anne Stamm gave a report on the Nesting Records and urged all members to participate in this worthy activity. Mrs. Stamm, who is the Kentucky representative for *The American Bird*, appealed to members to report any unusual sightings of bird migration.

The financial report was given and approved. The business meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

The annual dinner was served at 6:30 p.m. in the Recreation Hall of the Lodge. Dr. Monroe welcomed the 100 people who were present, made announcements concerning the Sunday field trips, and introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr. Harold Mayfield. Mr. Mayfield, a former President of the American Ornithologists' Union and an authority on the Kirtland's Warbler, presented a program entitled "The Kirtland's Warbler, 'Bird of Fire', a Rare and Endangered Species." He linked the rarity of the bird to its narrow specialized habitat and to parasitism by cowbirds, and he discussed work now underway to save this rare species. Mr. Mayfield concluded his interesting and informative lecture with slides of the bird and its habitat.

Sister Casimir Czurlis, Recording Secretary



## BIRDS RECORDED ON FIELD TRIPS AT THE FALL MEETING, 1973

Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron (60), Green Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Bald Eagle (1), Marsh Hawk, Osprey (1), Peregrine Falcon (1), Pigeon Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Parula Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Pine Warbler, Ovenbird, Kentucky Warbler, Yellowthroat, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Redwinged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow. Total — 99 species.

### ATTENDANCE AT THE FALL MEETING, 1973

**ANCHORAGE:** Dr. and Mrs. G. E. Heilemann, Dr. and Mrs. Burt L. Monroe, Jr.

**BLANDVILLE:** Newton O. Belt.

**BOWLING GREEN:** Blaine R. Ferrell, Dr. L. Y. Lancaster, Mrs. Jerome Ramsey, Dr. and Mrs. Herb Shadowen, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Skillern, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Wilson.

**CARLISLE:** Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Kingsolver, Ann Kingsolver, Given Harper.

**CLINTON:** Larry Wilson.

**FRANKFORT:** Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jones.

**GEORGETOWN:** Mr. and Mrs. Glen R. Wells.

**JACKSON:** Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Allaire.

LEXINGTON: Mrs. Woodrow Feck, Harold L. Frazier, Deborah Breen, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Boyarsky, Amy Boyarski, Mrs. G. L. Burns, Dr. and Mrs. Algie Reece.

LOUISVILLE: Amelia B. Alford, Susie Biven, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brecher, Virginia Calvert, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Clay, Mrs. M. L. Daubard, Doris Garst, Mrs. H. H. Hummel, Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth McConnell, Dottie Muntan, Jim Pasikowski, Irvine Rommel, Evelyn J. Schneider, Larry Smith, Dr. and Mrs. Fred Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Summerfield, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Susie, Olga Tafel, Lois VonAllmen, Audrey Wright.

MACEO: Mr. and Mrs. Bert Powell.

MADISONVILLE: Thelma Gentry, Mrs. Sue Place, Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Travis, Mrs. Irene Wells.

MURRAY: Gerald Carter, Dr. and Mrs. Hunter Hancock, C. Wesley Kemper, Dr. and Mrs. Ray Nall, Dr. Clell Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wallschlaeger, Maurice Humphrey, Paul W. Sturm.

OWENSBORO: Lois Black, Sister Casimir Czurles, Mary Lydia Greenwell, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Iles, Emogene Lashbrook, Margaret Medley, Wynema Sims, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson.

PADUCAH: Corbin Meriweather.

RICHMOND: A. L. Whitt.

SHEPHERDSVILLE: Woodrow Masden.

VALLEY STATION: Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Ellison.

BOONEVILLE, IND.: Mr. and Mrs. Willard Gray, Donald Andrews.

TOLEDO, OHIO: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mayfield.

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

September 28, 1973

### GENERAL FUND

Balance brought forward ..... \$1540.15

#### Receipts

Membership dues .....	\$1331.75	
Interest Income: Jefferson Federal Savings & Loan Assn. on Full-Paid Shares (\$700.00), Gordon Wilson Memorial Fund Interest, Interest on Savings Cert. Colonial Federal.		
Total Interest .....	\$ 152.74	
Sales: Publications, Checklists, etc .....	\$ 295.99	
Fall Meetings, 1972 .....	\$ 288.45	
Spring Meeting, 1973 .....	\$ 840.80	2909.73
<b>TOTAL</b> .....		<b>\$4449.88</b>

#### Disbursements

Printing: The Kentucky Warbler, 4 issues and By-laws	\$1369.93	
Supplies and Postage .....	194.58	
Contribution: Nature Conservancy .....	10.00	
Transfer to Endowment Fund		
Three Life Memberships .....	150.00	
Expenses, Fall Meeting, 1972 .....	335.75	
Expenses, Spring Meeting, 1973 .....	979.14	
Refunds for cancelled reservations .....	23.10	
Beckham Bird Club, Membership Transfer .....	1.00	
Total Disbursements .....		3063.50
Receipts .....	\$4449.88	
Disbursements .....	3063.50	
Bal. Fwd. ....	1386.38	

### ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance in Savings Account, Jefferson Federal Savings & Loan Assn., Louisville, Ky. ....	\$ 889.74	
Seven Full paid Shares .....	700.00	
Colonial Federal Savings and Loan Assoc. Cert. #D 282 @ 5¼% .....	1000.00	2589.70

#### Receipts

Interest on Full paid Shares .....	35.20	
Interest on Savings Account .....	64.76	
Interest on Certificate .....	58.77	
Three Life Memberships .....	150.00	308.73
<b>TOTAL</b> .....		<b>2898.47</b>

## Disbursements

Transfer of Interest on 7 Full-paid Shares .....	35.20	
Balance in Fund .....	2863.27	
		<hr/>
TOTAL .....		2898.47
Balance in Savings Acct., Sept. 28, 1973 .....	1093.45	
Seven Full-paid Shares .....	700.00	
Savings Cert. Colonial Fed. Savings & Loan Assn. ....	1000.00	
		<hr/>
TOTAL .....	2793.45	

## THE GORDON WILSON FUND FOR ORNITHOLOGY

Balance in Savings Account, Greater Louisville Savings & Loan Assn. ....	314.35	
Certificate, #D 281, @ 5¾% from Colonial Federal Savings & Loan Assoc. ....	1000.00	1314.35
Interest on Savings Account .....	16.12	
Interest on Certificate .....	58.77	74.89
		<hr/>
Assets		
Balance in Savings Account .....	330.47	
Certificate #D 281 in Colonial Federal Savings and Loan Assoc., Louisville, Ky. ....	1000.00	
Interest on Certificate .....	58.77	
		<hr/>
Total .....	1389.24	

## BALANCE SHEET

September 28, 1973

## Assets:

Cash in General Fund, First National Bank, Louisville, Ky. ....		\$1386.38
Endowment Fund, Jefferson Federal Savings & Loan Assn. Louisville, Ky. ....	1793.45	
Savings Certificate in Colonial Federal Savings & Loan Assn. ....	1000.00	2793.45
		<hr/>
Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology		
Greater Louisville Savings & Loan Assn. ....	330.47	
Colonial Federal Savings & Loan Assn. ....	1000.00	
Interest on certificate .....	58.77	1389.24
		<hr/>
Total Assets: September 28, 1973 .....		5569.07

Mary Louise Daubard, Treasurer

## FIELD NOTES

### A FLOCK OF MISSISSIPPI KITES IN WESTERN KENTUCKY

On June 17, 1973 while birding on the Kentucky side of the Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, I was pleasantly surprised to see a Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) gliding effortlessly and low overhead. The bird was in adult plumage: white head, grayish breast, gray back, white rectangular bar in the secondaries, and a black tail. The location of this sighting was near the west end of the refuge road where it joins Fulton County 1282; this is approximately 4500 feet north of the Tennessee line. I then turned around and saw more kites. I carefully searched the sky with my binoculars and counted (several times) 30 birds of this species. As I faced north there were 24 birds to the east and six to the west of me. They were scattered loosely in layers with several groups of 3-4 birds. The day was clear and hot with light winds. A number of dragonflies were in the air and some rather high. It seemed to me that this large number of Mississippi Kites of sufficient interest to record. — MICHAEL LEE BIERLY, 3826 Bedford Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37215.

### DUNLIN AT REELFOOT LAKE

A group from Nashville birded the Reelfoot Lake area April 7, 1973. In the Reelfoot Lake National Wildlife Refuge on the Kentucky side a single Dunlin (*Erolia alpina*) was recorded. It was slightly smaller than the Pectoral Sandpipers (*Erolia melanotos*) which were feeding beside it at times; back light gray, breast gray with fine streaks; legs coal black; bill black and long with noted droop at tip; bird was observed at 40 feet for five minutes with binoculars and scope by five observers. — MICHAEL LEE BIERLY, 3826 Bedford Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37215.

### CATTLE EGRETS IN HENDERSON COUNTY

Two Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) were observed feeding in a fescue pasture beside State Highway 268 approximately two and a half miles northwest of Geneva, Kentucky in Henderson County. The date was May 2, 1973 and the time was 3:30 p.m. Black angus cattle were grazing nearby. The birds walked about and one flew a short distance to a wet corner of the field. One was observed devouring a crayfish that it plucked out of the ground. The observations were made by Game Biologists Ben Burnley and Lee Nelson of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. — LEE K. NELSON, R. R. 3, Owensboro 42301.

### BREEDING JUVENILE MOURNING DOVE

A breeding juvenile female Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) was killed on the Twin Eagle Wildlife Area in Owen County September 1, 1971. According to Biologist Dan Russell, this was the first such bird to be collected in Kentucky. The dove had replaced eight of the ten primary wing feathers and nine of the primary coverts. This indicates a hatching date between April 28 and May 21. Thickened glandular areas on the crop indicated that this bird was producing "pigeon milk" to feed young. Of 14 doves examined on this date, nine had the developed "pigeon milk" glands to feed young. — James Durell and Dan Russell.

### A FEEDING HABIT OF THE EASTERN KINGBIRD

Various reports in the literature indicate that some birds are quite resourceful in obtaining new food supplies. In the summers of 1971, 1972, and 1973 I have repeatedly observed the Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) feeding on insects flushed up by a lawnmower. Sometimes a pair of Kingbirds perched on the telephone wire, apparently waiting for insects to be stirred up. They dove down and caught the insects in flight with their beaks. They actually caught insects in midair underneath the handle bars of the mower while the mower was being pushed by its owner. The insects eaten were often various types of moths. Thus, the Eastern Kingbird was observed in a feeding habit that demonstrates adaptability. — L. P. ELLIOTT, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green 42101.

### ADDITIONAL WINTER RECORD OF THE BALTIMORE ORIOLE IN KENTUCKY

During mid-morning of January 22, 1973 a female Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) was observed in the tree near our bird feeder in Richmond, Madison County, Kentucky. It was observed twice among feeding Starlings and House Sparrows. The latest fall dates for this species as indicated by Mengel in *The Birds of Kentucky* (1965) were in October, 1945 and 1946 at Louisville. He also reported that a female Baltimore Oriole was taken at Louisville on January 2, 1953. — JACLYN R. and EUGENE E. SCHROEDER, Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky 40475.

### YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD AT LEXINGTON

On August 24, 1973, 5:30 p.m., at the intersection of Paris Pike and New Circle Road, a friend and I saw a male Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). The solitary bird flew along the road toward our traffic-stalled car, thus assuring identification. — ALBERT WESTERMAN, Department of Zoology, University of Kentucky, Lexington 40506.

### ALBINO EVENING GROSBEEK

During the week of April 23, 1973 a male albino Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) was twice noted by five observers in the Valley Station, Kentucky area. The bird was first seen while feeding on sunflower seed by Mrs. A. S. Steilberg, Jr. in southwest Jefferson County. On the following Sunday it was observed at the feeder of Mr. and Mrs. Don Summerfield. The bird was a brilliant canary yellow with translucent white wings and tail. The bill appeared slightly lighter than in a normal bird and was without the greenish cast noted on most birds. The eyes appeared normal. The bird was not seen again and probably left with the bulk of the flock of 75-100 the following week. — WALTER ELLISON, 10108 Stone St. Road, Valley Station 40272.

### EVENING GROSBEEK OBSERVATION

A large number of Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) was observed in Muldraugh, Kentucky and the Fort Knox Reservation on March 25, 1973. The numbers were somewhat reminiscent of those witnessed in the fall and winter of 1961-62. Seventeen birds were observed in the early morning feeding on the buds of apple trees. In the evening at approximately 7:00 p.m. a flock of 64 was noted in a grove of wild plums feeding on the flower buds. — ALBERT WESTERMAN, Department of Zoology, University of Kentucky, Lexington 40506.

### OBSERVATION AT RED RIVER GORGE

On February 24, 1973 near the Chimney Rock parking area in the Red River Gorge, my wife and I noticed a very active flock of small birds in an oak tree. We were able to approach closely and identified them as a group of eight Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*). The distinctive red of the two males was the most obvious initial field mark. The characteristic crossed bill was difficult to distinguish at first due to the lighting. Three of the birds were females with buffy yellow coloration, and the remaining three were immature with red mottling. Their activity seemed to consist of social interactions rather than food gathering since they were in a dormant deciduous tree. They were very vocal and tame.

In late afternoon of the same day we watched a gathering of Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) and Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*) over the Swift Creek bluffs by Sky Bridge. At one period we estimated 500-600 birds were soaring and wheeling in the area. Using a 45X scope we were able to determine that the highest flyers were the Black Vultures. The birds remained in the vicinity for approximately one and a half hours and then gradually dispersed as slowly as they had massed. — ANDREW H. UTERHART, 1529 South Limestone Street, Lexington 40503.

### JUNCO WITH MALFORMED BILL

On March 3, 1971 I captured an adult male Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) with an unusual bill abnormality. The mandibles were crossed — more so than in Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*). The lower mandible, with the forepart missing and leaving a jagged edge, had grown sharply to the right of the upper mandible. The upper mandible, near its base, was slightly slit and the tip was blunted. The bird appeared to be healthy and active, although it remained somewhat aloof from the other seed-eating species. How the bird managed to pick up weed seeds was a mystery. The small Junco appeared in one of my banding traps again on March 24, 1972 and thus was managing to survive despite its bill deformity. — ANNE L. STAMM, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

### BALD EAGLE SIGHTING AT THE FALL MEETING

On September 29, 1973 at the Fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, 30 members in a group led by Dr. Clell Peterson observed an immature Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). The location was north of the bridge over Pryor Creek in the Land Between the Lakes. This is an early sighting of Bald Eagles in the LBL since no active nests have been reported in the area since the 1940's, and these birds are primarily found only as winter residents. In general they are here from November 1 to April 1, reaching a peak in numbers in mid-February. — Mrs. WENDELL KINGSOLVER, Carlisle, Kentucky.

### UNUSUAL BIRD CONCENTRATION AT TRANSIENT LAKE

The Chaney transient lake near Bowling Green contained water until early August in 1973. On August 1 my wife and I observed several bird species in the vicinity, including 32 Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*), both adults and immature birds. On August 11 the lake was less than one acre in size, and thousands of small dead fish and tadpoles as well as many live ones were seen. Birds observed in the immediate area included 40 Turkey Vultures, 51 Green Herons, 1 Great Blue Heron, 6 Mallard, 2 Blue-winged Teal, 4 Wood Ducks, 30 Pectoral Sandpipers, 2 Greater Yellowlegs, and 2 Killdeer. — H. E. SHADOWEN, Biology Dept., Western Kentucky Univ., Bowling Green 42101.



## NEWS AND VIEWS

### SEMINARS IN ORNITHOLOGY

A home study course in Ornithology is now available through the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University. The Laboratory offers in nine seminars a college-level course in Bird Biology to be studied at home. Each seminar is written by a leading American ornithologist, with Olin S. Pettingill, Jr. as editor. A certificate signed by the Director of the Laboratory of Ornithology is received upon completion of the course. For more information contact the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850.

### INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

The Editor solicits original research articles (not published elsewhere), field notes, and photographs concerning birds in Kentucky and conservation as it affects birds. Material is welcomed from nonmembers as well as members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. *The Kentucky Warbler* is published quarterly and printed in multiples of four pages (e.g. 8, 12, 16, etc.). Because of this, articles are not always published in the issue following their arrival.

If possible, manuscripts should be typewritten and double-spaced. Photographs should be sharp, have good contrast, be on glossy black-and-white paper, and should be approximately 5x7 or 8x10 inches in size. Every contribution will be carefully considered by the editor.

### *IN MEMORIAM*

Miss Helen Gill

Dr. E. Max Wheeler